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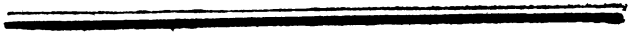


THE

STATE

OF THE

N A T I O N.



T H E
STATE OF THE NATION,

WITH RESPECT TO ITS
PUBLIC FUNDED DEBT, REVENUE, and DISBURSEMENT;

COMPRIZED IN THE

R E P O R T

OF THE SELECT
Brit. Parliament. House of Commons.
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,

APPOINTED BY

The HOUSE OF COMMONS, to examine and state the Total
Amount of the Public Debts, and of the Interest and Charges
attending the same, as they stood the 5th of *Jan. 1797* :

PARTICULARIZING

The RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS of the several undermentioned
OFFICES: *viz.*

TREASURY.
EXCHEQUER.
SECRETARY OF STATE.
CUSTOM HOUSE.
EXCISE OFFICE.
STAMP OFFICE.
POST OFFICE.
TAX OFFICE.
WAR OFFICE.
ORDNANCE OFFICE.
BARRACK OFFICE.
TRANSPORT OFFICE.

ADMIRALTY BOARD.
SALT OFFICE.
HACKNEY COACH OFFICE.
HAWKERS AND PEDLERS
OFFICE.
PENSIONS, SALARIES, AND
FEES OFFICE.
FIRST FRUITS, AND
TENTH'S OFFICE.
BANK OF ENGLAND,
AND SOUTH SEA
COMPANY.

The NAMES of the Superior Officers and Clerks in each
Department—their SALARIES and FEES.

TOGETHER

With the Amount of whatever ADDITIONAL PENSIONS or SALARIES they
receive from other Situations—paid by the Public.

L O N D O N :

Printed for H. D. SYMONDS, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1798.

C O N T E N T S
O F T H E
F I R S T V O L U M E.

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The Committee's FIRST Report.

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- An Account of the total Net Produce of the Permanent Taxes, under the Heads of Customs, Excise, Stamps, and Incidents, distinguishing the Produce of each Year.
- An Account of the total Net Produce paid into the Exchequer arising from the Duties on Stamps, from the 6th of January, 1793, to 5th January, 1797.
- An Account of the Quantity of Wine imported into, and exported from Great Britain in the Four Years preceding the 5th January, 1797, distinguishing each Year.
- An Account of the Gross Assessment of the additional Duties on Horses; and of the NEW DUTIES on Horses and Dogs.
- An Account of the Gross Charge and Receipt on the Land Tax, for the Years, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796.
- An Account of the outstanding Demands on the Treasury, on the 5th January, 1797.
- An Account of Warrants for Army Services due and unpaid on the 5th January, 1797.
- An Account of Extraordinary Expences of the Army, incurred from the 25th of December, 1795, to the 4th of December, 1796.
- An Account of the Demands for Army Services outstanding on the 5th January, 1797.
- An Account of all Demands outstanding on the 5th Day of January, 1797, for the Service of the Barrack Department.

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C O N T E N T S.

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Mr.

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Examination of Mr. JOHN BENNETT, Inspector of Packets.

An Account of the Quarterly Balances arising from the Revenue of the Post Office.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said, in pursuance of what he had stated on a former Day, he had now several Points to which he would call the Attention of the House. His Object was, to refer to a Committee an Examination into the total Amount of the Public Debt and the Interest due thereon, and the various Charges, as they stood on the 5th of January, 1797, distinguishing what Part of them arose since the Year 1793; and also, the Produce of Four Years Taxes, distinguishing each Year, for defraying such Charges as they arose within such Period, and for such Committee to report these Matters, together with their Observations thereon, to the House; and likewise to state the Amount of any unfunded Debts that remained on the 5th January 1797; as also to state the total Amount of the Public Expences incurred for the Year 1798, as far as the Accounts can be made up, together with what Provision has been already made for defraying it. Should the House agree with him in the Propriety of referring these Considerations to a Committee, as from what had been already said, he apprehended there would be no Doubt it would, he should bring that up with others; such as, That the Committee should
be

be a **SELECT One**, for the Purpose of examining as far, and with as little Delay as possible, into **ALL THE BRANCHES OF PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.**

The House agreeing with him in its Propriety, He therefore moved,

“ That it be referred to a **SELECT Committee** to
“ examine into the total Amount of the Public
“ Debt, with the Interest due thereon, and all
“ Public Charges, as they stood on the 5th of
“ January 1797 ; distinguishing what Part arose
“ since the Year 1793, and the Produce of the
“ Four Years preceding ; and also the Produce
“ of the several Taxes imposed for defraying
“ the Charges of each Year within the several
“ Periods, and to report the same with their
“ Opinion thereon to the House. And likewise
“ to examine into, and state the Amount of any
“ unfunded Debt outstanding on the 5th of
“ January, 1797 ; and also to calculate the
“ total Amount of the Expences incurred for
“ the Year 1798, as far as they can be made
“ up, and to state the same, as it shall appear
“ to them, to the House, together with the Pro-
“ visions that have been made for defraying the
“ same.”

The Motion being put and carried,

The **CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER** then moved,

“ That the said Committee be chosen by way of
“ Ballot.”

The

[*March 13.*] HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The SPEAKER suggested the Propriety of determining the Number of the Committee before the Question was put, how it should be chosen?

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved,

“ That the Number of the said Committee be
“ Fifteen.” Ordered.

He then moved, “ That the said Committee be
“ chosen by Ballot.”

Which, after a long Debate, and an Amendment being offered, “ That the said Committee be *now* chosen
“ by Ballot,” which being negatived, the original Motion was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, MARCH 13.

AT Four o’Clock the House proceeded to ballot for a Committee, to examine the Finances of the Country. The Ballot being over at Half past Five, the following Members were chosen :

THOMAS STANLEY, Esq.	J. CREWE, Esq.
WILLIAM BAKER, Esq.	FRANCIS GREGOR, Esq.
Rt. Hon. THOMAS STEELE,	J. H. ADDINGTON, Esq.
R. B. SHERIDAN, Esq.	R. BURDON, Esq.
CHARLES YORKE, Esq.	HENRY THORNTON, Esq.
CHARLES ABBOTT, Esq.	John HARRISON, Esq.
Hon. ST. ANDREW, ST. JOHN.	Right Hon. D. RYDER.
R. P. CAREW, Esq.	

By

By Means of such Investigations, every Individual interested in the Public Funds, will see the Amount of the Funded Debt—what remains of the Public Debt unfunded—and the Resources of the Country to discharge the Claims of the Public Creditor. He will see the Produce of every Article of Revenue liable to Impost—Foreign, and for Home Consumption—with their Variations at different Periods.

The MERCHANT and MANUFACTURER will see the Regulations recommended to Parliament in those great Branches of Revenue, the CUSTOMS, EXCISE, STAMP DUTIES, POST OFFICE, &c. by which much Trouble and Expence will be saved, and the Public much benefited by lopping off many useless Offices, and abolishing many sinecure Places and Pensions—should the Recommendations of the Committee be adopted.

FIRST

SEVENTH REPORT.

POST OFFICE.

(Ordered to be printed 19th July, 1797.)

YOUR Committee, in reporting upon the Regulations and Checks which have been applied to control this Branch of the Public Expenditure, and how far they have been effectual, proceed to state, that the Report of the Commissioners of Enquiry, made the 30th June 1788, upon the Post Office, was by an Order in Council, dated October 14th 1789, referred to a Committee of the Lords of His Majesty's Privy Council. From thence it passed, January 12th, 1792, to the Lords of the Treasury, who, having thought it expedient to refer the same to His Majesty's Postmaster General for their Opinion and Report upon the Regulations therein suggested, and having received their Observations, together with a proposed Establishment of the General Post Office, both in England and Scotland, reported the same, with their Approbation, to the Lords of the Committee, at whose Recommendation His Majesty was graciously pleased, with the Advice of His Privy Council, to order the Regulations and Establishments so proposed and approved to be carried into Execution under the Directions of the Lords of the Treasury.

§ 1. Your Committee, therefore, without following the detailed Remarks of the Commissioners of Enquiry, but classing the Regulations recommended by them under Three Heads, *viz.*

SEVENTH REPORT:

1. Regulations respecting Fees and Emoluments ;
2. Regulations respecting the Abolition of Offices, or Addition of Officers and Clerks ; and
3. Regulations of the Business of the Office.

Observe, 1st, That all the Regulations recommended by the Commissioners, respecting Fees and Emoluments, appear to have been adopted under the new Establishment of 1793, except in Four Instances, *viz.* 1. With regard to the Franking of News-papers by some of the Officers in the Inland Office. The Resident Surveyor in this Office is paid entirely by their Sale, guaranteed to him by the Public at £.700 per Annum ; and the Six Clerks of the Roads have also this Privilege continued, for Reasons stated by the Postmaster General.

2. As to Fees on registering Packets of Value, because the Postmaster General observe, that those Fees, being optional, would not be paid at all as Matter of Revenue.

3. As to the Emoluments of the Officers of the Post Office at Edinburgh, where the Postmaster General has thought it proper that the same Christmas Gratuities, and Privilege of franking News-papers, should take place as in England.

4. Also, as to the £.2½ per Cent. claimed by the late Comptroller General, which the Commissioners of Enquiry recommend to commence, according to the Tenor of his Warrant of Appointment, when the Net Revenue of the Post Office shall exceed £.300,000 a Year.

This the Postmaster General treat as a general Proposition, that the Comptroller General should be interested in the Productiveness of the Whole of the Post Office Revenue, which, they remark, depends upon many Circumstances unconnected with

with the Exertions of such an Officer, and may generally be expected to increase in Proportion to the Wealth and Commerce of the Country.

On this Subject Your Committee forbear to dwell, the Question relative to the Mode of compensating the Services of the late Comptroller General being under the Consideration of Your Honourable House.

2d. Respecting the Abolition of unnecessary Officers, or the Addition, in other Instances, of Clerks for the increased Business of the respective Offices, the greater Part of the Regulations recommended by the Commissioners of Enquiry have been complied with, either in the specific Adoption of their Plans, or in the virtual Adoption of them, by transferring the Business of some of the Offices to other Offices; but Your Committee can pronounce no Opinion as to the Proportion which the Number of new Officers and Clerks bears to the Increase in the Business of the Post Office.

In some Cases the Pensions and Salaries recommended by the Commissioners of Enquiry have been exceeded.

Under this Head, Your Committee must observe upon the Salary given to the Secretary* of the Post Office in the new Establishment. The Commissioners Report states his Salary and Agency for the Packets to have amounted, in 1784, to £. 1,738. 3s. 4d.; the Agency that Year being £. 1, 169 11s 4d (but in a Year of War it has amounted to upwards of £. 2,000). He had only resigned the Secretaryship of the Foreign Office in the July preceding their Report, and was Part Owner of several of the Packet Boats in the Service of the Post Office on the Falmouth Station. Of the serious Abuses in the Packet Department the Commissioners speak in the strongest Terms, and much at length, stating £. 68,000 to have been unnecessarily expended, between April 5th, 1775, and

April 5th, 1788, “ which Sum might, and ought to have
 “ been saved.” An Account laid before them shews the total
 Expense, from 5th April 1770, to 5th April 1787, of the
 Packets to have been £. 1,038,133. 4s. 9d. Upon inspecting
 this Account the Commissioners say,* “ That the Expence of
 “ Captures, Repairs, and Hire, naturally attracted their
 “ Attention, especially as they found many of the Officers of
 “ the Post Office were Owners of such Packets, even down
 “ to the Chamber Keeper ; and that the Principal Officer in
 “ this Department (the Secretary) was not only interested as
 “ an Owner in several, but had an Emolument of £. 2½ per
 “ Cent. as Agency upon the Amount of the whole Ex-
 “ penditure, which Agency upon the Sum above-mentioned
 “ must have amounted to near £. 26,000 ; add to this, the
 “ Annual Gain as Part Owner of fundry Packets, and the
 “ Emoluments to his Office from the Packet Service alone,
 “ for the above Period, could be little less than £. 50,000.”

“ So considerable an Advantage obtained (they observe)
 “ from a Service over which it was, in part, his Duty to super-
 “ intend, and to check every improvident Expence, needs
 “ no comment ; it is only surprizing the Continuance of it
 “ should have been permitted even to this Day.”—Notwith-
 standing this and other Passages of severe Reprehension in the
 Commissioners Report, this Secretary, though the Com-
 missioners Report was made in June 1788, remained unnoticed
 as to the Shares in the Packets till March 6th, 1793, and,
 after all, is still Proprietor in one of the remaining old Packets,
 besides which he has a net Salary of £. 1,000 a Year, and
 £. 400 Annuity annexed to his Office, and instead of his
 retiring from his Situation upon his becoming unable to per-
 form his Office, the Principal Resident Surveyor is, within
 these Five Months, appointed Joint Secretary with him. No
 Alteration whatsoever takes place, however, on this Occasion,
 in the First Secretary’s Salary, but the Joint Secretary retains
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* Com. of Enq. p. 34.

the Emoluments of his former Office (that Office being abolished) ; and he states it to be settled, in case of the First Secretary's Demise, that he is to become sole Secretary, with a Salary of £.500 a Year, in Addition to the Guarantee of £.700 a Year, which he now receives. It is meant that these Two Sums, in future, shall become the total Amount of the Annual Income of the Secretary of the Post Office. This Indulgence towards the First Secretary is certainly not calculated to encourage, in the other Officers of the Post Office, a strict Attention to the Duties of Economy in their several Departments, or rather it is not calculated to discourage the Reverse ; a Principal much to be attended to in rewarding the Services of Public Officers.

