

he could effect in the opposition he experienced. He has left the opinion on record that the "fees are in general by far too high, and more than the people of the province can bear."

The condition of the post-office also exacted attention, and an ordinance was passed regulating it. There was a strong opinion that during the war it should be annexed to the quartermaster-general's department and remain under military supervision. Finlay's influence in the council decided, that he should continue to direct it. Authority was, however, given to the government for the appointment of inspectors, consequently control could still be exercised on the operations of the office. Finlay, who corresponded with Germain, had communicated to him a plan for superintending the post roads, and had applied to be appointed postmaster-general. He was one of the many in the province who furnished Germain with information, and his communications appear generally to have taken the form which would be acceptable in London. Haldimand felt himself called upon to explain in his letter to Germain, that the views expressed by Finlay were not in accordance with what had taken place. Finlay's application had been referred to Haldimand, who reported against the creation of such an office. He pointed out that the only places at which any correspondence was carried on were Quebec and Montreal, and that Three Rivers and Sorel lay in the line of communication between them, and that there was a regular post twice a week, with a post to Chambly.

Finlay had also suggested a route by the Kennebec to Penobscot, to communicate with Clinton. Haldimand expressed the opinion that such a line of communication was not feasible.* Finlay was one of the clique who opposed the governor-in-chief on many important occasions. He may have felt that he owed Haldimand no good will for the non-acceptance of his views. His conduct certainly conveys that impression.

In Haldimand's speech to the council he mentioned that he had received the additional instructions of July the 16th,

* Can. Arch., B. 54, 13th September, 1779.