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REPORT

OF THE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

L. H. Murray

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

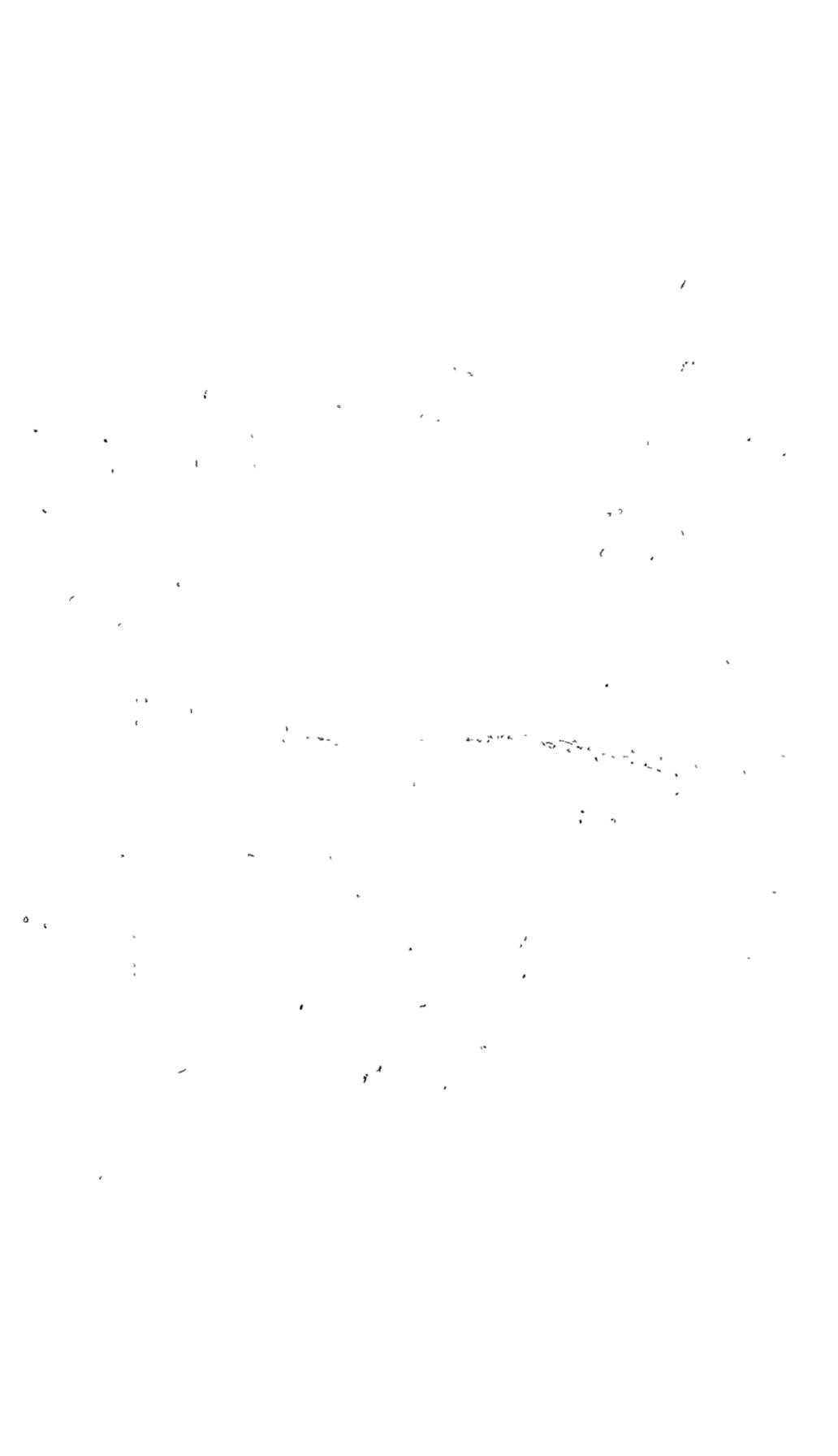
ON THE

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

IN THE

PROVINCE OF LOWER CANADA.

Ordered, by the *HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY*, to be printed,
11th February, 1832.



REPORT.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE to whom was referred the Petition of Robert Armour, junior, Esquire, praying for Enquiry into the management of the Post Office Department, and for other purposes, have agreed to the following REPORT :—

Your Committee directed their attention in the first instance to the means of ascertaining the amount of the Receipts and Expenditure, and the disposal of the surplus Revenue of the Post Office Department.

In order to obtain information on these subjects, they called before them the Deputy Post Master General, Mr. Stayner, and his predecessor in that office, Mr. Sutherland:

The former Gentleman followed in a great measure the mode he adopted in the investigation of last Session, and either declined answering questions that tended to elicit any information respecting the Revenue or Expenditure of the Department under his controul, or if he did reply, his answers were couched in vague and ambiguous language.

Mr. Sutherland could not furnish any material information, as he stated, his memory had failed, and that he was not in possession of the Post Office Books to refer to.

Although Your Committee have not succeeded in obtaining from the Officer at the Head of this Department that information they expected, yet they have, from an inspection of the Journals of the House of Commons, ascertained that the following sums were paid into the Military Chest in Quebec, by the Deputy
Post

Post Master General, on account of the Post Office Department in London, viz. :—

In 1822,	£5800	0	0	} Forming a sum of £32059 5s 2d. Sterling.
1823,	4550	0	0	
1824,	5050	0	0	
1825,	5825	18	6	
1826,	5633	6	8	
1827,	5200	0	0	

The net produce of the four succeeding years must have, on an average, amounted to at least that of the preceding six, so that the total of the remittances for the last ten years may be estimated at £53431 17s. 11d. Sterling, which sum is incorporated with the Post Office Revenue of England.

On comparing the net produce of Postage collected in the Province in the years 1825 and 1826, with the gross amount in the same years as stated in an Official Document laid before the House of Commons on the 5th. July 1827, which will be found in the Minutes of Evidence taken last Session, it would appear that the expenses of the Department are more than double the net produce.

Your Committee have not been able to obtain any information respecting the Expenditure, which must exceed however £10,000 per annum.

The accounts of the Department are said to be transmitted quarterly to London, but the Deputy Post Master General cannot state to what period they have been audited.

Your Committee being desirous of ascertaining the emoluments of the Deputy Post Master General, either in the shape of Salary or Perquisites, examined that Officer on the subject, who laid before them a copy of his Commission, by which he is entitled to a Salary of £500 Sterling.

The Perquisites he states to be the sums charged for the

the conveyance of Newspapers and other printed documents by Mail, but he declines informing Your Committee the amount he annually derives from this source.

The only shadow of authority that can be shewn for this charge, is a Letter from Sir Francis Freeling, dated London, 7th April, 1830, in reply to one addressed to him by Mr. Armour, complaining of the detention of the Montreal Gazette at the Post Office in Montreal, in consequence of his refusal to pay in advance the sum charged against that Paper. This Letter declares "that the gratuity in question is the long established and authorized perquisite of the Officer in question;" it appears, however, at variance with a Return, dated 5th July 1827, laid before the House of Commons by the same Officer, in which are the following words: "The Fees, if any, being unknown in this Office, are not taken into the above account." A copy of this Document will be found among the proceedings of the Committee in this investigation last Session.

The amount of this perquisite Your Committee cannot positively state,—it was estimated last year at £495 5s. Od. and the Deputy Post Master General refers indirectly to that estimate in his evidence; he also states that it is considerable, and forms his principal dependence, it must therefore exceed his Salary, and may probably be stated with tolerable correctness, at £600 to £700.

Another source of emolument is an allowance of twenty per cent. for the collection of the United States Postage, which must amount to a large sum, and will form, with the other items, at least £1500 per annum, derived from his situation of Deputy Post Master General in this Province; besides the emoluments he may receive from similar sources in the Provinces of Upper Canada and New Brunswick.

Your Committee consider that it is clearly established by the evidence taken last Session on the Post Office Department, and reported to Your Honorable House

on the 26th March 1831, that the establishment has not heretofore provided sufficient means of communication by Post throughout the Country, and that it has opposed every endeavour to give publicity to the Receipts and Expenditure of the Department.

Your Committee are therefore of opinion, that it is absolutely necessary that this Department should be regulated by enactments of the Provincial Legislature, and that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in Chief, praying that he would submit this matter for the immediate consideration of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

11th February 1832.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

AND

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Thursday, 22d. December, 1831.

JAMES LESLIE, Esquire in the Chair.

Ordered, That the following Questions be sent to the different Printers and Publishers of Newspapers and other Periodical Works in this Province, viz. :—

1st. From the period at which you became Proprietor and Publisher of your present Newspaper, what have been the nature and the amount of the demands or exactions made upon you by the Deputy Post Master General or his Deputies; for what objects have such demands been made, and how have they been generally settled for?

2nd. Have you ever objected or refused to pay such demands; and what have been the replies received by you to such objections, or the consequences following such a refusal?

3rd. Do you not consider the charge made by the Deputy Post Master General for the transportation of your Newspapers through the Mail, as injurious to the circulation of Newspapers in general, and as preventing the diffusion of knowledge through the means of the Press?

4th. Are you not aware that Newspapers are free of Postage in England?

Tuesday,

Tuesday 27th December, 1831.

Thomas Allen Stayner, Esquire, Deputy Post Master General, called in ; and examined :—

1. Will you submit to the Committee a copy of your Commission, Warrant or Appointment as Deputy Post Master General, and a copy of any oath or affirmation taken by you on entering upon the duties of your said Office?—I have no orders from my Department relative to the course proper for me to pursue upon a demand of this kind being made by the House of Assembly, but as I am anxious to meet the wishes of the Committee, so far as I can, consistently with my sense of duty to the authority under which I serve, I take upon myself to lay before you, 1st. A notification of my appointment as Deputy Post Master General for British North America, from the Secretary of the General Post Office, London. 2nd. A copy of my Commission: 3d. A copy of the Oath taken by me upon assuming Office. (*For the said Papers, see Appendix Nos. 1, 2, 3.*)

2. Will you submit to the Committee copies of the Instructions by which the execution of the duties of your Office are regulated?—I feel myself under the necessity of making the same reply to this demand that I made to the Committee of the House of Assembly upon my examination last Session, when my instructions were called for;—namely, that without orders to that effect from the authority under which I act, I cannot, I *dare* not, surrender up my instructions, many of which are conveyed in Letters, having other matter in the same sheet. I possess no condensed code or compilation comprising all my instructions. In pursuing the same course (in reference to these instructions,) which my duty pointed out to me last year, (and which nothing has since occurred to justify me in departing from,) I beg respectfully to
say,

say, that I am ready to explain, as far as I am capable of doing so, the principle upon which the Department in these Provinces is governed,—the instructions which regulate its extension, and the number and situation of the existing Post Routes and Offices. Beyond this, I have no warrant to proceed. The Committee will, I trust, do me the justice to believe that in declining to lay before them, all they have required, I am solely influenced by the reason which I have stated above. If I am ordered by the Post Master General to comply with all the requisitions which you may think fit to make upon me, I will cheerfully afford you every information in my power; until then, I trust, as I did last year, that in consideration of the peculiar situation in which I am placed, the Committee will forbear to press these questions, or others, which I am not authorized to answer. I now lay before the Committee a Book containing a collection of Post Office Laws, many of which apply to and regulate the Post Office duties in these Provinces. I also beg to submit a memoir, (*See Appendix No. 4.*) containing such instructions and advice from the Department at home, as relate to the general management of the Post Office here. This Book and a similar memoir, (or one corresponding with it in every essential particular,) I had the honor of furnishing last year, though the memoir, (from some accidental cause, as I have been informed,) was not published with the rest of the proceedings on the Post Office question. The instructions contained in this memoir will, I am convinced, satisfy the Committee that the policy of the British Government with regard to the Post Office Department in these Provinces is of the most liberal kind, and that although that Government may consider it absolutely necessary to maintain the control of the establishment as a means of properly preserving the connexion which should exist whilst the countries bear their present relation

to each other, its desire is that Post accommodation should be regulated by the wants of the country, and that the means at my disposal should be directed to that end.

