

enough to meet the wishes of certain influential colonial merchants ; and on January 26th, 1811, a memorial was addressed to the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council for Trade, reciting their grievances in this respect, signed by Simon McGillivray, A. Gillespie, William Hamilton, Charles Idle & Co., Thomas Forsyth, John Inglis, John Bainbridge, and seven others. They complained that an average period of three weeks was consumed in the conveyance of each mail between Quebec and Halifax, although the journey had been accomplished by other courses in six days, and that three weeks were likewise occupied in conveying it between Quebec and York, when this too might be done in six days. The consequence was that any person receiving important news could easily out-travel the mail and "thus derive the most important and unfair advantages in every branch of trade. North American merchants, particularly in the interior, do not forward one-tenth of their letters by the post-office, preferring to take advantage of private and casual opportunities owing to the great delay of the mails." They suggested that a surveyor should be sent to examine the country and ascertain the best routes to be followed.

Heriot remarked that to make the journey between Quebec and Halifax in only six days was "a very extraordinary and rapid march, as the distance is 633 miles, during 368 of which neither horses nor carriages are to be found, and the road can be only travelled in day-time in safety owing to rapids in the river which it would be dangerous to pass even by moonlight ; although a man may go much quicker from Quebec to Halifax than the other way, as he descends in that case the St. John, a very rapid river, and in the other has to ascend it in a birch canoe, much of the way by poling." On April 23rd of the same year, he made to Francis Freeling a general report on the entire postal service of the provinces.

"The mail is carried from New Brunswick to Quebec and *vice versa* by two couriers, one setting out from Quebec and the other from Fredericton once a fortnight in summer and once a month in winter. The distance is 361 miles ; the cost of conveying the mails, £240. There is one courier once a week between Fredericton and St. John, N. B., eighty-two miles, at a cost of £91 5s. There are two packets weekly across the Bay of Fundy, between St. John and Digby, N. S., thirty-six and a-half miles, at £350. There is one courier twice a week between Digby and Annapolis, twenty miles, at £50, and one