Of Mr. John Stanton, the late Comptroller of the Bye and Cross Roads, the Commissioners of Enquiry say, " That being then but lately appointed, and having another Office in the Department producing upwards of £.200 a Year, which he executes by Deputy, they are doubtful whether any Compensation should be made to him for the Loss of the Office ; but that the Collector, having been long an efficient and able Officer, ought to have a proper Provision for Life."—Your Committee, finding that the Comptroller had retired under the new Establishment with a Pension of £.600 a Year, which is more than his Pay and Emoluments are stated in the general Account of Salaries, &c. to have been in 1782, whilst the Collector has also retired upon £.200 a Year, thought it right to enquire what Office Mr. John Stanton, the late Comptroller of Bye and Cross Roads, continues to hold, with its Salary and Emoluments, and whether executed by Deputy ; also the Reasons upon which Mr. Stanton's Pension of £.600 was granted.

To this a Return has been made, that Mr. John Stanton was appointed Postmaster of Isleworth in June 1780, the
Duty

Duty of which Office is, and was done by his Predecessor, by Deputy, though he has at Times resided on the Spot, and attended to it himself; the Salary of this Office is £. 75. 8s. ; and the Emoluments, which vary considerably from accidental Circumstances, were, from the 10th of October 1795, to the 9th of October following, £. 222. 9s. 6d. amounting in the Whole to £. 297. 17s. 6d.

Mr. Stanton was appointed Comptroller and Resident Surveyor of the Bye and Cross Road Letter Office, on the 21st of September 1785, with a Yearly Salary and Emoluments amounting to £. 687. 10s. which is the same as was received by his Predecessor. The Duty of these Offices were executed by Mr. Stanton till the 5th of January 1793, when, from an Arrangement of the Privy Council, in consequence of the Report of the Commissioners of Enquiry, those Offices were abolished, and a Pension of £. 600 per Annum was granted to Mr. Stanton in lieu thereof.

Mr. Stanton, it appears, is Forty Years of Age, or thereabouts, and the Joint Secretary* of the Post Office states, by Command of the Postmaster General, as the Reasons upon which the Pension of Mr. Stanton was granted, that his Office was declared unnecessary by the Report of the Commissioners of Enquiry on this Office, and that his Pension was settled in Conformity to the Principle laid down by the Commissioners, as appears by the Extract from their Report; namely :

“ In the Course of this Enquiry we have found some
 “ Offices Sinecures, others rendered unnecessary by the Ar-
 “ rangements in consequence of Mr. Palmer’s Plan, and
 “ others we have recommended to be abolished; we are,
 “ however, of Opinion that the present Possessors of such
 “ Offices ought not to suffer in their Income from Regula-
 “ tions made for the Public Benefit, but that they should
 “ be

* Supplement (B.)

“ be compensated for the Loss of Office by an Annuity during their Lives, unless otherwise provided for in the Service of Government.”

On this Your Committee observe, that the Amount of Mr. Stanton's Salary and Emoluments, in the general Account of the Post Office Establishment, does not agree with that stated in the particular Return ; it being stated in the general Account to have been, in 1782, £. 570 1s. 8d. whilst the particular Return to the Enquiry of Your Committee states him to have been appointed the 21st Sept. 1785, with a Yearly Salary and Emoluments amounting to £. 687. 10s. ; but this Difference arises, as it appears by the Examination of Mr. Freeling, Joint Secretary * of the Post Office, from Mr. Stanton's Allowance of House Rent, which was £. 100 a Year, not having been stated in the Fees and Emoluments of the Office for 1782. This, though it reconciles the Accounts, does not justify the Amount of the Pension granted to Mr. Stanton ; and the general Opinion of the Commissioners, which is quoted as a Justification of this Pension, appears to Your Committee to be superseded by their particular Opinion upon this Case, as stated in the Opening of this Subject. At all Events Your Committee must observe, that the Amount of this Pension largely exceeds the Rate of Compensation stated to be allowed even to Officers retiring after long Service, and at an advanced Age, being usually calculated at Two Thirds of their former Income.

Mr. Potts, late Comptroller of the Inland Office, has retired on a Pension of £. 700 a Year, and is now in America. He is about 60 Years of Age. His Office is stated to have produced in Salary, £. 336 6s. 8d. besides Emoluments from the Privilege of sending Newspapers and periodical Papers, &c. to the West Indies and America, stated, in 1791, to have made his Income amount to £. 781. 6s. 8d. but

* Supplement (C.)

but in 1793 supposed to have been more considerable, as one of the Officers recollects to have seen Mr. Pott's Books, by which it appeared that the Profits upon News-papers alone somewhat exceeded £. 900 for that Year.

The Office of Secretary to the Foreign Department, say the Commissioners of Enquiry, is not necessary; the Duty has been always performed (until July preceding their Report) by the Secretary of the Postmaster General, to whom it ought to revert.

The Secretary, Mr. Maddison, Nephew to Mr. Todd, has retired on a Pension of £. 200 a Year.

The Solicitor has a Salary of £. 200 a Year, and an additional £. 100 in lieu of Fees, whereas the Commissioners recommended a Salary of £. 200 Net, and without Fees.

An Observation of the same Nature, respecting the Excess of Salaries beyond those recommended by the Commissioners, applies with respect to the Receiver General and his Clerks, the Accountant to the Bye and Cross Roads and his Clerk, and the Deputy Accountant General. These Additions may, however, have been rendered proper by the Accumulation of Business in their different Departments.

An Architect has been appointed in this Office, since 1784, with a Salary of £. 150 a Year, who acts as Surveyor with regard to all their Buildings, and examines, certifies, and reports on all Bills for the Information of the Postmaster General, previous to the granting Warrants for their Payment. He is stated to have no Commission on Account of Buildings at the Post Office under his Direction.

The Penny Post Office is so much altered from its Establishment, as it stood previous to 1794, that the Regulations of the Commissioners of Enquiry, respecting its Officers and

and their Salaries, are by no Means applicable, except so far as relates to abolishing Fees and Emoluments, which are not permitted on the new Plan.

3d. Some Regulations in transacting the Business of the Office, recommended by the Commissioners, have been objected to by the Postmaster General, some only adopted in Part, and others not noticed in their Observations. Your Committee will briefly state, upon the Whole of this Subject, what appears to them the most important.

The Commissioners state, " That the Office of the Accountant General ought to form a Check upon that of the Receiver General ; that Officer ought to have Knowledge of all his Receipts and Payments, for which Purpose not only the Bills remitted by the Deputies should be entered by him, but the Cash Remittance also, Daily, as it is made ; and the Letter Bill Clerk in the Inland Office, and Deputy Comptroller in the Foreign, ought to transmit to this Office the Amount of the Payments made from Time to Time by the Letter Carriers and Window Men ; this will not only enable the Office to check the Receiver General's Weekly Receipts, but be the Means of more regularly substantiating the Remittances from the Deputies, which at present are chiefly taken from the Receiver General's Books. This," they remark, " is a very disorderly Mode of proceeding."*

All Warrants from the Postmaster General, they recommend to be entered in this Office previous to Payment, which will establish a Check upon the Credits of the Receiver General. This Officer is required to examine and state all Bills for Articles supplied, or Services performed, previous to their being laid before the Postmaster General ; but such Examination only extends to the same being right cast, for he is not empowered to call for the Authority for the Expenditure, nor for the Vouchers of its being duly made.

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As the Expenditure in the various Departments of this Office amounts to a very considerable Sum Annually, they are of Opinion, that it should be subjected to a very strict Control, and that there ought to be a Power vested in the Accountant General, for the special Purpose of examining, certifying, and reporting upon all Bills before Warrants are granted for Payment thereof; he should have Power to call for the Authority, and to judge of the Reasonableness of the Charge made, and of the Vouchers exhibited to support it; upon all which he should report his Opinion to the Postmaster General for their Information, previous to their granting Warrants for the Amount. "We deem," say they, "such a Control absolutely necessary, and we conceive that the Accountant General is the proper Person to perform this Duty; we are, however, of Opinion, that this Officer should be independent of the Post Office, and his Appointment originate from the Commissioners of Your Majesty's Treasury."

To this the Postmaster General have objected as to the Independence of the Accountant General, because, "they being responsible for the Whole, if their Officers are to be exempted from Obedience to them, perpetual Confusion must ensue." They also say, "that the Accountant General ought not to have a Power of suspending, if the Secretary, Comptroller of the Foreign Office, and Receiver General and Comptroller of the Bye and Cross Road Office, have it not; if he reports to the Postmaster General the Misconduct of any of his Officers, he is sure of being properly supported." As to the Accountant General checking the Receiver General's Accounts, it is said by the Postmaster General, that they have frequently desired him to do so; it is done in Part, and when the new Establishment takes Place, it should be considered as his constant Duty to
point

point out to the Postmaster General any improper Articles, of which the Postmaster General will judge.

The Establishment at present belonging to the Accountant General's Office, detailed in a subsequent Part of this Report, would not be equal, it is said, to the various Duties recommended by the Commissioners. His Control over the general Receipt of the Revenue of the Post Office is complete at present, and independent of the Postmaster General, as regular Returns are made to him from the different Departments of the Post Office, of all Sums paid to the Receiver General, whose Accounts must ultimately correspond with the Aggregate of those returned to the Accountant General from the different Offices. The Expenditure of the General Post Office is under the Discretion of the Postmaster General as to its Reasonableness and Expediency, but subject to the Examination and Signature of the Accountant General as to its Correctness and Calculation, prior to the Payment of the Warrants. The Bills which are remitted from the Country Postmasters to the Secretary of the Post Office, cannot be carried to their Credit with the Receiver General, as Cash, till they are actually paid, and are in the Office at the Risk of the Country Postmaster till that Period; the Check, therefore, as to that Part of the Revenue, is held upon the Receiver General's Cash Account. The Accountant General is the proper Officer of the Post Office, under the Postmaster General; the Receiver is a Patent Officer under the Treasury, not responsible to the Postmaster General, but to the Treasury. It seems, therefore, less necessary to erect the Accountant General into an Officer independent of the Postmaster General, which could only be done by a considerable Addition to the Establishment of the Office of the former. It may not, however, we conceive, be improper, by some Regulation of Office from the Postmaster General, to furnish this Officer with further Powers, and to increase his Duties, by directing, and enabling

him to check the Receipts of the Receiver General Weekly, according to the First Part of the Commissioners Statement.

Respecting the Power recommended to be vested in the Accountant General, for the Purpose of examining, certifying, and reporting upon all Bills, this, as has been already stated, is examined by the Architect, whose Duties as Architect and Surveyor, and the Mode of executing them, are detailed by himself in a Letter to the Postmaster General, January 19th, 1793 ; to whose Orders of August 22d, 1787, we also refer on the Subject of the regular Audit and Checks of Tradesmen's Bills.

The Commissioners have recommended that the Public Money should be lodged in the Bank, in the Name of the Receiver General, who should specify in his Drafts the Services for which it is drawn, in like Manner as the Paymaster General of the Forces and Treasurer of the Navy now do.

On this the Postmaster General refer to a Letter of Mr. Mortlock's to their Lordships, dated January 18th, 1793, in which Objections are stated to this Measure, and the Balances now remain in the Receiver General's Hand, with this Difference, however, that he pays the Money into the Exchequer as it arises in each Quarter, under such Circumstances as Your Committee shall have occasion to notice more particularly in their subsequent Observations.

The Commissioners are of Opinion, that the Postmaster General at Edinburgh ought not to retain Balances in his Hand, but remit them Weekly, and transmit at the same Time a Weekly State of his Receipts and Payments, examined and certified by the Accountant.

To this it is objected by the Postmaster General, that as this could be only for the Edinburgh Collection, and not for
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the Deputies all over Scotland, it would be very troublesome to him, and of no Use to the Post Office: He had not a Shilling in his Hands for the Quarter ending 10th October 1792, which Year immediately preceded the Date of the Postmaster General's Observations.

The Commissioners had stated, that they found from the Accounts transmitted by the Deputy Postmaster at Edinburgh, that he constantly retained a Balance of upwards of £.10,000, although the Amount of his Quarterly Disbursements never exceeded £.3,000, which his Current Receipts would always have supplied. At present his Quarterly Disbursements somewhat exceed £3,500, and he remits the specific Sum of £.8,000, about the Middle of each Quarter, without the £.2 per Centage, which was heretofore charged upon the £.7,000, which the Deputy Postmaster of Edinburgh used, according to the Report of the Commissioners, to remit at the End of each Quarter.