3. Have any Acts of Parliament been passed regulating your Department since the 5th July, 1827?—I am not aware. I have none dated later than the 11th June, 1827.

4. What are at present the emoluments of your Office, and from what Revenue supplied, detailing whether such emoluments are in the shape of Salary, Commission or Perquisites?—It will be seen by my Commission, copy of which I have handed in, that my Salary is £500 per annum, but besides this, I derive an advantage from the transmission of News Papers through the Post,—a privilege enjoyed by the Deputy Post Master General for the time being, under express sanction from England, from the earliest formation of the Department here, or since Papers were first printed in the country. This privilege I have reason to believe is considered by the Post Master General as being my right in an equal degree with my Salary, and without the benefit derived through it, no person holding the situation of Deputy Post Master General of these Provinces could subsist, liable as he is to many expenses inseparable from the appointment, and occasionally subjected to losses which no ordinary degree of foresight can at all times shield him from; and although the sum now accruing from the source in question, is considerable, and although it has, as a matter of course increased with the growth of the country, it has not increased in an equal degree with the augmentation of the Department, and of the trouble to me consequent thereon, nor does the Post Master General appear to consider that I am too well paid for conducting the important and responsible charge with which I am entrusted,—a charge probably the most laborious and
irksome,

irksome, as, I sincerely believe, it is the most thankless that is held in this or any other country. What the aggregate amount of my income under the British Government is, I must decline answering for the same reason which I gave for not furnishing my instructions: No part of it is however derived from a commission as I understand is supposed to be the case. Here I would beg to add, in reference to this question, that my whole income is not granted to me for my services in this Province, upon which I presume that all the questions now put to me are intended exclusively to apply. I have been thus diffuse on the subject of Newspapers, because the Petition of Robert Armour, upon which I am called before the Committee, and which the Committee has handed to me to peruse, appears exclusively to relate to this question, and prays that the charge now made for forwarding Newspapers through the country may be abolished; leaving me and my Deputies, whom I have to remunerate for assisting me in this service, to perform the toilsome task without indemnification.

5. What have been the gross receipts of the Post Office Department collected in this Province during the last ten years?—I do not possess the means of furnishing this information, but if I did, I should not feel myself at liberty to afford it without orders from my Head of Department.

6. What have been the expenses during the same period for the transportation of the Mails; allowance to Post Masters, and incidental charges and expenses of the Department in this Province, stating each under separate heads?—Same answer as the last preceding.

7. What have been the net proceeds of the Department after these deductions, during the same period, how have these proceeds been employed, and how much thereof have been remitted to the General Post Office in London?—I cannot undertake to
answer

answer this question in the sense which appears to be required by the Committee, but this I feel myself bound to state, as my firm conviction, that neither for the last ten years, nor for any previous period, has the Postage of Lower Canada afforded one farthing of net Revenue. It is very true that money is paid into the Military Chest, which has been ignorantly or mischievously asserted by Newspaper Printers and others, to be a profit derived from the Postage business of the country; such, however, is not the fact—it is money resulting from Military Postage and the Postage on Letters by the British Packets *via* Halifax, which swell our accounts, and give the appearance of a surplus Revenue. The transport of the Mail through Lower Canada does not create this Postage, although the great mass of it is collected at the Quebec Office. This Province I am fully convinced has never, (properly speaking,) paid the expenses of its Posts, nor is it likely to do so, as the constant and unproductive Post Routes, now daily called for, will for years to come consume any surplus Revenue that may accrue upon the grand Route between Quebec and Montreal, (the only one which in my opinion has ever paid its expenses,) whilst the illegal conveyance of Letters upon the Route by Steam Boats in Summer and Stages in Winter, (an abuse which it appears difficult if not impossible to correct,) seems to preclude the hope that any great improvement is ever to take place there. So extensively is this mode of conveying Letters pursued on the Route in question, that I have reason to believe the Postage business between Quebec and Montreal now, is less per annum, than it was before the introduction of Steamboats, (18 years ago or upwards,) when these Cities were not of half the consequence that they now are.

8. Have you had any opportunity of ascertaining since last year, whether the General Post Office in London ever made any advances for carrying on the Department

ment in this Province, during years, when for some unforeseen cause the Revenue has not proved equal to the expenditure?—I have not learnt that the General Post Office in London ever actually remitted money to this country for the purpose of making good any deficiency that might arise from the cause alluded to by the Committee, but this I know, that the Department here has always collected the British, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Postage, on Letters by the Falmouth Packets, to the amount probably of some thousand pounds per annum, whilst no rateable Letters ever leave this Province for Europe until the whole Inland Provincial Postage is paid. Thus, Letters for Great Britain, if sent by the British Packets, are paid to Halifax, and if sent *via* the United States, they are paid to New York, (the American part of the Postage being retained for that Government,) so that the Postage on the correspondence both to and from Europe is concentrated here, and has the effect of giving a fictitious importance to our accounts. In this way the General Post Office in England has always supported the Department here; but besides this, a great means of support (as already mentioned by me in another answer,) has uniformly been afforded by the Military Departments, the numerous letters and returns of which are subjected to Letter Postage, (constituting a very large amount annually,) Government not appearing to think it necessary to impose any check upon the transmission of the heaviest Packets by Mail, as the Postage paid thereon reverts to the Military Chest. Nearly all this Postage Out and In is collected at the Quebec Office, and appears in the Quebec accounts, although by far the greater part of the transport is through the Province of Upper Canada.

9. Are the books of the Post Office Department detailing the Receipts and Expenditures for every year, kept in such a form as to exhibit the annual gain

or

or loss to the Department by the establishment of each Post Office?—No; nor is it possible to devise a scheme of the kind.

Tuesday 10th January, 1832.

The Chairman laid before the Committee the following answers of the different Printers and Publishers of Newspapers, to the Questions submitted to them on the 22d ultimo:—

Answers of Mr. *Thomas Cary*, of Quebec.

1. I have been one of the Proprietors and Publishers of the "Quebec Mercury," since January 1812. The Deputy Post Master General of this Province has demanded and received from me, for forwarding through the Post, the said Paper, the following rates, viz: for several years, 1s. 8d. then 3s. 4s., and latterly 5s. per annum, for each number.

2. I have never objected or refused to pay the said charge, conceiving it to be useless, until the different Printers and Publishers in the Province concurred in opposing the claim of the Deputy Post Master General.

3. I certainly do consider the charge made by the Deputy Post Master General for the conveyance of Newspapers, as injurious to the circulation of papers in general, and as tending greatly to prevent the diffusion of knowledge throughout the Province.

4. I am aware that Newspapers are free of postage in England.

Answers

Answers of *John Charlton Fisher*, Esquire, of Quebec.

1 and 2. Since I have been Proprietor and Editor of the "Quebec Gazette by Authority" the Deputy Post Master General has demanded an annual sum of 4s. currency, for every number of my Paper transmitted by Post. This demand has always been complied with without objection, and payment has been made by me every half year. The ostensible object of the demand is, I suppose, the defraying of the expense of transmitting these papers to the Subscribers by Post; but I have been informed, I know not how correctly, that this charge is the sole perquisite of the Officer at the head of the Department in this Province. I am aware that the late Deputy Post Master General consented to accept a composition of 2s. 6d per annum for each number of the New York Albion, which arrangement was annulled by the present Deputy Post Master General, from which I conclude that the regulation of this matter is solely in his power.

3. There cannot, I think, be any reasonable doubt on this subject. The payment of 4s. per annum for postage, necessarily enhances, to that amount, the price of subscription; and does, I think, tend to limit the circulation of Newspapers generally, and the consequent diffusion of useful knowledge through the press.

4. Newspapers go free of postage in England, having the name of a Member of Parliament on the envelope, to whom they are, by a fiction, supposed to be addressed, the name of the real Subscriber being underwritten on the same direction. Were the privilege of franking in the possession of Members of the Legislature to a certain extent, the free passage of Newspapers through the Province might be secured by that means, as in Great Britain. I have never made any complaint against the Department, which is in my opinion conducted by a very meritorious Public Officer, Mr. Stayner, but I am (and not on selfish grounds)

opposed

opposed to the present system of taxing Newspapers, and think that the subject is well worthy the attention of the Legislature, anxious as it must be to promote the diffusion of intelligence among the Inhabitants of the Province. I beg, in conclusion, to refer to my evidence, more at length, given last Session before a Committee of Your Honorable House, on the same subject.

Answers of Mr. *Silas Horton Dickerson*, of Stanstead.

1. At the time I established my present Newspaper in 1823, the Deputy Post Master here, received instructions from Mr. Sutherland, the then Deputy Post Master General, to exact of me 1s. per quarter for each Newspaper forwarded by the mail, to be paid quarterly in advance, and upon refusal or default of payment, not to forward them. I have paid to the Deputy here, from 1st May 1823, to 5th October last, for postage on my Newspaper, the sum of £81 2s. 0½d. and about £15 Colonial postage on United States papers received; of the whole of which the Deputy has received twenty per cent Commission for collection, when in fact the postage was collected by me, (with, however, frequent exceptions, when the postage and the amount of the paper were both lost, and no allowance made to me by the Post Master for these losses,) and the right to Commission would more properly belong to me. The only object I conceive, for which such demands have been made, is to increase the income of the Deputy Post Master General, the proceeds being claimed by him as a perquisite of office. These demands have been generally settled by the payment of the amount into the hands of the Deputy at the close of each quarter. At the first establishment of the "British Colonist and Saint Francis Gazette," the postage bill on my paper alone, amounted to £32 a year; and finding that from many Townships I did not receive money enough to pay the postage, I was under the necessity of establishing

blishing private Posts for the distribution of my Papers which I continued until 1829, when, after repeated representations of the difficulty of collecting money for postage, and applications to be allowed to send them by the Mail Carrier or Contractor on his own account, Mr. Stayner yielded to my solicitations, and the Contractor was allowed to carry them upon such terms as I could make with him.

2. Knowing at the time I commenced here, what the instructions of the Deputy Post Master General were, I did not positively refuse to pay such demands; but have frequently remonstrated with the Deputy here, and with the Deputy Post Master General, upon the injustice of taxing Colonial Papers, and at the same time allow United States Papers to circulate throughout the Province, without being subjected to any charge for such distribution by means of the mail; this resulted in subsequently taxing United States Papers the same as those printed in the Province. The people in the vicinity of this office are charged on United States Papers passing in the exchange mail from the distributing office in Vermont to the office here, a distance of little more than half a mile, and where nothing is charged on letters, the same amount as if distributed to the farthest part of either Province. On several occasions, and particularly in my absence, the Deputy has refused to forward the Papers, and they have consequently been delayed to my injury, giving as a reason that the postage was not punctually paid.

3. I consider the charge made by the Deputy Post Master General for the transportation of Newspapers through the Mail, as detrimental to their circulation in general, and materially preventing the diffusion of knowledge through the medium of the Press.

4. I am aware that in England, the importance of allowing a free circulation to Newspapers has been duly considered. To raise their immense income, they are obliged

obliged to tax every article of luxury or comfort, still Newspapers are circulated free of postage.

Answers of Mr. *Ludger Duvernay*, of Montreal :

1. I do not remember what sum I paid at the Post Office for the postage of my Newspapers during the first years of its establishment :—I now pay £50 a year. It does not appear that any great exactness is observed in counting the number of copies sent in this way : I believe that no charge is made for those sent to Post Masters, Agents for the Paper, or in exchange for others. During the first years I was obliged to pay the Postage in advance ; at present when one quarter is due, a note payable in two months is demanded.

2. I have never refused to pay the postage of my Newspapers, and have never therefore made any Protest on the subject. But on one occasion, in 1827, they refused at the Post Office to send my Papers because the preceding quarter had not been paid.

3. I am persuaded that the demand of 5s. for the postage of each number, prevents many persons in the country parishes from subscribing to Newspapers. I frequently receive offers from persons residing in the country parishes, and not in affluent circumstances to subscribe, on condition that they shall not pay the postage ; many others are not willing to pay more than one half of it.

