

J. D'ewes

F462
1

Post Office
Oceania 09 Feb^r 19th 1860

Sir

I have the honor to state that convinced as I am of the great necessity in all states and colonies of raising so important a department as that of the Post office, to the highest pitch of respectability and utility consistent with the resources of the country: I have ventured to make the following suggestions.

1st In the present unsatisfactory state of the Mail service between this Island and St Francis: we are placed at the mercy of a foreign and unsubsidized line of steamers. The mails are irregular, and remain so short a period of time in our Port, that merchants and the public in general are seriously inconvenienced by being unable to answer their letters by return of Post, and are obliged to resort to a foreign "cargoes" whose letters arrive pre-sorted, and ready for delivery. Thus the Post Office loses at least two thirds of its legitimate receipts.

To the acting Post
Master General
&c &c

To obviate this evil I would suggest that the government should purchase a steam vessel of its own to perform the mail service twice during each month between Victoria and St. Francisco.

A large portion of the mercantile population of Victoria would give their freight to an English vessel and it is estimated that from this source and postage money a certain profit of about 20 per cent would be realized on the outlay, in fact this is the opinion of several experienced and respectable merchants of this place.

This would be a preferable course to pursue than that of giving a subsidy to a private company, and a large one could in all reason be claimed from the home government on account of the great amount of coach and military letters which now pass free through this office and occupy so much of the time and attention of the employees.

2nd Another course suggests itself in order to afford due time to the public for the receipt of and reply to letters by each mail, which is to pay a certain amount of money to the American Steam Mail Co to induce them to remain 24 hours in our Port on each trip.

I am

I am credibly informed that not less than ten thousand Dollars per annum would be likely to be accepted for this service.

3 There is another and very important point connected with the revenue of the Post Office which merits immediate attention on the part of the government.

The Express Company of Wm. Fargo & Co. have virtually admitted the legal right the Government Express to claim Colonial postage on all letters passing through their office by purchasing stamped envelopes for those sent from hence to St. Francisco; why should not the same postage be paid vice versa on those that they receive?

The obligation we receive from the American Mail Steam Packet Co by the conveyance of our mails gratis can in no way bind us in our relations with a private company, or lead us to sacrifice so large a portion of our revenue.

A specific sum equivalent to the amount of stamps taken from this office for outgoing letters should be demanded of this Express for incoming ones.

4 There is also another Express Co doing business with the above office, principally connected with British Columbia, and

To the Acting Post Master
General &c &c

which does not adhere to this rule in either way. "Dewby's 54 prep" and which by evading that, which by law it ought to pay, defrauds the revenue in the most bare faced manner.

Evasion of custom house laws on discovery is always punished by heavy penalties surely the evasion of the Post Office regulations is equally culpable as the result in both cases is the same. The Government is defrauded -

I would suggest that measures should be taken to compel the payment of the postage on the part of "Dewby" and that he should be mulcted in some sort of fine for having so long acted in opposition to the law.

Should there be no law under which he can be punished I would further suggest that a law be framed as soon as possible under which may reach similar offenders.

11

I consider the present Colonial Postage of five cents on letters and one cent on newspapers most inconvenient as regards the currency and too small in its amount considering the state of the colony and in comparison with other colonies. The great difficulty of receiving and giving change (indeed with reference to newspapers the frequent impossibility) leads to a loose and indefinite mode of dealing between the Post Office and the public. I would suggest that the postage on all letters be raised to 10 cents and that newspapers should be delivered gratis.

5. A small additional salary to the Post Master and Clerk in consideration of the additional duties they have to perform connected with the Howell boxes (and for which in all Post Offices a distinct remuneration is granted) and the increasing frequency of mail arrivals may be considered advisable.

I have the honor
to be, Sir
Your obedient servant.

To the Acting
Post Master General.
x &c.

John D'Ewes
Post Master.

Post Office Victoria O.S.
Feb^y 19th 1860.

Sir

Post
Office

In compliance with the
directions contained in your letter
of the 27th of last month, I have
the honor to enclose estimates
of the probable receipts and
expenditure of my department for
the year 1860 upon its present
footing, together with some remarks
of my own as to possible future
alterations.