It appears from the Account of the Balance remaining in the Receiver General's Hands at Edinburgh, on 5th January 1796, and on the 5th of each subsequent Month to 5th April 1797, with the different Receipts, Disbursements, and Remittances during that Period, that the Balances in the Receiver General's Hands at Edinburgh have always exceeded £.5,000, and that they have fluctuated from that Point to £.11,000 and upwards*. It seems desirable that the Remittances from the Deputies in Scotland to the Receiver General at Edinburgh should be hastened, as they do not commence till a Month after the Expiration of each Quarter, and continue to be made till the End of the subsequent Quarter in Bills of various Dates, which possibly might be shortened.

Your Committee, however, have the Satisfaction to learn from a Letter* dated March 26th, 1792, written by Order of the Postmaster General, that the Postmaster General

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have not been altogether inattentive to the State of the Balances in the Deputy Postmaster of Edinburgh's Hands; but that finding that a real Balance of £.8,647. 16s. 4d. remained on his Account for the Quarter ending the 10th October of the preceding Year, and conceiving that the Sum of £.650 would be sufficient, with the current Receipts, to enable him to carry on the Business of the Office, they directed him to remit immediately £.8,000 to the General Post Office. And Your Committee observe, that the Remittances of the Deputy Postmaster of Edinburgh to the Receiver General, for the Four Quarters ending Christmas 1796, the last of which were made on the 4th of April 1797, amount to £.54,265. 5s. 6d. a Sum rather exceeding the Net Revenue of that Year, for deducting £.15,554. 0s 4d. being the Amount of Monies expended and returned Letters, from £.69,338. 5s. the Gross Revenue, the Remainder will be £.53,784. 4s. 8d. for the Net Revenue of 1796.

The Commissioners recommend, that the per Centage on the Remittances to Paris, Amsterdam, and Bruffels, should cease, and the Fees paid on the Pensions of the Duke of Grafton, and the Heirs of the Duke of Schomberg, should go in Aid of the general Fund, which is afterwards proposed by the Commissioners of Enquiry.

The Postmaster General observe on this, that all that is now paid to the Receiver General and his Clerks is in future to be paid to the Revenue, viz. the Allowance paid by the Dutch of £.1 per Cent. and One Half per Cent. on £.8,700 Parliamentary Pensions, and the Revenue will cease to pay, and will therefore gain £.1 per Cent. on the Paris and Bruffels Remittances.

The Commissioners recommend, that a Board should be held once a Week at least, for the Purpose of effectually superintending the Management of this great Branch of the Revenue, and of checking its Expenditure.

This

This Recommendation not having been noticed by the Postmaster General in their Observations, Your Committee required to know whether any, and what Regulations, had been made on this Subject, when they were informed, by Command of the Postmaster General, that they do not hold a Board Weekly, but as often as any particular and urgent Business may require it; and that all official Papers are laid before the Postmaster General Daily, so that prompt and immediate Attention is paid to the Wishes of the Public, and the Exigencies of the Service. It is added, "that if the Superintendance of the Duties of this Department was to stand over for a Weekly Board, much Inconvenience would arise from it." * In Explanation of this it has been stated by One of the Noble Lords who fill the Office of Postmaster General, that a Board consists of the Postmaster General and their Secretary, with the Solicitor in all Matters of a legal Nature, and all the other Officers attending in their several Departments, to be ready if called upon by the Postmaster General. Boards are held less frequently now than formerly, as the Daily Business of the Office is communicated to the Postmaster General by Minutes and Letters, on the Back of which the Postmaster General give Directions of what is to be done. Boards are now held upon the Complaints against Officers or the Country Postmasters, who are often summoned to London for that Purpose. The Daily Business consists of the Return of the Number of Letters Inwards and Outwards, the Time of the Mails Arrival and Departure, that of the Foreign Mails, &c. Remarks of the President on Duty as to the Conduct of any of the Officers, and such official Papers and Occurrences as may arise in the Course of the Day. The Daily Report is always sent by the Letter Carrier of the District with the Post Letters, and are immediately forwarded to the other Postmaster General, or returned to the Office early next Morning, from whence they are forwarded to him. A Book is kept for the Purpose of copying the Postmaster General's

* Supplement (E.)

General's Observations, made on the Back of the Minutes, &c. and they become a Record of the Office. The Signature of both Postmasters General is requisite to complete an Order, but in Cases of particular Exigency, one Postmaster General has taken it upon himself to give an Order, which is subsequently signed by the other Postmaster General.

The Commissioners recommend, that the Second Clerk of the Receiver General should pay all Contingencies of the Office not now paid by Warrant on the Receiver General. To this the Postmaster General objects, that the Difficulty of ascertaining what might be called Contingencies, and of having Two Paymasters in the same Office, would create Trouble, Confusion, and Delay.

The Commissioners recommend, that Fees should continue to be paid on certain Instruments issuing from the Post Office, and Business done therein, according to a Table annexed to their Report. The Produce to be carried to the Credit of the Revenue.

The Postmaster General, however, proposes that all Fees in that Table should be abolished, except for an Express, *2s. 6d.* when sent, and *2s. 6d.* when received; also except the Fees on the Parliamentary Pensions, which will go to the Revenue; and also except the Fees for registering Foreign Packets of Value, Inwards and Outwards, which will continue to be received and applied as at present; and also except the Fees for embarking on board His Majesty's Packets, which will continue to be received and applied as at present.

In order to promote the Circulation of News-papers, the Accommodation of the Public, and Increase of Revenue, the Commissioners recommend a regular News-paper Office to be established in the General Post Office, and they give a Plan for such an Establishment.

On this the Postmaster General refer to the Objections which are detailed in Two Papers subjoined to their Observations, signed by the Clerks of the Roads, where they state at length the bad Effects which this Regulation would produce, by Diminution of the Stamp and other Duties, supported by instancing the Effects of the Penny Postage to Ireland, which reduced the Number of News-papers sent thither from a Weekly Average of £. 8,000 to £. 1,380 ; they also state divers Frauds and Abuses which would follow upon its Introduction.

The Regulations recommended by the Commissioners of Enquiry, in the Management of the Packets, seem to have been thought less capable of Execution, though the Object of them appears, from the Statement of the Commissioners, to have been an unbounded Source of Expence and Peculation.

It was considered by the Commissioners, that the Agents of the Packets at Dover and at Harwich were unnecessary, and that their Duty might very well be performed by the Deputy Postmasters at those Places, with a trifling Addition to their present Salary. To this the Postmaster General reply, that where there are Packets there must be Agents to controul the Captains, to see that the Packets are kept in Repair and mustered, sail at their Time, report their Passengers and Freight, &c. account for the Money received, and also to take charge of the Dispatches, forward the King's Messengers, &c.

The Hire of the Packets, according to the Commissioners, should be stopped when they are under Repair, or under Seizure for smuggling, until the Agent grants a Certificate that they are again ready for Sea. According to the Postmaster General, it should not be stopped, if the Owner finds another Packet in her Stead, until the Cause be decided : As this Observation, however, does not apply to the Case

of a Packet under Repair, Your Committee are of Opinion, that the Hire should always be stopped during Repair, unless another be found in her Stead, as the Commissioners have reported some very grave Abuses under that Head.

The Commissioners say, that the Burthen of the Falmouth Packets should be 150 Tons, and their Complement Eighteen Men; Vessels of this Description being fit to go to any Part of the World, and navigated at a small Expence. Every Idea of Defence should be relinquished, and they should owe their Safety to fast Sailing, for which they ought to be particularly fitted.

The Postmaster General state these Packets to be 170 Tons Burthen, Twenty being added in consequence of the Captains' Representation, "that the Builders concurred with them in Opinion, that by adding Three Feet to the Length of the Keel, and One Foot to the Breadth, the Ship would sail much faster, be a better Sea Boat, and enable them to stow their Stores and Provision for the usual Length of their Voyage." The Navy Board were also of Opinion, that Vessels of 169 Tons Burthen might be proper, &c.

The Postmaster General state further, that in the Opinion of many professional Men, and of themselves, it will be proper to make the Experiment of not arming the Packets against an Enemy in force, but only against Row Boats and small Privateers.

The Share of Freight Money at present allowed should be continued, according to the Opinion of the Commissioners, but the Proportion of Freight for Passengers, which the Post Office now takes from the Owners of the Packets, should be relinquished to them, and of course the Allowance for victualling the Passengers should cease, the Rate of Passage

age Money being fixed, and proper Reservations made for British Subjects in Distress Abroad, who may require a Passage Home gratis.

To this the Postmaster General reply, as to the Proportion of Freight for Passengers, that the Office ought not to give up £. 1200 a Year without an Equivalent*; and that the Terms are already sufficiently good for the Owners. As to the Allowance for victualling Passengers, they say, "that it might certainly cease, as they pay already for their own victualling, if the Officer paid One Shilling a Day per Man for victualling the Crew; but as the Post Office now pays only Nine Pence a Day per Man for victualling the Crew, and is in future to pay Ten Pence (until it may be necessary to pay a Shilling in the Event of a War) therefore until One Shilling is paid, this Allowance for victualling the Passengers may continue to be received."

The Commissioners propose, "that the Owners of Packets should be obliged, in order to prevent Abuse, to take upon themselves the Risk of Capture in Time of War;" but the Postmasters General are of Opinion, that no Insurer would undertake to insure a Packet in the Event of a War, without knowing with whom the War is to be carried on, or the State of the King's or the Enemy's Fleet.

The Commissioners observe, that Contracts for the Packets should be made by public Advertisement, and sufficient Security required for the due Performance thereof; the Agents ought to attend, that the Contractors for the Packet Service comply duly with their Contract, for which Purpose he should frequently muster the Men on board each Packet, and always, immediately on their Arrival from Sea, he should

* For the Manner in which the Agents account for Head Money of Passengers, and the Proportion of Freight of Bullion due, &c. to the Post Office, see Mr. Freeling's Examination, Supplement (C.)

examine the Vessels from Time to Time, that they be fitted according to Contract, see the Mariners receive their Wages, and attend to their Complaints; he ought to keep a regular Journal of every Transaction and Occurrence, which should be transmitted Weekly to the Postmaster General.

Many of these Regulations are, according to the Postmaster General, complied with; but they state in their Observations, "That they have more than once sent round to various Persons to enquire the Price of the Hire of a Packet; every one of them has been much dearer than those of the Post Office; and the Postmaster General are sure none can be better than their new ones would be, as they would be all built under their own eye, as the Three last have been*."

The Payment of Wages in Presence of the Agent would discredit the Commanding Officer, and destroy his Authority, as it strongly implies, if it does not express, a Doubt of his Honesty.

Finally, the Commissioners think that the Packets belonging to the Public should be sold, and every Person employed in the Department of the Post Office strictly prohibited from being concerned, directly or indirectly, in the Packets, or as Agents for the Owners thereof.

This Regulation was ordered by the Postmaster General for the future, but not as to the present, Owners; and upon Your Committee requiring to be informed from the General Post Office, how far this Regulation had actually been adopted, they have received a Copy of the Postmaster General's Minute, of 6th March 1793, to the Agent at Falmouth (of which Copies were sent to the Agents at Dover,

* See also the Inspector of Packets Examination as to the Price of the Hire of Packets, Supplement (F.)

Harwich,

Harwich, and Holyhead) declaring, "That as the Secretary to the Post Office was not in future to be Agent to, or have any Share in any of the Packets, so neither should any of the Agents at any of the Ports be Sharers or Owners in Whole or in Part, or sell or supply any Articles for Packets."—Your Committee are further acquainted, that the Agents at those Stations have been required to make out a Statement in Answer to Your Committee's Enquiry on this Subject: And Your Committee are assured by Mr. Freeling, that neither they, nor any of the Officers in the General Post Office, are now concerned, either as Owners or Agents for any of the Packets employed in the Service of the Post Office, excepting the First Secretary of the Post Office, Mr. Todd, who still retains a Share in the Grantham Packet.

The Commissioners in their Report recommended, "that the Pension and Allowances payable to worn-out Seamen, their Widows and Relatives should be regulated, so that those only duly entitled be benefited thereby. The Alteration in the System of the Packets," say they, "will very soon occasion a Deficiency in the Fund appropriated for the Payment of such Pensions, which ought to be made good out of the Revenue during the Lives of the present Annuitants; after their Decease the Public Expence on this Head should cease."

From the Postmaster General's Observations on this Head it appears, there were Two Funds, one for superannuated Captains, paid by themselves, but from which some are exempt, and others not; this Fund is to be discontinued for the future, and it is intended to apply to the Treasury to give a Captain worn out in the Service £. 100 a Year, upon a Statement being made of his Services, Age, or Illness. A Letter of the 20th January 1796, from the Secretary of the

the Post Office to the Agent at Falmouth, shews the exhausted State of this Fund, and directs the future Payments of Pensions to be made and entered in the Account of Incidents. This will produce a probable Increase of 3 or £.400 a Year to the incidental Expences.

The other Fund for Seamen (which alone the Commissioners seem to have noticed) is stated by the Postmaster General, "to have been paid by One Shilling per Man per Month upon 18 Packets upon the Falmouth Establishment, and by Stoppages from the Wages and Victualling of every Man absent without Leave;" and is further made up by Treasury Warrant. The Amount of those Pensions may be about £. 800 per Annum.

