

# LONDON

## POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

### NOTEBOOK

Number 2.

May 1971

Editor:

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6 Church Manor  
Bishop's Stortford,  
Herts.

to whom all correspondence should be addressed

#### EDITORIAL.....

The response to the launching of the Group has been very satisfactory, with the ' Notebook ' and nearly two thousand copies of a hand out going all over the country, the latter by courtesy of several dealers and club secretaries.

With the next meeting some four weeks away and the intervening time packed solid by matters demanding that ever scarce commodity, time, I am anxious to get this edition away to members as soon as possible.

Included is a report on the first meeting in February; the first list of members; comment from members; an article on a London Cape Packet Mark and the 1855 PMG's Report which contains details of the arrangements for the division into postal districts. I am happy to report a few articles in hand for the next issue, which will contain a detailed report on the ' Diamond ' cancellations...but the strength of that will depend on the material available for us to study.

As an experiment, I am putting any illustrations together on one page with references to the appropriate article and page. This is in an effort to secure accurate reproductions where possible; I have to confess my freehand rendering does not always provide this. In an event, let me have your views.

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# REPORT ON INAUGURAL MEETING.....

The London Postal History Group was launched on Saturday 27th. February 1971 at the Great Northern Hotel, Kings Cross. Despite the postal strike and the consequent difficulty in giving as wide a spread of publicity as had been hoped, twelve enthusiasts from as far afield as Bridgnorth and Kings Lynn, took part.

Draft rules were considered and it was agreed to defer their full adoption although they would be used to guide the operation of the Group.

The following rules, as numbered in the draft list, were adopted.

1. Name.....The organisation shall be called the London Postal History Group.
2. Objects.....The purpose for which the group is formed is the promotion of the study of London Postal History.
3. Subscription.....Ordinary members shall pay £2.00 per annum.  
Associate members shall pay £1.25 per annum.

Management.....The meeting agreed to the following appointments:-

Mr. P.A. Forrestier Smith.....as Chairman

Mr. M.M. English.....as Hon. Secretary/Treasurer

with the members present at the full Group meetings acting as the Committee.

Limits of London.....this was defined as the limits in current use by the Post Office during the period being studied. A useful guide is the limit of the Country area of the London Twopenny Post.

Meetings.....A programme consisting of four full Group meetings a year possibly supplemented by house meetings, on the basis of limited numbers at the hosts discretion, was agreed. The use of the Great Northern, although expensive by ' church hall ' price standards, would continue for the time being at least.

Each full meeting would consist of three elements:-

- a. A member's bourse and exchange lasting for about one hour.
- b. Committee meeting, as necessary and announcements.
- c. The study session.

It was hoped to arrange auctions at least once a year.



Study Co-ordinators.....since it would be quite impossible for any individual member to have either sufficient knowledge or time to deal adequately with the entire range of material from the mid 17th. century to the early 1900's - this being considered by many as the ' modern ' time limit- the undernoted members agreed to act as secretary/co-ordinators for the sections indicated.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Mr. C.J. Adams<br>' The Lowe ; Worfield,<br>Bridgnorth, Salop.                          | Twopenny Posts                                   |
| 2. Mr. J. Parmenter,<br>3 Ashdown House<br>17 Rydens Road,<br>Walton-on-Thames,<br>Surrey. | District Posts<br>( Westley 112-134a)            |
| 3. Mr. B.T. Smith,<br>42 Canterbury Avenue,<br>Sidcup,<br>Kent.                            | Inland Branch/Office<br>( Diamond Series)        |
| 4. Mr.B.R. Smith,<br>19 Bentley Way,<br>Woodford Green,<br>Essex.                          | Examiners Marks, Missorts,<br>and similar marks. |

Other areas for study also need Study Co-ordinators and any member willing to undertake this task where they have a particular interest or knowledge are invited to contact the Hon. Secretary.

