

at which time the *Montagnais* Nation was in its highest prosperity, were six in number—that they had settled there under pretext of diffusing christianity among the Indians—they only cultivated the soil for the wants of their settlement. They prevailed on almost all the Indians to become Christians and had the greatest influence over them.

All was well for some years, but the Company of the Indies having perceived that the Reverend Fathers, with Rosaries, small crosses, relics and an abundance of prayers, procured more Furs and of a quality superior to that of those which the Company could procure with Merchandise, which they imported at great expense from Europe, succeeded in fending the Reverend Fathers to sell their Merchandise elsewhere.

(Signed) CHARLES TACHE', the Elder.

Henry Cowan, Esquire, Post-Master of Quebec, answered as follows :

Q. What was the original route from Quebec to Halifax via St. John, and what is the present route ; what are the respective distances, and what time did the couriers take to perform the journey by the old route, and what time do they now take to perform it by the new route ?

A. The Halifax Mail by the old route via St. John was from twenty eight to thirty-two days before it was received at Quebec, it is now received by the way of Frederickton as per Way Bill herewith in fourteen or eighteen days ; as much depends on the state of the roads, the Courier employed between Quebec and Frederickton is from nine to eleven days ; between Frederickton and Halifax five or seven days ; distance 636½ miles.

WAY BILL FROM HALIFAX TO QUEBEC.

Haste ! Haste ! Post Haste !

To the several Couriers on the Route.

You are hereby Ordered to use the utmost diligence in your respective Stages, to convey in safety, and with the greatest possible speed, the Mail herewith delivered to you.—You are to shew this Way Bill to the Post Masters on your route, who are required to note the day of the month and the exact time of the day of your arrival at their Offices respectively ; together with the time when the Mail is again by them set in motion, with