

single person if he has one horse, and eighteen pence if he has two. There are no inns on the road. A person travelling should bring with him his own provisions and liquors. There are no less than six ferries to be passed on the road to Montreal. That at Three Rivers is three miles and that at Montreal three-quarters of a mile across. The roads are generally in a very bad state, as no proper measures are taken for their repair. There are officers called *Grand Voyers*, whose duty is to enforce the existing laws for the repair of the roads, but they neglect it owing to the smallness of their salaries. Any extension of the post or increase of speed," he affirmed, "must be attended with great expense."

Nearly a year later (16th March, 1812,) Sir George Prevost was able to state that Mr. Heriot had made arrangements for the transmission of the mails between Quebec and Halifax, designed to remove all reasonable grounds for complaint; but to carry them into effect it would be necessary to open a road through the "unsettled country between this place (Quebec) and Fredericton, and that encouragement should be held out to persons to settle on it. The necessity of a ready and sure communication becomes every day more obvious owing to the state of American politics." It was his opinion that the mails would reach Quebec in winter as soon if forwarded by way of Bermuda and Halifax as by way of New York, and he recommended that they should be sent by that route in future "to obviate the risk they are exposed to in passing through American territory."

The establishment of a line of steamboats between Quebec and Montreal had diminished travel by land and rendered the necessity of improving the road between those towns less obvious if not less urgent. Prevost asserted that the mails on that route were carried as rapidly and regularly as could be expected, and that the extension of the service "to Kingston, York, and posts more in the interior had been placed on a footing which will materially promote the intercourse between the Provinces."

The ocean packet service seems to have been greatly improved. Despatches from Quebec were frequently delivered in London in five or six weeks. Prevost's despatch, dated at Montreal on 22nd October, 1812, was in the hands of Lord Bathurst on November 26th. But in time of war it still remained precarious, as in the vessels employed the means of defence were sacrificed in the effort to secure speed.