

Appendix
(P. P. P.)

28th March.

5. Is the authority delegated to you for the management of the Department sufficient to enable you to provide for the efficient discharge of the duties thereof; and if not, will you inform the Committee what further authority is required?—It appears to me that the Post-Master General is the only person in the Post-Office who is in a position to pronounce upon this question. I would respectfully remind the Committee that I am but a subordinate officer, subject to the orders of the Post-Master General in all matters pertaining to the management of the Department.

6. Are you of opinion that a cheaper and more uniform rate of internal Postage than now prevails, could be beneficially established, and what reduced rates, and what system, would you recommend for that purpose?—The Returns which I have furnished, by command of the Committee, will shew that, in the year ended 5th July last, there was a surplus Revenue of only £8,748. 19s. 1½d., including the Packet Postage. It is evident, therefore, that upon so small a surplus, it would be impracticable, without some provision to meet the contingency, to reduce the Postage rates materially, for that there would be a falling off at first, through the adoption of any considerable reduction of the rates, there can exist no doubt. I am much at a loss what to say as regards the latter part of the question, since, as I have already observed, very little in the way of reducing the rates at all could be ventured upon in the present state of the funds of the Department. I may observe, however, that there is at present no rate below 4½d. currency, which covers a distance of 60 miles, and that this operates to discourage correspondence between adjacent towns and settlements, as the higher rates do between towns and places more widely separated. The amount of correspondence passing by the post between towns less than thirty miles apart is very trifling. I think a very low rate would be found advantageous for distances not exceeding thirty miles, say 2d. currency. As regards the main question of reduction, I conceive that a moderate uniform rate, for distances over thirty miles, would produce excellent results; or perhaps two rates, that is, one rate for distances over thirty and not exceeding two hundred miles, and another rate for all distances exceeding two hundred miles.

7. Are you of opinion that a reduced rate of internal Postage would lead eventually to an increase of Revenue, at the same time that it would tend to the convenience of the public?—I am of opinion that a reduced rate of inland Postage would, by encouraging correspondence, eventually lead to an increase of Revenue, and that it would tend to the convenience and benefit of the public. The rates are generally complained of as being too high, and this, no doubt, provokes in a material degree the illicit conveyance of letters throughout the country, which it is notorious is carried on to a great extent.

8. Does the present scale of allowances to Post-Masters in country Parishes and Townships form such a remuneration as to lead to the efficient performance of the duty?—The complaints are general of the Post-Masters in country Parishes and Townships, that their remuneration is insufficient, more especially where no compensation in lieu of the franking privilege exists. I cannot say that the duties have not been performed, but great difficulty is experienced of late in enforcing the performance of them at many of the offices, through the dissatisfaction of the Post-Masters with their allowances; and resignations are very frequent.

9. Is any difficulty experienced by you in finding persons competent and willing to undertake the office of Post-Master in the country Parishes and Town-

ships?—The nomination to Post-Masterships being now vested in the Governor General, it is no longer my duty to find persons to take charge of the Post-Offices.

10. Are you aware that any country Parishes or Townships have lost benefits which they had previously enjoyed in Post-office accommodation, in consequence of any recent changes?—In consequence of the withdrawal of the franking privilege, I have been obliged to close several offices, from the inability of the Governor General to find substitutes for the retiring Post-Masters; some few of them, after being closed for some time, were afterwards recommissioned, individuals having been found willing to take charge of them; others still remain closed. I can furnish a Return of those cases, if the Committee require it.

11. What change in that respect would you recommend?—I think the Post-Masters should be better paid.

12. Are you of opinion that any changes are required in the Establishment or scale of allowances of the Post-Office in the Province to increase its efficiency, or to lead to economy; and do you contemplate making any recommendation upon these points?—I beg to observe that I have in part replied to this question, in my answer to question 8. Changes could no doubt be made advantageously, and are, in fact, constant subjects of Departmental consideration; but for the reason alluded to in my reply to question 5, I do not feel myself in a position to state my own views, as the latter part of this question seems to require me to do.

13. Can you state the amount of Postage received from the Military and Naval Authorities within the Province for the last three or four years?—I will lay before the Committee such a statement as is here required.

14. What is the expense of the Atlantic Packet Service to the Post-Office for the same periods?—I do not know what is the expense of the Atlantic Packet Service, except by hearsay.

15. What is the amount of Packet Postage received in the Province during the same time?—It would be a difficult research, and consume a good deal of time to ascertain the amount of Packet Postage received in the Province during the several years alluded to, for no distinct account of that Postage has been attempted to be kept until very recently; but if the Committee requires it, I will set about it. I had, however, for my own satisfaction, some short time since, ascertained the amount of this Postage for the year ended the 5th of July last, and I beg to lay the information before the Committee: the amount, as nearly as it can be ascertained, for I do not vouch for its being minutely accurate, is, for the year alluded to, £5127 currency.

The following answer to the 13th question was subsequently received from Mr. *Stayner*:—With reference to the information called for in the question numbered 13, the Deputy Postmaster General has the honor to lay before the Committee a Return of the Postage collected from the Military Departments for the four years ending, respectively, the 5th October 1841, 1842, 1843, and 1844. The materials for this Statement were at hand, and the account is consequently rendered without delay; if required for any later period, it will be necessary to send to the distant Military Stations for some of the information. No separate account is ever rendered to the Deputy Postmaster General, of the Postage of the Naval Departments, but it must be very inconsiderable.

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