The display of members material, one must be honest and not call it a study session, provided a foretaste of some of the delights for the future. Although intended to deal with the period from 1844 onwards, quite a number of items outside this period and area were shown, and none the worse for that!

Amongst the items noted were two examples of the first duplex, Westley fig. 116, dated December 1853; singles of No. 42 dated 1853 addressed to Maida Hill and the No. 41 of Brentford dated 1869. There was a superb example of an Honourable Artillery Company printed stationery item, cancelled with a neat 4 of Hampstead.

One of the results of this is the need to ' set up ' the study part was made abundantly clear.

The next meeting will be concerned with the ' Diamond ' cancellations and despite the detail of M. Dubus' publication, Westley's " Postal Cancellations of London 1840-1890 " would seem to be more widely available. In view of this, it is suggested to use Westley as the frame on which to build, with the help from members with access to Dubus' volumes to provide a cross index.

This next meeting will be on Saturday May 22nd. at the Great Northern and everyone is invited, if not urged, to send details of material in their possession to Mr. B.T. Smith and if they can come to the meeting, to bring it with them. There can be little doubt that just one session will not be enough to do more than scratch the surface, but it will allow us to make a start.

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WELCOME TO THE MEMBERS.....

With the number of those expressing interest to the extent of paying a subscription now reaching very welcome proportions, the first list of members is as follows:-

|   |  |
|---|--|
| C.J. Adams ✓ Yes  | 'The Lowe', Worfield, Bridgnorth, Salop.   |
| W.S.H. Ashmore, F.L.A. ✓<br>Yes but I have got to go there! | Controller of Libraries, Museum & Arts,<br>Borough of Haringey,<br>Central Office, Bruce Castle,<br>Lordship Lane, London N17 8NU. |
| Dr. Krank Bottomley ✓ nowt                                  | 14 Hollyhedge Road, Stone Cross,<br>West Bromwich, Staffs.   |
| M.J. Burrows ✓  | "Englewood", Bildeston Road,<br>Little Finborough, Stowmarket, IP14 2LA  |
| M.V.D. Champness ✓  | The Old Vicarage, Wendens Ambo,<br>Saffron Walden, Essex.  |
| J.H. Chandler ✓ Yes.  | 43 Roman Bank, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 2ST  |
| A.R. Clark ✓  | 8 Tranmere Court, Langley Park Road,<br>Sutton, Surrey.  |
| James S. Donaldson ✓ wants to send the material to me       | "Newton" 21 Arkleston Road, Paisley,<br>Renfrewshire.  |
| M.M. English ✓ yes.   | 50 Somerden Road, Orpington, Kent<br>BR5 4HT   |
| P.A. Forrestier Smith ✓                                     | 6 Church Manor, Bps. Stortford, Herts.   |
| W.B. Gledhill ✓   | Vicar Street, Wymondham, Norfolk.  |
| → M.C. Goodman ✓ 01-958 6973                                | 111 Green Lane, Edgware, Middx.  |
| J.R. Henderson ✓ nowt                                       | 28 Newhailes Avenue, Musselburgh,<br>Midlothian.   |

5 PM  
Sat



Grimmer

Notebook No.2

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| Barrie Jay M.D., F.R.C.S.,                    | 10 Beltane Drive, London S.W. 19                               |
| A.J. Kirk ✓ <i>yes,</i>                       | 123 Benhill Road, Camberwell, London S.E.5                     |
| R.J. Luxton                                   | 20 Landra Gardens, London, N.21                                |
| K. Martin-Jones <i>(retired Swtland) yes.</i> | Eton House, Docking, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.                      |
| D.J. Muggleton ✓                              | 14 London Road, Buntingford, Herts.                            |
| J. Parmenter ✓                                | 3 Ashdown House, 17 Rydens Road,<br>Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.  |
| R.C.A. Payne                                  | "Kenwood" 14 Medway Crescent,<br>Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. SS9 2UY. |
| B.R. Smith                                    | 19 Bentley Way, Woodford Green, Essex.                         |
| B.T. Smith ✓                                  | 42 Canterbury Avenue, Sidcup, Kent.                            |
| K.J.A. Smith                                  | 77 Stamford Road, West Bridgford,<br>Nottingham NG2 6GG.       |
| S.B. Szymanski ✓                              | 31 Blandford Road, London W. 4                                 |
| Harold J. Waterton                            | "Panorama" Chestnut Drive, Berkhamsted, Herts.                 |
| → R.M. Willcocks ✓                            | 7 Shooters Hill Road, London S.E. 3                            |

Change of Address.....

