

Appendix  
(B. B. B.) (Copy.)  
No. 94.  
27th February

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
Montreal, Oct. 29, 1847.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to transmit herewith for Your Lordship's information, the draft of a Report on the practicability of establishing an uniform and efficient Post Office system throughout the British North American Colonies, under Provincial controul and management, which has been placed in my hands by Mr. Cayley, the gentleman named by me to inquire into this subject, in conjunction with the Commissioners appointed on the same behalf by the Lieutenant Governors of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island.

The draft herewith submitted has, in point of fact, been seen and approved only by Mr. Cayley, the Commissioner for Canada, and Mr. Johnston, the Commissioner for Nova Scotia; no Commissioner of Prince Edward's Island having been appointed in consequence, I apprehend, of the absence of the Lieutenant Governor from that Colony, and Mr. Hazen, the Commissioner for New Brunswick, having been obliged to leave Montreal before the labours of the Commission were concluded. I am assured, however, that there is every reason to believe that the authorities in these Colonies will concur in the suggestions which it contains.

I am induced to call Your Lordship's attention to this Report in its present imperfect shape, with the view of ascertaining whether Her Majesty's Government will be disposed to surrender the controul of the Post Office Department to the Provincial Legislatures in the event of their carrying out such arrangements as are proposed in it. The Commissioners are unwilling to proceed further in the matter until they have received some assurance to this effect. I venture, therefore, to recommend it to Your Lordship's early and favourable consideration. The scheme which it propounds is not altogether free from objection; but, on the whole, in the peculiar circumstances of these Colonies, I consider it well adapted to attain the end in view.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.  
The Right Honble.  
Earl Grey,  
&c. &c. &c.

(Copy.)  
No. 97.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
Montreal, 19th Nov., 1847.

MY LORD,—Adverting to my Despatch, No. 94, enclosing the draft of a Report from the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the practicability of establishing an uniform and efficient Post Office system throughout the British North American Colonies, I have now the honour to transmit to Your Lordship a copy of the Report signed by the Commissioners. The only difference worthy of remark between the draft previously transmitted and the present Report is, that in the latter the duties to be performed in the central Office of Audit in Canada are more accurately defined.

I have also the honour to transmit a copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, enclosing a Resolution of the Executive Council of that Province, agreeing to support the above-mentioned Report of the Commissioners.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.  
The Right Honble.  
Earl Grey,  
&c. &c. &c.

(Copy.)

To His Excellency the Right Honourable the Earl of ELGIN and KINCARDINE, K. T., Governor General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

Appendix  
(B. B. B.)  
27th February

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

We, the undersigned, in obedience to the instructions of Your Excellency and the Lieutenant Governors of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island, to inquire into and report upon the practicability of establishing an uniform and efficient Post Office system throughout the British North American Colonies, based upon the views entertained by their Lordships Earl Grey and Lord Clanricarde, and communicated to Your Excellency by Despatch, dated the 31st December, 1846, have given our best consideration to the various important points embraced in the subject of inquiry, and have now the honour to submit our Report.

On entering upon the duties assigned to us, we directed our attention to the representations and addresses which had from time to time been presented to the Imperial Government by the several Colonial Legislatures in reference to the subject of the Post Office, as well for the reason assigned by Lord Clanricarde that these appeals had induced His Lordship to make the suggestions contained in his letter of the 18th of August, 1846, as from the fact that these representations set forth in a prominent light the various disadvantages under which the British North American Colonies laboured, and for which a remedy is now to be sought.

A very cursory examination was sufficient to satisfy us, that the Provinces in the remonstrances against the transfer of assumed surplus receipts to the credit of the Imperial Government, were not actuated by any desire to convert the postal imposts into a source of revenue, or to call in question the prudent management of the Imperial Government, but were prompted by a growing conviction that the social and commercial interests of the Colonies were intimately connected with the extension of their postal intercourse, and that they truly regarded it, as Lord Clanricarde has justly observed, as the means in a new country of extending civilization. The elaborate Report drawn up by the Canadian Commissioners in 1841; the Address from the Legislature of that Province, dated the 2nd June, 1846, in which it is prayed, that if a reduction of the rate of Postage to the extent enjoyed by the Mother Country could not be conceded, at least the rates now obtaining in the United States might be adopted; the joint Address of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of New Brunswick, dated 11th April, 1845; the Report of a Select Committee of the latter, dated 11th April, 1846; and more recently still the Resolutions passed by the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia of the 29th March, 1847, in which are contained pledges for defraying any deficiency that might be created in the Post Office Revenues from the establishment of a low and uniform rate of Colonial and inter-Colonial Postage. These and the several representations from the other Provinces clearly indicate the unanimous desire entertained by the British Possessions in North America to have extended to them a share of those benefits, intellectual, social and commercial, which have in so large a measure been conferred upon the Mother Country by the establishment of the Penny Postage.

Each day's increasing experience has attested the wisdom that prompted the adoption of a measure which was not at the time more characterized by its boldness than it has subsequently been by its success. The example of cheap Postage thus set in Great Britain has recently been followed in the United States in a modified form, adapted to a more widely scat-