4. I have understood that, in England, Newspapers are conveyed by post free of postage.

Answers of Mr. *Robert Armour*, of Montreal :

1. I have been proprietor of the Montreal Gazette for upwards of four years, during three of which I have been constrained to pay for the transmission of Newspapers by Mail, to the Deputy Post Master General at Quebec, at the rate of £50 per annum, payable quarterly

terly in advance, and during this current year, I have had to pay at the rate of £60 per annum, in quarterly payments as before.

2. I have on two different occasions objected to, and refused to pay such demands. I then requested of the Post Master here, (by the mediation of Henry Griffin, Notary Public,) to forward my Newspapers to their different destinations, by the usual Post Office Mails, and to charge the receivers of them with whatever postage the Law would justify him in demanding. This he refused to do for two days, during which time the Papers remained unforwarded in the Post Office, unless I would, as Publisher, pay the postage in advance.

3. I certainly do consider that the charge made by the Deputy Post Master General for the transportation of Newspapers, and particularly the mode in which it is collected from the publishers rather than the receivers, is highly injurious to the circulation of Newspapers in general, and greatly prevents the diffusion of useful knowledge through the means of the Press.

4. I believe no postage is charged in Britain for the transportation of Newspapers published in that country.

Answers of Mr. *Daniel Tracy*, of Montreal :

1. The demand of the Post Office on me since I commenced the "Vindicator," and which I have paid, were £125 currency, for three years. The first half year was paid at the rate of £50 per annum, since then I have paid £40 per annum, quarterly. The payment is required peremptorily, the Papers being liable to be stopped at the pleasure of the Post Master, if not settled for. The money, I have been told, is applied to Mr. Stayner's sole benefit.

2. I have never refused payment, being unwilling to create displeasure, when I was liable to be considerably

bly

bly injured, if I could not meet the demand at the moment due.

3. The payment of postage on Newspapers I consider highly detrimental to the circulation of information among the poorer classes. Such persons when they subscribe, almost always object to the postage.— They seem to think it more burthensome to pay that sum than the expense of the Paper itself. This point I conceive of great importance, and should be regarded by a Legislature willing to make all equal in the knowledge of passing events and of their duties in the State. Every man possessed of civil rights should, if possible, have the reading of the public journals.

4. I never knew postage paid for Newspapers in Ireland when sent direct from the printing office. They are, however, generally put under the frank of a Member of Parliament, printed on the cover. I have known persons receive the privilege from Members of Parliament to frank Newspapers in the Members' name, which the Post Office allowed. I do not know if any change has taken place within these six years. I do not suppose that printers of Newspapers, if their interests were to be studied, would gain any thing by an alteration from the present system. Supposing a Newspaper with 500 subscribers in the country who pay; the postage brings in £125; the Post Master General charges £40 only, which I presume is done not unintentionally, being perhaps desirous to put the Press under a compliment to him. The Printer has £85 profit. It may be questioned if an increase of subscribers will allow more profit. I would not wonder but this might cause some publishers to prefer the present system to remain. The public, however, suffer, and the poorest part excluded from the advantage of Newspaper reading, so far as this is a preventive.

Answers of Messrs. *Workman* and *Bowman*, of Montreal, Publishers and Proprietors of the "Canadian Courant :"—

1. The demands paid by us to the Post Office Department of the Canadas are, 1st. The United States Postage of such of our exchange Newspapers as pass through the United States. 2dly. For printed Papers, whether British, Colonial or Foreign, not coming under the denomination of Newspapers. 3dly. Letter Postage; and 4thly. the Postages charged for forwarding the Canadian Courant to our country subscribers. From the date of our purchase of the Canadian Courant on the 3d June 1829, to the 5th July 1830, these demands, including rent of Box in the Post Office, and the Post Master's Commission of ten per cent. for keeping open a Credit Account, amounted to £76 5s. 7d. and from 5th July 1830, till 5th July 1831, to £68 18s. 0d. All our Post Office Accounts are settled quarterly. Printers' exchange Papers, printed in the British American Colonies, are not charged with Postage.

2. We have never refused to pay such demands on the principle of their supposed illegality. At the termination of the first Post Office quarter, after we purchased the Courant, we demurred to the payment of the whole quarter's charge for the postage of the Courant, it not having been in our possession during all that quarter; and received for answer from the Post Master of Montreal, that his orders were peremptory, and if we did not settle for the whole quarter, the Courant would not be forwarded through the Post Office till we did so. We then, to prevent the ruinous consequences of the suppression of the circulation of our Paper in the commencement of our undertaking, paid the full quarter's demand, and have not had any difficulty since. It may be proper to observe, as regards the seemingly arbitrary demand of the Post Master, in requiring
from

from us, a debt due by Mr. Mower, our Predecessor, that he (the Post Master) founded his claim for the whole quarter's postage in question, on a conversation which he had with one of the Partners of our Firm, and which conversation, he (the Post Master) construed into a verbal promise to pay the part chargeable to Mr. Mower. No such obligation having been given, or intended to be given on our part, was the cause of our demurring to the demand here mentioned.

3. When we first commenced business as Printers and Publishers of the Courant, and before we had given the subject much consideration, we were of opinion that the charge made by the Post Office Department for transporting of Newspapers by Mail, was injurious to their circulation; but upon more mature reflection aided by the experience of two years and a half in the business as Printers and Publishers of a Public Journal, we are now decidedly of opinion that the Post Office charges for the transportation of Newspapers by Mail, are not injurious to their circulation. Such charges have for a long time been exacted in the United States, and nevertheless the circulation of Newspapers in that country is greater than in any other nation in the world. We consider that the Post Office Department is as fairly entitled to a remuneration for services rendered to Proprietors of Newspapers or their Subscribers, for carrying their Papers, as any other carriers or forwarders, and cannot see the justice or utility of compelling the Post Office Department to forward Newspapers gratuitously, on which no other source of Revenue is imposed. Such demands, when not exorbitant, appear to us to be a just compensation for services rendered. We circulate a large number of Papers (in districts where Post Offices are not convenient or where Subscribers prefer to have their Papers forwarded by other means than by the Post Office,) by private conveyances, and in almost every instance, compensate the persons who forward such Papers for
their

Answers of Mr. *Archibald Ferguson*, of Montreal, Proprietor and Publisher of the Montreal Herald and New Montreal Gazette.

1. From the 1st May 1824, at which time I became Proprietor of the Montreal Herald, to the 5th October last, seven years and five months, I have paid to the Post Office for postage of said Paper, the sum of £506; and from the 7th April 1827, at which time I published the first number of the New Montreal Gazette, to the 5th October last, I have paid to the Post Office for postage of said Paper, the sum of £36; which said sums have been paid in cash, advertisements, and work done for the Office.

2. I have never objected paying the Postage of my Papers; on the contrary I have always paid it cheerfully: all other Printers as well as myself are allowed to send through the Post Office a much greater number of Papers than are paid for, the Deputy Post Master General making us that allowance for bad Debts.

3. I am of opinion it would not tend to add much to the circulation of my Papers were the Postage taken off; a person desirous of subscribing would not object doing so on account of the extra charge for Postage, he considering at the same time he had a greater claim on the Post Office for the more punctual delivery of his Paper.

4. I am aware that Newspapers are allowed to go free through the Post Office in England, and I am also aware that about half a million Sterling is annually paid in England for Newspapers Stamps.

Answers of Messrs. *Frechette & Co.* of Quebec, Proprietors of the *Canadien*:—

1. When we commenced publishing the "*Canadien*" last May, the Post Master General informed us, that we should have to pay 5s. a year, for every Paper we should

should deliver in at the Post Office, as Postage. We have not hitherto sett'ed accounts with the Post Office.

2. We made no objections to that demand.

3. Whatever tends to raise the price of an article tends also to diminish its consumption or use, and that especially occurs with respect to articles which, although of great utility, as Gazettes are, are not nevertheless considered as being indispensably necessary; and it is admitted that a tax which raises the price of News Papers one fourth and more in certain cases, is injurious to the diffusion of the information which Periodical Publications convey. Many persons to save Postage, trust to private opportunities of conveyance, but finding themselves irregularly supplied with their Papers by such means, they discontinue their subscriptions, alleging irregularity in the conveyance of their Papers, and that they cannot afford Postage, the mere price of the Paper being in itself a heavy expense. We beg leave here to suggest that whatever measure may be adopted for promoting the circulation of Newspapers in places remote from the Capitals, by rendering them cheaper, it would be necessary in order to prevent greater inconvenience than is relieved against, to provide for the several Post Masters a remuneration for their services in forwarding the Gazettes. The negligence of Post Masters, now that they have some compensation for their trouble, has given all persons employed in the publishing the Newspapers, frequent reason for complaint; and it is to be supposed that were that service gratuitous, the neglect would be increased and would render abortive whatever remedy might be applied to the evil.

4. It appears that in England, Newspapers are Postage free.

Answers of the Revd. *A. H. Burwell*, of Three Rivers :

I being the person with whom the business connected with the "Christian Sentinel," was transacted with the Deputy Post Master General, I take the liberty of answering the Questions proposed by the Committee.

1. I agreed to pay to the Deputy Post Master General at the rate of One Shilling per Quarter, for each Subscriber to the Christian Sentinel, whose paper was sent by Mail; which has been acted upon. As to the object for which the demand for such payment was made, I fully believe it to be no other than the praiseworthy one of acting in obedience to his superiors; and therefore that he is not a proper object of persecution on that account.

2. I never objected to the demand, because I considered it perfectly reasonable and just.

3. Yes; in the same sense that Letter Postage is injurious to Epistolary Correspondence. I can see no reason why Postage should be charged on Letters, or Toll on the grinding of the poor man's wheat, which is not valid for charging Postage on Newspapers; or why the different media of trading in the means of knowledge are not as fair subjects for taxation as the same in other departments of speculation and traffic. Since many Newspapers may justly be regarded as public nuisances, I most humbly conceive that a wise and prudent policy would not seek to facilitate their means of circulation.

4. I am. But I am also aware that the Stamp Duty on Newspapers in England is considerably heavier than the Postage exacted in these Provinces; and that, comparatively, we leave no cause of complaint in its payment.

In conclusion, I beg leave to remark, that in as far as I have had opportunity of observing the official conduct of the Deputy Post Master General, it has
been

been marked by a just sense of official duty, coupled with the kindness and amenity of the private Gentleman.

Answers of Mr. *M. Bibaud*, of Montreal :

1. I have been Editor of the *Bibliothèque Canadienne*, (a Monthly Journal, which has since become a Weekly Journal, under the name of *L'Observateur*.) I have paid 2s. a year for every copy sent by Post, by quarterly payments, and when called upon to do so by the Post Master at Montreal.

2. I have never refused or objected to pay, or had any reason to complain with respect to the payments I have been called upon to make to the Post Master, not deeming myself aggrieved thereby, especially as regards *L'Observateur*, because I was aware of the rates of postage paid by other Editors and Proprietors of periodical publications.

3. Although, as I have before stated, I never thought that I had individually any reason to complain of the Deputy Post Master General, or of the Post Master at Montreal, I have no doubt that the circulation of Newspapers, and consequently the diffusion of knowledge, would be more extensive than it now is in this Province, if no Postage, or a lower rate of Postage, were charged upon them, being persuaded that the cost of Postage prevents a good many persons from becoming subscribers to the public papers.

4. I believe that no charge is made in England on Newspapers and other periodical publications sent by Post.

Answers of Mr. *Samuel Neilson*, of Quebec :

1. The charges made were for the Postage of the Quebec Gazette, for Postage of English Newspapers, for Parcels and for Letters. The charge of the Postage

age of the Gazette varied on the 1st May last, from 5s. to 6s. a year, when it was published three times instead of twice a week. I have ascertained that this charge has varied from 1s. 3d. to 6s. The English Newspapers used to be received free; they now pay, I believe, about 2d. a piece, which has much tended to prevent their circulation in the Colonies. Our Post Office Accounts have been paid quarterly, in cash, by the Proprietor of the Paper.