The Postmaster General state further, "that the Mates have also a Claim on the Widows Fund, and give their Opinion, that there should always be such a Fund for the worn-out Seamen in this most important Branch of the King's Service, but that it will by no Means be sufficient to support the Widows and Children."

It appears that the Seamen's Fund now no longer exists, but the Pensions, amounting to £. 700 a Year, are paid out of the Revenue, which, at present, may be considered to be indemnified by the One Shilling per Man per Month, and the Mulcts, &c. These, however, will not probably exist in Time of Peace, as the One Shilling per Man per Month in Peace will, for 18 Packets and 21 Men each, be only £. 245. 14s. leaving £. 450, or thereabout, to be provided from the Account of Incidents.

§ 2. Having thus stated the Regulations and Checks proposed by the Commissioners of Enquiry in the Post Office Department,

Department, as far as the same appeared important to Your Committee, and were either objected to by the Postmaster General, or only carried partially into Effect, or not noticed at all in their Observations. Your Committee next proceed to enquire into the Increase or Diminution of the Salaries and Emoluments of the Officers in this Department since the Year 1782, which will lead to an Enquiry also into the Increase or Diminution of the Revenue of the Post Office during the same Period, as far as it can be ascertained by Returns from the Post Office.

On the Subject of the Increase or Diminution of the Expenditure of this Office, in Salaries or otherwise, since 1782, Your Committee, in consequence of the important Alterations which have taken place in the Mode of conducting the Business of the Office, by the Introduction of the Use of Mail Coaches, in 1784, and the interior Regulations which have subsequently been adopted, think it sufficient to state in a concise Manner, the new Establishment formed under the Order of His Majesty in Council, already mentioned in the Opening of their Report, together with a brief Account of the Penny Post Office, as new modelled in 1794; of the Edinburgh Post Office, as regulated in 1793; of the Deputy Postmasters both at Home and Abroad; and of the Packet Boats, noticing progressively, in obedience to their Instructions, which refer them back to the Year 1782, the State of the Offices, their Salaries, Fees, and Emoluments, at that Period.

Stating also the incidental Expences of the different Departments, as far as an Account of them can be obtained, at the Close of the last Year, 1796, and that of 1782, or some one of the subsequent Years, as they happen to be stated by the Commissioners of Enquiry.

The

The Office of Postmaster General has now a Net Salary annexed to it of £. 5,000 a Year; his Salary and Perquisites were £. 5,177. 19s. 7d. in 1782.

The Secretary has £. 1,000 Salary, and an Annuity of £. 400 per Annum; his Receipts, in 1782, were £. 2,824. 11s. 3d.

The Office of Clerk to the Postmaster General was abolished in 1793, the Duties being performed by the Secretary's Chief Clerk. The Salary and Emoluments, in 1782, were £. 562. 17s. 8d.

There are Five Clerks in the Secretary's Office at fixed Salaries, amounting together to £. 720 a Year.—In 1782, there were 7 Clerks, Two of whom are transferred to the Dead Letter Office. Their Salaries and Emoluments, in 1782, were £. 865. 8s. 3d.; but since 1784, Three Clerks of the Minutes have been created, whose fixed Salaries amount in the Total to £. 179. 4s. the Business, therefore, of the Secretary's Office is conducted at the Expence of £. 2,299. 4s. which, in 1782, was £. 4,252. 17s. 2d.

Out of the Secretary's Office has sprung the Dead Letter Office, established since 1784, which consists of an Inspector (appointed on that Occasion from the Clerks of the Secretary's Office) with a Salary of £. 300, and Annuity of £. 50 a Year. He has Six Clerks, One of whom was Inspector of Bye and Cross Road Letters, now consolidated with this Office, and another was Seventh Clerk in the Secretary's Office. The other Four are new Clerks. Their Six Salaries amount to £. 490 a Year, and the total Expence of the Office is £. 840. besides which, the late Inspector of Dead Letters has a Pension of £. 80 per Annum.

The

The Receiver General's Salary is made £. 800 Net *. In 1782, his Salary and Emoluments were rated at £. 459. 2s. 6d. independant of the occasional Advantages derived from the Use of the Public Money in his Hands, as he then only paid £. 700 Weekly into the Exchequer, with One additional Payment at the End of each Quarter; instead of which, it is stated by the Receiver General, that he now pays the Money into the Exchequer as it arises in each Quarter, receiving Balances for the Payment of the current Expences. It must, however, be observed, in comparing the Quarterly Balances (retained in the Hands of the Receiver General for the Purpose, as is stated, of paying the current Expences of the Office) that the Sums retained Quarterly in 1796 exceed those retained Quarterly in 1783, in a much greater Proportion than the Average Expences of the Office are stated to bear to each other at those Periods; and it does appear probable, that the Receiver General may still derive considerable Advantage from the Use of the Public Money resting in his Hands †, although his Salary is made £. 800 per Annum, instead of £. 600 per Annum, as recommended by the Commissioners of Enquiry. He has Three Clerks, one of whom has been appointed since 1784; their Salaries amount to £. 630; and the total Expence of the Office is £. 1430. In 1782 it is stated to have been £. 852. 4s. 4d.

The Accountant General has a Net Salary of £. 700. His Salary and Emoluments, in 1782, are rated at £. 444. 16s. 8d. He is allowed a Deputy, with a Net Salary of £. 400 a Year, which, in 1782, was rated at £. 171. 3s. 4d. also Five Clerks, One of whom has been appointed since 1784; their Salaries amount to £. 490; and the total Expence of the Office is £. 1590. In 1782 it is stated to have been £. 908. 9s. 6d.

* He is also a Commissioner of the Salt Office.

† Supplement (G.)

In the Bye Letter Office, the Comptroller and Resident Surveyorship is abolished, and a Pension of £. 600 a Year given to the Person who filled that Office. The Collectorship is also thrown into the Receiver General's, and a Pension of £. 200 given to the Person who filled it. The Inspectorship of Dead Letters has naturally fallen into the Office erected for the Care of that Branch of the Business, a Pension of £. 80 a Year being bestowed on the late Inspector.

The Office now consists of an Accountant with a Salary of £. 400 a Year; Five Clerks, one of whom has been appointed since 1784; and a Storekeeper and Messenger, with his Servant. The Amount of their Salaries is £. 566, making the total Expence of the Office to be £. 966 a Year. In 1782 it was rated at £. 1479. 1s. 4d.

The Solicitor of the Post Office has now a fixed Salary of £. 300, with Fees of 10s. on Bonds given by Persons appointed in the Office. Formerly there were Renewals of those Bonds every Three Years, and his Office is stated to have produced £. 394. 0s. 8d. in 1782.

An Architect, who is also Surveyor, and checks the Bills of the Office, has been appointed since 1784, with a Net Salary of £. 150 a Year.

In the Foreign Office, the Comptroller is now paid by the Profits on the Sale of News-papers, guaranteed to him at £. 700 a Year. His Salary and Emoluments, in 1782, were £. 1,048. 4s. 7d. He has a Deputy with a Net Salary of £. 200, whose Salary and Emoluments, in 1782, were rated at £. 180. 10s. 11d.

The Clerks, which were Six in Number, in 1782, are augmented since 1784 to Twelve, having Salaries graduated from

from £. 120 down to £. 60 a Year; and these, from the Deputy Comptroller down to the Junior Clerk, have also graduated Allowances for Sunday Duties—the Deputy, £. 54. 12s. the Clerks from £. 13. 13s. to £. 6. 10s. according to their Rank. There is also a Door Keeper with £. 50 a Year, and £. 5. 4s. for Sundays Duty: But the Secretaryship for this Office has been abolished since 1784, and a Pension of £. 200 a Year given to the Person who filled it. His Salary and Emoluments, in 1782, were £. 205. 12s. 8d. The Six First Clerks of this Office continue to have Profits on the Sale of News-papers, but the Salaries now paid amount to £. 1329. 8s. whilst, in 1782, the Salaries and Emoluments of this Office are stated at £. 2197. 7s. 8d.

The Letter Carriers of this Office are Nineteen in Number, at 14s. each per Week, and One at 20s. to take care of unknown Letters; a Supernumerary at 8s. per Week. The Amount of all their Salaries is £. 764. 8s. Their Number, in 1782, was only Ten, and Two as above described, the Total of whose Salaries was £. 406. 18s.

In the Inland Office Your Committee find both the Comptrollership and Deputy abolished, the Duties being performed by the presiding Clerks, and the Persons who held those Offices having retired on Pensions of £. 700 and £. 280 a Year. The Duties also of Clerk of the Bye Nights are performed by the presiding Clerks. There are Six Clerks of the Road, with each £. 300 a Year Net Salary, and the Profits on the Sale of News-papers. These have also Six Assistants, Two with each £. 300 a Year, and Four with £. 200 a Year each. There are besides Forty-six Clerks, with Salaries graduated from £. 200 to £. 50 a Year. The Two Junior Clerks have been created since 1784. Twelve Sub-forters, at 18s. each per Week, and Six Sub-forters, at

12s. have been added to this Office since 1784; and they have supplanted the Windowman, who appears to have had, in 1782, a Salary and Emoluments amounting to £. 134. 9s. 6d. and also his Deputy, and the Inspector of Blind Letters, who, having been created since 1784, had only existed for a few Years before the Sub-foiters are stated to have succeeded their Duties.

Other new Officers also have been created from among the Clerks in this Office since 1784, *viz.* Three presiding Clerks, with an extra Allowance of £. 80 a Year each; Four Clerks in the West India Office, at £. 30 a Year extra; Two Inspectors of Franks, at £. 40 a Year each extra; Two Deputies at £. 10; and Two Assistants at £. 5 a Year each extra. The Total of the Salaries of this Office is £. 8,938. 16s. In 1782 they amounted to £. 7032. 12s. 8d.

There belong to this Office Eight Messengers; Four Seniors at 21s. a Week, and Four Juniors at 15s. The Seniors have a Fee of 6d. on each Letter taken in after Seven o'Clock; and the Juniors have each 3s. per Week out of that Receipt. In 1782, the Messengers were paid 12s. each per Week, and the Seniors had some Emoluments, stated at £. 13. 18s. The Sub-foiters have been appointed since 1784, with Salaries of 21s. per Week each. So that the Expence of this Part of the Office is now £. 921 a Year; and in 1782 the Messengers received £. 264. 10s.

The Letter Carriers have an Inspector with a Salary of £. 100 a Year, besides the Profits of a Letter Carrier's Walk; also a Deputy Inspector with a Salary of £. 80. The Number of Letter Carriers is now One Hundred and Ten, paid each 14s. per Week, and Sixteen Supernumeraries, paid 8s. per Week. In 1782 their Number was Eighty-three, and their Pay 11s. per Week, with Sixteen Supernumeraries,

numeraries at 5s. per Week. This Branch of the Inland Office costs £.4,516. 16s. which in 1782 cost £.2,912. 6s.

The Letter Bringers are now Fifteen in Number; the Pay of Fourteen of them is 8s. a Week; but One from the Receiving Houses has a Net Salary of £.46. 16s. including Cart Hire when the Bags are heavy. This Man has also a Pension of £.10 a Year. In 1782, he, in conjunction with another Bringer from Pall-Mall, performed this Branch of the Business for Salaries and Emoluments amounting to £.52. 13s. 8d. it now costs £.338.

The Comptroller General's Office, instituted in 1784, for the Purpose of introducing this Branch of the Public Business, is abolished. Mr. Palmer has a Pension of £.3,000 a Year allotted to him, and Mr. Bonnor. late Surveyor and Comptroller of the Inland Office, has also a Pension of £.460 a Year, the Duties of this Office devolving upon the Resident Surveyor and presiding Clerks of the Inland Office. There still remains, however, in this Office, a Superintendant of Letter-Bill Clerks, with a Salary of £.200 a Year, having Three Letter Bill Clerks Inwards and Three Outwards under him, with Salaries graduated from £.80 to £.30. The total Expence of this Office is now £.740, the other Clerkships being either abolished or turned over to the Resident Surveyor's Office, or employed in the Inland Office.

The Principal and Resident Surveyor is paid by Profits of the Sale of News-papers guaranteed to him at £.700 a Year. His Salary and Emoluments, in 1782, were £.369. 16s. 8d. Four Clerks and a Messenger are placed in this Office since 1784, with Salaries graduated from £.105 to £.30 a Year, which amount in their Total to £.334. 4s.

There are now Eight Surveyors under this Office; Two from the old Establishment, at £.400 and £.350 a Year, with

with Chaise Hire allowed One; also, a Riding Surveyor from the old Establishment, who now has £.100 a Year, and £.1. 1s. a Day when travelling; and Five Surveyors established since 1784, Two with £.150 a Year each, Two with £.100, and One with £.80; they also have each £.1. 1s. a Day when travelling. Three out of the Eight Surveyors have Country Post Offices under their Management. The present Salaries of these Surveyors amount to £.1,430. In 1782, the Salaries of the Three Surveyors, with Emoluments, were £.1,094. 10s.

The Superintendant of Mail Coaches is a new Officer since 1784, with Two Assistants and Two Clerks under him, whose Salaries are progressive from £.50. to £.80 a Year. His Salary is £.700 a Year including travelling Expences, but his Assistants are allowed 8s. a Day when travelling. The total Expence of this Office is £.960.

