

## No. 121.

Letter from D. Sutherland, Deputy Post Master General, to James Stuart, Esquire, Attorney General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
Quebec, 3d December, 1826.

DEAR SIR,

Ever since the introduction of Steam Boats into these Provinces, the Post Office Revenue has diminished considerably during the season of navigation, as many people send their letters by them instead of through the Post Office, merely to avoid paying Postage, and although I had Letter Boxes put on board of each for the convenience of the public, and the safe conveyance of letters, yet they prefer sending them by persons on board of these boats to the manifest injury of the Revenue, and as I conceive it to be my duty to put a stop to this practice by every legal means in my power, I request your opinion whether it is lawful to have Letters carried by Steam Boats, or other river craft, or by the captains, crews, or passengers on board of either, free of Postage, and if not, what steps ought I to take to enforce the law?

I have the honour to be,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed,)

D. SUTHERLAND,

D. P. M. G. B. N. A.

JAMES STUART, Esquire,  
Attorney General.

OPINION.

I am of opinion that the carrying and delivery of Letters, free of Postage, by persons conveyed in Steam Boats, and others, as mentioned in the preceding letter, except in the cases specially permitted by law, is illegal; and that the proper course for putting a stop to this unlawful practice would be to prosecute the persons guilty of it, for the pecuniary penalties which they thereby incur. There can, I conceive, occur no difficulty in the recovery of these, if care be taken to substantiate the facts constituting the offences referred to, according to the provisions of the Statutes upon this subject, particularly of the 9th Ann, Cap. 10, and 25th Geo. III. Cap 25.

(Signed,)

J. STUART,

Quebec, 30th December, 1826.

Certified copy,

T. A. STAYNER,