2. I have never refused to pay any of the charges of the Post Office, nor ever made any formal objection to them.

3. Undoubtedly the charge for Postage operates against the diffusion of knowledge by the Press. While the population of the country parts is ten times that of the Towns, the Quebec Gazette does not circulate one third as much in the country parts as it does in the Towns. Although Education has made less progress in the country, yet the numerous complaints against the charge leave no room to doubt that it is a great source of the limited circulation of the Paper. The present charge for the Postage of the Gazette is nearly a third of its subscription price.—Subscription, 20s. Postage 6s.

4. I am aware that Newspapers circulate free of Postage in Great Britain and Ireland on being franked by any Member of Parliament, or by the Chief Officers of the Post Office Department. The Papers in Great Britain pay, however, a Stamp duty of 4d. sterling each.

Answers of Messrs. *C. W. & D. W. Tolford*, of Sherbrooke, Printers and Publishers of the "Saint Francis Courier":—

1. From the time at which we became Editors, Publishers and Printers of the "Saint Francis Courier and Sherbrooke Gazette," our present Paper, we have been required to pay, by the Deputy of the Deputy Post Master General, at Sherbrooke, for every Newspaper

Newspaper sent by Mail to any part of the Province, one penny, and two pence for every Paper received by us from the United States, (which latter Postage includes both United States and Provincial :) and we have and are required to settle the same at the expiration of every three months, or quarterly.

2. We have occasionally objected to the payment of certain amounts of Postage, marked upon Letters and Papers, and received for answer, "that they were mistakes of the Post Masters who had entered and mailed the packages," and could not be remedied. At one time we were charged three Shillings upon a double Letter coming from Quebec, to which we objected, and received for answer, that the Letter was probably weighed at Quebec, and charged as an ounce Letter. We however weighed the Letter in the presence of witnesses, and it did not weigh an ounce.

3. Doubtless the Postage upon Papers in this Country, as in every other, is calculated in a great degree, to prevent the diffusion of knowledge through the Press; as the acquirement of knowledge by the people, must doubtless be in proportion to the facility and ease of obtaining it within their reach.

4. We have not informed ourselves what the regulations are in England, as it respects Postage upon Papers.

Thomas Allen Stayner, Esquire, Deputy Post Master General, again called in; and examined:—

10. When you were examined before the Special Committee of the Assembly, to whom was last Session referred certain enquiries connected with the Post Office Department, you declined answering questions which were then put to you, touching the Revenue and Expenditure of the Department, until you could write Home to your immediate Superiors, and receive distinct orders for your Government: Did you, in consequence,

sequence, write to the Post Master General in England, and what answer have you received?—I did write to the Post Master General on the subject, transmitting him the Report and Proceedings of the House of Assembly. The Post Master General expressed himself through the Secretary, Sir Francis Freeling, perfectly satisfied with the manner in which I had conducted myself before the Committee.

11. Will you lay before the Committee a copy of your Letter to the Post Master General, and his answer to the same?—I conceive that it would be highly improper in me to expose any Correspondence between the General Post Office and myself, (further than what I may have found it necessary to do in my examination hitherto, and which was given with a view to enable the House to judge of the principle by which the Department in this Country is governed,) without express orders to that effect from the Post Master General. I must therefore respectfully decline to furnish the Letters called for.

12. Did you, in the Letter you allude to, or in any other, ask the Post Master General permission to answer any questions put to you by the House of Assembly, respecting the Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office Department in this Province?—I requested that if my conduct was not found by the Post Master General to be perfectly correct, he would be pleased to give me orders for my future government, in case I should be called upon again.

13. The Committee is therefore to understand that you have not asked permission of the Head of your Department to answer these questions?—I made such a communication as I have described, and which I conceive is every thing that I promised to do, or could presume to do, in a Letter addressed to my Head of Department.

14. You decline, however, to lay the Communication alluded to before the Committee?—I do.

15. Are the Committee to understand that in the Letter, above referred to, you had in view more to solicit the opinion of the Post Master General as to the light in which he considered your conduct with regard to his Department, rather than to express any wish of answering the Committee?—My wish was twofold,—to learn how I should act in future, and whether my conduct in my first examination had been such as His Grace the Post Master General approved of.

16. What sums of money have you paid over to the Commissariat Department in the years 1828, 1829, 1830 and 1831, on account of the Revenue raised by the Post Office Department, distinguishing the amount paid in each year?—For the reasons already stated by me, I must decline answering this or other questions relating to the Finance of the Department.

17. You state in your answer to the fourth question that the Deputy Post Master General has been granted by express sanction from England, the advantage derived from the transmission of Newspapers through the Post Office: Will you state the date, and by whom such instructions were given?—I do not possess the original authority, but the usage I have reason to believe has existed since the Department was established in this country, or since Newspapers were first printed in it.

18. Did you ever see any authority or instruction to that effect from the Department in England?—The right of the Deputy Post Master General to the advantage in question has been repeatedly recognized to my knowledge.

19. State in what manner that recognition has been made, and by whom?—I will lay before the Committee, Copy of a Letter from the Secretary of the General Post Office, to Mr. Armour, the Proprietor of the Montreal Gazette, who had complained to the Post Master General, that the Post Master of Montreal refused to forward his Papers through the Post without the

the payment of the usual quarterly consideration for the performance of the service, in which it is distinctly stated that the advantage belongs to the Deputy Post Master General, as a privilege of office long established and recognized by the Department at Home.

20. Have you ever informed the Post Master General in England of the amount of the sums you derived from the transmission of Newspapers?—I have not informed him of the amount, but I have stated that it was considerable; and that it was in fact my principal dependance. The Post Master General has likewise had before him the Evidence on the Post Office taken last year before the House of Assembly, in which an Estimate is given of the sums derived by me from the source in question.

21. What is the amount received by you from the Post Office Department in the United States, and have you communicated to the Post Master General in England, the income you derive from a Foreign Government?—I have not made any such communication to the Post Master General. The income I derive from this source is fluctuating, but what the amount is, I conceive the Committee have no right to enquire any more than they have to enquire into the resources of my private income, (if I possess any) I must therefore decline answering this part of the question, as well for the particular reason just stated, as upon the general ground on which I last year urged that I did not consider myself bound to answer questions of this kind.

22. Will you lay before the Committee a correct Return of the present number of Post Offices in this Province, how long each of them has been established, and under what authority, as also a Return of all Post Offices which have been discontinued, when such discontinuance has taken place, and for what cause?—I lay before the Committee a Return of the present number of Post Offices in the Province of Lower Canada, (*see Appendix No. 5.*) In this Return I have stated when those

those Offices were put into Commission which I have formed myself, and, as near as I could ascertain it, the date of the creation of those which I found in operation when I received my present appointment. Mr. Sutherland, my Predecessor in office, would have furnished me with the correct dates of the establishment of the Offices made by him, from Documents in his possession, had his health permitted him to examine his papers, but he has been too much indisposed to attempt the task. I have subjoined to the above mentioned Return a Statement of Offices which have been discontinued by me, with the reasons for such discontinuance.

33. What are the rates of postage now charged on a single Letter from Quebec to each of the Post Offices in the Province?—I lay before the Committee a Return containing the information required. (*see Appendix No. 6.*)

24. What are the rates charged for printed Papers, and is there any difference made when the postage is paid at the Office at which the Paper is mailed, or when it is paid at the place at which it is delivered?—Printers of Newspapers pay at the end of each quarter for the number of Papers sent to their Subscribers, at the rate of 4s. currency per annum for a Paper published once a week, and 5s. for a Paper published twice a week; these rates were in use when I received my present appointment, and I believe for many years previous; some Papers have lately been issued thrice a week, and I have charged an additional shilling per annum, for the third Paper, making 6s. currency a year for transmitting and delivering 156 papers. All exchange Papers sent and received by Printers, whether within the Provinces, or to and from the United States or other foreign parts, go free of any charge whatever, to those Printers who pay quarterly for their Papers. Newspapers sent through the Post by other persons

persons than Printers, (which is sometimes though not very frequently done) are forwarded to their destination upon the payment of a penny, when put into the Office,—and this same rule (that of forwarding them for a penny a sheet) has been applied to Pamphlets and some other printed papers; when persons wish to have them sent by Post. The Committee will see by the Letter of Sir F. Freeling, to Mr. Armour, Copy of which I now hand in (*see Appendix No. 7.*) that if Newspapers, (and it is reasonable to suppose the other Papers mentioned by me also,) are not forwarded upon the payment of the gratuity to me, they are liable by Law to the charge of the full rate of postage as paid on Letters, the exaction of which would undoubtedly prevent their circulation. I have therefore felt that I had no course to pursue but that which I have described; it is absurd to suppose that I and my Deputies should incur the responsibility and labor of forwarding and delivering Newspapers without compensation, which seems to be the claim set up by Mr. Armour, and the other Printers whose Petitions have led to the enquiry into the Post Office, both last year and this. I did not fix the present rates, nor have I been tenacious in defending the propriety of them, or the plan upon which they are collected. I would willingly have modified both the one and the other (under the sanction of my head of Department whom I should consider it my duty to apply to on the subject,) to a reasonable extent, could I have seen any chance of making a change that would have satisfied the Printers, short of doing the work for nothing. It is very true that all the Printers are not so unjust as to expect this; many of them are perfectly satisfied with the rates which they pay, as well as with the mode of payment; others again ask for a reduction in the charge, and that the Papers shall either be paid for by the Forwarder or the Receiver, at their option: a third party, as already noticed, requires them to be sent free;—between such conflicting applications

applications it has been and still is impossible for me to decide what it would be proper for me to do. As the term "Printed Papers," used in the question to which I am now replying, is rather vague, I think it necessary to explain that there are various descriptions of printed papers which I conceive are liable to Letter postage under every circumstance. Printed Circulars from Merchants or others, are of this class; also Advertisements and Notices, (other than those contained in Newspapers.) In short any printed communication intended to answer the purpose of a Letter, I always treat as a Letter. I cannot dispose of this question without referring to the proceedings on the Post Office enquiry last year, in which the Committee,—in making their Report, say that "the Printers are required (in some instances at least,) to pay for the transmission of their Papers in advance." This opinion was no doubt founded on the evidence of Mr. Robert Armour, Junior, who appears to have asserted upon his examination that the demand of the charge for transmitting his Father's Papers was always made for a quarter in advance, and a Note granted for the amount. I beg to assure the Committee that no such demand was ever made upon Mr. Armour, (or any other Printer,) nor did he ever give a Note in advance; he never gave a Note till the quarter was finished and the service performed; and he would have been permitted to continue to do this, had he not refused to pay his Notes when they became due. At present I insist upon his paying at the end of the quarter.