Will members please ensure they advise the Hon. Secretary of change of address and in particular, as and when they get a postal coding.

WANTED.....

Giving up KENT to specialise in London-----? I am interested in obtaining Kent material, also 'Too Late' and Late Fee markings. Any offers to

M.M. English 50 Somerden Road, ORPINGTON, Kent BR5 4HT

FOR SALE.....

Mainly cut out material of the period 1860-1910, useful for research. Enquiries please to

A.J. Hillman Esq., 20 Barlows Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

REPLAY.....

In response to Notebook No. 1, the ever fruitful pen of Michael Champness found time to comment on one or two points.

Page 7, Late Fee or Not?...

"Stitt was quite wrong. The BLUE Cresswells were PM, according to Alcock and Holland. The 11/16" cds was not a Cresswell but a similar type which superseded it, though possibly it ran simultaneously for a while. One can find Rideout's c.d.s. also used as a single 'bonker' in this period. Cresswell's pads were, after 1860, largely used in the Provinces and less and less in London where the volume of mail did not justify the use of the machine, which had as its prime purpose the saving of ink through evaporation. The consumption of ink was such that it ran dry through use rather than evaporation! The 13 was definitely late fee.

Page 7, Sub Office Stamping...

"Sub Office stamping was experimentally stopped at all TOWN receiving offices on September 14th, 1859 and was also stopped in the Shrewsbury rural area only as a provincial 'tryout' to test public reaction. Undated namestamps continued elsewhere until 17.3.1860 and also at London RH which were not TOWN RH. Refer PO circular to PM's of that date, also relevant circular to Surveyors. "

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OUR SCOPE OF STUDY....by M.M. English.

At the first meeting there was some discussion about the period over which the Group's study of London Postal History should extend. In the last 'Notebook', Peter Forrestier Smith suggested that it should extend from the first "Bishop" marks to the present day phosphor codings. At the meeting, some members suggested that any study after 1900 would be duplicating that of the GB Postmark Society and that our studies should finish about 1900.

On reflection, I agree with the first suggestion; I am sure there is much good postal history in the last 60 years - including the phosphor coding system. I believe we could be in danger of considering ourselves a Postmark rather than a Postal History, Group, with the study of postmarks being only incidental to our study of the development and use of the postal services in London.

Of course there is the danger we may overlap with some of the work of the Postmark Society, as we may overlap that of the Postal History Society and the GBPS.

There is no need for an immediate decision - can I ask for member's views to be sent to the Editor for publishing in the 'Notebook', thus allowing us to evolve rather than suddenly appear 'full grown'.

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## WHAT THE AUCTIONS TELL YOU.....

Robson Lowe 13th. January, 1971.

