

Mr. Horsfall, M. P., to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

6, Clifford-street, Bond-street, London,

24 February 1859.

My Lords,

Will you allow me to ask your consideration of the enclosed note, which I have received to-day, and which seems to require an early communication.

The Lords Commissioners
of Her Majesty's Treasury.

I have, &c.
(signed) Thomas B. Horsfall.

Enclosure.

Liverpool, New York, and Philadelphia Steam Ship Company,
Liverpool, 23 February 1859.

Dear Sir,

WE have viewed with very great alarm to-day the report (in the "Times" and "Morning Herald" of this date) of the reply of the Earl of Derby, about a postal contract with the Galway line of steamers to North America, the "Times" adding in another part that that subsidy may amount to 3,000 £. per voyage, a sum quite overpowering to those companies who possess no mail contracts; and as this company last year had the largest passenger (and I believe I may add goods) traffic of any existing Transatlantic company, we look on it as an act of gross injustice that a new company, who have followed in the steps we led nearly nine years ago, should be allowed so quietly to step in, by the assistance of a subsidy, to take our traffic from us. We are more surprised because on a late application which you were good enough to attend to for us, the Lords of the Treasury replied to us on 9th November 1858: "When a new postal service is about to be established by Government, it is the practice of their Lordships to invite tenders by public advertisements, thereby affording to all parties the opportunity of competing for such services, provided they conform to the required conditions." On this reply we were satisfied; but it would be perfectly feasible for our boats, if a mail grant were given, to call at Cork for mails, which port is very little further than Galway, or to compete for the Galway mails if so large an amount is to be given for them.

I now write, therefore, to state thus much to you, and to ask, should you see that our claim is well founded, what course would be the best to adopt to obtain a fair hearing; i.e., whether we could proceed by petition to the House of Commons, or by petition or memorial to the Treasury; and whether, if you recommend any such course, you would kindly take charge of the case in the House. I enclose you slips from the "New York Herald," showing our passengers in 1857 and 1858 to have been 22,500 or 11,250 a-year, showing I think very plainly, that it is a matter of no small importance to the town of Liverpool, where these passengers spend their money in transit.

Thomas B. Horsfall, Esq., M. P.

I remain, &c.
(signed) William Inman.