

the Committee, while they are desirous of protecting that Officer from liability or censure by his superiors, have not been able to convince themselves that it is incumbent on this House to grant that amount.

The whole question was discussed by the Delegates of the Assembly in 1839, with the authorities in London, and the Treasury Minute of 3d September, 1839, was settled with their approval and acquiescence, and having been acted on by the Assembly, is equally binding on this House and on the Home Government. This Minute, speaking of the Lords of the Treasury and of the Representations that had been recently submitted to them by Messieurs Young and Huntington, contains the following paragraph:—"They are of opinion that so long as the Revenue derived from the Internal Postage is sufficient to meet the expenditure for the Internal Communications, no demand for this object should be made upon the Provincial funds; and in conformity with these views, I am to request that you will suggest to Lord Normanby, that the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia may be instructed to inform the Legislature, that no vote will be required for maintaining the present lines of Post Office Communication so long as the Postage receipts shall continue as they would now appear to be, adequate to meet the expenditure; but that should the Legislature deem it advisable that the lines of Communication should be increased, my Lords will in that case, rely upon provision being made by the House of Assembly for defraying any expense of such additional Communication that may not be covered by increased postage."

Now the Committee have already shewn that the receipts from Internal Postage are adequate to meet the expenditure for maintaining the lines of Post Communication as they existed in 1839. And the demand upon the Provincial Treasury arises solely from the Contract entered into last year for transmitting the Mail by the Steamers and otherwise, to and from Halifax, Truro and Pictou.

This Contract has been acted on throughout the year, but was not executed by Mr. Howe and Mr. Cunard, until the 14th December last. It provides for the transmission of the Mail to and from Halifax, Truro and Pictou, three times in each and every week, between the 1st day of May, and the 1st of November, in each year, and twice in every week during the remainder of each year, and also twice in every month during the time in each and every year at which the Mails shall be conveyed between Quebec and Pictou by Steamboats, leaving the transmission of the English Mails during the rest of the year, when it goes wholly by land, as the subject occasionally of extra charge. For this service, Mr. Cunard is to receive £1550, Sterling, equal to £1937 10s. Currency, "out of the Revenue of the Post Office," for eight years, and he agrees to convey the Mail in Coaches drawn by four Horses, to perform the whole distance between Halifax and Pictou in seventeen hours, and to carry Passengers by or for the Steam Packets, at the rate or fare of £2 10s. Sterling, each. The Contract contains many other clauses with which the Committee need not trouble this House; but what they do invite the attention of the House to, is the fact, that the whole amount payable under the Contract is included in the present accounts, and creates the necessity for a demand upon our Treasury.

Till 1839, the expense of carrying the Mail to and from Halifax, Truro and Pictou, was but £285 Currency. In 1840, it was increased by a new charge of £550, to the sum of £835, it is now advanced to £1,937, not for our accommodation only, but for the benefit of the Sister Colonies of Canada and New Brunswick, whose heavy
Mails