

On motion, made and seconded—

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That an humble and dutiful Address be presented to the Queen's Most Gracious Majesty, congratulating Her Majesty on the Birth of the Princess Royal, and Her Majesty's happy recovery.

On motion, made and seconded—

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That an Address be presented to His Royal Highness Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, congratulating His Royal Highness on the Birth of the Princess Royal, and the happy recovery of the Queen.

ORDERED, That the Honorable the Attorney General and the Honorable Mr. Chandler be a Committee to prepare the several Addresses.

The Honorable Mr. Shore, by direction of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, lays before the House copies of certain Despatches and Documents, which were read by the Clerk as follows:—

#### STEAM PACKETS, AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HALIFAX AND QUEBEC.

*Downing Street, -- March, 1840.*

SIR,—I transmit herewith, for your information, a Copy of the Contract which has been entered into by Mr. Cunard with H. M. Government for the conveyance in Steam Vessels of the Mails between this country and British North America.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. RUSSELL.

Major Gen. Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B. &c.

[*See Appendix, No. 4.*]

#### RATES OF POSTAGE.

[Circular.]

*Downing Street, -- July, 1840.*

SIR—I have the honor to transmit to you for your information, the copy of a Letter from the Secretary to the Board of Treasury, reporting their Lordships determination to reduce the Rates of Postage on Letters to and from the United Kingdom and British North America.

Instructions have been sent to the Governor General to appoint a Commission to investigate and report upon the state of the British North American Post Office; and I have to desire that you will, without loss of time, collect together and forward to the Governor General, for the use of the Commission, all the information which you can procure, respecting the administration of the Post Office in your Province, the remuneration of its Officers, the Rates of Postage, the improvement of the Mail Roads, and every other matter requisite to facilitate a full and complete enquiry into the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. RUSSELL.

Major General Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B. &c.

*Treasury Chambers, 9th July, 1840.*

SIR—I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you for the information of Lord John Russell, that my Lords, having carefully considered the Despatch from the Governor General of British North America which was enclosed in your Letter of the 27th May last, and feeling convinced that the present high Rates of Postage between the British Isles and the North American Colonies, which amount frequently to three or four shillings for a single Letter, must be a serious grievance to the poorer Settlers in the North American Colonies and their Correspondents in this Country, must tend injuriously to check emigration, and to discourage the friendly intercourse which it is so important to promote between the Colonies and the Mother Country, have determined to reduce such Rates of Postage to an extent nearly equal to that recommended by the Governor General.

In conformity with this determination my Lords will adopt the following regulations:—

1st. As regards all Letters passing between this Country and our North American Colonies, and conveyed between them direct, either by Packet or Ship, to charge the internal Colonial Postage, if any, not as heretofore according to the number of enclosures and by distance, but according to weight, adopting the same scale of weight and number of rates as now apply to the Packet and Ship rates on the same Letters: and

2nd. To continue to charge on the above Letters the present Packet and Ship Letter Postage, but to reduce the internal Colonial Postage on the same, to a uniform charge of 2d. the single rate, whatever the distance within the Colonies the same shall be conveyed.

Under this arrangement a Letter not exceeding half an ounce, if posted in any part of the United Kingdom for delivery in our North American Colonies, or if posted in our North American Colonies for delivery in any part of the United Kingdom, will be charged as follows:—

If a Packet Letter, and either posted or delivered at Halifax or at Saint John's Newfoundland, (the Packet Ports)—one shilling. But if either posted or delivered at any other place in our North American Colonies,—one shilling and two pence.

If a Ship Letter, and either posted at the Port of the Ship's departure from our North American Colonies, or delivered at the Port of the Ship's arrival in our North American Colonies,—eight pence. But if posted or delivered at any other place in our North American Colonies,—ten pence.

The Colonies to which these regulations will apply are—Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward's Island; and the reduction in the internal Colonial Rates is to extend to all Letters passing between the said Colonies and the British Isles, whether in transit to or from any other British Colony or Foreign Country, or otherwise, provided that such Letters in passing between the said Colonies and the British Isles are conveyed direct by Packet or Ship, and do not pass through any Foreign Country.