

Appendix  
(F.)

26th March.

(X.) No. 11.

H. Ince, Halifax.

No. 11.

H. INCE, Esq., Acting Storekeeper, Halifax, (N. S.)

*Halifax, 25th January, 1841.*

How far the practice of paying Official Postage may be inconsistent with the interests of the public service I am not prepared to say, nor am I competent to give an opinion as to the system of Official Franking, such having been unknown in this Department; but the present system of paying for public accounts is extremely burthensome; the charge for instance from Cape Breton, being 5s. currency per ounce, making generally from £4 to £5 per quarter for cash accounts, which do not, in most instances, amount to more than £50.

without any corresponding advantage; whereas, by pursuing the system of Official Franking, the great expense of collection and all other incidental charges, are saved to the public, and the duties of the Post Office more simplified.

Appendix  
(F.)

26th March.

(X.)

No. 12.

J. Elliott,  
Halifax.

No. 12.

J. ELLIOTT, Esq., Surgeon to the Forces, Halifax, (N. S.)

*Halifax, 15th January, 1841.*

The practice of paying official letters does not appear inconsistent with the interests of the public service, while the Postage of letters is required to be paid by the Departments. If all official letters from and to the Heads of the Departments were allowed to pass free of Postage in these Provinces, some trouble might be saved, and accounts prevented.

No. 14.

R. HODGSON, Esq., Attorney General, Charlotte Town, (P. E. I.)

*Charlotte Town, 25th January, 1841.*

I take it as admitted that the Postage of official letters is not borne by the Officer individually, but by the Government, and I am therefore of opinion that the practice of paying Official Postage imposes the unnecessary trouble on the Officer of keeping a Postage account without any benefit to the public service.

No. 14.

R. Hodgson,  
Charlotte  
Town.

Where the cost of the Mails is defrayed from the general revenue of a country or colony, from which source also the payment of the Official Postage ultimately comes, I think it must be so considered.

I suppose that in all the British North American Colonies the inland Mails are supported and managed in the same manner as they are in this Colony, and therefore I cannot conceive the existence of any valid reason why Public Officers in the Colonies should be compelled to pay Official Postage and keep a Postage account.

It may be observed that the Returns, Reports, and Hospital Expenditure Accounts of the Army Medical Department in these Provinces are voluminous; and the several established forms being on large and heavy paper, the amount of Postage becomes considerable; sometimes these have to be returned to distant places, as Fredericton, Newfoundland, &c., &c., for correction, when necessarily the charges vary much, and are greatly increased in amount.

I can give no reason why the practice of paying Official Postage is inconsistent with the interests of the public service, although, as before stated, I do not consider the practice of Official Franking inconsistent with those interests; and I am of opinion that the privilege of franking should be accorded to such Public Officers within each Colony as are compelled from the nature of their Offices to hold official correspondence, and that it should be in the power of the Lieutenant Governor of such Colony to say to what Officers the privilege should be granted.

No. 13.

Hon. J. H.  
Haviland,  
Charlotte  
Town.

No. 13.

Honorable J. H. HAVILAND, Provincial Secretary, Charlotte Town, (P. E. I.)

*Charlotte Town, 30th January, 1841.*

I am of opinion that where the practice prevails of paying Official Postage, the interests of the public service are rather prejudiced than otherwise; inasmuch as the Postage thus paid serves only to swell the gross receipts of the Post Office, at a heavy charge for collection upon the public revenue, from whence the expense of all Official Postage is eventually defrayed,

No. 15.

Honorable J. SPENCER SMITH, Treasurer, Prince Edward Island.

*Prince Edward Island, 17th Feb., 1841.*

I am of opinion that the practice of Official Franking cannot in any way prove prejudicial to the interests of the public service, so long as the privilege is only granted to those who, from the nature of their situations, are compelled to hold official correspondence.

No. 15.

Hon. J. Spencer  
Smith,  
Prince Edward  
Island.