

Pictou, on occasion of the arrival of the Mail, can bear testimony to this fact. As the Post Office department was soon to be brought under Provincial control, and Legislative measures to be adopted by the last Session of the House of Assembly relative to its future management, the committee spared no pains in endeavouring to obtain redress for these claimant grievances. They appointed a special committee to watch over the whole of this business. This sub-committee used all diligence in stimulating those most exposed to these evils to petition the Legislature, in conferring again and again with the committee of the House of Assembly charged with the matter, and in repeatedly memorializing the Governor in Council. And the committee have now the highest possible satisfaction in being able to state that, with one solitary exception,—the case of Amherst,\*—there is no such thing as secular labour in this department of public service on the Lord's day, a state of things which, as far as the committee are aware, does not exist in any other portion of Her Majesty's dominions. The following extract is taken from the report of the House of Assembly of last Session.

"The attention of the committee has been called by the Sabbath Alliance and numerous Petitions, to the secular duties performed on the Sunday by the transmission of Mails and delivery of letters on that day, and, after deliberate consideration, have adopted schemes by means of which the advantages of post communication will be greatly enlarged, and no office be kept open or Mail be transmitted through the Province on the Lord's day." The schemes here referred to, the committee have reason to believe, have even been greatly improved in the way of avoiding all secular labour in this department, and the exception of Amherst has arisen entirely from the difficulty of arranging with the Postal authorities in the neighbouring Province. It is to be hoped, however, that the energetic friends of the Sabbath at Amherst will continue to testify until they get rid of the evil. Then will Nova Scotia present to the whole world the ennobling spectacle of a total cessation from all secular labour in the Post Office on the Lord's day—a position, in the opinion of the committee, vastly more commanding than that which she possesses by any natural resources, whether external or internal.

The undersigned would further remark, that the Postal regulations as to the province of Nova Scotia, now in force under the sanction and authority of the Government, are at present so arranged as to render unnecessary and to discountenance Sabbath Mail travelling, and to allow of a total cessation of labor on the Sabbath in the several Post Offices throughout this Province.

The following Queries have been submitted to a member of the Provincial Government, with the view of obtaining authentic information; and the Answers subjoined were freely given on the sixth of the present month of October.

"Query 1st. What are the instructions given to Postmasters and Mail Contractors in reference to the Sabbath?"

"Answer. Postmasters are instructed to close the Mails for despatch at certain hours in their respective offices, and also to keep their offices open for the delivery of letters during certain hours of every week day; but in no office *throughout the Province* is a Mail made up or are letters required to be delivered on the Sabbath Day."

"Query 2nd. Has any complaint been lodged with the Government as to any inconvenience arising from the present arrangement?"

"Answer. Not any."

"Query 3rd. Is the communication more or less frequent throughout the various parts of the Province?"

"Answer. Formerly but two Mails a-week were despatched from Halifax to Yar-

\* The Mail is now so arranged at Amherst as to close on Saturday evening.