| Lot. | Description  | Valuation | Realisation |
|------|--|-----------|-------------|
| 1290 | 1830 E.L. locally used in London showing oval framed "ANNO/DOMINI/1830" in red, h.s. "2" and boxed "52(?)ark St./7 Night", both in black,** to ***.  | £25       | £30         |
| 1297 | 1675 E.L. to Northants with manuscript "put this in the Wellingboro bag" and showing, on the reverse, a Bishop mark, and the scarce circular framed "OFF/4" ***  | £75       | £85         |
| 1298 | 1698-1782 E. and EL showing different circular framed marks including "F","L","R","BB","JB","MB","GC","BE","DE","GI","RI","RJ","ML","WL","JO","MP","ER","FR","GS","DV","RW","TW",and "WW", mostly ** to *** (24) | £60       | £85         |
| 1300 | 1790 EL to Kingweston with double ring "CHARLES STREET SOHO/street/ing" ** to ***  | £14       | £17         |
| 1301 | 1792 EL to Taunton showing the double ring "TEMPLE/G.P./O" **  | £8        | £10.50      |
| 1316 | 1698 EL with "PAYD/PENY/POST" of the St. Pauls Office, ** to ***   | £15       | £32         |
| 1317 | 1700 EL to Clapham with "PENY/POST/PAYD" of St. Pauls Office,** to ***   | £18       | £38         |
| 1318 | 1742 EL showing "PENY/POST/PAYD" of Westminster Office and manuscript "Kemp" and 1792 EL to Somerton with "PENNY/POST/PAID" of General Office and three ring ds "FREE/P" ** to ***                               | £12       | £22         |
| 1319 | 1765 and 1766 EL from Deptford to Edinburgh each showing PENNY/POST/PAID" ** to *** of Southwark Office and two different manuscript Receivers marks (2)   | £16       | £24         |
| 1320 | 1771 EL with "PAYD/PENY/POST" of Temple Office showing the reversed "N" almost ***, a heavy crease does not affect the mark.   | £14       | £28         |
| 1321 | 1779 EL to Glastonbury showing circular framed "POST/PAID" and on the reverse "PAID/PENY/POST" ** to *** of Southwark Office and unframed Receivers hs "LATHAM" (faint)  | £10       | £8          |
| 1322 | 1786 EL with "POST/PAYD/PENY" ** to *** of Temple Office   | £14       | £26         |

## LONDON RECEIVING HOUSE NAMESTAMPS.....

In another part of this 'Notebook', reference is made to the appointment of Study Co-ordinators and in this connection, Mr. C.J. Adams writes as follows:-

".....perhaps the following appeal could be put in 'Notebook' to start the ball rolling.

WANTED.....information on London Receiving Houses Namestamps. Please contact me if you have ANY such items and I will let you know what details I require.."  
He continues..

".....My procedure would then be to send anyone contacting me a sheet showing illustrations of all so far as known ( to me ) types of Recg. House Namestamps and owners would be asked to enter name, color, date etc. This could be extended to include all the London systems both paid and unpaid where the house name was employed in the handstamp. This enquiry will not be restricted to the 2d. Post period."

So here we have the first Study Co-ordinator inviting you to get busy and co-ord! Most of us must have at least a few of these interesting strikes, so please contact Mr. Adams as soon as possible.

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## BISHOPSGATE WITHIN AND WITHOUT.....by M.M. English

With the range of material at our first meeting there was much discussion between those present, on an informal basis, of various points. One such was that relating to 'Bishopsgate Within' and 'Bishopsgate Without'.

Until the beginning of this Century the road we now know as " Bishopsgate" was divided into two parts; the eastern end being known as "Bishopsgate Without", because it was outside the City walls with the section to the west of the old Bishops Gate, where the London Wall crossed the road, as "Bishopsgate Within".

I have a cover addressed to "Mr. Thomas Woodm Chemmist & Druggist, Bishopsgate Within, London " from Dewsbury, with an imperf 1d. red, cancelled with the Maltese Cross, and dated 16th. June, 1843.

On the front is the note " Try Without". On the back is " No such person known in Bishopsgate St.Within. C. Tozer.", "Not known on my part of Bishopsgate St.Without. H. Gray." "Not Spital Square Delivery.J. Boswell".

I don't know if Mr. Thomas Wood was found or whether the cover was returned to its sender, but they did try.

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LONDON CAPE PACKET MARK, APRIL 1865.

Despite the difficulty in obtaining material at what were once regarded as reasonable prices, it is still possible to pick up an item of interest at modest cost. Such was my luck at Stampex recently, when browsing through a box of covers ( at a dealer's I do not normally associate with such material ) I came across a thoroughly mutilated cover, bearing what I took, in my ignorance, to be an Inspector's mark of some sort. In any case it was from Norwich and had other interesting marks.