It must be borne in
mind that these estimates are
formed upon the basis of my own
experience during the months of
December 1859 and January 1860,
a period during which a large
number of the mining population
were resident in the town of Victoria
and have subsequently gone to
British Columbia, and that a
considerable portion of the receipts
of this office have been hitherto
remitted to the Post Master at
St. Francisco in prepayment of
foreign letters sent ~~to the office~~ by
the different Post Masters in
British Columbia who had themselves
to the Acting Post
Master General.

expended the postage paid on
these letters in the conveyance
of branch mails and other
contingencies and have ever
made a distinct claim upon
this office.

I have the honour
to be
Sir
Your obedient servant

John D'Evos.
Post Master.

Estimate of probable receipts by
the Post Office VJ upon proposed
new arrangements for the year 1860

1 By increasing the present (22 Postage from 5 ^c on each letter to 10 ^c and withdrawing the 1 ^c duty on newspapers	350
2 Probable rent of 24 additional private boxes to the 24 already taken	60
3 By stamping envelopes for letters foreign both to & from Victoria and other places	220
	£ 630

Estimate of probable expenditure
in the Post Office Victoria VJ upon proposed
new arrangements for the year 1860

1 Salaries of Post Master and one Clerk. The former at 250 ^l the latter 125 ^l per annum	375 ⁰
2 Conveyance and reconveyance of mails	150
3 Stationery	20
4 Post Office contingencies Fuel and lights	20 30
	595

The erection of a new Post Office and the adoption of either of the plans I have
proposed for the conveyance of foreign mails would of course be attended with
a large primary outlay by the Government, but with no doubt in time lead
to beneficial results, entirely depending upon the prospective prosperity of
the Colony, and the probability that such arrangements will lead to
the abolition of Ex. paper.

John D'Enes
Post Master.

D. Ewes
29

Leave of absence.

F462
2

No
Rep: 7/10th

Post Office
Victoria B.C. August 10/80.

Notes that as Mr. Spalding was here but was intended to return to state that I have been particularly requested by "Mr Spalding" Post Master of British Columbia to pay him a short visit at New Westminster for the purpose of assisting him in the arrangements of his Postal business in that Colony.

Sir I have the honor to state that I have been particularly requested by "Mr Spalding" Post Master of British Columbia to pay him a short visit at New Westminster for the purpose of assisting him in the arrangements of his Postal business in that Colony. The moment is extremely propitious for my leaving this place for a short period as the mails will have all departed

The Colonial Secretary
D. Ewes

LIGHT ORIGINAL

and home are expected
to arrive and I have
provided an efficient
substitute during my
absence - for the period
of four or five days -

I shall be extremely
glad to obtain leave
of absence from his
Secretary the Governor
for that period, and
should be glad to know
if my expenses will
be allowed me -

I have the
honour to remain
Sir

Your obedient servant

John D'Emes
Port Master
Victoria B.I.

Estimate of probable receipts
by the Post Office Victoria V.S. upon
its present footing for the year 1860

1 By colonial postage on all letters (5 ^{cts}) calculated according to my own experience during Dec ^r 1859 and Jan ^r 1860 250 £ per annum. but as subsequently to the exodus of the miners the number of letters, and stamps required for express are likely to increase I have taken the average at -	200
2 Rent of 24 private boxes at 10 ^{/-} per quarter or 30 shillings per annum, the first quarter's rent of which has been spent in their formation -	30
3 Stamping envelopes for Wells Ferguson express and others -	100
	£ 330

John D'Ewes.
Post Master

Estimate of probable Expenditure on
the Post Office V.S. for the year 1860.

1 Salaries of Post Master and one Clerk -	300
2 Conveyance and reconveyance of all mails	150
3 Stationery	20
4 Post office repairs & imbursements	20
5 Fire and candles.	20
	£ 510

To this may be added
the desirable probability
of a new Post Office;
The expense of which, it is
calculated including the
sale of the present site
and building and the
purchase of another allotment
together with the erection
of the Post Office with
amount to

1500

John D'Ewes
Post Master

£ 2010