

was awarded in 1831. Althorp and Richmond also moved with impressive speed to address the parlous state of the Irish Post Office, another scandal exposed by the 1829–30 Reports. The Government was anxious to set to rights much that had gone wrong in Ireland, building upon the Catholic Emancipation granted in 1829. Leaving Dublin to govern its own postal affairs, as it had been doing since 1784, now looked out of the question. Its Secretary was Edward Lees, son of the John Lees whose sometimes unsavoury influence was already paramount in the 1770s. Father and son had held sway in Dublin for not far short of sixty years; and it was said that Edward outdid his father in every way. A statute reuniting the Irish and General Post Offices was passed in August 1831. Lees Junior was packed off to Edinburgh – despite endless tales of his venality in Dublin – to run the Scottish Post Office. Richmond then pushed for the dismissal of all those on the payroll of the Dublin Office who had never actually set foot in the place. This alone cut its staff establishment by half.