Later perusal of A& H, the revised short version, showed a mark looking very much like my 'Inspector' which was nothing of the sort; in fact it appeared in the section on Packet Letter Marks. The other stamp of immediate interest was CLAREMONT, which looked exactly the same as an America handstamp in use at Liverpool!

Other details are that the front of the cover, which was a 1d.embossed envelope, also carried a nice copy of Plate 83 1d. Plate series, the trace of another two 1d. stamps and from the position of partial postmarks, presumably there were another two ( one penny?) stamps, thus making a total of, say, six pence postage.

Despite this prolific usage of penny stamps, a postage due of 1/6 was charged. This in itself is curious since it consists of a 1s. handstamp with a 6 added in m/s. The postage to the Cape in 1865 was 1/- per half oz and there are several possibilities for the 1/6 charge.

a. The shortage was 6d, and the postage due was levied at double the rate, making one shilling. In addition, a fine of 6d., equal to the deficiency was also levied. However, it was the custom to use a special handstamp for this purpose and in any event it was usually applied in the country of destination. The handstruck 1/- is that of Plymouth( i.e. Devonport).

b. An alternative is that the letter was over  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz and therefore liable to 2/- postage, which would make 1/6 due. This seems more likely and would agree with the use of the Devonport 1/- handstamp.

Claremont is, by the way, a municipal district of Capetown.

I am greatly indebted to Alan W. Robertson for this and other related information, for in replying so promptly to my questions relating to this cover he nicely rounded off my very enjoyable visit to Stampex.

Incidentally, the cover cost, by strange coincidence, 1/6!!

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**SECOND REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL 1855**...extracts relating to London.

An earlier morning delivery of General Post letters, which about two years ago was afforded to many places in the London District, that had not before that time enjoyed this advantage, was last year extended to Tottenham, Finchley, Edgeware, Barnet, and several other places.

The early completion of the first daily delivery of letters in London has long been justly regarded as an object of great importance, comprising as it does, the great bulk of the correspondence both from other parts of the **United Kingdom and from foreign countries.**

I hope that by the gradual introduction of various measures, the time for completing this important delivery throughout the metropolis may be eventually brought as early as 9 a.m.

It is most desirable, at the same time, to secure a more speedy transmission of letters between one part of London and another.

For some time past measures have been in progress for attaining both these important ends, but the machinery involved is so extensive and complex that it is necessary to proceed with great caution, since any violent change might produce an amount of derangement which, however temporary, would interfere most seriously with the public convenience.

Thus one necessary preliminary was the **union of the two corps of letter-carriers, district and general.** This union implied a re-arrangement of the walks; since under the old system London had been differently divided with reference to the duties of each class, whilst neither mode of division was found suitable to the service when united.

An obvious consequence of such a change, affecting, as it did, not only the delivery but the sorting of letters, was that, in the outset, the delivery underwent some delay. This inconvenience is not even quite removed.

In the Appendix \* will be found an extract from the Report of a Committee of Officers appointed to consider the details involved in the necessary changes.

The plan may be briefly described as follows:-

To remove the obstacles arising out of the enormous magnitude of London - obstacles constantly on the increase-, the whole **metropolis has been divided into ten districts,** and each district will be treated in many respects as a separate town. Thus, instead of all district post letters being carried, as at present, from the receiving-houses to the office in St. Martin's-le-Grand there to be sorted and re-distributed, the letters will be carried to the principal office of the district in which they are posted, and being sorted there, will be distributed at once to the different districts to which they

\* The extract will be given in full in "Notebook"



are directed.

It is obvious that this arrangement will, in many cases, greatly reduce the time of transmission. Thus a letter from Cavendish-square to Grosvenor-square, instead of travelling four or five miles, as at present, would go almost directly from one place to the other.

