



"JUSTUM, ET TENACEM PROPOSITI VIRUM, NON CIVIUM ARDOR PRAVA JUBENTUM, NON VULTUS INSTANTIS TYRANNI MENTE QUATIT SOLIDA."

VOLUME III.

PICTOU, N. S. WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 26, 1838.

NUMBER XLI.

THE BEE

IS PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING,
BY JAMES DAWSON,

And delivered in Town at the low price of 12s. 6d per annum, if paid in advance, but 15s. if paid at the end of the year, - payments made within three months after receiving the first Paper considered in advance; whenever Papers have to be transmitted through the Post Office, 2s. 6d. additional will be charged for postage. Single copies 3d. each.

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December 6. if

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A LOT OF LAND, situate at Merigomish, bounded easterly by the East River, on the south west by lands belonging to William Hattie, on the north west by lands granted formerly to the Eighty Second Regiment,

CONTAINING 100 ACRES,

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THOMAS MEAGHER.

Pictou, 21th January, 1838. 11**m 10

SNUFF.

For sale at the Meimac Tobacco Manufactory,
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A large quantity of SNUFF, of different kinds.

FIG TOBACCO AND CIGARS.

N. B. A large discount to wholesale purchasers of Snuff.

Halifax, August 14, 1837.

EXTRACTS

From the *Second Report* of the Special Committee appointed to enquire into the present condition of the Post Office Department in Lower Canada, with a view to the application of an efficient remedy to the defects in its organisation and management:—

Your Committee have examined, at great length, the Deputy Post Master General, and called for various Statements, Returns, and Correspondence, which, with the evidence taken by your Committee, will be found appended to this Report.

The great number, and still incomplete state, of these accounts, have, as yet, prevented your Committee coming to a satisfactory conclusion of the voluminous papers connected with the finances of the Department which have been laid before them. Sufficient data have, however, been obtained to convince them that the Post Office Department in the Canadas has been made a source of Revenue to Great Britain, large sums having been annually remitted by the Deputy Post Master General to the General Post Office, London. For the thirteen years ending in 1833, inclusive, the enormous sum of £91,685 8s 3d sterling, has been transmitted to England by the Post Office of this Province; the average remittance of the last four years being £10,641 13s 4d sterling, per annum.

The Committee then complain of this practice, as a violation of the constitutional rights of the subject, and state that it is admitted to be so by the Imperial Act 4th William IV. cap. 27. On the discovery of this fact, the Committee gave notice to the Post Master General, that if he sent any more post office balances home they would hold him personally responsible for them. But, in defiance of this, he forthwith remitted £8,350 sterling, then in his hands, to the General Post Office.

Here follows a variety of tables, showing the receipts for Letter, and also Newspaper postage, in both the Canadas, to be, in:

| | 1832 | 1833 | 1834 |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|------|
| Letter, £27144 5 8 | £26987 6 8 | £31012 18 4 | |
| Newsp. 2573 19 10 | 2266 5 9 | 2083 8 1 | |

Total. £29318 5 6 £29203 12 5 £32096 6 6

And the net proceeds of the Post Office Department in both Provinces, after deducting the British Packet postage, to be, in 1832, £9345 6s 8d; in 1833, £12899 19s 10d; and in 1834, £10528 16s 10d.

These balances would be still larger, had stricter economy been observed in the Department, and had the Officer at its head in these Provinces, not illegally and improperly applied to his own private use and advantage large sums of the public revenue, to which he had no right. From the returns furnished by that Officer of his various emoluments, it appears, that he has received and appropriated to his own use, in the course of little more than six years, ending 1834, no less a sum than £9,500 5s 2d, currency; which sum was paid for the transmission of Newspapers, Pamphlets and other printed papers through the post office. The appropriation of these proceeds, to his own private emolument, the Deputy Post Master General states, "has been made under a privilege recognised by the Post Master General, since the earliest introduction of the Post Office system in the British provinces;" but as it has been well observed by a Committee of your honourable House appointed in the Session of 1821-2, to enquire into the management of the post office department in this province, by the Secretary of the General Post Office, London, in

which it is stated, "the fees, if any, being unknown in this Office, are not taken into the above account."

From this it is evident, that the appropriation by the Deputy Post Master General to his own profit, of the proceeds derived from the forwarding Newspapers by mail, was a circumstance unknown to the Post Master General in England, at the date of the above return. In the absence of law, your Committee cannot consider any sanction of the Secretary of the General Post Office, sufficient to authorise the Deputy Post Master General to appropriate such proceeds to his own use.

The Committee then state that Mr Stayner produced the Imperial Act 4th Geo. III. cap. 24. sec 3, as another authority for collecting and applying to his own uses, the Newspaper postage. After copying this section, which the Committee declare quite irrelevant, the report proceeds,—

The Act from which the above section is taken, it is worthy of remark, was passed to prevent frauds and abuses in relation to the sending and receiving of letters and packets free from the duty of postage. It provides, among other things, that "all letters and packets directed (among other Officers) to the Deputy of the Post Master General for his Majesty's Dominions in America, shall be exempt from postage."

This is all, in the above Act, which has reference to the Post Office in his Majesty's Dominions in America. In no part of the Act is there the least shadow of authority to empower the Deputy Post Master General to fix a rate of postage on Newspapers in those dominions, or to appropriate the same to his own use. Granting for a moment that postage ought to be paid by printers for the transmission of their papers, your Committee consider it monstrous absurdity that the head of the Department should, in the absence of all law, and to the great injury of the Revenue, presume to fix that rate, and to appropriate to his own private profit, emolument, and advantage, the proceeds. The Deputy Post Master General contributes no part of the expense incurred for the transmission of those papers. The Province pays the whole. Yet, in the face of these facts, the Officer in question not only continues, but has given your Committee to understand that he will continue to exact the above postage, and to appropriate it to his own private use as heretofore.

The Section of the Act of 1763, cited by the Deputy Post Master General in support of this gross fraud and abuse, in the opinion of your Committee, is not of the slightest authority in the case, as the Deputy Post Master General in this Province does not come under either of these descriptions of Officers, not being a Clerk in the office of the Secretary of State, nor a Clerk in the Office of the Post Master General, and the Imperial Parliament would certainly never have meant to act so absurdly as to give to certain Clerks in the Office of the Post Master General, so lucrative a monopoly as the whole proceeds of Newspaper postage collected in the United Kingdom, were the newspaper printers obliged, as they are in this Province, to pay a certain annual sum for having their papers transmitted by mail.

The Deputy Post Master General would pretend that the large sums of the public revenue, which he thus devotes to his own personal advantage, are a quantum meruit which he receives from the printers for certain services which he renders them. But your