25. During the time you have held your present office, have applications been made to you for the establishment of new Post Lines and Offices, and to how many of such applications have you returned favourable answers?—I did not commence forming New Offices until after I received my Instructions, which was in the Summer of 1828; since then, that is, in three years and a half, I have established about 50 New Offices

ces in Lower Canada, upwards of 30 of which have been made within the last year: there are now 103 Offices in this Province. From this it will be seen that the number of Offices has been nearly doubled since I have had charge of the Department, and the number of new Routes has been increased in as great a proportion. The following new Lines have been opened by me:—1st. From Lachine to Salmon River, including Offices at Chateauguay, Beauharnois, North George Town, Huntingdon and Dundee, (5 new Offices.) 2nd. From Georgeville (Lake Memphramagog) to Potton, Brome, Churchville, (or East Durham,) and to unite with the Post Route at West Durham, (3 new Offices.) 3d. From Laprairie to the American Line in the State of New York, touching on the Township of Hinchinbrooke, including Offices at St. Remi, Norton Creek, Russell Town, and Manningville, (4 new Offices.) 4th. Another Line from Laprairie through St. George, Babyville and Hemmingford, (3 new Offices.) 5th. A Line from Quebec, *via* South Shore to Nicolet, (100 miles,) including Offices at St. Nicholas, St. Antoine, Ste. Croix, Lothbinière, St. Pierre, Gentilly, (6 new Offices. Offices have been applied for, for Bécancour and St. Grégoire, on this Route, which will go into operation on the 6th April next. 6th. A Line from Kamouraska to Rimouski, (90 miles on the South Shore,) including Offices in the following Parishes:—St. André, Rivière du Loup, Cacona, Isle Verte, Trois Pistoles, Rimouski, (6 new Offices.) 7th. A Line from Quebec to Ste. Marie La Beauce, with an Office at the latter place, 31 miles: A continuation of this Route, on what is called the Kennebec Road, to the American Territory in the State of Maine, a distance of about 65 miles, is in contemplation, and will be established early in the Spring, if the American Post Master General, to whom I have written on the subject, will consent to prolong his Post Route about 50 miles, in order to effect a junction with ours. When this

Line

Line is opened, the Citizens of Quebec will possess a direct Post Communication with Boston, shorter by about 150 miles than the present channel. 8th. A By-Post from L'Assomption to the Township of Rawdon, 21 miles. 9th. Another By-Post from L'Assomption to St. Roch sur L'Achigan, 12 miles. 10th. A By-Post from By-Town through Hull, to a new Office called "Aylmer," whence the Mail crosses to March, in Upper Canada, and on to Fitzroy Harbour and Castleford in the Township of Horton, where I have recently made Offices. 11th. A Line from the Village of Richmond to Danville in the rear of Shipton, 12 miles: This is upon the Craig's Road, and is the commencement of a Post Route through that Road to Quebec, which should be established as soon as the Road is practicable, as it would very materially shorten the travel of the Mail between Quebec and the Eastern Townships, now so rapidly rising into consideration. 12th. A Post from Compton to Hereford, touching the State of Vermont at the latter place.

Preparations for opening the following new Routes are now in a state of forwardness, viz.:—From Quebec (per the North Shore) to Murray Bay, 84 miles, including 5 Offices. From Laprairie to Champlain Town, in the State of New York, passing through Douglas Town, Napierville, Lacole and Odell Town, a distance of about 45 miles.

An Office at Clarenceville for the accommodation of the Seigniories of Noyan and Foucault has been applied for, and been promised.

The following applications for new Post Routes and Offices are now under consideration:—1st. From Chambly to Dunham, through Mount Johnson. This Line will probably go into effect early in the Spring. 2d. For a Post from Montreal to pass by Longueuil, Chambly, St. Jean Baptiste, St. Hilaire, St. Damase, &c. 3d. For an Office at Stukely —: This is acceded to. 4th. For an Office at Barnston—: This is also acceded

ceded to. 5th. For a Post from Quebec to Leeds and Inverness. 6th. I will here observe that when the Road from Mitis to Ristigouche is completed, I entertain the hope of being able to establish a Weekly Post by that channel along the Baie des Chaleurs, and thence by the Gulph Shore to Gaspé, an object, it will be admitted, of vast importance to the inhabitants of the District of Gaspé and County of Bonaventure, who are now in a great degree (particularly during the winter) deprived of the means of communicating with Quebec and other parts of the Province.

The following applications for new Offices and Routes have not been complied with, for the reasons stated:—1st. Melbourne—An Office has been asked for here, though there is an Office at Richmond on the opposite of the St. Francis, a distance of a quarter of a mile. It would, I conceive, be an injustice to the inhabitants of the Village of Richmond to take their Office from them, and I certainly should not be warranted in having two Offices in operation within so short a distance of each other. 2d. The inhabitants of Bristol and Clarendon applied for a Post, but it is notorious that there is no practicable Road to these Townships, so that any attempt to supply them with a Mail by the North side of the Ottawa would be of very uncertain accomplishment. But as I have just established a Post Line on the Upper Canada side of the River, from March to Fitzroy Harbour, and thence to Castleford in Horton, which places are opposite to Bristol and Clarendon, the inhabitants of these latter Townships can with very little inconvenience carry on their correspondence through the Castleford or Fitzroy Harbour Offices:—this I have explained to them, and I should hope they will feel satisfied with their present accommodation until they are possessed of a Road on their own side of the water.

I cannot at this moment recollect or trace any other application for new Routes or Offices that have not been

been complied with, at least not from bodies of the Inhabitants. I am not unfrequently addressed by individuals to alter a Post Route or change the situation of an Office, with a view to their own personal advantage; but I cannot suppose that it is the expectation of the Committee that every application of this kind is to be treated of.

I shall conclude my answer to the question now before me, by observing that of late the demand for new Offices in this Province has been great beyond any former precedent; the desire for them is still increasing, and I trust it will be admitted from the Statements now laid before the Committee, that my exertions have not been, nor are not, wanting to meet the necessities of the country in this respect.

26. To establish a new Post Route in this Province, or erect a new Office, have you to refer to the Post Master General in England, or can you do so on your own responsibility?—My Instructions permit me to establish new Post Routes and erect new Offices without previous reference home, if after a full investigation of the claims for such, I am satisfied of their propriety: the grounds upon which I am to decide upon such applications, the Committee will find to be clearly explained in a transcript from my Instructions which I have introduced in a statement called a “Memoir,” (*see Appendix, No. 4.*) that I have had the honor to lay before them. It may not be improper for me here to remark that formerly the Deputy Post Master General did not possess the power of opening new Routes without special permission from Home. The Post Master General, however, feeling convinced that the spread of population, and the rapid improvements going on in these Provinces in other respects, called for a corresponding extension of Post facilities, and appearing to be anxious to prevent the inconvenience which in many cases must attend a previous consideration of the questions in England, has relieved me from the restrictions

restrictions formerly imposed in regard to this subject, and I consider myself at liberty to erect new Post Routes and Offices to the extent of the means which I may find at my disposal, whenever the claims for the same may appear to be well founded. I must nevertheless observe that in the consideration of any new scheme for improvement, involving heavy expense, I should still feel it to be my duty to submit the matter to the Post Master General for his approbation before incurring that expense. My situation demands from me the exercise of great circumspection, as well in the expenditure of money as in other matters: I have been honored by having much entrusted to my discretion: my charge is a highly responsible one and, it shall be my aim, as it always has been throughout my public life, not to abuse the confidence reposed in me by my superiors.

27. Has it ever occurred that you have refused applications for the establishment of new Offices, unless the expense of the experiment was promised or guaranteed to be paid by the Inhabitants applying for the same, or that security was given that no loss should accrue to the Department?—I have never established Offices upon this plan, or stipulated for any such guarantees as are here alluded to. When applications are made for new Offices on old Routes, or for the opening of new Post Routes, the merits of the statements are carefully investigated, and if the claims appear to be well founded, the necessary measures are taken to carry the objects into effect entirely at the risk of the Department. My duty is of course to have the Mail carried upon all such Routes upon the most advantageous terms, and this I take care to secure, generally by calling for Tenders for the performance of the service.

Friday,

Friday, 3rd February, 1832.

Daniel Sutherland, Esquire, of Quebec, called in ; and examined :

How long did you hold the situation of Deputy Post Master General, and from whom did you derive your appointment?—I think it was eleven years that I held it, and I derived my authority from Lord Chichester and the Marquis of Salisbury, the then Post Masters General.

What were the emoluments of that office during the time you held the same, from what Revenue supplied, detailing whether such emoluments were in the shape of Salary, Commission or perquisite, from what authority were they derived, and were they increased or diminished during your incumbency?—I think my Salary was £500 per year; it was derived from the General Post Office in London, and the perquisites were increased from the additional number of Newspapers that were then transmitted through the Post Office. I cannot state what the amount of these perquisites were, not having any memorandum to refer to. There were no other allowance, Commission or perquisite than the two already mentioned.

From the best of your recollection what do you conceive the amount received by you for forwarding Newspapers, annually amounted to?—That is a question I really cannot answer.

What were the average annual gross receipts of the Post Office Department collected in this Province during the time you were in that Office?—It is totally impossible for me to answer this question with any degree of correctness, and I have no books in my possession to refer to.

What were the average annual expenses during the same time for the transportation of the Mails,—allowance to Post Masters, and incidental charges and expenses of

the Department in this Province, stating each under separate heads, to the best of your recollection?—This is a question which I cannot answer. I am sorry I cannot be more explicit, but my memory has greatly failed me.

What were the average net proceeds of the Department, after the above deductions, during the same period; how were those proceeds employed, and how much thereof were annually or otherwise remitted to the General Post Office in London?—How much were remitted, I cannot say; but any thing that remained in my hands after the expenses were paid, was remitted to the General Post Office in London.

Did the General Post Office in London ever make any advances for carrying on the Department in this Province, during years, when for some unforeseen cause the Revenue has not proved equal to the expenditure?—Not that I am aware of.

To establish a new Post Route or erect a new Post Office in this Province, had you invariably to refer to the Post Master General in England, or did you ever act in that respect on your own responsibility?—I acted twice on my own responsibility immediately after my appointment, and I was reprimanded in consequence. One was establishing a route through the Eastern Townships, and the other in upper Canada, both at the request of Sir John C. Sherbrooke.

Did you ever refuse to establish a new Post Office, unless the expense of the experiment was promised or guaranteed to be paid by the Inhabitants applying for the same, or that security was given that no loss should accrue to the Department?—Yes, once or twice.

What was the security you usually demanded for the due execution of the duties of a Post Master, and what was the form of the Bond?—For the small country Offices we required security to the amount of £200, and in the large Towns £1500. The form of the Bond was for the due execution of the office, and was to the King.

Did

Did any of your Deputies ever fail to regulate and transmit their accounts, and pay over the receipts every quarter ; and what proceedings did you take against them or their securities for the recovery of such deficiency ?—Yes, on two different occasions,—the one at Montreal, and the other at Quebec. I lost I think nearly about £3000.

Did those losses you mentioned fall upon yourself, or were they refunded to you from the Department ?—They were my own loss.

Did you, during the time you were Deputy Post Master General, demand from the Printers in this Province, a certain sum for the transmission of their Papers by Mail ; and under what authority did you claim that sum ?—I followed the directions of my predecessor in office, Mr. Heriot, who told me had a right to do so, and of course I succeeded to that right.

What was the general average sum paid to you each year by the Printers of Lower Canada for such transmission by Mail ?—I think for weekly Papers it was 4s. per year, and for semi-weekly Papers 5s. per year.

Was this amount applied to the general purposes of the Department, or was it a part of your own perquisites ?—It was a part of my perquisites.

Was this demand ever increased or diminished by you during the time you were in office ; what was the nature of that increase or diminution, and the cause thereof ?—As far as I recollect it was 3s. per year, when I first entered the office, and I found so much trouble attending it, that I raised the price to 4s. There were no semi-weekly Papers at that period. The price was raised by me some years after I entered the office.

Did you ever dispense with the exaction of that charge in favor of any particular Journal, or did you

make

make the same charge against all Papers without distinction?—I think all the Papers were charged alike.

Did any of the Publishers of Papers complain of this charge, or refuse to pay the same, and upon what grounds, and what was the consequence of such complaints or refusal?—I think some of them did complain when I first raised the price to 4s. ; but none refused to pay it.

Did you ever refuse to forward by Mail any public Journals according to their address, and for what reason did you so refuse?—No ; I do not recollect ever having refused.

Under what authority did you demand that sum from the Publishers of the Paper instead of the Receivers, and why in advance?—There are a great number of Papers delivered by the Couriers upon the Road, and it would be impossible to collect the Postage from the Receivers of the Paper ; and several of the Editors and Printers approved of that mode, as they could charge it along with the subscription.

Were you in the habit asking any Postage upon Printed Papers sent by the Post, and what Postage, and in what manner was such Postage paid?—This I do not so well recollect.

