

from the same source some scraps of information respecting the number of mails then transmitted between different places, and their gradual increase.*

A general post-office was first established in North America by the 9 Anne, c. 10, s. 4, where, amongst other things, the inland rates on letters sent by post through certain towns in the provinces of New England, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania were prescribed. The rates thus fixed continued till the passing of the 5 Geo. 3, c. 25, by which Act the rates now collected in these provinces and in such of the West India Islands as are provided with inland post accommodation, were established.

First established by 9 Anne, c. 10.

Present rates fixed by 5th Geo. 3d, c. 25.

We have not been able to discover any record of the manner in which the administration of the post-office in North America was conducted before the reign of Geo. 3. In 1759, the year of the conquest of Canada, Benjamin Franklin was Deputy Postmaster-general of North America. By his excellent management he appears to have extended post accommodation in the provinces, and to have greatly increased the revenue of the department. It is stated in his memoirs that when he was appointed to the office, the revenue collected was not enough to defray his salary of 300*l.* a year, but ere long he was enabled to remit to the British Treasury 3,000*l.* the profit for one year.

Dr. Franklin, Deputy Postmaster-general in 1759.

In the year 1766, Dr. Franklin was examined at the bar of the House of Commons touching the contemplated repeal of the Stamp Act passed the year before. Being questioned as to the extent of post-office accommodation in America, he gave the following evidence:—

Question. Are you not concerned in the management of the post-office in America?—*Answer.* Yes; I am Deputy Postmaster-general of North America.

Question. Do you not think the distribution of stamps by post to all the inhabitants very practicable if there was no opposition?—*Answer.* The posts only go along the sea-coasts; they do not, except in a few cases, go back into the country, and if they did, sending for stamps by post would occasion an expense of postage amounting, in many cases, to much more than the stamps themselves.

Question. Can you disperse the stamps by post in Canada?—*Answer.* There is only a post between Quebec and Montreal; the inhabitants live so scattered and remote from each other in that vast country, that the posts cannot be supported among them, and therefore they cannot get stamps per post; the English colonies, too, along the frontiers are very thinly settled.

In the year 1774, Franklin was dismissed from office.

The first Deputy Postmaster-general resident in Canada was Mr. Hugh Finlay.

Mr. Finlay, the first Deputy Postmaster-general after the American Revolution, appointed 1767.

We find by an advertisement in the Quebec Gazette, published 23d July 1767, that in that year he was performing, under Franklin, the duties of postmaster at Quebec. The commission by which he was appointed Deputy Postmaster-general is dated 7th July 1784, one year after the peace with America; and as it is known that the British Government did not during the war which broke out a few months after his dismissal, appoint any successor to Franklin, it is certain that Mr. Finlay was the first Deputy Postmaster-general in Canada. He is designated in the commission as Deputy Postmaster-general of his Majesty's "*Province of Canada*," from which it would appear that the Lower Provinces were not included in his charge. An almanac, published at Quebec in the year 1791, represents the condition of the department in that year as follows:—

State of department in 1791.

Hugh Finlay, Esq., Deputy Postmaster-general.

Postmasters	Mr. E. Edwards	-	-	Montreal	-	-	L. C.
	„ Saml. Sills	-	-	Three Rivers	-	-	L. C.
	„ Louis Aimé	-	-	Berthier	-	-	L. C.
	„ Saml. Anderson	-	-	Cornwall	-	-	U. C.
	„ John Munro	-	-	Matilda	-	-	U. C.
	„ John Jones	-	-	Augusta	-	-	U. C.
	„ Peter Clarke	-	-	Kingston	-	-	U. C.
	„ Joseph Edwards	-	-	Niagara	-	-	U. C.
	„ George Leitch	-	-	Detroit	-	-	U. C.
	„ — Mitchell	-	-	Michilimackniac	-	-	U. C.
	„ Hugh Munro	-	-	Baie des Chaleurs	-	-	L. C.

There

* Previous to the appointment of the present Deputy Postmaster-general, no records were kept in the post-office. The documents belonging to the department were treated as private property by each successive holder of the office, and removed by him or his representatives on his resignation or death.