

varies from 25s. to 27s. 6d. per ton. A partial dam is constructed, by which this factory is supplied with water-power, in connexion with an extensive grist mill, a woollen cloth factory, and a cotton wadding and hatting factory. To increase the intercourse with the country, Mr. Yule, the Seigneur, is constructing a bridge across the Richelieu river, just above the village of Chambly, which will be completed in the month of November.

HISTORY OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN CANADA.

We have obtained an early copy of the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the affairs of the Post Office in British North America, printed by order of the Legislative Assembly. This Report was made in December, 1811, but has hitherto been kept from the public, though frequently demanded. The copy from which we extract has come into our hands at too late an hour to enable us to do more than give the extract which follows, and which, whilst it presents a brief history of the Department itself, marks the progress of the Colony within the same period.

In future numbers we shall take up Post Office Reform, for which the data are furnished by this Report.

"The first Deputy Post-Master General resident in Canada was Hugh Finlay. We find by an advertisement in the Quebec Gazette, published July the 23rd. 1767, that in that year he was performing under Franklin the duties of Post-Master at Quebec. The commission by which he was appointed Deputy Post-Master General is dated 7th July, 1784, one year after the peace with America; and as it is known that the British Government did not, during the war which broke out a few months after his dismissal, appoint any successor to Franklin, it is certain that Mr. Finlay was the first Deputy Post-Master General in Canada. He is designated in the commission as "Deputy Post-Master General of His Majesty's Province of Canada," from which it would appear that the Lower Provinces were not included in his charge. An Almanac published at Quebec in the year 1791, represents the condition of the department in that year as follows:

"Hugh Finlay, Esquire, Deputy Post-Master General. Post-Masters—Mr. E. Edwards, Montreal, L.C.; Mr. Samuel Sills, Three Rivers, L.C.; Mr. Louis Amé, Berthier, L.C.; Mr. Samuel Anderson, Cornwall, U.C.; Mr. John Munro, Matilda, U.C.; Mr. John Jones, Augusta, U.C.; Mr. Peter Clarke, Kingston, U.C.; Mr. Joseph Edwards, Niagara, U.C.; Mr. George Leitch, Detroit, U.C.; Mr. — Mitchell, Michilimackinac, U.C.; Mr. Hugh Munro, Baie des Chaleurs, L.C."

There was a monthly mail despatched from Falmouth for Quebec; and once a month an English mail was despatched from Quebec, sometimes via Halifax, sometimes via New York. Between Quebec and Halifax there was in summer a mail every fifteen days; and in winter, once a month. There was a monthly mail for the "establishments above Montreal"; and for the establishments of Gaspé, the Baie des Chaleurs, &c., a mail was despatched as occasion offered. The couriers left Quebec and Montreal every Monday and Thursday at four o'clock in the afternoon, and reached their destination, unless prevented by the state of the roads, on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

In the years 1796 and 1798 we find precisely the same number of Post-Offices, and generally the same amount of post accommodation as in 1791.

Mr. Finlay was succeeded in 1800 by Mr. George Heriot. In 1803 Upper Canada had eight Post-Offices, but the mails were not more frequent than in 1771. In 1804 there were in Lower Canada five Post-Offices; in Upper Canada, nine; in Nova Scotia, six; in Cape Breton, one; in Prince Edward's Island, one; and in New Brunswick, four.

Mr. Wood, the Post-Master at Cornwall in Upper Canada, and the oldest employé in the Post-Office, thus describes the condition of the establishment in the Upper Province in the year 1807: "When I first took charge of the office at this place in 1807, I believe the mail was carried only four times in the year from Quebec to Amherstburgh, and that on the back of an old Canadian pedestrian, who performed his trip once in three months. The arrival of this despatch was hailed with joy amongst the then contented and loyal inhabitants throughout the country."

We have before us several commissions issued by Mr. Heriot to Post-Masters in Nova-Scotia, in which he styles himself "Deputy Post-Master General for the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, in North America, and the dependencies." The absence of his own commission deprives us of the power of stating by what authority he made those appointments and adopted that designation. If under that commission the Lower Provinces belonged to his charge as well as Canada, it would appear that the connection did not last very long. We are informed that on Mr. Daniel Sutherland's appointment to succeed Mr. Heriot in the year 1816, he found Nova Scotia and Prince Edward's Island wholly withdrawn from the Canada charge; but New Brunswick still continued to form part of it, the Post-Master for that province being commissioned at Quebec, and accounting directly with the Deputy Post-Master General there.

In the year 1817 Lower Canada had thirteen Post-Offices; Upper Canada, twelve; Nova Scotia, six; New Brunswick, three; and Prince Edward's Island, one. In this year the mails were running between Quebec and Montreal every day of the week except Sundays and Fridays; between Quebec and Halifax once a fortnight all the year round; between Quebec and Kingston, once a week; between Kingston and Toronto, once a week; between Toronto and Niagara, once a week; and between Toronto and Amherstburgh, once a fortnight.