When this plan is brought fully into work, hourly deliveries will take place throughout the metropolis, thus bringing delay in the transmission of District Post letters almost to a minimum.

The chief obstacle encountered in the establishment of the district system is the want of suitable buildings; a want, however, which the Department is supplying as fast as circumstances allow.

This division of the metropolis into quasi different towns, in addition to its more obvious advantages, may be made materially to facilitate the acceleration of the General Post letters referred to above. To complete this acceleration, however, other extensive changes are required.

In the first morning delivery 481 letter-carriers are employed, each having his separate walk; consequently the letters have to be sorted into 481 distinct portions, according to the localities to which they are addressed. As it would obviously be impracticable to do this at once, the plan has long been to sort them first according to districts, the letters thus divided being subsequently sub-sorted for the walks by the district sorters, who alone have the minute local knowledge for this latter process.

It is obvious that to whatever extent the District sorting can be effected before the letters reach London, to a corresponding extent the commencement of delivery may be hastened; and though, from what has been said above, it is clear that the subsorting must be done in London, yet the previous process may, at least with assistance from the public, be performed before the Mails reach London, viz., partly at the larger Provincial offices, and partly on the railways.

If this can be effected, the bags, on reaching the London Stations, may at once be forwarded to their respective district, and the letters, after being sub-sorted at the district offices, may be at once delivered by men already on the spot.

Thus it appears that, supposing these arrangements to be brought into successful operation, time will be saved in several different ways; and I confidently expect that the combined effect will be the completion of the delivery throughout London by the early hour named above, viz. 9 a.m.

To secure so great an advantage, it is perhaps not unreasonable to hope that the public may be willing to give its ready co-operation.

The whole plan of acceleration in the delivery of the General Post



letters depends upon the first assortment being effected previously to the arrival of the Mails.

As London will for postal purposes be in effect divided into ten towns it is essential to the complete working of the plan, that the letters should be directed accordingly. For this purpose it would suffice, if to the address there were appended initial letters indicating the district, as N. for the Northern, S.W. for the South-western, &c., the public of course first receiving the necessary information, and all other aids being given.

To enable provincial correspondents to act on this suggestion, little more would be necessary than for London residents to append the initial letters as above, to their own addresses. In many instances the address thus given would be shorter than at present. Thus, " Liverpool Street, Bishopsgate ", might be reduced to " Liverpool Street, E.C. " ( Eastern Central District ); and " Hill Street, Berkeley Square ", to " Hill Street, W. " ( Western District ).

In the Appendix is a Map of the London District divided in accordance with the foregoing plan. ( Removed from my copy - Ed! )

This advantage might be greatly extended should the Metropolitan Board of Works, in the exercise of one of its powers, see fit to remedy the evil pointed out in the first Annual Report on the Post Office, so far as to get rid of duplicate names when found in the same district.

#### Appendix A.

Extracts from a Report to the Secretary of the Post Office by a Committee of Officers, on the question of establishing District Sorting Offices and Hourly Deliveries in the Metropolis.

(This being somewhat lengthy will be given in ' Notebook No. 3 '.)

#### Appendix H.

Reply to a Memorial from a Number of London Letter Carriers.

General Post Office, Circulation  
Department.

February 1856.

Sir,

I am instructed by the Postmaster General to reply as follows to your Memorial of the 4th. instant:

With regard to your complaint as to the partial discontinuance of the payment for extra work, the change has been made in obedience to an instruction from the Treasury contained in the same document which directed the recent increase of **Wages**. This instruction, indeed, enjoined the total discontinuance of such payments, but at the request of the Postmaster General the Treasury, in



consideration of the high price of provisions, consented that for the present the reduction should be limited to one half; the reduction in duty being of course proportionate.

Even without such instruction, it is, as you well know, in full accordance with the practice of the department, to discontinue extra work, and of course the payment thereto attached, whenever such change is thought convenient.

