

of their Postal intercourse, and that they truly regarded it, as Lord Clanricarde has justly observed, as the means, in a new Country, of extending civilization. The elaborate Report, drawn up by the Canadian Commissioners in 1841—the Address from the Legislature of that Province, dated the 2d of June, 1846, in which it is prayed that if a reduction of the rate of Postage to the extent enjoyed by the Mother Country could not be conceded, at least the rates now obtaining in the United States might be adopted—the joint Address of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of New Brunswick, dated 11th April, 1845—the Report of a select Committee of the latter, dated 11th April, 1846—and more recently still, the Resolutions passed by the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, of the 29th March, 1847, in which are contained pledges for defraying any deficiency that might be created in the Post Office Revenues, from the establishment of a low and uniform rate of Colonial and Inter-Colonial Postage;—these, and the several representations from the other Provinces, clearly indicate the unanimous desire entertained by the British possessions in North America to have extended to them a share of those benefits, intellectual, social and commercial, which have in so large a measure been conferred upon the Mother Country, by the establishment of the Penny Postage.

Each day's increasing experience has attested the wisdom that prompted the adoption of a measure which was not at the time more characterized by its boldness than it has subsequently been by its success.

The example of cheap Postage thus set in Great Britain, has recently been followed in the United States in a modified form, adapted to a more widely scattered population and extended limits.

The success which has attended these reductions, has relieved the experiment of much that appeared hazardous in a financial point of view, and promises to support the Commissioners in the assumption that any serious diminution in the Provincial Post Office Revenues, arising from an effective reduction in rates, would prove but of short duration, and would be more than balanced by the attainment of the many advantages so ardently sought for by the Provinces, and which such reduction would confessedly confer.

In this view we have more particularly directed our attention to that branch of the subject adverted to in the Post Master General's letter, which refers to the establishment of an independent management within the Provinces, and the several conditions considered by His Lordship as essential to the efficient working of any well digested scheme; and we have engaged in the duties committed to us, under a deep sense of the importance as well as the delicacy of the task of presenting to Your Excellency a plan, which it may be hoped will meet the approval of the Legislatures of the four Provinces.

Hence we have aimed to adapt our suggestions to the attainment of that concurring Legislative agreement through which alone the people of those Colonies can hope to enjoy the great benefits of cheap and extended Postal Communication, rather than to frame an organization which, however promising in theory, should contain elements of uncertainty, hesitation or disagreement, endangering its adoption by any of the Provinces.

At the threshold of our inquiry, lay the consideration of the relative advantages of a system of United Revenue and management for the four Provinces, or of one that would leave the management of the Postal arrangements in the hands of the local Governments of each Province, as suggested by Lord Clanricarde, with no greater central control than shall be necessary for securing the Imperial and Inter-Colonial Postal interests.

We have decided on recommending the latter system, although we have not been insensible to arguments that might be urged in favour of the former.

The objection that His Lordship the Post Master General has anticipated, would result from the control being continued in England, after the Provinces shall have assumed the pecuniary responsibilities of the Department, may in great part be applied against a control of equally extended authority and functions established in any one of the Colonies.

To these may be added the fact that the most efficient practical security against an imprudent excess in Postal accommodation, will be found in the consideration that undue encroachments on the general Revenue for that service, would abridge the means of other and not less valued benefits; but this motive, powerful when confined within the limits of a single Province, might lose much of its force were the Postal Revenues of the four Provinces gathered into one fund, and the Post accommodations dispensed from one common centre, subjecting the Province to a rateable contribution for making good the