Under the Head of Sundries we find considerable Alterations since 1784. There is a Watchman who receives £.31. 4s. a Year; a Chamber Keeper with a Salary of £.126. including Allowance for a Servant; Four Servants at £.26. each; and a Chairwoman at £.13 a Year; a Store keeper of Candles has £.50 a Year. Under this Head is classed an Agent at The Brille, whose Salary is £.110 a Year, making the whole Amount of Sundries £.434. 4s. In 1782, they are stated to have been £.1035. 15s. 8d. but the Stamper and Letter Bringer's Place is abolished, and a Pension of £.60 a Year given to the Person who held it. Four Inspectors of Higlens and Carriers are abolished, and Pensions given, during Life, of £.52 a Year, One of which has lapsed. The Mail-maker and Bag-makers Places are abolished; the Place also of Housekeeper has ceased to exist; and the Committee must remark, that the Person who held it is allowed an Annuity of £.100 a Year, and £.60 for Rent, in lieu of former Salary

Salary and Emoluments, amounting, according to the Return of the Establishment, only to £.78. 9s. 4d.

The total Aggregate Amount of the Salaries

of the General Post Office at this Time is £.33,282 0 0
 In 1782, the Pay and Emoluments were - 28,431 2 11

Making an increased Expenditure of - £. 4,850 17 1

Besides which it may be observed, that the whole Expences of the Establishment are now paid out of the Revenues of the Office, whereas, before the Regulations of 1793, the Fees and Gratuities paid by Individuals, amounting according to the Report of the Commissioners of Enquiry to £.8,010. 6s. 2d. Annually, and according to the present Abstract to £.8516. 13s. 8d. were included in the Pay and Emoluments of Office.

The Penny Post Office was new modelled in 1794, and Six regular Deliveries per Day established, instead of Three uncertain ones.

The Comptroller has Net £.400 a Year in lieu of a Salary and Emoluments, stated to have been £.262. 16s. in 1782. A Deputy has been created for him, with £.300 a Year Salary. The Accountant General and Collectorship are consolidated, with a Salary of £.300 a Year. The Salary and Emoluments of the Two Places were £.348. 8s. Three new Clerks are placed under him, Two with £.80, and One with £ 70 Salary: There are Four Window Men and Twelve Sorters, of which Three are created under the new Establishment; their Salaries are graduated from £.90 to £.60 a Year, whereas before, their Pay, with Coals and Candles, did not amount to more than Half as much. Three Office Men, of whom One is new under the present Plan, are paid each £.54. 12s.

£.54. 12s. a Year, nearly double the Pay of the former Office Men. But the greatest Increase of Establishment in this Office is in the inferior Department, *viz.* Two Runners at 16s. per Week on the new Plan; 130 Town Letter Carriers, paid £.5,085. 12s. instead of 44 on the old Plan, who were paid £.1,293. 5s. 6d. Ninety one Country Letter Carriers, paid £.3,712. 16s. instead of Thirteen on the old Plan, who were paid £.115. 7s. 4d. Thirty Supernumeraries, paid £.624. instead of Twelve on the old Plan, paid £.183. 12s. The Expences of the Establishment of the Penny Post Office have increased four-fold under the new Plan of 1794, being now £.12,569. 8s. whereas, in 1782, they were £.3,070. 15s. 6d.

But it appears that this Plan is still before the Lords of the Treasury for their Approbation; and that in the Year ending 5th April 1796, the Salaries were £.4,381. 4s. 8d. and the Weekly Wages £.9,634. 14s. 11d. so that some additional Officers or Servants must have been employed during that Year. This Detail being taken from the Table furnished by the General Post Office, Your Committee will consider the Excess as contingent, and state it when they come to Incidents, the rather because the Collector and Accountant in his Return conceives that the Whole of the Penny Post may be considered as contingent, it being impossible to distinguish clearly. The Advantage, however, to the Public, from the Frequency and Regularity of Communication throughout the Metropolis and its Environs, is evidently very great; and Your Committee find from the Accounts returned of the net Income of the Penny Post Office in the Years 1782 and 1796, and of the intermediate Year ending 5th April, 1794, which immediately preceded the new Establishment, that the progressive Improvement of the Revenue of this Office does not appear to be checked, but on the contrary considerably accelerated, the advance from 1782 to 1794 being from £.4,910. 7s. 2d. to £.6,086. 3s. 8d. or £.1,175. 16s. 6d. Increase
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in Twelve Years; whereas, in 1796, the estimated Net Income is £.7,658. 6s. 11d. of which £.6,500 has been actually paid to the Receiver General, making an estimated Increase of £.1,572. 3s. 3d. in two Years; and considering the Payments already made, this Estimate cannot be supposed to be very inaccurate.

The Office at Edinburgh has a Deputy Postmaster General, whose Salary in 1782 was £.400 a Year, with £.2 per Cent. on Monies remitted to the Receiver General; in 1793, when this Perquisite ceased, £.850 additional Salary was given as an Equivalent to the Person then holding the Place; and upon his Death, Two Years after, the Salary was made Net £.800 a Year. The Secretary, in 1782, had £.100, which in 1785, was augmented to £.200 a Year, there having been an almost general Advance of the Salaries of the Officers in the preceding Year; and in 1793, when the Emoluments of the Circulation of News-papers in Scotland was taken away (the Edinburgh Printers having refused to continue to pay it, not being allowed the same Discount as the London Printers at the Stamp Office) the Secretary's Salary was again augmented to £.400 a Year, which continues to be paid him, with a Salary of £.40 to his Clerk. A Surveyor and Assistant have now each £.150 a Year. In 1782, the Surveyor's Salary was the same, but the Assistant had only £.50 a Year. An Accountant has £.160 a Year, with a Clerk at £.40. In 1782, he had £.95 a Year, and no Clerk. A Solicitor receives now £.100 a Year, who, in 1782, was paid £.50. An Inspector of Dead Letters, created in 1784, with £.40 Salary, has now £.60 a Year. A Principal Clerk has £.150 a Year, and an Assistant at £.60. In 1782, he had £.75 a Year, and no Assistant. A Clerk of the North Road and Assistant, who, in 1782, had £.31. 10s. and £.27. 10s. a Year Salary, have now £.134 and £.60 a Year respectively. A similar Augmentation has taken Place with respect to the

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Clerk of the West Road and his Assistant. The Clerk of the English Road had £.37. 10s. and his Assistant £.60, in 1782; they have now £.120 and £.70 a Year respectively. A Letter Sorter, who had £.15 in 1782, has £.40. A Letter Stamper and Assistant have £. 30 and £. 20 a Year, who, in 1782, was paid £.20, and had no Assistant. The Letter Carriers, who, in 1782, had £.27. 6s. each, and were Six in Number, have now £.31. 4s. a Year, and are Ten in Number. A Messenger and Housekeeper, who had also £.27. 6s. receives an augmented Salary of £.63 a Year, the new Regulations of 1793 having deprived him of Incidents to the Amount of £.20 as Housekeeper, and some other Allowances

The Total Amount of the Expences of this Office in Salaries is now £.3,178, in which is included an Annuity of £.25 a Year to Peter Williamson for his Life, settled in 1793, in consequence of the Establishment of a Penny Post Office at Edinburgh, he having originally instituted a private Penny Post. In 1782, the total Amount of Salaries was £.1,406. 2s.

The incidental Expences of the General Post Office were, in 1784, including Stationary, £.12,684. 18s. 2d. The Bye and Cross Roads for the Year ending 5th April 1784, were £.877. 2s. 7d. making together £.13,562. 0s. 9d. In the Year ending 5th April 1796, the Incident Bills of the General Post Office amounted to £.36,310. 15s. 7d. and those of the Bye and Cross Roads to £.772. 12s. 5d. making together £.37,083. 8s. The incidental Expences of the Penny Post, in the Year ending the 5th April 1784, were £.1,435. 2s. 11d. at present, deducting the Amount of Salaries from the gross Expence, ending 5th April 1796, there will be left for Incidents £.8,611. 0s. 6d. The Amount of Incidents, including Stationary, at the Edinburgh Post Office, were, in 1786, £.2,110. 8s. 10d. and the Salaries of
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the Deputy Postmasters in North Britain were £.6,239. 4s. 11d.

At present, deducting the Amount of Salaries from the Money expended in the Year ending Christmas 1796, there will be left for the Incidents and the Salaries of the Deputy Postmasters of North Britain, £.11,168. 7s. 5d.

The Salaries and Allowances of the Deputy Postmasters in England, for a Year ending 5th April, 1796, amounted to	-	-	£.15,881	15	1
The Riding Work was	-	-	20,610	5	7
			<hr/>		
Making together the Sum of	-	-	£.36,492	0	8
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In 1784, the Sum paid to the Deputy Postmasters for Salaries and Riding Work, was £.41,896. 3s. 4d. but under the new Establishment Your Committee have to state the Expenditure of a further Sum for the Conveyance of Mails by Coaches, which, it is presumed, the Commissioners of Enquiry have comprehended in the general Account of Salaries and Riding Work. It amounted for One Year, to 5th April, 1796, to the Sum of

The Wages of Guards	-	-	£.18,078	17	7
			<hr/>		
The Total Amount of which is	-	-	£.22,521	17	1
			<hr/>		

Your Committee have had an Abstract of the Mileage Warrants laid before them for the Quarter ending the 5th of April 1797, containing 42 Contracts for the Carriage of the Mails by Coaches, the greater Part of which is performed at 1d. a Mile, and a Deduction of £. 1 per Cent. on the gross Amount; some few, however, are as high as 2d. and above.

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They also required the Mileage by Horses or Carts, hoping to be enabled to form some Judgment of the comparative Advantage of the Extension of the Mail Coach System. The Riding Work is stated to amount to 4833 Miles, and the general Price per Mile for the Conveyance of every Day's Mails by Horse or Cart, may be said to be £. 4. 13s. 4d. for a Year, or about 3d. per Mile per Day, which includes both going and returning. In some Instances the Rides are done for less; in many it requires a Price greatly beyond £. 4. 13s. 4d. per Mile. These Allowances are settled according to the Nature and Exigency of the Case, upon the Report of the District Surveyors to the Postmaster General.

The Agent's Salary and Allowance at Lisbon is £. 274. 6s. 8d. a Year, stated by the Commissioners to have been £. 60, and £. 2 per Cent. on his Remittances.

The Agent at Falmouth has £. 490 a Year. The Commissioners state his net Income, composed of various Emoluments, to have been, in 1787. £. 385. 7s. There is an Agent at Yarmouth instead of those which used to be at Harwich and Dover before the War. His Salary and Emoluments are stated at £. 1270 a Year. The Dover Agent is reported by the Commissioners to have received, in 1787, a Net Income of £. 1270. 10s. 4d. a Year, and the Agent at Harwich a Net Income of £. 191 a Year. There is also now an Agent at Weymouth, whose Salary is not settled according to the Statement, but is said to be £. 80. Your Committee have stated the Salaries and Emoluments of these Agents cursorily, as the War has varied the Place of their Establishment, which will probably undergo Alteration when Peace returns. The Deputy Postmaster at Halifax, in Nova Scotia, has £. 150 a Year Salary, and £. 100 for a Clerk, and House Rent, &c. The Deputy Postmaster General at Quebec has £. 450 a Year. In the Commissioners Report they

they are stated to have had £. 20 per Cent. on the Net Revenue. In Jamaica, the Salary and Allowance out of the Revenue is £. 598, the Rest paid by Individuals. The Deputy Postmasters of the West Indies have also Salaries amounting to £. 855. 5s. 8d. The Commissioners state the Jamaica Deputy Postmaster General to have received for himself and Clerks £. 264. 6s. and the Deputies of the other Islands £. 50 each, if the internal Postage amounted to so much. For the Conveyance of the Mails to Ireland the General Post Office pays Annually £. 4000 to the Irish Post Office. At the Time of the Commissioners Report, the Irish Packet Boats made a Part of the Establishment, and were included in the Account of the Annual Expence.

The Expences of Packets for the Year ending 5th April 1796, amount to £. 78,439. 18s. 8d. in which Your Committee find £. 10,803. 9s. 9d. for Capture by the Enemy; they find also £. 2,003. 18s. 7d. for arming Packets, which shews that Defence in a small Degree is contemplated. The Commissioners state the Annual Expences of the Packets, at the Time they reported, to have been £. 45,927. 6s. 4d. but your Committee find the Expences of this Branch of the Establishment to have fluctuated most from 1771 to 1787 inclusive, by the Table annexed to the Commissioners Report. In Time of War it was very high, as was naturally to be expected, amounting, in the Year 1782, to £. 122,292. 17s. of which £. 15,801 11s. is for Capture; and upon the Whole it appears to Your Committee, that considerable Attention has been paid to diminish the Expences of the Packets; for notwithstanding the great Increase in the Price of every naval Store, the Advance of Wages, Provisions, &c. the present Establishment of a Falmouth Packet (the Expences of which were, in the Opinion of the Commissioners, most to be attended to, as they amounted to above Three Quarters of the Whole) is very materially less than

than it is stated to have been by the Account in the Appendix to the Commissioners Report. There the Establishment of a Packet on the Falmouth Station, about 200 Tons and 30 Men, Value £. 4000 was, in 1788, a Time of Peace, £. 2129. 8s. 6d. It now stands thus: The Three first Packets on the new Plan cost £. 3400 each; Burthen 179 Tons and 28 Men; of each of these the War Establishment is £. 2112. 6s. 8d. the Peace Establishment is £. 1681. 11s. 9d.

