

when, in his opinion, the interests of the public service will be thereby promoted.

VIII. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Post Master General, or for any Post Master by him to that effect duly authorized, to detain any Post Letter suspected to contain any contraband goods, wares or merchandize, or any goods, wares or merchandize on the importation of which into this Province any duties of Customs are by law payable, and to forward the same to the nearest Collector of Her Majesty's Customs, who, in the presence of the person to whom the same may be addressed, or in his absence, in case of non-attendance after due notice in writing from such Collector, requiring his attendance, left at or forwarded by the post according to the address on the letter, may open and examine the same ; and in case on any such examination any contraband goods, wares or merchandize, or any goods, wares or merchandize on the importation of which into this Province any duties of Customs are by law payable, shall be discovered, such Collector may detain the letter and its contents for the purpose of prosecution ; and if no contraband goods, wares or merchandize, or any goods, wares or merchandize on the importation of which into this Province any duties of Customs are by law payable, shall be discovered in such letter, the same shall, if the party to whom the same is addressed be present, be handed over to him on his paying the postage (if any) charged thereon, or if he shall not be present, the same shall be returned to the Post Office and be forwarded to the place of its address.

Letters suspected to contain contraband goods may be detained: proceedings in such case.

IX. And be it enacted, That no mail stage or other winter or summer vehicle carrying a Mail shall be exempt from tolls or dues on any Road or Bridge in this Province, unless in the Act or Charter authorizing such Road or Bridge, it is specially so provided ; but in respect of existing contracts the exemption which existed heretofore shall be continued unless on the arrival of the Stage or Vehicle at the toll-house, toll-bar, or other place where tolls or dues for the use of such Road or Bridge are collected, there be more than four passengers and an ordinary allowance of baggage for each passenger in or on such mail stage or other winter or summer vehicle carrying the Mail as aforesaid.

In what cases only vehicles carrying the mail shall be exempt from toll. -

## C A P . I X .

An Act for the establishment of a Line of Steam Vessels, between this Province and the United Kingdom.

[10th November, 1852.]

**W**HEREAS it will tend greatly to advance the prosperity of the Province, that a Line of Steam Vessels should be established which should afford as frequent, direct and rapid communication between this Country and the United Kingdom

Preamble.

Kingdom

£19,000 stg.  
per annum  
appropriated  
for establish-  
ing a line of  
Steamers bet-  
ween this Pro-  
vince and  
Liverpool.

Kingdom, at all seasons, as circumstances will permit : Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada and for the Govern- ment of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That it shall be lawful for the Governor of this Pro- vince, to cause to be paid and applied annually, and during a period of seven years, from the first day of May, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, a sum not exceeding in any year nineteen thousand pounds, sterling, out of any unappropriated monies forming part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of this Province, for the purpose of establishing a Line of Steam Vessels, to run once every fortnight each way between the Port of Liverpool, in England, and the Ports of Montreal and Quebec, in this Province, during such time in each year as the navigation of the River St. Lawrence shall be open; and once every month each way between the said Port of Liverpool and the Port of Halifax, in Nova Scotia, or the Port of Portland, in the State of Maine during the remainder of the year; the said service to be performed and the said monies expended in such manner and under such regulations as the Governor in Council shall deem best adapted to advance the interests of this Pro- vince.

Exemption  
from dues.

II. And be it enacted, That the said Steam Vessels shall be exempt from all light dues, tonnage duties or provincial imposts on vessels navigating the River St. Lawrence.

Accounting  
clause.

III. And be it enacted, That the due application of the monies hereby appropriated shall be accounted for in the usual manner and form to the Parliament of this Province, and to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, in such manner and form as they shall be pleased to direct.

## C A P. X.

An Act to provide by one General Law for the Incorporation of Electric Telegraph Companies.

[10th November, 1852.]

Preamble.

**W**HEREAS it is expedient to provide by one General Law for the incorporation and regulation of Companies formed for the purpose of constructing lines of Electric Telegraph in this Province : Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom