

No. 1.
 Lord Glenelg
 to
 Sir F. B. Head,
 5th Dec. 1835.

elected that his Confirmation will depend entirely on the Estimate which His Majesty may form of his Pretensions; and you will on every such Occasion signify to me, for His Majesty's Information, the Grounds on which you have proceeded, and the Motives which have directed your Choice. If His Majesty should be pleased to issue, under his Sign Manual, a Warrant authorizing you to make a Grant of the Office under the Public Seal of the Province, then, and not till then, the Appointment must be considered as finally ratified. I trust that in these Regulations the House of Assembly will perceive a sufficient Proof of His Majesty's settled Purpose to exercise this Branch of his Prerogative for no other End than the general Good of his Canadian Subjects, and to prevent its being converted into an Instrument of promoting any narrow, exclusive, or party Designs.

2. Pursuing the Order observed by the Committee, I pass on to the Subject of the Provincial Post Office. Adverting to the Measures which have already been taken for the Redress of the Grievances which have been alleged to exist in the Conduct of this Department, the Committee observe, that "the Form of a Law such as the Government would approve is before the House; but its Provisions (they add) are so inapplicable and absurd that no Benefit could be derived from their Enactment."

On the Measure thus characterised I am not called to give an Opinion. It is, however, but fair to those by whom it was recommended to the Adoption of the local Legislature to observe, that it had previously undergone a most careful Investigation by the Postmaster General. His Majesty's Government cannot have the slightest Wish to urge the Adoption of any Measure to which well-founded and sufficient Objections may exist; they are content that the Bill in question should be withdrawn, to make way for any other which the Assembly may be disposed to substitute for it. Perhaps, however, on approaching the Question more closely the Assembly may find it encumbered with unexpected Difficulties. I fear that this will be the Case, especially in reference to the Intercourse by Post with all Places beyond the Limits of the Province itself. You will, however, assent to any judicious and practicable Scheme which the House may incorporate in any Bill tendered for your Acceptance; regarding as of no Weight whatever, when opposed to the general Convenience of the Public, any Considerations of Patronage or of Revenue derivable from this Source.

3. Under the Head of Salaries and Fees the Committee have entered into very copious Statements to show that the Emoluments of the public Officers in Upper Canada are excessive, and out of all just Proportion to the Value of the Services rendered. It is unnecessary for me to enter into these Details, because, as to the general Principles on which it will be your Duty to act on Questions of this Nature, there can be no Room for Controversy. Indeed, those Principles will, I think, be most conveniently considered when divested of Topics connected with the Interests and the Services of particular Persons.

There is no Measure of Retrenchment compatible with the just Claims of His Majesty's various Officers, and with the efficient Discharge of the public Service and Duty, to which the King is not disposed to give a prompt and cheerful Assent. To determine what ought to be the Scale of Remuneration to public Functionaries of different Classes would require Information too minute and exact to be obtained beyond the Limits of the Province itself. This would appear a very fit Subject for a special Inquiry, in which it might be proper to employ Commissioners, to be appointed under the Authority of an Act of the Assembly. I have reason to suppose that the Subject has never yet undergone a full and fair Investigation; and therefore I do not feel myself entitled to assume the Non-existence of those Abuses which so readily grow up under a System which is not subjected to a careful Scrutiny, conducted upon permanent and enlightened Views of public Economy. Even if the Result of the Examination should be only to show that there is no Evil of this Nature to be remedied, the Labour would be amply repaid, by placing so important a Fact beyond the Reach of all reasonable Suspicion.

In dealing with existing Interests the local Legislature will, I doubt not, be well disposed to adopt the Rules which have been uniformly taken by Parliament for the Guidance of their Discretion in similar Cases. The Saving of public Money which could arise from the unexpected Reduction of official Incomes would not only subject numerous Families to extreme Distress, but