In the year 1820 there were in Lower Canada twenty offices; in Upper Canada, nineteen; in Nova Scotia, six; in New Brunswick, three; and in Prince Edward's Island, one.

Documents were fortunately discovered in the Post-Office at Quebec, which formed the basis of a very complete Return of the state of the Department in the Canadas and New Brunswick in the year 1824. From this it appears that there were then in the Canadas sixty-nine Post Offices; 1,992 miles of established Mail Road; the weekly travel of the Mail was 7,108 miles; the gross revenue was £14,504 6 11½, and the revenue remitted to England, after deducting £300, the supposed surplus for New Brunswick, £5,386 2 2.

At that time the population of the Canadas amounted to nearly 600,000 souls,—Lower Canada containing about 440,000 and Upper Canada 150,000.

In the year 1826 or 1827 a correspondence took place between Mr. Howe and Mr. Sutherland, on an application, as we are informed, made by the former gentleman to relieve Mr. Sutherland from the Superintendance of the New Brunswick branch of the Department. This arrangement, acquiesced in at the time by Mr. Sutherland, and approved by the Post-Master General, was subsequently carried into effect, but not until after the present Deputy Post-Master General had been appointed on the resignation of Mr. Sutherland. By a letter from Sir Francis Freeling, dated 12th December, 1827, Mr. Stayner was informed of his appointment as "Deputy Post-Master General of British North America." His commission and instructions, dated respectively the 5th and 10th May, 1828, designate him as Deputy Post-Master General of "the Provinces of Canada and New Brunswick, and their dependencies." In the autumn of 1828, the separation of nearly the whole of New Brunswick from the Canada charge was effected; and since that time Mr. Howe has continued to superintend the New Brunswick branch.

Returns received from the department at Quebec have enabled us to prepare a table, by which the condition of the Post Office in Canada in every year (except 1829 and 1830) from the year 1828 to 1840, is accurately shewn. On reference to this table, it will be found to present a detailed account of the gradual progress of the Department in all its more important branches; the gross revenue; the cost of transport; the increase of post accommodation; to which we have thought it might be useful to add a statement of the increase of population in the provinces during the corresponding periods.

In 1831 the number of Post Offices within the Quebec charge was 151; the number of miles of established mail road, 2,896; the number of miles travelled weekly, 12,313; the expense of carrying the mails, £6,720 18s. 5d.; the gross revenue, £21,190 10s.; and the net revenue, £9,524 17s. 6d. The population of Lower Canada was about 512,000, and that of Upper Canada 235,000; making with the portion of New Brunswick under the Quebec establishment, rather less than 760,000 souls.

In 1840 the number of Post Offices had increased to 398; the number of miles of established road was 5,736; the number of miles travelled weekly was 28,332; the expense of mail conveyance, £21,973 8s. 5d.; the gross revenue, £52,499 13s. 1d. The population of Lower Canada is now estimated at 662,000 and that of the Upper Province at 420,000 inhabitants; so that the entire population within that charge is about 1,100,000.

It will thus be perceived that between the years 1831 and 1840 the amount of revenue of the Department and the extent of Post Office accommodation have increased more rapidly than the population of the country. The number of Post Offices have increased 163 per cent; the number of miles of established mail road, nearly 100 per cent; the number of miles travelled weekly, upwards of 106 per cent; the yearly cost of mail conveyance, nearly 227 per cent; the gross revenue more than 150 per cent; and the net revenue nearly 105 per cent; while the whole population has increased on the ratio of not quite 45 per cent.

[COMMUNICATED.]

LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS.

"C'est à proposément parler l'association du capital et de l'industrie. Une semblable association, soumise aux règles de l'équité, modérée dans son cours par des réserves, rend facile l'exécution de grandes entreprises auxquelles la société collective ne saurait atteindre."—*Dict. du Com. rec.*

Now that commercial legislation seems to engross the public view, and that *Free Trade*, if properly understood and carried out, will enable these Colonies to direct their energies to the subjects for which they are best adapted by nature, it has occurred to me that there is one matter well worthy the attention of some practical M. P., as one calculated to help greatly the proper development of our resources: those, especially of Canada East, fitted rather for Commerce and Manufactures than Agriculture. I allude to *Limited Partnerships*—which are partnerships formed between one or more individuals, managing and responsible partners, and one or more others, dormant partners. The former being responsible to the whole extent of their fortunes—the latter sharing in the profits, but responsible only to the extent of their shares,—that is, running no risk beyond that of losing the capital invested:—which, in the event of misfortune, they could only recover after all the liabilities of the concern had been met.

It is, I believe, well known that the principle of limited liability is already existing in the French law by which we are governed, but it might be improved by the help of enactments requiring certain formalities, such as are ordained by the late French Codes and the Laws of New York—which tend to render more secure both the individuals investing money, and the public in general. For instance, it is not now necessary to publish the formation of such a co-partnership, nor the names of either managing or dormant partners, nor the capital invested: a regulation to that effect would be beneficial both for the public and the