The alleged information given you by your superior officers in March 1855, was, as shown by the admission of your committee recently made to myself, simply to the effect that the extra payment would be continued so long as the extra duty was performed; and my circular of the same month to which you refer limits the performance of such extra duty to the time " pending the contemplated revision of the duties of the department ", and, for the future, guarantees you merely against diminution in the amount of " fixed wages or salary " received under the old classification.

With full allowance for misconception on your part, the Postmaster General considers it a matter of blame that, after withdrawing your first memorial in consequence of the explanation made by myself and the admission made by your committee, you should have repeated your mis-statements in the memorial now presented.

With regard to the promotion by merit, I have also to say that the instruction from the Treasury is absolute; that the rule is essential to the good of the service, and cannot be departed from, I scarcely need add, that seniority has its due advantage; since, other things equal, the man longest in the service is the first selected for promotion.

With regard to the alleged excess of work, I have first to point out to you that the recent changes, placing many of you in new walks, have unavoidably produced a temporary increase of labour.

If, however, any of your number be of the opinion that their duties, after allowing for these temporary circumstances, will exceed the amount which a man of ordinary dispatch may be expected to get through in an average of eight hours per day, ( after deducting one hour for every sixpence paid on account of extra work ), such persons are at liberty to report their particular cases in writing, stating their duties in detail, and affixing the time required for each - the same to take into consideration, with a view, is necessary, to such re-adjustment of the work as circumstances may allow. - I need not point out that in admitting these representations, the Postmaster General expects that each applicant will take care that his statements be in strict accordance with the facts of the case.

(Footnote: March 19th. Although five weeks have elapsed since the Circular was issued not a single statement has been received with reference to this Notice. )



In replying to your memorial, ( the signatures to which are almost exclusively confined to the fourth or lowest class of Letter Carriers ), I am instructed also to refer to the circumstances attending its preparation, viz: - 1st, the proceedings at the meeting of the 13th ultimo, and 2nd, the publication of the memorial - an improper step under any circumstances, but more especially so before its presentation.

As regards the meeting, I hope I need scarcely point out to you that its proceedings were of a highly discreditable character; some of the speeches, as reported, were very disrespectful towards your superior officers, and both speeches and resolutions contained statements or insinuations inconsistent with the real facts of the case, and intended, apparently, to mislead the public, and to excite a popular clamour in support of your demands.

His Grace desires me to say, that even had the prayer of the memorial been reasonable in itself, he should have found it difficult, if not impossible, to take it into favourable consideration when connected with proceedings of so objectionable a character.

His Grace is more concerned at such misconduct, seeing that it follows close upon the adoption of various measures tending greatly to improve your condition, viz:- improved scale of wages - gratuitous medical attendance to such at least as are attached to the Chief Office - an annual fortnight's holiday with uninterrupted full wages - greatly increased pensions for old age, without any deduction from present salary - and, lastly, pecuniary assistance in insurances for the benefit of your families at your death.

His Grace, however, willing to make allowance for errors in judgement, and even for misconduct arising out of excited feeling, desires to take as lenient a course as is consistent with due regard to the discipline of the office. He, therefore, satisfies himself with reminding those who have shared in these objectionable proceedings, that under the regulations laid down the Treasury no annual increase of wages can be made without a certificate from the head of the department attesting satisfactory conduct during the preceding year; and that in granting of such certificates, proceedings like those in question will necessarily be taken into consideration. I have, therefore, to urge upon you all, and especially upon such as had any share in the offensive proceedings, at the public meeting, or in the publication of the memorial, to be extremely cautious as to future conduct.

I am, &c.

Mr.....  
Letter Carrier

W. Bokenham, Contrôller.

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Illustrations

What The Auctions Tell You...page 7



Lot 1290 13.1.71



1297



1300



1314.



1316

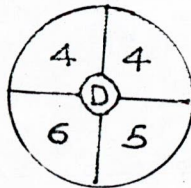


1317



1320

London Cape Packet Mark...page 9



1/6



