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## THE POST OFFICE.

The inland mail across the island, is despatched from Hobart-town, on horseback, every Saturday morning, and arrives at Ransom's inn, Green pond about 10 o'clock, the messenger leaving letters, &c at every house along the road to which they are directed, and also at Roseneath inn, Mr. Gage's, J. I. Old beach, constable James's, the Crown inn, Baddad, and Mr. Butcher's inn, Constitution hill, to inhabitants adjacent to which places, sending for the letters. The same system is pursued all along the other roads, letters in answer being deposited by the settlers at the same places of call, in time for the messenger to receive and convey them to town on their return.

From the Greenponds the mails are carried on foot. A branch messenger receives the letters and papers for the Black marsh, Clyde, Shannon, and places adjacent, and arrives at Bothwell the same evening. The second messenger to Port Dalrymple who receives the mail and starts from Green pond also immediately on the arrival of the first, arrives at Mr. Guest's inn, Lovely banks, about 12 o'clock at Jericho, about 3 in the afternoon, and at Mr. Presnell's inn, Sorell springs, about 8 in the evening.

The third messenger then relieves him, and

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rives at Ross bridge about 8 o'clock on Sunday morning. Here he is met by a branch messenger, who conveys the despatches for the settlers on Macquarie and Lake rivers, as far as Mr. Corney's, where he remains all Monday, and returns on Tuesday in time to meet the Launceston messenger on his way back. Having delivered his packet to the branch messenger, the third messenger proceeds on the road until he reaches Campbell-town, where he is again met by another branch messenger to St. Paul's plains, as far as Major Gray's, from whence he returns in time also to meet the messenger from Launceston on Tuesday morning. The third messenger usually arrives at Mr. Willis's, Wanstead, about one o'clock, where a fourth messenger receives his load, and arrives at Mr. Gibson's on the South esk, about 5 in the afternoon. Here he deposits all the letters addressed to persons in that neighbourhood, and also about the lower part of the Lake river and part of Norfolk plains, Mr. Archer, J.P. invariably sending a servant to meet the messenger going and coming. At the Perth punt, the messenger is also met by a constable despatched from Captain Smith, the Police Magistrate of Norfolk plains, who conveys the remainder of the letters and papers for the settlers in that neighbourhood. The mail afterwards proceeds and arrives at Launceston generally, about 8 o'clock on Sunday evening.

The messenger to George-town is despatched early the following morning, but does not return in time before the return post from Launceston is despatched early on Tuesday morning. The latter reaches Mr. Presnell's inn the same night, receiving the bags at the punt, Lake river, St. Paul's plains, and Ross bridge.

On Wednesday morning the post leaves Mr. Pres-



nell's, receives the despatches from Oatlands and Jericho, & arrives at the Green ponds about 1 o'clock. The mail from the Clyde is then received, and the whole is brought into Hobart town on horseback in the evening.

The post to New Norfolk starts from Hobart town at the same time as the first Port Dalrymple messenger, leaving the letters and papers addressed to the houses on the road as he goes along. At New Norfolk he is met by a second messenger, who proceeds to Mr. Cawthorne's, where he leaves the despatches for the settlers in that district, and from thence to the Lower Clyde, as far as Mrs. Bromley's where the settlers about Jones' river and the Ouse send for their letters. The messenger remains at Mrs. Bromley's until Monday noon, when he starts with the mail for New Norfolk, which he reaches the same evening. The post leaves New Norfolk on Tuesday morning, and arrives in Hobart town about three on Tuesday afternoon. He again sets off to New Norfolk on Wednesday morning, and returns to Hobart town on Thursday afternoon about three.

The post for Pittwater starts by the first boat on Saturday morning, and reaches Clarence plains about ten o'clock, the Coal river Bridge about three in the afternoon, and Sorell the same evening, passing by Orielson. On Sunday about one o'clock he leaves Sorell, and returns by the same road to Hobart town which he reaches early on Monday morning.

A messenger to Oyster bay, conveying letters, &c. to Maria island and Waterloo point, is despatched once a week, or as often as the state of the weather the rivers and the road will permit.

By the late Act of Council, regulating the Post office, a scale of postage is fixed at the rate of 3 for the conveyance of a single letter a distance of

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exceeding ten miles, and so on in proportion for longer distances, and double, triple, or quadruple letters, amounting to 1s. for 100 miles of distance; for a despatch weighing not more than half an ounce, which is considered single, whether containing enclosures or not, or 2s. 6d. for a quadruple despatch not exceeding an ounce and a quarter. Mails are made up at the Post offices for every vessel which leaves the port of Hobart town, or Launceston, and all vessels departing from the island, are by this Act compelled to take mails. Colonial newspapers are exempt from postage. When this Act comes into force it is probable that some new arrangements will take place, among the chief of which, we presume, will be the establishment of a one horse chaise, to run between Hobart town and Launceston, which will afford the branch messengers time to proceed to more remote parts and convey answers. The weight of the mails increasing every week, will soon be more than a messenger on foot can well carry.