The Packets since built in the Thames cost £. 3200 (which the Postmaster General have directed "to be abided by in future.") Their Establishment is in War £. 2058. 6d. 8d. in Peace, £. 1631. 11s. 9d. There remain, however, Four on the old Establishment, Two of which were reduced, as to the per Centage, from £. 4000 Value to £. 3600, by the Postmaster General's Order: One of these will be out of the Service in 1798. The Captain of the old one is engaged in building another in her Room. The other Three are intended to be put out of the Service the First Opportunity. The Establishment of an Harwich Packet, in 1788, Burthen 70 Tons and 11 Men was £. 469. 15s. 4d. it is now, in War, with 17 Men and 70 Tons Burthen, £. 862. 1s. 4d. and in Peace, £. 536. 19s. 9d. An Agency of £. 2½ per Cent. on the Hire, Wear, and Tear of these Packets was paid by the Captain, which they will now neither pay nor receive. All the present Contracts for Packets are stated to be determinable at the Expiration of Seven, Fourteen, or Twenty one Years, as the Parties may agree, by giving Six Months Notice. In a Contract for a Packet of 179 Tons Burthen, of which a Copy is laid before Your Committee, the whole Term is Seven Years, determinable at the End of the Third or any subsequent Year of the Term, on Six Months Notice. The Estimate made, under the Direction of the Commissioners of Enquiry, of the Establishment of a Packet of 150 Tons Burthen and 18 Men, valued at £. 2500, in

in Peace, was £.1,215. 11s. 6d. in War, unarmed, and valued at £. 3000, was £. 1835. 10s.

Your Committee have thought it their Duty to state briefly the Expence of this Plan, proposed by the Commissioners of Enquiry, that the Difference may be seen between it and that which has been since adopted. They have stated the Reasons upon which the Postmaster General have preferred the more expensive Plan.

The whole Check, therefore, that Prudence can venture to apply to this important and necessary Branch of the Public Expenditure, seems to be, to prevent rigorously all its Officers and Agents from having any pecuniary Connection with it, and to endeavour in some Degree to render it less fluctuating, not by attempting to throw the Risk of Capture upon individual Owners (who might not be induced to undertake it without an extravagant Compensation, and who might easily injure this important Service by their Endeavours to avoid individual Risk) but by constantly insuring the Packets with the Underwriters, unless, indeed, (which were much to be desired) it were found practicable to contract publicly, and under Conditions similar to those recommended by the Commissioners of Enquiry, for the Conveyance of Mails by Packets, with such Individuals or Companies as would undertake it at the lowest Prices, for a Term of Years, upon the different Stations, so as to open this lucrative Department to public Competition*.

One Branch more of the Expenditure of the Post Office remains to be stated, arising from the Practice of allowing certain Pensions and Compensations to Officers on their Superannuation, or upon any Change of Establishment, by

* On this Subject the Inspector of Packets, Mr. Bennett, gives strong Reasons against letting by public Contract, the Experiment having failed, according to him, in Two Instances. See his Examination, Supplement (F.)

which

which they may have been deprived of any Perquisites of Office. Previous to the New Establishment of 1793, these amounted to £.1,500; on that Establishment taking Place, there were further Grants to the Extent of £.6,101; and since that Time others have taken Place, amounting to £.1,475. The total of these, £.9,076, will be saved to the Public as the Parties to whom they have been granted die, or are promoted; and Your Committee find accordingly, that £.648 10s. has fallen in since 1793 on four Promotions, and £.368. 10s. on five Deaths. It were to be wished that the Number and Amount of such future Saving were increased, by its being made an established Practice to promote to efficient Situations those Officers, who, at the Time of their retiring, are yet capable of performing active Duties, instead of giving them Pensions, which, as Your Committee have had Occasion to notice in this Report, appear to be almost equal, in some Instances, to their Salaries and Emoluments during their actual Attendance upon their Official Duties. Your Committee, however, learn with Satisfaction, that there is no Office or Situation whatever under the Postmaster General granted in Reversion.

In their Endeavours to exhibit a just Comparison of the present Increase and Expenditure of the Post Office, as opposed to those of a former Period, Your Committee must observe, that the Commissioners of Enquiry, as this Object was not particularly in their View, have not stated in their Report the Expences of the Post Office in any one Year, throughout its different Departments. Their Account of the Salaries, Allowances, Fees, &c. of both the London and Edinburgh Post Office (including those of the Deputy Postmasters of Great Britain, with their Riding Work, for the Year 1784) amounts to £.85,994. 18s. 2d. The Expences of the Packets for the Year 1787 is stated at £.45,927. 6s. 4d. The Amount of incidental Expences for the General Post Offices,

Offices, including Stationary, is for 1784; for the Bye and Cross Roads and Penny Post, it is for a Year ending 5th April 1784; and for the Edinburgh Office, it is for the Year 1786; the Three together making £.17,107. 12s. 6d. The Commissioners therefore, from these several Documents so collected, state the Annual Expenditure of the Post Office to be at that Period, £.149,029. 17s. of which it appears that £.141,019. 10s. 10d. was paid by the Public, and that £.8,010. 6s. 2d. was paid by Individuals. This Expenditure, however, when applied to the Table (which was returned them of the Gross and Net Produce of the Post Office from the 5th April 1757, to 5th April 1787) so far from adapting itself to any one Year throughout the whole Series, will hardly amount in many Instances, to more than half the real Expenditure. Thus, if the Year 1784 be taken, and the Net Produce, £.196,513. 16s. 7d. be deducted from the Gross Produce, £.452,404. 6s. 10d.; the Expences of Management and Packets will be found to have been £.255,890. 10s. 3d. This Year is taken, because the Commissioners have reported the incidental Charges of the General Post Office, and also the Riding Work of this Year, in their Estimate. If the Year 1787 be taken, in which the Packet Expences are stated by the Commissioners, the Gross Produce appears to have been estimated at £,510,241, and the Net at £.275,868, which leaves £.234,373 for Expences of Management and Packets; a Sum very discordant with that stated by the Commissioners of Enquiry.

Your Committee having before them the Table of Gross and Net Produce of the Post Office for Thirty Years, from 5th April, 1757, to 5th April, 1787, beg Leave to remark, though it is beyond the strict Limits of their Instructions, that whilst the gross Produce appears to have been uniformly progressive both in War and in Peace, the Net Produce has been stationary, and even retrograde, for several Years pre-

vious to 1783, which, probably, was in a great Degree occasioned by the Effects of the American War. In the subsequent Year, 1784, an Act was passed for granting additional Rates of Postage. &c. in which the Liberty of franking Letters was restrained, by requiring the whole Supercription of the Letter to be written by the Member, or other authorized Person franking the same. The Conveyance of the Mails by Coaches was also adopted in the same Year. From that Period to 1787, the Increase of the Net Produce appears to have been uniform and progressive,

Your Committee have selected Three Years from the said Table (*viz.* 1783, 1784, 1785) with a View to compare the Average of those Three Years with that of the last Three Years of which the Accounts have been stated to Parliament*.

By which it appears that the Increase of the Average Expenditure in 1793, 1794, 1795, being Years of War, is only £.8,964. 15s. 9d. in so large a Sum as £.264,170. 18s. 7d. whilst the Net Produce has been doubled. The Alteration of the Establishments of the London General and Penny Post Offices, and of the Edinburgh Office, took Place in 1793 and 1794, and has been detailed by Your Committee. In 1795, an Act passed for further regulating Letters free from Postage, by which Members of Parliament, &c. are restricted as to the Number and Weight of Franks; and in the present Sessions an Act passed for increasing the Postage of Letters, &c. so that the Revenue of this Office must be in a very improved Situation since the Years on which the latter Average is taken.

§ 3. The last Part of the Instructions of Your Committee being to report whether any, and what further Mea-

* See Report VII. Folio Edit.

tures can be adopted for reducing any Part of the Expenditure of the Public Revenue, or for diminishing the total Amount of the Salaries and Emoluments, without Detriment to the Public Service; they think it their Duty to premise, that in an executive Office of the Nature of the General Post Office, where Success depends upon a constant and unwearied Attention to every Department, it is not enough to introduce Regulations of Dispatch, Security, and Economy; in order to maintain them, their Execution must be frequently examined and revised, and every Part of the complicated Movement must be regulated by Superintendants well informed in the Mechanism of the Whole, and regularly attentive to all the Parts.

All Measures for conducting the Business of this Department with Safety and Dispatch acquire an Importance proportionate to the increasing Commerce of the Country; and the ready Means of augmenting the Revenue, which the Post Office affords to the Public, without operating as any very considerable Burthen upon Individuals, make every Suggestion useful which may produce additional Regularity and Economy.

It may be worthy of Consideration, whether a Board of Commissioners, upon the Plan on which other Revenue Departments are conducted, would not secure the most effectual Attention to the rapid and complicated Business of this Office, being a Revenue Department of extensive Transactions, and much depending for its Success upon the Skill exercised in making its various and numerous Contracts.

The Patronage of the Post Office is of a most extensive Nature, obviously requiring great Discretion in its Exercise, much Knowledge of the Duties to be performed, and considerable Attention to the Characters of the Individuals who are to be promoted.

This Patronage, as to the Individuals to be appointed, is exercised solely by the Postmaster General, under the Control, however, of the Lords of the Treasury, as to the Increase or Diminution of Salaries, &c. to whom are referred, also, any Alterations which may be proposed in the various Departments of the Office. There appear to be in the different Offices in London and at Edinburgh, of principal Officers and their Deputies, under the Postmaster General, about Fifty, whose Salaries are some of them £.700, and even £.1,000 per Annum, and none are less than £.100 a Year. The Clerks, Window Men, and Officers of a Description to be paid from £.300 a Year down to £.60, are One Hundred and Thirty-seven in Number; and the Letter Carriers, Sorters, &c. who receive from £.50 to about £.30 a Year, are not fewer than Four Hundred and Seventy, besides the Agents for Packets, and the different Deputy Postmasters throughout the Kingdom and in the Plantations. It is highly desirable that the Officers of so important a Branch of the Public Service should be liberally rewarded, and in every Instance where they have performed their Duty with Fidelity for a Series of Years, and have been rendered, by Age or Infirmary, unable to continue their Services, that they should be allowed to retire upon Pensions provided out of the Revenue of the Office. It is also just, where the fair Emoluments of a meritorious Officer are materially curtailed by the Regulation of his Department, that some Compensation should be made, either by Promotion, or Addition to his Salary; but Your Committee see Reason, in the Amount and Magnitude of the Pension List of this Office, to apprehend that this Principle has been carried too far. It appears to have been applied, where Example ought not to be held out to the Imitation of Successors in Office, and has exceeded the Recommendations contained in the Report of the Commissioners of Enquiry, of which your Committee have noticed some Instances in a former Part of their Report. This may arise in
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some Degree from the System of allowing Deputies in the different Departments, which is apt to Increase unnecessarily the Number of Officers, from the very Nature of a Deputy. As some Security against any Abuse of this Nature, it may become the more necessary that each Principal should discharge the Duties of his own Office personally. The Appointment of Deputies has generally grown out of the Circumstance of too much Salary having been paid to their Principals; and where they have become the real Conductors of the Business they should be made Principals, and the higher Offices, with their Salaries should be abolished. Your Committee think, that they cannot too strongly represent the Propriety of apportioning the Salaries of all the Officers, so as to give proper Encouragement to Address and Vigilance, without inducing them to relax from their Exertions. Your Committee, in the earlier Parts of their Report, have noticed the large Balances remaining in the Receiver General's Hands at the Termination of each Quarter*; and they coincide in Opinion with the Commissioners of Enquiry, "that the Public Money should be lodged in the Bank of England, in the Name of the Receiver General, who should specify in his Drafts the Service for which it is drawn, in like Manner as the Paymaster General of the Forces, and Treasurer of the Navy now do." The Reasons urged by Mr. Mortlock, in his Letter † to the Postmaster General on this Subject, appear to Your Committee to be inconclusive, as the Bills to which Acceptances are to be procured (and which he states it to be contrary to the Usage of the Bank to send out for Acceptance) may be retained in the Receiver General's Office, and sent out from thence for Acceptance, without involving the Account at the Bank in any Difficulty.

* The Commissioners of Accounts, in their Second Report, Page 7, notice a similar Excess of Balance in the Receiver General's Hands in 1780, and state as their Opinion, that he ought to pay every Week the Net Balance of his Receipt into the Exchequer, reserving in his Hands no more than is necessary to pay the current Expences of the Office.

† Supplement (I.)

On

On the Subject of the Balances which remain in the Deputy Postmaster's Hands in Edinburgh, Your Committee have already observed, when they stated their Amount in a former Part of their Report. They have also adverted to the Check upon the Receiver General's Accounts, proposed by the Commissioners to be placed in the Hands of the Accountant General.