Did not the American Post Office make you a certain and what allowance or commission for the trouble responsibility of collecting the Postages accruing to it on Letters passing to Lower Canada?—Soon after my appointment to the Department, I proposed to the Post Master General of the United States that he should allow Letters upon which American Postage was not paid in the United States to be forwarded on my responsibility to account to him for the Postage, which he consented to do, and allowed me a commission for that responsibility ; and which Commission I found was scarcely adequate to the risk I run in remitting Bills of Exchange or Bills on the United States. I was obliged to remit those Bills at par. The Commission I received was 20 per Cent. What

What sum did that Commission annually amount to?
 —It was fluctuating.

Did you when Post Master at Montreal receive that allowance in place of the Deputy Post Master General?

—No, I did not. At the time I was Post Master at Montreal, there was very little communication between this Country and the United States.

Is the frank of a Member of the Imperial Parliament considered by you valid in this Province?—The Frank of the Members of the Imperial Parliament would not generally pass here; but Despatches from the War Office, and from the Secretaries of State, and the Post Master General, come free of Postage through this Province.

Robert Armour, Junior, Esquire, called in; and examined:—

Have you any information to give on the subject of the Petition presented by you to the House of Assembly?—I lay before the Committee Copy of a Letter from Mr. Robert Armour, Senior, to Sir Francis Feeling, dated Montreal 18th November, 1830, together with a Copy of a Letter from Sir Francis Feeling to Mr. Armour in reply.—(See *Appendix*, Nos. 7 and 8.)

Saturday, 4th Feby. 1832.

Thomas Allen Stayner, Esquire, again called in; and examined:—

28. You stated in your evidence of last year that the Accounts of your Department undergo their final examination in England; how often, and to what period

riod have such Accounts been audited, and does the amount of all your perquisites, Salary or Commission appear in the Accounts transmitted to England?—My Accounts are transmitted to England quarterly. I do not know to what period exactly they are audited; but I generally receive remarks upon them within a period of nine months from the transmission of such Accounts. As the answering of the remainder of the query would in my opinion be violating the rule which I laid down for myself in my examination last year, and which met with the approbation of my Head of Department, I must, until I receive Orders from him for imparting the information called for, respectfully decline answering, further than I have done, questions of this nature.

29. Have any of your Accounts been audited since you held the situation of Deputy Post Master General?—I beg to remind the Committee that my last answer gives the affirmative to this question. My Accounts, I have reason to believe, have been audited up to a late period, for I have received remarks upon them.

30. Will you state the exact period to which your Accounts have been audited?—It is out of my power to do so.

31. To what purpose is the money arising from Postage on American Papers applied, and does the same form part of the General Funds of the Department?—The penny each collected upon American Papers has always been a perquisite of the Deputy Post Master General, the same as the gratuity or allowance for transmitting Provincial Newspapers is: Out of this he indemnifies his Deputies for assisting him in the performance of the service.

32. What is the annual amount of that per quarter?—Any question of this character I must, for the reasons already stated by me, decline answering. I beg leave here to make a remark which should have come into my last answer, to wit: that American Newspapers
for

for Printers in these Provinces, and which constitute the principal portion of those which come to the Country, are delivered free of any charge as regards the Post Office Department in this Country: In like manner the Printers in this Country send their exchange Papers free of expense as regards us.

33. Do you not commute with the American Post Office for the Postage becoming due to them on Newspapers?—Certainly not. I believe that my Deputies keep an account as accurately as they can of this Postage. It is a difficult task to accomplish this correctly. The amount, whatever it is, that is accounted for to me by my Deputies, I remit to the General Post Office, Washington.

34. Was it not the practice of the Department within a very short period to permit all printed Papers to pass free of Postage; and for what reason has a change taken place in that practice?—I believe that the rule has always been as it now is. Mr. Sutherland, my predecessor, informs me that it was so, though the carelessness of Post Masters may in many cases have prevented its being uniformly attended to.

35. Within a very short period a new practice has been adopted of demanding in advance at the Post Office where such printed papers are deposited, the Postage thereof, otherwise full Letter Postage is charged on such printed Paper against the receiver; under what authority has this change taken place, and what is the object thereof?—The rule, I have understood, has always been exactly what is now pursued, though it was not perhaps strictly adhered to; but in consequence of a Letter which I received from the General Post Office last year, and which afforded me a light upon the subject of sending Newspapers through the Post here that I had not previously entertained, I considered it my bounden duty to see that the regulation alluded to in this question was strictly adhered to by my Deputies.

36. Will you lay before the Committee a copy of that Letter?—I must adhere to the rule that I have hitherto acted upon, not to expose the correspondence of my Department, but I have no objection to state the object and purport of the Letter in question, which went to explain in reference to Mr. Armour's complaint against the Post Master of Montreal, that if Printers did not think proper to send their Papers through the Post under the customary usage of a gratuity to the Deputy Post Master General, it was my duty to Mail them, and rate them with Postage in the same manner as if they were Letters.

37. What is the amount of United States Postage collected in this Province?—I have already declined answering any question relating to finance matters, nor shall I feel myself at liberty to depart from this rule until I am ordered to do so by my Head of Department.

38. What per centage are you allowed for the collection of that Postage?—The same answer as the last.

39. Upon what authority is a charge of one penny made for delivering Letters in the different Towns?—At Quebec and Montreal, a Runner or Letter Carrier is allowed for each Office, at a moderate Salary: one man at each Office might be able to deliver all the Letters if he were allowed to take his own time to it, but as the Public, particularly the Commercial part of it, require to get their Letters promptly after the arrival of the Mails, it has long been necessary, for their accommodation, to employ two Carriers at each of these Offices, by which means the Letters are quickly distributed. The penny alluded to compensates the Carriers, and is an incentive to them to exert themselves. This is a usage of many years standing, and is I believe perfectly understood by the inhabitants of both Cities. I am aware that there is no Law for taking the penny in question, nor is it ever demanded as a right:—the Carriers

riers are clearly instructed upon this point. At Three Rivers also, a penny is taken for carrying out Letters, upon the same understanding with the public of that Town which prevails at Quebec and Montreal. At the Country Offices people call for their Letters, and of course nothing is taken for delivering them beyond the Postage.

40. Is the Letter now shewn to you written by you?—Yes.

[*The following is the Letter referred to:—*]

General Post Office,
Quebec, 11th January, 1832.

Sir,

In looking over the Notes, which I have preserved, of the evidence given by me yesterday, I find that in my answer to Question 20, I have inadvertently used language which admits of a construction contrary to any thing intended by me. The sentence runs thus: “The Post Master General has likewise had before him the evidence on the Post Office taken last year before the House of Assembly, in which an estimate is given of the sums derived by me from the source in question.” Now as it might possibly be inferred from this sentence that I admit the correctness of the estimate alluded to, which I certainly do not, nor never did, I request that the whole of the said sentence may be expunged, when my answer to Question 20, will stand thus: “I have not informed the Post Master General of the amount, but I have stated that it was considerable, and that it was in fact my principal dependence.”

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

T. A. STAYNER,

D. P. M. G.

James Leslie, Esquire,

Chairman of a Special Committee
on the Post Office.

G

41.

41. In what consists the incorrectness of the statement you allude to ; is the amount more or less than mentioned in the Report?—I cannot consistently with the rule which has hitherto governed me, answer this question.

42. Is the Postage upon the envelope of the printed Document now shewn to you amounting to 18s. 9d. correct?—It is, if it weighs $6\frac{1}{4}$ ounces.

[*The Document referred to in the preceding Question was a printed Bill, and the Address on the envelope, was as follows :—*]

* 18s. 9d.

* $6\frac{1}{4}$ oz.

Mr. William Evans,
Cote St. Paul,
Montreal.

Printed Bill.

J. Leslie.

House of Assembly,
15 December, 1831.

* *Post Office marks.*

43. What Postage would have been charged if it had been paid at the Post Office in Quebec?—The charge would have been a penny a sheet, and would have amounted probably to 6d. or 9d.

44. Upon what authority is the distinction made?—It is made upon the authority of the distinction described in Sir Francis Freeling's Letter referred to in my Answer 35. By the instruction contained in that Letter, I understand that it is my duty to rate with Letter Postage all Newspapers that are not forwarded under my privilege. I considered that I could not make a distinction between Newspapers and some other descriptions of printed papers, and therefore applied the same rule to them, intending to bring the subject specially under the consideration

tion of the Post-Master General. I beg leave here to add that printed circulars, advertisements, hand-bills,—in short all printed papers intended to serve the purpose of Letters, are invariably rated with Letter Postage.

45. Will you give an extract from Sir Francis Freeling's Letter regarding that distinction?—I have already declined furnishing a Copy of Sir Francis Freeling's Letter for a reason which I have stated, the same obligation prevents my giving an extract: I have, however, furnished the Committee with the subject matter of the Letter in question.

46. What do you understand by your privilege?—It is explained in Sir Francis Freeling's Letter to Mr. Armour, a copy of which is before the Committee.

APPENDIX.

Copy.

No. 1.

*General Post Office,
London, 12th December, 1827.*

Sir,

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that at a Board held yesterday, My Lord The Post Master General was pleased to nominate you to the office of Deputy Post Master General of British North America, on the resignation of Mr. Sutherland, who has been requested to transfer to you the Official Seal and Documents connected with that office; and he will provide the necessary Sureties, resident in this country, who will enter into a Bond to the Crown, jointly and severally with you, for the due and faithful discharge of your duties.

The penalty of the Bond will be £4000, and when it is executed, your appointment will be confirmed by the usual Commission.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) FRANCIS FREELING,

Thomas A. Stayner, Esquire,
Quebec.

No.

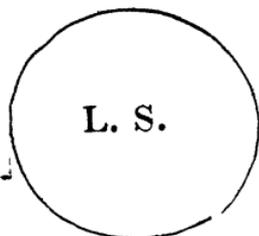
Copy.

No. 2.

WILLIAM DUKE OF MANCHESTER, HIS MAJESTY'S POST MASTER GENERAL.

Stamp.
Thirty five
pounds.

To all to whom these Presents shall come,
Greeting:—



WHEREAS by an Act of Parliament made in the ninth year of Queen Anne, the Post Master General for the time being, was empowered to appoint Deputy Post Masters for all Her Majesty's Dominions, KNOW YE therefore, that by virtue of the power and authority

given to me by The King's Most Excellent Majesty, I, William Duke of Manchester, having received good testimony of the fidelity and loyalty to His Majesty, of Thomas Allen Stayner, Esquire, and of his ability and sufficiency, to manage the Posts, settled or to be settled in His Majesty's Provinces of Canada and New Brunswick in North America and their Dependencies, and reposing great trust and confidence in him do, by these presents, nominate, authorize, and appoint, him, the said Thomas Allen Stayner, my Deputy for the government and management thereof, to have, hold, receive, and enjoy the office of my Deputy Post Master General in His Majesty's said Provinces, with all powers, privileges, profits and authorities thereunto belonging, for and during my pleasure, and subject to such conditions, covenants, proviso's, payments, orders, and instructions, to be faithfully observed and performed by the said Thomas Allen Stayner, and by his Deputy and Deputies and Servants, as he shall from time to time receive from me, or from the Post Master General for the time being, in writing subscribed by me or by
my

my orders, except always and reserved to His Majesty and His Successors, all the duty payable for the Postage or Carriage of all Letters or Packets, according to any Act or Acts of Parliament relating thereunto, over and above the necessary expenses for the management of the said Posts: and I do hereby strictly require all Officers and others employed in, or about the Posts already settled in any part of His Majesty's said Provinces of Canada and New Brunswick in North America and their Dependencies, from time to time to give an account of all monies received by them for the Postage of all Letters and Packets to the said Thomas Allen Stayner, and to obey him in all matters relating to their respective offices, trusts, and employments; and the better to enable the said Thomas Allen Stayner to execute the trusts reposed in him, I do hereby grant him full and sufficient power and authority either to discharge or suspend, such Deputy or Deputies employed or to be employed in the management of any Post Office in His Majesty's said Provinces and their Dependencies, who shall in the opinion of the said Thomas Allen Stayner, be found guilty of neglect, mismanagement, or breach of duty in the Office or Offices committed to his or their care or charge, from the further execution of his or their respective trusts; as, also, to nominate and appoint such other person or persons in his or their stead, as he shall think proper, until my pleasure be made known: and I do hereby grant to the said Thomas Allen Stayner, a Salary of Five hundred pounds a year, to commence from the date hereof, for his care and trouble in the performance and execution of the trusts reposed in him, so long as he shall continue to be employed by me as my Deputy.

