

Committee would respectively submit, that this reasoning is perfectly fallacious, since it is not the Deputy Post Master General but the Province which defrays the expenses of transporting and carrying the said Newspapers, and of receiving and delivering them at the Post Offices. The monies paid to contractors for the mails, and the salaries and remuneration of the respective post masters, and their assistants and clerks, are, with the exception of a certain per centage on the amount of Newspaper postage collected, paid from the gross receipts from Letter postage.

The Deputy Post Master General contributes none of the expenses for the transport of the Mails, nor of the salaries to the post masters or their assistants. The public revenue is therefore taxed for his private advantage, a fact which is established beyond a doubt by the evidence of the Contractor who forwards the mail between Quebec and Montreal, who admits that the Province is charged an extra sum of £200 a year for the transport of Newspapers on this route alone.

The amount which the Deputy Post Master General acknowledges to have received from this source for the last three years was as follows:—

1832,	£541 9 10,
1833,	2005 17 0,
1834,	1863 1 1,

being on an average £1900 16s 2d, currency, per annum, a sum which falls short only £400 of what is now paid for the transport of the mail from Quebec to Kingston in Upper Canada five and six times a week, a distance of 379 miles.

Under all these circumstances your Committee consider that the Deputy Post Master General had no right to appropriate to his own private advantage the sums received for the transmission of Newspapers and other printed papers by mail in these Provinces, and respectfully suggest that legal means be taken to oblige that Officer to reimburse the said sum of £9550 6s 2d, currency, which he exacted and appropriated to his own use; that he be obliged for the future to abstain from such practices; and to pay into the general fund the net sum which shall be received from Newspaper printers, and for the transmission of Newspapers per post, after deducting the post masters' per centage, which general fund ought to be expended after the necessary expenses are paid, in extending post office accommodation in these provinces, instead of being remitted to England, as is now the case.

Your Committee have next to call the attention of your honourable House of Assembly to the gross discrepancies between the returns made to your Committee and that made to the Provincial Government as stated in the Blue Book, by the Deputy Post Master General of his salary and emoluments of office. Your honourable House will be better able to judge of the extent to which that Officer has deceived the King's Government by an examination of the following comparative statement from Returns laid before your Committee, and those furnished by Mr Stayner, for the Blue Book, for the years 1831, 1832, 1833, and 1834:—

Annual Salary and Emoluments of the Deputy Post Master General.

Years.	From statements furnished to the Committee.	From Blue Book.
1831	£2610 12 2-1-2	£500 0 0 sterling.
1832	3122 18 01-2	500 0 0 "
1833	3311 4 31-2	500 0 0 "
1834	3121 17 8	500 0 0 "

[Remarks.—No return of Fees,—supposed to be considerable.]

In the Blue Books for the years 1831, 1832, and 1833, to the question whether "he enjoy any and what other profit or advantage not required to be stated in the preceding columns," the word "None" is opposite to Mr Stayner's name. The following note however is at the foot of the page,—"£500 per ann. is allowed to the Deputy Post Master General for an Assistant in his office, his fees are derived from printers who pay him for their papers sent through the post office, and distributed by his Deputies." The amount of these fees your Committee would however remark is not furnished, neither is there any mention of the Commission, or United States postage which he receives, and which amounts on an average of the last three years to £478 5s 2d per annum. In the Return sent in for the Blue Book for the year 1834, Mr Stayner states that he receives "no fees"; and in answer to the query whether he enjoys any or what other advantage or profit, he states that "I possess the privilege of sending certain description of Newspapers through the posts in the British American Provinces. The profit derived from this source I have not at present the means of computing for the year 1834. I have received at the rate of £200 a year, for Assistants up to the 5th October 1834."

The interesting object your Committee had in view, has, they regret to say, been entirely frustrated by the unwillingness and refusal of most of those to whom those circulars were addressed, to give the full information which your Committee desired to obtain. It is to be hoped however that when this subject is again taken up, that the enquiry will meet with a more favourable result.

