

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of Upper Canada, passed in the year 1849. Montreal: Stewart Derbyshire & George Desbarats, 1849.

12 Victoria – Chapter 34

An Act to make provision for the Management of the Post-Office Department whenever it shall be transferred to the Provincial Government. 30th May, 1849.

Whereas it is expedient that a uniform and cheap rate of Postage should be established throughout British America; And whereas the Imperial Government has signified to His Excellency the Governor-General its readiness to relinquish the management of the Post-Office Department so soon as a uniform system of Postage should be agreed upon by the different local Governments; And whereas the different local Governments of British America have agreed upon the following propositions, namely:

That there be one uniform rate of three pence, Provincial Currency, throughout British North America;

That no Transit Postage between the Provinces be allowed;

That two pence sterling the half ounce shall remain as the rate in operation as regards letters by British Mails, to be extended to countries having postal conventions with Great Britain, (unless Her Majesty's Government shall see fit to permit this rate to be changed to three pence currency);

That the Pre-payment of Postage shall be optional;

That each Province shall retain the amount of Postage it collects;

That the Packet Postage shall be paid in England, the Provincial rate of two pence sterling to belong to the Province which collects it, and if pre-paid in England, to be credited to the Province to which the letter is addressed;

That no privilege of Franking be allowed;

That Postage Stamps for Pre-payment be allowed, and Colonial Stamps be engraved;

That Newspaper, Pamphlet and Magazine Postage be allowed to remain at present rates, with power to each Legislature to send them free of charge;

And that the rate of remuneration for the Transport of British Mails by Express through the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick be left for future arrangement.

And whereas the Imperial Government has approved the said propositions, but nevertheless Legislative action is necessary to enable Her Majesty's Government to give effect to the proposed

arrangements; And whereas it is expedient to enable the Governor-General in Council to give effect to such arrangements as he may deem right for the establishment of a uniform rate of Postage, so soon as the necessary enactment may have been passed by the Imperial Legislature: 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 reunite the Provinces of Upper and Lower-Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to enter into such arrangements with the Imperial Government, and with the Provincial Governments of the other British North American Provinces, as shall, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, be expedient to secure a uniform and cheap rate of Postage; And that it shall also be lawful for the Governor in Council to make all such regulations for the management of the Post-Office Department and the Officers thereof, and of all matters thereunto belonging, as to Him may seem meet, and from time to time to alter the same; which regulations shall have the same force and effect as if embodied in this Act until the expiration of the next Session of the Provincial Parliament.

II. And be it enacted, That such Regulations as shall be then in force shall be laid before both Houses of the Provincial Parliament within ten days after the opening of the next Session of the said Parliament, and that the same shall remain permanently in force as law, unless it shall be otherwise provided in some Act to be passed during the said Session.

III. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to pay out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund such sums (if any) as may be required to make up any deficiency in the Funds arising from the Revenue of the Post-Office Department to meet the expenses thereof.