In witness whereof, I the said William Duke of Manchester, have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Seal of my Office to be affixed thereunto, this fifth day

day of April, one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight, and in the ninth year of His Majesty's Reign.

(Signed,) MANCHESTER.

By Command,

(Signed,) F. FREELING.
Secretary.

Certified Copy,
T. A. STAYNER.

No. 3:

Copy.

I Thomas Allen Stayner, Deputy Post Master General of British North America, do swear, that I will not wittingly, willingly, or knowingly open, detain or delay, or cause, procure, permit or suffer to be opened, detained, or delayed, any Letters, Packet or Packets, which shall come into my Hands, Power or Custody by reason of my employment in or relating to the Post Office; except by the consent of the Person or Persons to whom the same shall be directed, or by an express Warrant under in Writing the Hand of one of the Principal Secretaries of State for that purpose; except in such cases where the Party or Parties to whom such Letter or Letters, Packet or Packets, shall be directed, and who is or are chargeable with the payment of the port or ports thereof, shall refuse or neglect to pay the same; and except such Letter or Packets as shall be returned for want of true Directions, or when the Party or Parties to whom the same is or shall be directed, cannot be found. And that I will not

not any way embezzle any such Letter or Letters, Packet or Packets, as aforesaid.

(Signed,) T. A. STAYNER.

Sworn before me, at
this Day of 18 }

Certified Copy,

T. A. STAYNER.

No. 4.

My Instructions point out to me the necessity of establishing new Post Routes and Offices, and of improving the Post facilities in other respects at a rate corresponding with the increasing wants of the country, reporting all my proceedings in such matters to the Post Master General, and exemplifying the alterations and changes, when requisite, with Maps or Sketches of the Country and Roads, with the view of keeping the Department at Home clearly acquainted with all such alterations as they occur. Whilst on this subject, I think it may be satisfactory to the Committee, to have *verbatim*, a copy of part of a Letter addressed to me by the Secretary of the General Post Office, pointing out various matters for my attention.

“ Much as has been already done, I would recommend you to consider the propriety and expediency of extending and increasing the communications by Post still further, as well on the Great Routes as on the Branches, and more especially in cases in which there

there is a prospect that the additional accommodation will afford the means of defraying the extra expenses, and where the increase of population and the formation of new Towns and Settlements may fairly justify it. The arrangements of the Post Office ought to keep pace with the settlement, and with the consequent demands for accommodation of the Country."

My Instructions make me answerable for the conduct of my several Deputies, and direct me to appoint only persons of known good reputation and abilities. From these persons I must take sufficient security to His Majesty as well for the punctual payment of all monies received by them for the postage of Letters, as for the diligent and faithful discharge of their duty, taking care also that they duly qualify themselves by subscribing the customary oath of Office.

I am from time to time to acquaint the Post Master General with the appointments I make on the death or removal of any of my Deputies.

I am to transmit my accounts quarterly, regularly vouched and attested.

T. A. STAYNER,
D. P. M. G.

A Return of the present number of Post Offices in Lower Canada, stating how long each Office has been Established, and under what authority; also a Return of all the Post Offices which have been discontinued, when such discontinuance has taken place, and for what cause:—

OFFICE.	How long, or when established.	Under what authority.
Abbottsford, Aylmer, Baie Chaleur, Babyville, Beauharnois, Bedford, Berthier, Berthier En Bas, Bic, Bolton,	Previous to 1826, 6th Jany. 1832, Previous to 1816, 6th October 1831, 6th April 1829, 6th Jany. 1830, Previous to 1816, 6th Jany. 1832, 6th Jany. 1832, Previous to 1826, discontinued and after- wards restored by Mr. } Stayner,	By Mr. Sutherland. Present D. P. M. Genl. Not known. Present D. P. M. Genl. Do Do Not known. Present D. P. M. Gl. Do
Boucherville, Brome, Brompton, Buckingham, Cap Santé, Cascades, Chambly, Chateauguay, Chatham, Churchville, Cacona, Compton, Coteau du Lac, Danville, Drummondville, Dundee, Dunham, Eaton,	Previous to 1826, 6th April, 1831, 6th July 1831, 6th Jany. 1832, Previous to 1823, 6th July 1830, Previous to 1820, 6th April 1829, 6th May 1829, 6th April, 1831, 6th October 1831, 6th July 1830, Previous to 1820, 6th Jany. 1832, Previous to 1820, 6th July 1830, Previous to 1828, Previous to 1828, discontinued and after- wards restored by Mr. } Stayner,	By Mr. Sutherland. Do Present D. P. M. Gl. Do Do By Mr. Sutherland. Present D. P. M. Gl. Suppd. M. Sutherland. Present D. P. M. Gl. Do Do Do Do Not known. Present D. P. M. Gl. By Mr. Sutherland. Present D. P. M. Gl. By Mr. Sutherland.
Freligsburg, Gaspé, Gentilly, Georgeville,	Previous to 1826, Previous to 1816, 6th July 1831, Previous to 1828,	Do Not known. Present D. P. M. Gl. By Mr. Sutherland.

OFFICE.	How long, or when established.	Under what authority.
Granby,	Previous to 1828,	By Mr. Sutherland,
Grenville,	Do to 1823,	Do
Hatley,	Do to 1820,	Do
Henryville,	Do to 1828,	Do
Hemmingford,	6th October 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
Hereford,	6th October 1831,	Do
Huntingdon,	6th July 1830,	Do
Isle Aux Noix,	Previous to 1823,	By Mr. Sutherland,
Isle Verte,	6th October 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
Kamouraska,	Previous to 1820,	By Mr. Sutherland,
La Baie,	Previous to 1820,	Do
La Beauce,	6th October 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
La Chine;	6th April 1829,	Do
La Prairie,	Previous to 1823,	Suppd. Mr. Sutherland,
L'Assomption,	Previous to 1811,	Not known.
Lennoxville,	6th April 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
Lotbiniere,	6th July 1831,	Do
La Valtrie,	6th January 1831,	Do
Manningville,	8th October 1831,	Do
Montreal,	About 70 years,	Not known.
Nicolet,	Previous to 1827,	By Mr. Sutherland.
North George Town,	6th July 1830,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
Norton Creek,	6th October 1831,	Do
Petite Nation,	Previous to 1826,	By Mr. Sutherland.
Philipsburg,	Previous to 1820,	Do
Port Neuf,	Previous to 1820,	Do
Potton,	6th April 1821,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
Quebec,	About 70 years,	Not known.
Rawdon,	6th October 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
Richmond,	Previous to 1820,	By Mr. Sutherland.
Rimonski,	6th October 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
River du Loup,	Previous to 1820,	Suppd. Mr. Sutherland.
River du Loup En Bas	6th October 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
River Ouelle,	Previous to 1820,	Suppd. Mr. Sutherland.
Russell Town,	6th October 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
St. André,	6th October 1831,	Do
St. Andrews,	Previous to 1823,	By Mr. Sutherland.
Ste. Anne de la Parade,	Previous to 1823,	Suppd. Mr. Sutherland.
Ste. Anne de la Pocatière	6th May 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
St. Antoine,	6th July 1831,	Do
St. Cesaire,	Previous to 1828,	By Mr. Sutherland.
St. Charles,	Previous to 1823,	Do
Ste. Croix,	6th July 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
St. Denis,	Previous to 1820,	By Mr. Sutherland.
St. Eustache,	Previous to 1823,	Do
St. Francis,	6th July 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
St. George,	6th July 1831,	Do
St. Hilaire,	Previous to 1827,	By Mr. Sutherland.
St. Hyacinthe,	Previous to 1823,	Do

OFFICE.	How long, or when established.	Under what authority.
St. Jean Port Joli,	Previous to 1827,	By Mr. Sutherland.
St. Johns,	Previous to 1820,	Suppd. Mr. Sutherland,
Ste. Marie de Monnoir,	6th July 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
St. Mathias,	6th July 1831,	Do
St. Nicholas,	6th July 1831,	Do
St. Ours,	Previous to 1828,	By Mr. Sutherland.
St. Pierre les Bequets,	6th July 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
St. Remi,	6th July 1831,	Do
St. Roc des Aulnets,	Previous to 1827,	By Mr. Sutherland.
St. Roc L'Achigan,	6th Jany. 1832,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
St. Thomas,	Previous to 1820,	By Mr. Sutherland.
Shefford,	Previous to 1826,	Do
Sherbrooke,	Previous to 1820,	Do
Stanstead,	Previous to 1820,	Do
Terrebonne.	Previous to 1823,	Do
Three Rivers,	About 70 years,	Not known.
Trois Pistoles,	6th October 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.
Varennes,	Previous to 1828,	By Mr. Sutherland.
Vercheres	Previous to 1828,	Do
Willm. Henry,	Previous to 1820,	Suppd. Mr. Sutherland.
Yamaska,	Previous to 1827,	By Mr. Sutherland.
Yamachiche,	6th July 1831,	Present D. P. M. Gl.

Most of the Offices established by me have been created in consequence of applications from the Inhabitants—and I believe that the same course was pursued by my predecessors in Office.

T. A. S.

OFFICES DISCONTINUED.

CONTRECŒUR, 5th January 1830—In consequence of the resignation of the Post Master, and no person being found willing to take charge of the Office. In fact the business done at this Office was so trifling that it was not worth the attention of any individual.

HULL, 5th January 1830—In consequence of the necessity for establishing an Office at By-Town on the opposite side of the River Ottawa over which there is a Bridge: two Offices within so short a distance of each other could not with any propriety be maintained.

BOLTON.

BOLTON, 5th April 1829, } In consequence of the misconduct of
 EATON, 5th Jany. 1829, } the respective Post Masters, and there being
 at the time no persons fit to succeed them; both these Offices were re-
 established as soon as proper Post Masters could be found, and they are
 now in operation.

The following Offices on the Baie des Chaleurs subsidiary to the Office at
 Baie des Chaleurs have been put into operation by me, viz :—

NEW RICHMOND,
 BONAVENTURE,
 NEW CARLISLE,
 PASPEBIAC.

General Post Office, }
 Quebec, Jany. 1832. }

T. A. STAYNER.
 D. P. M. GL.

No. 6.

RATES OF POSTAGE CHARGED ON A SINGLE LETTER from Quebec to each of the Post Offices in the Province of Lower Canada.

OFFICE.	SEIGNIORY OR TOWN-SHIP.	DISTRICT.	Miles.	Postage.	
				s.	d.
Abbotsford,	St. Hyacinthe,	Montreal,	219		11
Aylmer,	Hull,	Montreal,	310	1	2
Baie Chaleurs,		Gaspé,		2	6
Babayville,	Sherrington,	Montreal,	210		11
Beauharnois,	Beauharnois,	Montreal,	205		11
Bedford,	Stanbridge,	Montreal,	229		11
Berthier,	Berthier,	Montreal,	135		9
Berthier En Bas,	Berthier,	Quebec,	27		4½
Bic,	Bic,	Quebec,	166		9
Bolton,	Bolton,	Montreal,	161		11
Boucherville,	Boucherville,	Montreal,	187		9
Brome,	Brome,	Montreal,	270		11
Brompton,	Brompton,	Three Rivers,	273		9
Buckingham,	Buckingham,	Montreal,	285		11
Cap Santé,	Jacques Cartier,	Quebec,	30		4½
Cascades,	Vaudreuil,	Montreal,	210		11
Chambly,	Chambly,	Montreal,	198		9
Chateauguay,	Chateauguay,	Montreal,	196		9
Chatham,	Chatham,	Ottawa,	228		11
Churchville,	Dunham East,	Montreal,	262		11
Cacona,	Cacona,	Quebec,	120		9
Compton,	Compton,	Three Rivers,	200		9
Coteau du Lac,	Soulanges,	Montreal,	223		11
Dannville,	Shipton,	Three Rivers,	172		9
Drummondville,	Grantham,	Three Rivers,	136		9
Dundee,	Huntingdon,	Montreal,	255		11
Dunham,	Dunham,	Montreal,	254		11
Eaton,	Eaton,	St. Francis,	205		11
Frelighsburg,	St. Armand,	Montreal,	248		11
Gaspé,		Gaspé,		2	6
Gentilly,	Gentilly,	Three Rivers,	76		7
Georgeville,	Stanstead,	Montreal,	271		11
Granby,	Granby,	Montreal,	228		11
Grenville,	Grenville,	Montreal,	240		11
Hatley,	Hatley,	Montreal,	207		11
Henryville,	Noyan,	Montreal,	221		11
Hemmingford,	Hemmingford,	Montreal,	218		11
Hereford,	Hereford,	Three Rivers,	213		11
Huntingdon,	Hinchinbrooke,	Montreal,	238		11
Isle Aux Noix,	River Richelieu,	Montreal,	220		11

OFFICE.	SEIGNIORY OR TOWN-SHIP.	DISTRICT.	Miles.	Postage.	
				s.	d.
Isle Verte,	Isle Verte,	Quebec,	132	9	
Kamouraska,	Kamouraska,	Quebec,	90	7	
La Baie,	St. Antoine,	Three Rivers,	114	9	
La Beauce,	Taschereau,	Quebec,	31	4½	
Lachine,	Island Montreal,	Montreal,	189	9	
Laprairie,	Laprairie de la } Magdaleine, }	Montreal,	189	9	
L'Assomption,	St. Sulpice,	Montreal,	159	9	
Lennoxville,	Ascot,	St. Francis,	191	9	
Lotbinière,	Lotbinière,	Quebec,	46	4½	
* La Valtrie,	La Valtrie,	Montreal,		9	
Montreal,	Island Montreal,	Montreal,	180	9	
Manningville,	Hinchinbrooke,	Montreal,	234	11	
Nicolet	Nicolet,	Three Rivers,	102	9	
N. George Town,	Amnsfield,	Montreal,	218	11	
Norton Creek,	Beauharnois,	Montreal,	214	11	
Petite Nation	Petite Nation,	Montreal,	270	11	
Philipsburg,	St. Armand,	Montreal,	231	11	
Port Neuf,	Port Neuf,	Quebec,	35	4½	
Potton,	Potton,	Montreal,	237	11	
Quebec,	Quebec,	Quebec,			
Rawdon,	Rawdon,	Montreal,	179	9	
Richmond,	Shipton,	Three Rivers,	160	9	
Rimouski,	Rimouski,	Quebec,	180	9	
River du Loup,	River du Loup,	Three Rivers,	111	9	
River du Loup En } Bas, }	River du Loup,	Quebec,	114	9	
River Ouelle,	River Ouelle,	Quebec,	78	7	
Russell Town,	Beauharnois,	Montreal,	223	11	
St. André,	St. André,	Quebec,	108	9	
St. Andrews,	Argenteuil,	Montreal,	225	11	
Ste. Anne Parade,	Ste. Anne,	Que'ec,	60	4½	
Ste. Anne la Poca- } tière, }	Ste. Anne,	Quebec,	74	7	
St. Antoine,	St. Antoine,	Quebec,	25	4½	
St. Cesaire,	St. Hyacinthe,	Montreal,	213	11½	
St. Charles,	St. Charles,	Montreal,	165	9	
Ste. Croix,	Ste. Croix,	Quebec,	36	4	
St. Denis,	Richelieu,	Montreal,	159	9½	
St. Eustache,	River du Chêne,	Montreal,	201	11	
St. Francis,	Yamaska,	Montreal,	123	9	
St. George,	St. George,	Montreal,	202	11	
St. Hilaire,	Rouville,	Montreal,	172	9	
† St. Hyacinthe,	St. Hyacinthe,	Montreal,	179	9	
St. Jean Port Joli,	St. Jean Port Joli,	Quebec,	54	4½	
St. Johns,	Dorchester,	Montreal,	207	11	

OFFICE.	SEIGNIORY OR TOWN-SHIP.	DISTRICT.	Miles.	Postage.	
				s.	d.
St. Marie de Mon-	Rouville,	Montreal,	206	11	
noir,		Montreal,	183	9	
St. Mathias,	St. Nicholas,	Quebec,	16	4½	
St. Nicholas,	St. Ours,	Montreal,	152	9	
St. Ours,	St. Pierre,	Quebec,	66	7	
St. Pierre les Bec-		La Prairie,	Montreal,	204	11
quets,	St. Roch,	Quebec,	69	7	
St. Remi,	St. Roch,	Montreal,	171	9	
St. Roch des Aulnets,		Quebec,	34	4½	
St. Roch de L'A-	Shefford,	Montreal,	242	11	
chigan.	Ascot,	Three Rivers,	187	9	
St. Thomas,	Stanstead,	Montreal,	221	11	
St. Thomas,	Terrebonne,	Montreal,	195	9	
Shefford,	Three Rivers,	Three Rivers,	90	7	
Sherbrooke,	Trois Pistoles,	Quebec,	146	9	
Stanstead.	Varenes,	Montreal,		9	
Terrebonne,	Verchères,	Montreal,		9	
Three Rivers,	Sorel,	Montreal,	140	9	
Trois Pistoles,	Yamaska,	Montreal,	127	9	
Varenes,	Yamachiche,	Three Rivers,		9	
Verchères,					
Wm. Henry,					
Yamaska,					
† Yamachiche,					

Total number of Offices 103, besides 4 Offices on the Baie des Chaleurs, not included in this List

* La Valtrie, Subsidiary to Berthier.

†. St. Hyacinthe, do. to St. Charles.

‡. Yamachiche, do. to Three Rivers.

January, 1822.

T. A. STAYNER,
D. P. M. G.

No. 7.

(Copy.)

*General Post Office,
London, 7th April, 1831.*

Sir,

I beg to acquaint you that I have laid before My Lord the Post Master General your representations on the subject of the Deputy Post Master at Montreal having declined to forward your Newspapers by the Post, without the payment of the usual gratuity to the Deputy Post Master General at Quebec, and I am commanded to acquaint you that the gratuity in question is the long established and authorized perquisite of the Officer in question, and that all Newspapers circulated by the Post in British North America otherwise than under his privilege, are liable by Law to the charge of the full rates of Postage.

I regret the delay which occurred to your Newspapers on the occasion alluded to, which appears to have arisen from a misconception of his Instructions on the part of the Post Master at Montreal, but you will see from the foregoing explanation that if he had forwarded them they must have been charged with Postage.

I am, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed,) F. FREELING.

R. Armour, Esquire,
Montreal Gazette Office,
Montreal.

No. 8.

*Montreal Gazette Office,
Montreal, 18th November, 1830.*

To Sir Francis Freeling,

Sir,

I am induced by your well known and long established reputation for giving information or redressing grievances

grievances however minute, connected with the Post Office Department, to take the liberty of addressing you on a subject interesting to me individually, but more so as it may eventually involve a question of high constitutional importance, as to what extent the Post Office of Great Britain is authorized by law to regulate the internal Post Office establishments of the Colony, and to draw a Revenue therefrom. This latter consideration, as it may come under the discussion of the Provincial Legislatures, I shall make no comments on, but simply state what immediate concerns myself.

I have been for several years Proprietor of the Montreal Gazette, published by authority, which has a considerable circulation both in the Lower and Upper Provinces of Canada. It is published twice a week on an Imperial Sheet of paper at the very moderate rate of 20s. currency per annum, for Town Subscribers. The circulation of the Gazette beyond the walls of Montreal has been most materially checked in consequence of a charge which Mr. Stayner, the Deputy Post Master General of Quebec, has ordered the Post Master of Montreal to make of 5s. per annum, for each number transmitted by Mail, whether for ten miles or a hundred, which is an addition of 25 per cent. to the first cost of the Paper. From the great respect I feel, and should always wish to shew to all constitutional authorities, I should probably, however detrimental to my interests, have submitted for some time longer in silence to what I deem a self created tax, or perhaps a private perquisite, (for I have in vain consulted English or Provincial Law authorities, and repeatedly asked Mr. Stayner to point out the Law under which he acted,) had he only collected this Postage from Subscribers, after transmission and on the delivery of the Papers; but as this customary mode would, it appears, have been troublesome and inconvenient to him, he has adopted

adopted the very extraordinary, and I conceive unjustifiable plan of obliging all the Proprietors of Papers to pay in advance or commute with him on the best terms they can for all Papers sent by Mail.

The collection of Newspaper Accounts, over such extensive countries as Lower and Upper Canada by means of private Agents is well known, to be both troublesome and expensive, and on which numerous losses must inevitably accrue, but in addition to all these we are obliged to collect and *guarantee* this demand for Postage, though Mr. Stayner by means of his numerous Deputies could collect it, if a *legal right*, with much greater facility, and with little or no expense to himself or the Department.

After much correspondence with Mr. Stayner, and unavailing remonstrances against the *mode* of collecting this tax, for I was not *then* altogether inclined to question its legality, I came to the resolution of trying the question whether I could be compelled to pay this Postage in advance, and to be the collector at my own risk and expense for the advantage of Mr. Stayner or the Department. I accordingly sent some parcels of the Gazette to the Post Office here, requesting them to be forwarded to their different destinations, charging them with *whatever* might be deemed the *legal* postage on them; Mr. Porteous the Post Master of Montreal acting as he tells me by special orders from Mr. Stayner of Quebec, refused to forward them unless I settled for the Postage according to former custom. This I refused to do, and the consequence was, that no Gazettes were forwarded by any of the Mails of that day. Finding that nothing short of ruin to my business would be the consequence of further resistance, I made a virtue of necessity, and submitted (though under protest) to these arbitrary exactions. For your information I enclose copies of two different protests which will still further elucidate this subject.

I have continued for nearly a year since I made these
 protests

protests to pay for Postage on Newspapers as formerly, as Mr. Stayner informed me as far back as December last, that he had written to you for information on this subject, but as he has not thought proper to communicate to me or to the public what your answer was, but continues his former mode of collecting postage, I am necessitated at once to apply to the head of the Department in Britain, for the requisite information.

I therefore most respectfully request that you will have the goodness to inform me, what is the Law on this point, and if any and what rules and regulations have been forwarded to the D. P. M. General of the Province for his guidance and the information of the public. I would likewise humbly suggest that for the sake of avoiding useless misunderstandings with existing authorities, to me peculiarly unpleasant, that these orders should be made as public as possible. It may be requisite for you to know in case you have not latterly received regular returns from the D. P. M. G. at Quebec, of the large sums collected under your supposed sanction for the Postage on about *forty* Newspapers now published in Lower and Upper Canada, which have all to pay in same way, that some years ago it was only 1s. 3d. per number, afterwards 2s. 6d. and now raised to 5s. without the public being made aware by what Law, Rule or Regulation these changes were made.

From having been in early life employed in a respectable Post Office in Scotland, I have still some general knowledge of the Rules of your Department, and still recollect the admirable frankness, clearness and absence of all mystery or concealment, which characterized all your orders and instructions relative to the Establishment. It would be very desirable that similar publicity, candour and liberality distinguished the proceedings of the D. P. M. General at Quebec. Being strongly attached to the Government of the
 Mother

Mother Country it is my duty, as assuredly it is my inclination, to submit to whatever is just, equitable and legal, and when I am convinced that Mr. Stayner's charge of Postage in advance has any of these recommendations or your sanction, I shall with great deference acquiesce in your decision.

I shall esteem it as a great obligation if you would favor me with an early answer to this appeal to your judgment, and would beg of you to send the first copy of your Letter to the care of my Agents Messrs. K. Dowie & Co. Liverpool, who will forward it without delay, the duplicate will come safely by the British Packet from Falmouth.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

With great respect,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

(Signed,) ROBERT ARMOUR.

To,

Sir Francis Freeling, Bart.

Secretary,

General Post Office,

London.