In the course of their enquiry your Committee referred, as in duty bound, to the Reports of, and the evidence taken by, preceding Committees of your honourable House, relative to the Post Office Department, and have been much struck with the pertinacity with which the Deputy Post Master General refused to give those Committees any information relative to the finances of the Department, and the amount of his emoluments; and must remark, that much of that labor and trouble would have been spared, had that Officer given the information which was required from him frankly and honestly as he ought to have done, instead of having recourse to mystery and concealment which could only excite suspicions to his disparagement. From certain parts of the correspondence between that Officer and the Secretary of the Department in London, which has come under the observation of your Committee, it appears that previous to being called before the Committee of your honourable House in 1831, Mr Stayner pre-determined to withhold every information of any value relative to his Department which he expected might be demanded of him by the Committee. In order to be supported in this improper determination, he waited on the late Governor in Chief, as appears by a Letter dated 15th June, which he addressed to the Secretary of the post office, "to solicit his Lordship's advice." His Lordship he states concurred with him in the view which he had taken beforehand, and the requisite information was withheld. He then goes on to add, "I therefore chose rather to incur the risk of displeasing the Provincial Parliament than to be an instrument of giving trouble to those authorities to whom I consider my first duties are engaged;" a rather strange contradiction with the professions of the Deputy Post Master General a few months before, when he stated that "his ambition was to put the Department on such a footing as would ensure to him the public approbation here." The acts of the Deputy Post Master General are the best commentary on these professions:—On the 29th Dec. 1833, he told your Committee that he conceived it his duty to afford, to all parts of the province, post accommodation, to the extent of the funds at his disposal. How did he dispose of those funds? On the 10th of February following, he remitted \$3000 to England. In the Letter above mentioned to the head of the Department in England, the Deputy Post Master General permits himself to make some unjust reflections on the Committee of 1831, and to accuse them of suppressing "some very important parts of his evidence." Your Committee have taken the pains to examine the records of 1831, in order to see if this grave charge brought by Mr Stayner against the Committee of that day be founded or not. The parts of this evidence which he states were suppressed, consist of a Letter dated 13th March, 1831. The "important" information which it contains consists in stating that "Newspaper Editors in this Province receive their exchange papers free of postage;" a fact which was already in the knowledge of every person in the community, and that there was a Deputy Post Master General in Canada, in 1778. This information is wrapt up in a mass of unnecessary verbiage which however "important" in the writer's estimation, was property of no moment in that of the Committee.

Your Committee would respectfully submit, that public Officers should be obliged when performing their public duties, to abstain for the future from remarks which cannot answer any good purpose, and which must at best be both ill timed and ill placed. The duty of the General Post Master here is merely to accommodate the public as far as his means permit, and to give all the information in his power when called on so to do, and his time can always be better employed in the performance of the duties of his office than in writing despatches reflecting on superior authority, or in endeavouring to protect himself and his Department from that wholesome scrutiny which they stand so much in need of.

Your Committee would not have alluded to this matter, were it not that they perceived in a Letter from that Officer to Mr Freeling, dated 29th March, 1835, a latent desire to act by the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, in the same manner that he for two Sessions acted towards Committees of your honourable House. It is to be hoped, however, that firmness on the part of your honourable House, and a determination on the part of his Majesty's Government to discountenance a repetition of such improper conduct in public officers, will put an end for ever to that concealment which has, until now, so constantly enveloped the affairs of the Post Office Department. Quebec, 8th March, 1835.

To our SUBSCRIBERS.—As a change in the ownership of this Paper is in contemplation, to take place on the 16th of May next, at the close of the present Volume,—it is expected that all accounts due to this establishment, up to that time, will be paid on or before the first day of June following.

Subscribers beyond the limits of this County, in places where we have no Agents, are informed that unless their papers are paid up at the end of the present Vol. they will then be discontinued. We have to pay the postage regularly on these papers, and without prompt payment, it is unreasonable to expect that we will continue to send them.

By an arrival at New York, we have London dates to the 4th January, and Paris to the 1st. We refer to some extracts in another page. A considerable body of troops, it appears, are under orders for Canada—a part of which are to be disembarked at New York, and proceed through that state to the British Provinces. We do not know what Jonathan will say to this.

A Montreal paper of the 20th ult., says that a large portion of the inhabitants of that city had emigrated to the south in a body. It adds that the cause of the movement was, that Papineau had given them notice, that the city would be attacked the next week, and that they might secure their own safety. This we believe to be a constitutional lie.

We refer our readers to some documents we publish to day, taken from a second report of a committee of the General Assembly of Lower Canada, on the Post Office Department.

The whole of this report, together with the evidence taken, and appendix, are valuable, as showing a variety of facts connected with that establishment, which have hitherto been kept in profound secrecy from the public. It will scarcely be believed, that the Deputy Post Master General in Quebec should be pocketing nearly £3500 sterling, yearly, while he was reporting his salary at £500 to his employers at home. Yet such is the fact; and this together with the extraordinary discovery of a yearly balance of nearly £10,000 being remitted to England, was good reason for an enquiry into the Post Office transactions of that Colony.

In this report, there is occasionally a glimpse given of the doings in the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Post Offices. Tables are given of the amount of the Newspaper postage for the years 1829, '30, and '31, which in the latter year amounted to £125 in Nova Scotia, and £37 10s in New Brunswick,—and which, according to colonial usage, is made a perquisite by the D.P.M.G. It is to be remarked in these tables that the Royal Gazette postage is the only one which has decreased. It is stated as follows: in 1827, £9; 1828, £6; and in 1829, '30, and '31, £5 each year. The charge for transmission of mails rose from £1,130 in 1827, to £2,540 in 1836. From this report it also appears that Mr Howe's salary is £220, charge for assistance £70 9s 2d; rent of office £50; printing £100—all sterling, besides the Newspaper postage already alluded to, which cannot be much under £200 at the present moment. Upon the whole, we feel convinced that if this establishment were brought under provincial controul, as it ought to be, and proper economy observed in its management, a very considerable revenue might be derived from it.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have examined Mr W. McPhail's Communications, Nos. 3 and 4, on Education; but at this season of the year, when all our readers want the parliamentary proceedings reported, it would be doing them great injustice to occupy our columns with Communications on any subject.