

Friday, 30th January, 1835.

FIRST SESSION TWELFTH PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT, 5th WILLIAM IV.

J. COLBORNE,

Transmitting a communication on the subject of the Post Office Department.

The Lieutenant Governor transmits to the Legislative Council the accompanying Extracts of a communication from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, respecting the Post-Office Department, and the views of His Majesty's Government in recommending an Act to be passed for regulating the internal Postage of the North American Colonies, a copy of which Act is forwarded for the information of the Legislative Council.

*Government House,*  
29th January, 1835.

*Extracts of a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, addressed to the Lieutenant Governor.*

(Circular.)

Downing Street,  
5th October, 1834.

The communication.

"The representations which have from time to time been received from the Legislature and inhabitants of several of the Colonies in North America, respecting the internal Postage in that part of the British Dominions, have not failed to attract the serious attention of His Majesty's Government, and I have now the gratification to send you an Act passed in the late Session of Parliament, which I hope will prove the means of settling this important question to the satisfaction of all parties.

"The Act provides that so much of the Statute 5th Geo. 3d, Chap. 25, as authorises the taking of certain rates of inland Postage within His Majesty's Dominions in North America, shall be repealed from the time when His Majesty's consent shall be signified to Acts of the Provincial Legislatures imposing the same, or other rates of Postage, and making such regulations for the management of the Post Office, by the Post Master General, or his Deputies, as to the Legislatures may seem expedient.

"You will observe, that in order to give effect to this Act certain Bills must be passed by the Provincial Legislatures, and receive the Royal Assent; and I need scarcely add, that to establish a practicable system it is essential that a uniformity of views should pervade these Bills.

"It was found impossible to devise any practicable plan for keeping separate the accounts of the Post Office Revenue and expenditure in each possession in North America, and where the accounts were blended no mode of distributing the surplus revenue appeared to be free from serious objection, except to apportion it according to the gross amount of Postage collected within each Colony; a provision therefore to this effect has been made in the Imperial Act of Parliament. In order, however, to admit of any other plan which might be preferred by the Provincial Legislatures, a power has been left to them to alter this clause by local enactments. I should scarcely anticipate, that at the present time any more eligible expedient is likely to be suggested than the one adopted by the Imperial Act; and as any alteration of it could not be carried into effect until agreed to by each separate Legislature, it is, perhaps, to be wished, that at any rate, for a period sufficient to try the remainder of the proposed measures, the provision made by Parliament on this point should remain untouched.

"It is of course necessary that all the Acts passed by the several Legislatures on the present subject should take effect on the same day; the first of January, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six."

Address ordered to be presented to the Lieut. Governor, thanking His Excellency for the foregoing Messages.

Ordered, that an address be presented to the Lieutenant Governor, thanking His Excellency for his several messages of this day on the subject of the War Losses, and transmitting to this House extracts from Despatches from His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies upon various topics; and assuring His Excellency that the Legislative Council will not fail to give the several matters therein embraced their most serious consideration; and

Members appointed for that purpose.

Ordered, that the Honorable Messrs. Allan and Gordon do present the same.

District Court Witnesses bill committed.

Pursuant to the order of the day, the House was put into a Committee of the whole upon the bill to enable Suitors in the District Courts to procure the attendance of Witnesses from any District in this Province.

The Honorable Mr. Markland took the Chair.