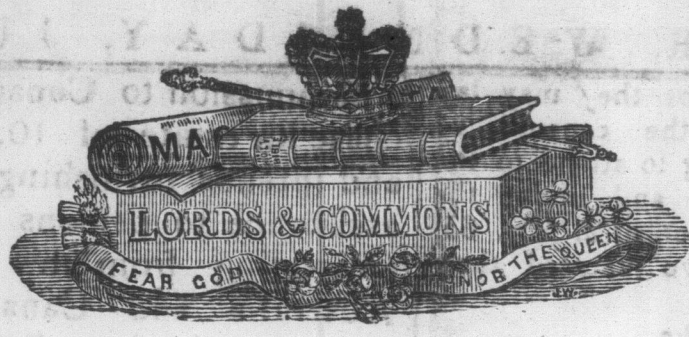


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WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1839.

No. 261.

HARBOUR GRACE, Conception Bay, Newfoundland:—Printed and Published by JOHN THOMAS BURTON, at his Office, opposite Mr. W. Dix's.

The following Documents in reference to Steam Navigation between Great Britain and this Colony, have been transmitted to the House of Assembly by his Excellency the Governor.

(Copy.) London, January 1st, 1839.

Sir,—Having communicated to the several Steam Navigation Companies on this side the contents of your letter relative to the running of Steamers between the United Kingdom and your Island, and being put into possession of the reply of the General Steam Navigation Company, we loss no time in transmitting to you a copy of the Letter of their Secretary, for the information of His Excellency Governor Prescott.

We are, Sir, &c., (Signed) ROBINSON, BROOKING, GARLAND & Co. Hon. James Crowdy, &c. &c.

General Steam Navigation Company Chief Office, 69, Lombard-street London, 29th Dec., 1838.

Gentlemen,—I have to acknowledge, and am desired by the Directors of this Company to thank you for your favour of the 15th inst., handing copy of a Letter from the Colonial Secretary of Newfoundland, stating that a Grant had been made by the House of Assembly of £500 per annum for three years, for the purpose of encouraging the establishment of a regular Steam communication with England.

The Directors have given this subject their consideration, and are of opinion it would not suit the views of this Company to employ a vessel on this undertaking.

I am, Gentlemen, &c., (Signed) for Charles Bissell, Secretary CHARLETON BAILY Messrs. Robinson, Brooking, Garland & Co.

(Copy—No. 10.) Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, 19th January, 1839.

My Lord,—I have had the honor to receive your Lordship's Circular of the 24th of October, 1838, and I lose no time in stating to your Lordship, that the only way in which this Colony can benefit by the proposed substitution of Steam for sailing Packets between England and Halifax, is by the establishment of a Post Office at St. John's, and a direction that the Steamers shall call here on their way to and fro, delivering and receiving our Mail Bag.

Your Lordship will at once perceive that the direct and speedy conveyance between the Mother Country and Halifax could in no degree facilitate our correspondence unless a Steamer were employed to pass continually between Halifax and St. John's, a measure too expensive to be imposed upon this Colony, and which could not, I presume, be reasonable expected from the Post Office Department at Home.

A reference to my despatch of the 4th January, 1836, No. 2, which induced your Lordship to change the route of official communication here, will show the extreme uncertainty of intercourse between St. John's and Halifax by means of trading vessels; and at this moment, while I am in possession of your Lordship's commands of the 8th of December, the November Mail via Halifax has not been received.

It is true that our Port may be occasionally closed by ice,—and within my experience it has generally been so in the month of March,—but the Captain of the Packet would at such times use his discretion and proceed direct to his ultimate destination; we should be then no worse

off than we are now, and at all other periods the benefit of the arrangement would be great, and such as could not fail to prove highly satisfactory to this community.

I have transmitted a Copy of your Lordship's letter to the Chamber of Commerce, and I shall not fail to lay another before the Legislature on its next meeting, which will take place in the middle of May. In the mean time I request your Lordship's attention to my Despatch of the 12th inst., No. 6, in connexion with this subject.

I have, &c., (Signed) H. PRESCOTT. The Right Hon. Lord GLENELG, &c.

(Copy—No. 12.) Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, 2d Feb. 1839.

My Lord,—With reference to my despatches of the 12th and 19th of January (Nos. 6 and 10), I have the honor to inform your Lordship that a Merchant Brig arrived here from Cork on the 30th ult., after a passage of only thirteen days, and had no difficulty in entering the Port and sailing up to the owner's wharf.

I have, &c., (Signed) H. PRESCOTT. The Right Hon. Lord GLENELG, &c.

(Copy—No. 4.) Downing-street, 15th March, 1839.

Sir,—Having referred for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury your despatch of the 19th January last on the subject of the establishment of a regular communication by Steam between this Country and Her Majesty's Possessions in North America, I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of the letter addressed to this Department by their Lordships' directions. I have to request that you will furnish me with the particulars which their Lordships require respecting the state of the Post in Newfoundland.

I have, &c., (Signed) NORMANBY. Governor PRESCOTT, &c.

(Copy) Treasury Chambers, 11th March, 1839.

Sir,—The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury having had under their consideration your letter of the 6th inst., with the Despatch therein enclosed from the Governor of Newfoundland, pointing out that the only mode in which he conceives that Colony can benefit by the substitution of Steam for Sailing Packets between England and Halifax, would be by the Steamers calling at St. John's on their way to and fro, to deliver and receive the Mail Bag—I have it in command to acquaint you, for the information of Lord Normanby, that my Lords do not conceive it would be expedient that the Halifax and London communication should be directed via Newfoundland, but that they cannot but think that the more certain, frequent, and rapid communication between Europe and Halifax will benefit the inhabitants of Newfoundland; and that my Lords will be prepared, as soon as the arrangements for the Halifax line have been matured, to take into their consideration the communication between Halifax and Newfoundland.