The Labours of the Commissioners of Enquiry were great, and their Investigations were not unattended with salutary Consequences. From the tardy Manner, however, in which their useful Suggestions were entertained, from the Obstacles which were thrown in the Way of several Improvements in this Department, previous to the Time of their Enquiry, by those who were interested in the Continuance of the Abuses attendant upon the Management of the Packet Boats, &c. and from the partial Adoption of the Measures advised by them, their Recommendations having been frequently exceeded in the Amount of Salaries and Establishment, Your Committee has Reason to think that some Parts of the Establishment have still need of Revision and Improvement. The Extension of the Mode of Conveyance by Mail Coaches is desirable on the Principle of producing Safety, even where Dispatch and Economy cannot be materially improved; but Your Committee have found it impossible to form a Judgment upon that Subject from any Documents they could obtain, as so much must depend upon the Nature of the Roads in the different Parts of the Island, and the Degree of Inter-course they afford, to encourage Persons to undertake the Conveyance of the Mails by Coaches.

On the Subject of the Parliamentary Pensions*, which your Committee only adverted to by a Note in the former Part of

* These Pensions amount to £.13,700, and are paid by the Receiver General out of the Net Revenue of the Post Office, consequently do not appear in the Accounts of this Office. See Page 16 of this Report.

this

this Report, they being paid at the Treasury out of the Net Revenues of the Post Office, Your Committee beg Leave to suggest, that it would be desirable to rid the Revenue of all such Grants, by purchasing them from the Individuals who possess them, as often as the Measure can be made convenient to the Parties.

On the Subject of the Packets, which is a most important one, on the Pensions to Officers of the Establishment, and upon some other Matters of less Moment, Your Committee have been induced to offer several Observations as they occurred at the Time of detailing the present State of the Office. They have rather thought it their Duty to observe upon the general State and Management of the Post Office, than to enter into those *Minutiae* of the interior Regulations of the various Departments, to which their Opportunity of enquiring, and their Power of proposing suitable Regulations, appear to them to be less adapted. Among other Things it has been suggested, that all Letters to Individuals from India should pass through the Post Office, which would give Security and Celerity to the Communication, and improve the Revenue considerably. It has also been suggested, that if the proportionate Charge on Letters by Weight was more gradual, many Things, which now pass as Parcels by the Mails, and augment the Profit of the Proprietors, would be sent by the Post on Account of the superior Safety, in the Shape of Letters. With Regard to the first Suggestion, a* Correspondence had taken Place between the Secretary of the Post Office, by Command of the Post Master General, the Solicitor of the Post Office, and the East India Company's Secretary, from which it appears, that the Letters from India do not come within the Provisions of the 5th Geo. III. respecting Ship Letters; but that the Directors are disposed to comply with the Proposition of the Post Office, and after selecting

* Supplement (H.)

their own Letters, to send the others to the Post Office. On the second Suggestion, Your Committee have no Means of pronouncing an Opinion. It is certain that great Numbers of small Parcels, weighing Two Ounces and upwards, are sent by the Mail Coaches at an inferior Rate of Carriage, which, considering this Establishment as a Species of exclusive Carrying Trade, must subtract considerably from its Revenue. If Your Committee are justified by their Documents in the Observations they have already submitted to Your Consideration, an active and vigilant Superintendance would produce Retrenchment, and preserve the salutary Regulations already adopted; without it, the Business of this important and extensive Branch of the Public Revenue and Expenditure will always have a Tendency to Profusion; with it, Regularity and Economy will spread their Influence through the different Departments, and will justify Your Committee, even at this Period, in repeating what is stated by the Commissioners of Enquiry in their Report, "that though much has been done, much remains still to be effected."

July 19th, 1797.

SUPPLEMENT

Supplement (A) Report VII.

An ACCOUNT of the present Pay of the Officers, &c. in the
GENERAL POST OFFICE, including their Fees and Allowances
from the Office, March 30, 1797.

		£.	s.
His MAJESTY'S POST MASTER GENERAL	- -	5000	0
Secretary	- - - Anthony Todd, Esq.	1400	0
	First Clerk - - -	300	0
Dead Letter Inspector	- R. P. Barlow, Esq.	300	0
Receiver General	- John Mortlock, Esq.	800	0
	First Clerk - - -	400	0
Accountant General	- Wm. Fauquier, Esq.	700	0
Deputy	- Thomas Church	400	0
	First Clerk - - -	150	0

BYE LETTER OFFICE.

Accountant	- John Weaver	400	0
	First Clerk - - -	150	0
Solicitor	- Anthony Parkin	300	0
Architect	- J. T. Groves	150	0

FOREIGN OFFICE.

Comptroller	- Arthur Stanhope, Esq.	700	0
Deputy	- John Starr	254	0
	First Clerk - - -	133	0

I N L A N D O F F I C E.

Clerks of the Roads (6)	- - - each	300	0
Letter Carrier Inspector	- Hugh Ferguson	100	0
Deputy	- John Sparke	80	0
Principal and Resident Surveyor	} Francis Freeling, Esq.	700	0
	First Clerk - - -	105	0
Surveyor & Superintend- ant of Mail Coaches	} Thomas Hasker, Esq.	700	0

P E N N Y P O S T O F F I C E.

Comptroller	- Charles Walcot, Esq.	400	0
Deputy	- Edward Johnson, Esq.	300	0
Accountant & Collector	- Charles Freeman, Esq.	300	0

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EXAMINATION

EXAMINATION of FRANCIS FREELING, Esq. Joint Secretary of the Post Office; taken the 16th Day of June 1797.

I WAS appointed to that Office in the Month of March last. I was promoted to this Office from that of Principal and Resident Surveyor.

Q. Has any Alteration taken place with respect to the Salary paid Mr. Todd, who was sole Secretary before your Appointment, and who is now Joint Secretary with you?—*A.* Not the smallest. I derive no pecuniary Advantage whatever from this Promotion. My former Office was abolished upon my present Appointment; and I retain the Emoluments of that Office as a Compensation for discharging the Duties of my present Situation. It is settled, in case of Mr. Todd's Demise, that I shall become sole Secretary, with a Salary of £. 500 per Annum, in Addition to the Guarantee of £. 700 a Year; which I now receive. It is meant that these Two Sums in future shall become the Total Amount of the Annual Payment of the Secretary of the Post Office.

Q. What is Mr. Stanton's Age?—*A.* I suppose about Forty.

Q. Do you know what Mr. Pott's Age is?—*A.* About Sixty.

Q. Is the Receiver General an Officer responsible to the Postmaster General, or an Officer appointed by the Treasury?—*A.* By the Treasury.

Supplement (C.)

EXAMINATION of FRANCIS FREELING, Esq. Joint Secretary of the Post Office; taken the 26th Day of June 1797.

Q. IN what Manner do the Agents of the Packets account to the Post Office for that Proportion of the Freight of Bullion and Head Money, which is received on Account of the Post Office?—*A.* The Agent satisfies himself as to the Number of Passengers, and the Amount of Bullion, and transmits an Account immediately after the Arrival of each Packet. The Agent, at the Expiration of every Quarter, transmits an Account, accompanied by Vouchers, which are compared with the Returns before mentioned; and it is from these Documents examined by the Inspector of Packets, and the Accountant General, that the Monies arising from these Freights are carried to the Account of the Public. The Agent's Accounts are verified upon Oath before a Magistrate.

Q. Are

Q. Are any other Articles than Bullion and Passengers allowed to be carried in the Post Office Packets?—*A.* It is contrary to the Act of Parliament of the 13th and 14th of Charles II. Chap. 11 and 22.

Q. Has the Architect any Commission on Account of Buildings at the Post Office under his Direction?—*A.* Not the least, that I know of.

I beg Leave to state, that in Addition to the Account of the Pay and Emoluments of the Comptroller and Resident Surveyor of the Bye Letter Office, which in the General Account is rated at £. 570. 1s. 8d. a further Sum of £. 100 is to be added, received by him in lieu of House Rent.

Supplement (D.)

LETTER from Anthony Todd, Esq. to Robert Oliphant, Esq.
dated 26th March, 1792.

SIR,

General Post Office, March 26, 1792.

AS it appears by your Account for the Quarter ended the 10th October last, that your real Balance due to this Office amounted to £8,647. 16s. 4d. and as the Postmaster General conceive from the Correspondence which has already passed with you upon the Subject, that the Sum of £ 650 has been, and will still be sufficient, including the current Receipts, to enable you to carry on the Business of your Office, you must remit to me the Sum of £ 8000, in a good Bill or Bills due on or before the 4th of April next, unless the present Balance which is in your Hands, is so much reduced as you cannot pay in that Sum, without stopping or retarding your current and ordinary Disbursements; it is also material that all Arrears should be paid up as far as possible without Delay, as our Annual Account is made up at the Exchequer on the 5th of April every Year.

Supplement (E.)

EXAMINATION of the Right Hon. the Earl of Chesterfield,
Joint Postmaster General; taken 16th Day of June 1797.

Q. WHAT constitutes a Board?—*A.* The Postmasters General, and the Secretary. If the Subject to be considered of at the Board is of legal Nature, the Solicitor is required to attend; and it is un-

derstood at the General Post Office, that whenever a Board is to be held all Officers at the Head of Departments are to remain at the Post Office, in order to be ready should they be wanted by the Postmasters General.

Q. What is the Nature of the Business which requires the Postmasters General to the Board?—*A.* As the usual Daily Business of the Office is communicated by the proper Officers to the Postmasters General by Minutes and Letters, on the Back of which the Postmasters General give Directions of what is to be done, in consequence of those Minutes Boards are much less frequently held than formerly. Boards now are held for the Purpose of investigating Complaints, either against the Officers residing in London, or against Country Postmasters, who are often summoned to London for that Purpose; the Periods of holding a Board are uncertain, and depend upon the Nature of the Business already described.

Q. What is the Nature of the official Paper Daily laid before the Postmasters General, the Superintendance of which require immediate Attention?—*A.* The first Paper sent to the Postmasters General is the Daily Return of the Number of Letters sent out on the preceding Evening, and received that Morning. This Paper states the Arrival and Departure of the Mails—the Number of Letters Inwards and Outwards—the Amount of paid and unpaid Letters—the Number of Officers on Duty—the extraordinary Arrivals of Foreign Mails, and such Remarks as the President on Duty has to make on the Conduct of any of the Officers—The Rest of the official Papers consist of Letters from Country Postmasters—Reports of Surveyors—Letters from Agents to the Packets, and all Occurrences of such a Nature as may arise in the Course of the Day. To which List is to be added all Warrants for the Payment of Money, for the Signature of the Postmasters General. The Daily Report is always sent by the Letter Carrier to the District in which the Postmasters General reside, and he receives it with his Letters by the Post. The Remainder of the Papers, which are always sent by Mr. Freeling, or the Secretaries Office, I receive as Postmaster General every Evening. They are either sent in Circulation to the other Postmaster General, if he is in Town, or returned to the Office early next Morning, from whence they are forwarded to him. The Observations which the Postmasters General may have Occasion to make on the Back of any Letter or Paper, are copied in a Book kept for that Purpose, and made a Record of the Office.

Q. If any of the Remarks made on the Back of these Papers are of a Directory Nature, is the Signature of either of the Postmasters General, singly, sufficient to authorize its being carried into Execution?—*A.* Certainly not; although in Cases of particular

lar Exigency, requiring particular Accommodation for Public Service, either of the Postmasters General have taken it upon themselves to give an Order to that Effect; but which is subsequently signed by the other Postmaster General.

Q. If any Difference of Opinion arises between the Postmasters General, how is that Difference decided?—Such Cases, I believe, very seldom occur; did they, I suppose, the Junior Postmaster General might be inclined to give way to the Senior.

Q. Are the Officers and Clerks advanced in Rotation, and how long has that Regulation been obtained?—*A.* They are, with very few Exceptions; such as the Secretary—the Comptroller of the Foreign Office, and the Accountant General; the Rest succeed by Seniority, unless their Conduct be such as to justify a Deviation. I found this Regulation established when I came into Office.

Q. Are the Persons, employed by the Post Office, allowed to have any Shares in Contracts for conveying the Mails by Coaches, or otherwise?—*A.* Not to my Knowledge; it would be against a standing positive Order of the Office—I should think it my Duty to disqualify, immediately, any Person who had the least Concern with any of the Contracts made by the Office.

Supplement (F.)

EXAMINATION of Mr. John B. Bennett, Inspector of Packets, taken the 26th Day of June, 1797.

Q. ARE the Packets hired by Private Contract in all Instances?—*Yes*; except in One Instance of a Packet which belongs to Government, and that quits the Service in 1798. The Captain of that Packet is building one upon the improved Plan at Plymouth, by Private Contract.

Q. Can you state any Reason why the Packets should not be hired by Public Contract?—*A.* If they were hired by Public Contract, the Consequence would be, that whoever took them would avail themselves, at the Expiration of their Term, of the Necessity of the Service, and would be able to compel the Post Office to submit to their own Terms; it has been tried to let the Packets on the Milford and Waterford Stations publicly, and no Person but the original Contractor offered, and he had, of course, his own Terms; though it was held open for Six Months. It has also been tried on the Corunna Station. Two were hired from Individuals; after which the Post Office purchased two Vessels, and put in their own Captains, and saved £.600 per Annum to the Revenue by it.

