

Under these circumstances, Viscount Canning considers it indispensable to restore the former practice; viz. in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to assume that it was the desire of the correspondents to use the cheaper mode of conveyance.

His Lordship has accordingly directed the issue of a notice (of which I enclose a copy) in accordance with the above determination, and requests that, if the Secretary of State for the Colonies concur in the propriety of extending the injunction to Canada in respect of the mails sent to this country, he will have the kindness to communicate on the subject with the Colonial Government, at the same time drawing its attention to the fact, that as the mother country bears the whole expense of the packet service, and as the change made by the Canadian post-office not only withdrew a considerable sum from the returns, but also threw increased rates of postage on the British public, such change could not properly be made without reference to the Home Government.

J. Ball, Esq., M.P., &c. &c. &c.,  
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.  
(signed) F. Hill

Sub-Enclosure.

### Sub-Enclosure in No. 1.

By Command of the Postmaster General.

NOTICE to the Public, and Instructions to all Postmasters.

#### LETTERS FOR CANADA.

General Post Office, October 1855.

THE postage upon a letter, not exceeding half an ounce, addressed to Canada, and forwarded through the United States, is—

Eightpence when conveyed by British packet.

One shilling and two-pence when conveyed by United States packet; heavier letters being charged in proportion, according to the scale of weight applicable to inland letters.

Hereafter, unpaid letters will be sent by the cheaper route, unless specially addressed "By United States Packet." Prepaid letters will be forwarded by the route indicated by the postage paid thereon.

At present the British and United States packets leave Liverpool alternately on the Saturday.

Rowland Hill, Secretary.

### — No. 2. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. Labouchere to Governor Sir Edmund Head, Bart.

(No. 32.)

Sir,

WITH reference to my Despatch, No. 53, of the 5th of November last, I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government propose to extend to Canada the principle laid down in the accompanying Treasury Minute of the 27th November last, by which, if adopted, the cost of the mail service will be borne in equal proportions by the Colony to which the Minute refers and the United Kingdom.

The principle of an equal division of expense appears to be perfectly just, and equally applicable to the Province of Canada as to other of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, and I have therefore to request that you will bring the subject under the consideration of your Council, and furnish me with a report upon it.

I have, &c.  
(signed) H. Labouchere.

### Enclosure in No. 2.

TREASURY MINUTE, dated 27 November 1855.

My Lords have under their consideration various communications from the Colonial Office, giving cover to despatches from the colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, and reports from the Postmaster General, upon the subject of a postal communication between England and the Australian Colonies.

O. 24—Sess. 2.

A. 2.

Encl. in No. 2.

No. 2.  
Right Hon. H.  
Labouchere to  
Governor Sir  
E. Head, Bart.  
6 Feb. 1856.