With this view my Lords would request Lord Normanby to obtain for this Board information as to the state of the Post in Newfoundland, both as to the internal arrangements, and the making up and sending the Mails for other Countries.

I am, &c., (Signed)

G. F. PENNINGTON, Pro Sec'y.

JAMES STEPHEN, Esq.

(Copy—No. 27.) Government House, St. John's Newfoundland, 11th May, 1839.

My Lord—I have the honor to state in reply to your Lordship's despatch of March 15, (No. 4) that in the year 1805, the then Governor, Sir Erasmus Gower, appointed Mr. Solomon to act as Postmaster, and that Sir Francis Freeling, on being made acquainted with that appointment, promised that every facility should be given in England to the conveyance of Bags from thence to this Island by vessel coming direct, as well as by the Halifax Packets and that corresponding orders should be sent to the Postmaster at Halifax.

Since that time letters have been regularly forwarded for Newfoundland by the Halifax Mail, and sent on from Halifax to St. John's by any accidental opportunity either of Ships of War or Traders.

The correspondence so conveyed is principally official, the merchants naturally preferring the more speedy as well as inexpensive mode of direct conveyance,—by which mode, however, no Bag is ever dispatched from the London Post Office.

By such vessels as leave this place bound to Halifax Mr. Solomon sends letters confided to him, very few of which are of a private description. By the Governor's arrangements Mr. Solomon is remunerated for his trouble by a payment of six pence upon all letters, and two pence upon all newspapers received; of two pence upon letters sent, and the same sum upon all letters of soldiers and men-of-war sailors.

This remuneration amounts to £30 or £40 per annum.

I have, &c., (Signed) H. PRESCOTT.

The Most Noble the Marquis of Normanby.

(Copy—No. 6.) Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, 12th Jan., 1839.

My Lord,—I have the honor to forward a letter addressed to your Lordship by the Chamber of Commerce, upon which I have to observe, that if a Steam Packet were established between Falmouth and Halifax, she could without inconvenience to those places, and with very little loss of time, take Newfoundland in her way out and home; but I imagine that in such a case a regular Post Office Agent should be fixed here, so that, while deriving great benefit from the arrangement, we should also in some degree contribute to defray the charge consequent upon it.

I have, &c., (Signed) H. PRESCOTT. The Right Hon. Lord GLENELG, &c.

(Copy—Circular.) Downing Street, 24th Oct. 1838.

Sir,—The attention of Her Majesty's Government having been directed to the great importance both to Great Britain and to Her Majesty's Possessions in North America of establishing a direct communication by Steam between the two Countries, it is in contemplation to substitute Steam Packets for the sailing vessels now employed in the conveyance of the Mails between this Country and Halifax. The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have accordingly been instructed to advertize for Tenders for this Service.

The arrangement, if it can be concluded, will probably take effect about the com-

mencement of next Spring. The Post Master General will in the mean time direct the local Post Office authorities to turn their attention to the line of communication between Quebec and Halifax, with a view to increased expedition, and also to make the requisite preparations for supplying (when the alteration is to be carried into operation) every facility, and using every proper caution, in order to give effect to the proposed arrangement.

Her Majesty's Government trust that the contemplated measures—involving as they do considerable additional expenditure—will prove beneficial to the public and give satisfaction to these Colonies.

The co-operation of the respective Legislatures is essential to the complete attainment of the advantages anticipated; I have therefore to desire that you will on the opening of the next Session of your Government submit the matter for their consideration, and invite them to co-operate in improving the communication with Halifax, and to afford such other facilities as may depend on those Bodies. I have further to request that will endeavour before their meeting to collect the necessary information for the guidance of the Legislature, and that you will render every assistance in your power to further the views of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c., (Signed) GLENELG. Governor PRESCOTT, &c.

LOWER CANADA.

An Ordinance passed by the Governor General and Special Council, enacts that upon the undermentioned Articles important into that Province, the following rates over and above all duties levied under Imperial Acts, should be paid:—

- For every gallon, wine measure, of Madeira Wine, nine pence currency:—
- For every such gallon of Wine, from any other place, six pence currency:—
- For every such gallon of Foreign Brandy, or Spirits of foreign manufacture, six pence currency:—
- For every such gallon of Rum, or other Spirits, or other strong Liquors, except British manufactured Spirits imported from Great Britain or Ireland, six pence currency:—
- For every such gallon of Molasses or Syrups, five pence currency:—
- For every pound weight, avoirdupois, of Loaf or Lump Sugar, one penny currency:—
- For every such pound of Muscovado or Clayed Sugar, one half penny currency:—
- For every such pound of Coffee, two pence currency:—
- For every such pound of Leaf Tobacco, two pence currency:—
- For every pack of Playing Cards, two pence currency:—
- For every minot of Salt, four pence currency:—
- For every such pound of Bohea Tea, two pence currency:—
- For every such pound of Sonchong or other Black Tea, four pence currency:—
- For every such pound of Hyson Tea, six pence currency:—
- For every such pound of any other kind of Green Tea, four pence currency:—
- For every such pound of Snuff, or Flour of Tobacco, or Powder of Tobacco, four pence currency.

SOUTH AMERICA

Intelligence from Valparaiso, (Chili,) to the 26th Feb. confirm the account lately received of an engagement having taken place between the Peruvian and Chilean armies.

The following additional particulars of the engagement, are gleaned from the official letter, dated Valparaiso, Feb. 25,