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An ACCOUNT of the Quarterly Balances arising from the Revenues of the Post Office, and Money paid by the Receiver General of the Post Office into the Exchequer, in the Four Quarters, ending the 10th of October 1796; and of the Balance remaining in his Hands on the 26th of April 1797.

QUARTERS ending	PAYMENTS into the EXCHEQUER.	BALANCE.	
	£. s. d.	£.	s. d.
January 5th, 1796 - - -	96,000 0 0	31,139	6 0
April 5th, 1796 - - -	116,000 0 0	25,202	14 7
July 5th, 1796 - - -	125,000 0 0	28,875	12 10
October 10th, 1796 - - -	137,000 0 0	28,754	8 11
	<u>474,000 0 0</u>	<u>113,972</u>	<u>2 4</u>

These Balances are retained in the Hands of the Receiver General of the Post Office, for the Purpose of paying the Current Expences of the Office, which amount upon an Average to about £. 25,000 per Quarter.

B A L A N C E.

April 25th, 1797. - - - - -	£. s. d.
Bills received from sundry Postmasters, be- } tween the 5th and 26th of April 1797. - - }	10,336 19 6 12,060 2 7
	<u>22,397 2 1</u>
Of which was paid in due Course to the Ex- } chequer on the 2d and 4th of May 1797 - }	18,000 0 0
	<u>4,397 2 1</u>
General Post Office, May 9, 1797.	

CORRESPONDENCE

SUPPLEMENT (H.) Report VII.

CORRESPONDENCE relative to LETTERS to and from INDIA.

No. 1.—Mr. FREELING to the Postmaster General.

MY LORDS,

General Post Office, May 25, 1796.

I HAVE the Honour to state, that when Letters are brought by the Company's Ships from the East Indies, it is the Practice for the Porters and Servants of the India House, to deliver such as are addressed to Persons residing in Town, instead of their being brought to the Post Office, as all other Ship Letters are or ought to be; and that this Delivery is not only very irregular, but attended with considerable Expence to the Parties, for it sometimes happens, that the Letters are detained Ten Days, a Fortnight, or a Month, and even then Half-a-Crown, Five Shillings, or Ten Shillings and Six Pence, is demanded for that Service

It has some Time since occurred to me, that if Your Lordships could effectually interfere, so as to regulate the Delivery of those Letters, a most material Service might be rendered to a Part of the Community, and some Advantage be derived from it by this Revenue.

The chief Obstacles which appeared to me to stand in the Way of accomplishing so desirable an Object, were, First, a Doubt whether the Acts of the 9 Queen Anne, and 5 George III. did or did not apply to the Letters brought by the Company's Ships: And, Secondly, if these Acts did not apply, whether by an Attempt to bring the Letters to the Post Office, a material Injury might not be done to some of the Servants of the East India House, who from the very great Fees received on the Delivery of the Letters, I conjectured might make up the greatest Part of their Incomes from that Practice.

With these Doubts, I addressed a Letter (Copy of which I inclose) to the Solicitor; and I also applied to a Gentleman in the East India House, very capable of giving me much of the Information I required.

By the Solicitor's Letter, which I inclose, it appears, the Penalties of the Acts of Parliament do not attach to the Practice, as it obtains at the East India House; for it seems, that the Letters come over in Boxes, addressed to the Directors, who in such Cases have an undoubted Right to dispose of the Contents in the Way they best like. Of course nothing can be done, but by a Request to the Court of Directors, that as soon as the Letters are taken out for themselves, and such of their Connexions as they chuse to accommodate, the Remainder may be sent to this Office for Delivery.

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The Gentleman to whom I have before alluded, acquainted me, he had all Reason to believe the Court of Directors would most readily consent to such a Proposition from Your Lordships; and that the Servants of the East India House, being already sufficiently paid, could not be said to be injured by the Loss of a Perquisite, which might justly be called a grievous Imposition, and that Your Lordships would be doing a kind Act to Numbers, who now are not only subject to the Injury of Delay, but also to exorbitant Demands on the Delivery of their Letters, when such Delivery may suit the Convenience of the Servants of the East India House.

Under these Circumstances, I submit to Your Lordships the Propriety of my addressing a Letter to the Chairman of the Court of Directors, for the Purposes mentioned in this Report.

All which is humbly submitted, by

Francis Freeling.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S MINUTE.

May 27th.

THIS is a Business requires some Consideration; but yet I see no Objection to Mr. Freeling either writing to or talking the Matter over with the Chairman of the East India Company privately. From such Communication, something may arise, so as to enable the Postmaster General to make such Arrangements as may then be found expedient.

Ch.

June 4.

I perfectly agree with Lord Chesterfield in this Matter.

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(No. 2.) MR. FREELING TO MR. PARKIN.

S I R,

General Post Office, March 15, 1796.

I BEG to have your Opinion, whether the Acts of the 9th of Queen Anne and 5 Geo. III. respecting Ship Letters, do or do not apply to Letters brought over in Boxes, or otherwise, in the Company's Ships from India; some of which Boxes are addressed to the Directors? And if there be a Doubt about the Application of those Acts in the Way I have mentioned, whether it would not be right for the Office to avail itself of the Probability of getting from the Court all such Letters, as, upon Examination, the Directors shall chuse to deliver to us, the Directors taking out, as they would naturally do, all Letters addressed to themselves, and to some of their Connexions.

I am, Sir, &c.

F. Freeling.

(No. 3.) Mr. PARKIN to Mr. FREELING.

SIR,

General Post Office, March 23, 1796.

THE Act of 5 Geo. III. requires, that no Vessel shall be permitted to break Bulk, or make any Entry into Port, until all Letters brought by any Master, or his Company, or any Passenger, shall be delivered to the Agents of the Postmaster General, to be dispatched Post, on Pain of Forfeiture of £. 20, by the Person bringing such Letters, and neglecting to deliver them.

Now, in the Case of Letters from India, they are not brought by or with the actual Knowledge of the Officers or Seamen; for, on the contrary, I apprehend the Dispatches are made up in Boxes at the different Presidencies in India, addressed to the Directors of the East India Company, for delivering which at the India House the Captains of the Ships would not be liable to any Penalty, neither would the Directors be liable to any for not delivering them at the Post Office, for the Penalty attaches only on the Persons bringing them into Port. This Mode of dispatching Letters from India to England, being sanctioned by long Usage, would, I think, be considered as legal.

The Directors may, however, exercise their Discretion in sending the Letters to the Post Office, as Ship Letters; and I think they have done it in several Instances, for I recollect having myself received Letters in this Way.

I am, Sir, &c.

A. Parkin.

(No. 4.) Mr. FREELING to the CHAIRMAN of the East India Company.

SIR,

General Post Office, July 18, 1796.

I Have the Commands of my Lords the Postmaster General, to submit to the Honourable Court of Directors, the Propriety of having such Letters as arrive from India in the Ships of the East India Company, and are not selected by the Court, delivered to the Public through the Medium of this Office.

My Lords direct me to say, that many Years ago, when the then Postmaster General claimed the East India Letters, as proper to be circulated through their Office, it was understood that the Honourable Court of Directors had given Orders that their Request should be consented to, with the Exception only of such Letters as were for the Directors and their Officers, and that the Remainder should be immediately sent to the General Post Office. But my Lords understand, that this is not generally complied with, but that after

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the Letters are selected for the Directors and their Officers, the Doorkeepers or Messengers make a further Selection during several Days, so that many Persons do not obtain their Letters till Three or Four Days after their Arrival at the East India House, and at a very considerable Inconvenience and Expence, the latter frequently exceeding the Charges which would be made on the Letters if sent from this Office.

I have, therefore, their Lordships Commands, to submit to Your Honourable Court, as a Matter of Importance to His Majesty's Revenue, and of very great Benefit to the Public, by ensuring to them a regular and punctual Delivery of their Letters from India, that when the Boxes or Packets of Letters arrive at the East India House, Notice may be sent to this Department, and an Officer from hence may be allowed to attend to receive all such Letters as the Honourable Court of Directors think proper to be circulated through the General Post Office.

I request the Favour of your submitting this Proposal to the Honourable Court of Directors, and shall be happy to receive their Sentiments of it as soon as it may be convenient.

I have the Honour to be,

Sir, &c.

F. Freeling.

(No. 5.) Mr. RAMSAY to Mr. FREELING:

SIR,

East India House, Oct. 26, 1796.

THE Court of Directors of the East India Company have taken into Consideration your Letter, stating, that you are commanded by the Postmaster General to submit to the Court the Propriety of having such Letters as arrive from India in the Company's Ships, and are not selected by the Court, delivered to the Public through the Medium of the Post Office, which you state will be a Matter of Importance to His Majesty's Revenue, and a great Benefit to the Public: And I am ordered to acquaint you in Reply, that the Court have resolved, that in future, after the Court have selected such Letters from the Packets as they may think proper, the Remainder of the Letters shall be forthwith sent to the Post Office.

I have also to apologize for the Court's Delay in considering your Letter; and am,

Sir, &c.

Wm. Ramsay, Secretary.

No.

No. 6.—Mr. FREELING to Mr. RAMSAY.

SIR,

General Post Office, Oct. 28, 1796.

I Have the Honour of your Letter of the 26th Instant, stating, that the Honourable Court of Directors have approved of the Proposition of my Lords the Postmaster General, to have such Letters as are brought from the East Indies, and are not selected by the Court for themselves or Friends, delivered to the Public through the Medium of the Post Office; and I have no Doubt but many good Effects will be found to arise from this Regulation.

I am, Sir, &c.

F. Freeling.

No. 7.—Mr. FREELING to the Postmaster General.

MY LORDS,

General Post Office, Oct. 28, 1796.

IN Consequence of Your Lordships Orders, I wrote, in July last, to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, suggesting the Propriety of having such Letters as were brought from the East Indies, and were not selected for themselves, delivered to the Public through the Medium of this Office. I have now the Honour to inclose a Letter from Mr. Ramsay, stating that the Court have approved of that Proposition.

In my Letter, I mentioned that it might be proper for an Officer from hence to attend the East India House, and receive the Letters from thence; but I presume Your Lordships will understand with me, from the last Part of Mr. Ramsay's Letter, that it is the Intention of the Directors, after the Selection is made, to send the Letters to this Office by some of their own Messengers.

All which is humbly submitted, by

F. Freeling.

Supplement (I.)

LETTER from JOHN MORTLOCK, Esquire, to the Postmaster General; dated January 18th, 1793.

MY LORDS,

General Post Office, Jan. 18th, 1793.

IN Answer to the Questions proposed to the Postmaster General by Mr. Pitt, which I had the Honour to receive from your Lordships Yesterday; viz. Whether I had any Objections, and what, to the Receiver General's Office being open for Receipts and Payments every Day, instead of Three Days in the Week, as at present? And, whether I had any Objection, and what, to paying the Surplus of each Week's Receipt above the Weekly Expenditure into the Bank?

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I must beg Leave to remark, that if it is intended that the Receipts and Payments are to be made to the Public at large for the whole Six Days, it will occasion an Extension of Accounts that will employ at least Four, or probably more Persons to perform the Duties of the Office; Three Persons having been constantly employed for a long Time past, to perform the Duty in the present long established Method of Three Days Receipts and Payments in the Week; and as it is not in my Power at present, to speak to the Increase of Business that may arise from the Addition of the Bye Office Revenue being thrown in Detail into my Office, I am not exactly competent to the Decision, in what Manner it will be necessary to proportion the Business to the Time and Number of Persons necessarily employed; but as it at present appears to me, the only useful Extension of opening my Office, that I can conceive, is, in the new Arrangement, it may be proper that such Bills and Cash as are remitted from Deputy Postmasters, through the Postmaster General, or their Officers, and which are now received only Three Days in the Week, should then be received from the Secretary every Day in the Week, Sundays excepted.

Impressed with the above Ideas, I proposed to your Lordships to make the Experiment, with the Addition of only One additional established Clerk to my present Number; but do not think that the Business can be properly done without further additional Help. As to the Second Question, respecting the Payment of the Weekly Surplus into the Bank, I must beg Leave to remark, that the Bank never apply for the Acceptance of Bills; and as that is a necessary Process, the Duty must be performed in my Office; I also have to observe, that such Surplus, for the first Two Months of each Quarter, is very inconsiderable, as will appear by my Weekly Certificates; and that it is the Custom of the Receiver General to pay occasionally Sums into the Exchequer, as they accumulate in his Hands from Time to Time; that in the Course of each Quarter he has many Bills in his Hands that are not due, and others out for Acceptance; that he brings such Bills to account as they become due, and when he finds that they amount to any considerable Sum, makes a proportionate Payment into the Exchequer. He therefore submits to the Postmaster General how far any material Advantage can arise from paying such Surplus into the Bank, so as to make it an Object sufficient to open an Account, and of Course occasion an Extension of Statements, which may be attended with some Inconvenience; but the Receiver General has, with the utmost Deference and Respect, every Desire to fall in with the Postmaster General's Regulations, whenever it may appear to them to be conducive to the Public Service.

I have the Honour, &c.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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