

POST OFFICE (MAIL SERVICE).

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RETURN to an Order of the Honourable the House of Commons,  
dated 16 February 1869;—for,

COPY “of CONTRACT for MAIL SERVICE, between *Halifax, Nova Scotia, and St. John's, Newfoundland*; together with Copy of the TREASURY MINUTE relating thereto.”

Treasury Chambers,  
16 February 1869.}

ACTON S. AYRTON.

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COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 14th December 1868.

MY LORDS have before them the Articles of Agreement entered into between the Government of Newfoundland and Mr. Inman, for the conveyance of Mails between the Port of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the Port of St. John's, Newfoundland, once each way in every four weeks during the months of January, February, and March, and once each way every two weeks during the remaining nine months in each year, for a subsidy of 9,000 *l.* a year. The agreement to commence as from the 15th July 1868, and to continue in force until the expiration of a written notice of not less than 12 calendar months given at any time on or after the 1st day of July 1870, by either the Governor of Newfoundland or the Contractors.

As one half of the subsidy payable to the contractors in this case will have to be repaid by the Imperial Post Office, it appears to My Lords that although the agreement with the contractors does not strictly come within the provisions of the Resolution of the House of Commons, of 24th July 1860, in regard to Packet and Telegraphic Contracts, inasmuch as it is not a contract entered into by the Home Government, yet as the contract raises a charge on the Public Revenue for a period of years, it will be advisable that it should be brought under the cognizance of the House.

Let a copy of the Agreement entered into between the Government of Newfoundland and Mr. Inman for the conveyance of Mails between that Colony and the Colony of Nova Scotia, together with a copy of the foregoing Minute, be laid upon the Table of the House of Commons.