

be adopted, and from the 6th of January 1845, the weight system. Time would thus be afforded to the revenue between each change to recover its elasticity, and derive the advantage which the impulse given to correspondence by these several reductions of charge to the public may reasonably be expected to produce; and though a deficit might and very probably would follow upon the final accomplishment of the scheme, it would not, I trust, be considerable, more especially as I should propose that any surplus accruing in the two years of transition should be applied as a fund to meet the impoverishing effect of the adoption of the weight system in the third year. But under this or any other plan I must be permitted to repeat my earnest recommendation that even a possible deficiency in the revenue should be provided for; and I think that the only safe mode, as I view the subject, by which these important improvements could safely be put in train of speedy attainment, would be for Her Majesty's Government to lay before the several provincial legislatures, in the clearest and most distinct terms, their intentions with regard to the reforms contemplated, explaining amongst other things that the department in British North America should have the full benefit of the receipts of provincial postage; that the general management, as being essential to the interests of all the provinces, and to an impartial distribution of post-office accommodation throughout their whole extent, should continue with the Postmaster-general of the Empire, subject to such a surveillance of the respective provincial governments as shall be found consistent with his Lordship's control, and conducive to the well working of the establishment. That an account of the English postage collected in the provinces shall be kept, and the amount remitted to the General Post-office, London; and that as regards the introduction of the weight system, and the reduction in the postage scale, that it should be stated that these measures, however cautiously approached, would entail a material risk of a deficiency in the post-office revenue; that in the event of such an exigency, the Postmaster-general's deputy, upon application through the Governor-general, shall obtain, upon his Excellency's warrant from time to time, imprests from the Commissariat chest of such sums as he may require to carry on the service, and that at the end of the year, when the post-office annual accounts are made up, each province shall be required to make good the loans from the Commissariat chest, in proportion to its population. That it would depend on the expression of the opinion of the legislatures in this regard whether these important improvements should be introduced gradually, as the financial means of the department warranted, or whether they shall be immediately adopted in their full extent, upon the understanding that the provision for the material deficiency which might then be *certainly* looked for would be made in the manner just described.

These conditions are plain and simple, and withal, I think, so equitable, that they can hardly fail to be satisfactory to the several legislatures; and should an unreserved guarantee for possible deficiencies in the resources in the department be obtained, then every obstacle to continued and enlarged improvement throughout the extent of the country will have been removed.

Further, I beg to say, that I do not consider it at all necessary to wait the result of an appeal to the provincial legislatures before adopting the changes recommended with regard to newspapers and pamphlets, and with regard, likewise, to a change in our mode of dealing with American postage.

I am quite willing, so far as I am concerned, to surrender the privileges I enjoy under both these heads, trusting to the Postmaster-general and Her Majesty's Government for such compensation as I may be considered entitled to therefrom, as well as for such increase to my fixed salary as it may be deemed just to allow me under a new arrangement.

The American postage to be merged in our revenue upon the principle suggested in my Report to the Postmaster-general, dated 25th September 1837, 2d, 3d and 4th articles.—*See Appendix.*

A national treaty, such as suggested in the Report, page 71, to be the subject of attention afterwards.

I submit, also, that immediate steps should be taken to improve the surveyors' and accountant's departments, and the force in the Deputy Postmaster-general's office.

The establishments of all the larger offices should be speedily looked to and placed on a proper footing; and the forward system, with an attendant scale of compensation to the postmasters in charge of forward offices, be adopted as soon as practicable; in like manner the night-work should be provided for.