

PREFACE

This volume is the fourth in a series of various **Postal Laws and Regulations** handbooks that were published during the nineteenth century. These volumes were used by postmasters in the United States as a guide to operating their offices. The various **Postal Laws and Regulations** books, together with the annual **Report of the Postmaster General** and the **United States Mail and Post Office Assistant**, are the most useful group of official documents that United States postal history students and cover collectors can use for reference.

This particular copy of the 1852 edition is an unusual item in that it contains additional documents that were found in a copy belonging to Horatio King. Included is a 16 page supplemental report of postal laws and regulations dated September 20, 1852. King also pasted newspaper clippings into the back of his book that relate to new postal laws and foreign mail rate changes during the 1850's. The reproduction quality of these clippings is poor due to their age and stains from the mucilage that was used to attach them. Regardless, students will find much useful information in this new source of data.

Horatio King was born June 21, 1811, in Paris, Maine. He had a common school education and entered the printing and publishing trade. In 1839 he was appointed to a clerk's position in the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C. Working his way up he was made superintendent of the Foreign Mail Service in 1850, and 1st Assistant Postmaster General on March 28, 1854. He was made acting Postmaster General on March 9, 1859, when Postmaster General Aaron Brown died in office, remaining in this position until Joseph Holt was appointed March 14, 1859. On January 1, 1861, he was again made acting Postmaster General when Joseph Holt was made Secretary of War, and on February 12, 1861, was appointed Postmaster General by President James Buchanan. He was succeeded by Montgomery Blair on March 9, 1861. At this time King entered business in Washington and some of his advertising can be found in **The United States Mail and Post Office Assistant**. He died on May 20, 1897, at age 85.

I would like to thank Mr. Richard B. Graham, of Columbus, Ohio, for supplying me with the above information on Horatio King.

Holland, Michigan
October 14, 1980

Theron Wierenga

1852. June 11. See order on which the following notice is based:

Postage to Australia, Van Dieman's Land, China, and the Sandwich Islands.

We are authorized to say that, hereafter, all letters and newspapers for Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, (Port Philips,) Van Dieman's Land, and New South Wales, (except letters marked to be sent "by private ship,") will be forwarded by the packets of the Australian Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company, on the 3d of every alternate month, commencing 3d June, 1852, from Plymouth, via the Cape of Good Hope; and that the single rate of postage (to be prepaid on letters sent and collected on letters received) between the United States and said colonies will be forty-five cents, instead of fifty-three cents, as heretofore. The postage to *North Australia* is unchanged.

Letters for any part of Australia, sent in the mails to England, thence to be forwarded by

private ship, must be prepaid thirty-seven cents the single rate. If sent via San Francisco, thence to be despatched by private ship, the inland postage only to that port (six cents the single rate) must be prepaid, leaving the ship postage, whatever it may be, to be paid at the point of delivery.

In like manner, letters and newspapers sent via San Francisco for China, must be prepaid to San Francisco, and the ship postage has to be paid at the port of delivery. At any of the British colonies in China, the ship postage on either a letter or newspaper is understood to be four cents; so that the entire postage on a single letter to those colonies, *via San Francisco*, is *ten cents* only.

To the Sandwich Islands, the single rate of letter postage is eleven cents, six of which only must be prepaid in the United States.

1852. July 23. See letter from British Office, on which the following is predicated:

Postage to Ascension, Mauritius, Point de Galle, (Ceylon,) and India.

We are authorized to say that hereafter all letters and newspapers for Ascension, and for Mauritius, *unless specially addressed to be otherwise sent*, will be forwarded by the monthly line of screw steam-packets plying between England and India, via the Cape of Good Hope; and that letters, &c. for Ceylon, or India, intended to be sent by this route, must be specially addressed "*via the Cape of Good Hope*."

The single rate of postage (to be pre-paid on letters sent from, and collected on letters received in, the United States) by this line, to or from any of the British possessions to which said packets proceed, is *forty-five cents*. Newspapers each *four cents*, also to be paid in the United States, whether the paper is sent or received.

ACT to amend the act entitled "An act to reduce and modify the rates of postage in the United States, and for other purposes," passed March third, eighteen hundred and fifty-one.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the thirtieth day of September, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, the postage upon all printed matter passing through the mail of the United States, instead of the rates now charged, shall be as follows, to wit: Each newspaper, periodical, unsealed circular, or other article of printed matter, not exceeding three ounces in weight, shall be sent to any part of the United States for one cent, and for every additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce, one cent additional shall be charged; and when the postage upon any newspaper or periodical is paid quarterly or yearly in advance at the office where the said periodical or newspaper is delivered, or is paid yearly or quarterly in advance at the office where the same is mailed, and evidence of such payment is furnished to the office of delivery in such manner as the Post Office Department shall by general regulations prescribe, one-half of said rates only shall be charged. Newspapers and periodicals not weighing over one ounce and a half, when circulated in the State where published, shall be charged one-half of the rates before mentioned: *Provided,* That small newspapers and periodicals, published monthly or oftener, and pamphlets not containing more than sixteen octavo pages each, when sent in single packages, weighing at least eight ounces, to one address, and prepaid by affixing postage stamps thereto, shall be charged only half of a cent for each ounce or fraction of an ounce, notwithstanding the postage calculated on each separate article of such package would exceed that amount. The postage on all transient matter shall be paid by stamps or otherwise, or shall be charged double the rates first above mentioned.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That books, bound or unbound, not weighing over four pounds, shall be deemed mailable matter, and shall be chargeable with postage at one cent an ounce for all distances under three thousand miles, and two cents an ounce for all distances over three thousand miles, to which fifty per cent. shall be added in all cases where the same may be sent without being prepaid, and all printed matter chargeable by weight shall be weighed when dry. The publishers of newspapers and periodicals may send to each other from their respective offices of publication free of postage one copy of each publication; and may also send to each actual subscriber, enclosed in their publications, bills and receipts for the same, free of postage. The publishers of weekly newspapers may send to each actual subscriber within the county where their papers are printed and published one copy thereof free of postage.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That no newspaper, periodical, magazine, or other printed paper or matter, shall be entitled to be sent at the rates of postage in this act specified, unless the following conditions be observed:

First. It shall be sent without any cover or wrapper, or in a cover or wrapper open at the ends or sides, so that the character of the matter contained therein may be determined without removing such wrapper. *Second.* There shall be no word or communication printed on the same after its publication, or upon the cover or wrapper thereof, nor any writing or marks upon it, nor upon the cover or wrapper thereof, except the name and address of the person to whom it is to be sent. *Third.* There shall be no paper or other thing enclosed in or with such printed paper, and if these conditions are not complied with, such

printed matter shall be subject to letter postage; and all matter sent by mail from one part of the United States to another, the postage of which is not fixed by the provisions of this act, shall, unless the same be entitled to be sent free of postage, be charged with letter postage.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That if the publisher of any periodical, after being three months previously notified that his publication is not taken out of the office to which it is sent for delivery, continue to forward such publication in the mail, the postmaster to whose office such publication is sent may dispose of the same for the postage, unless the publisher shall pay it; and whenever any printed matter of any description, received during one quarter of the fiscal year, shall have remained in the office without being called for during the whole of any succeeding quarter, the Postmaster at such office shall sell the same and credit the proceeds of such sale in his quarterly accounts, under such regulations and after such notice as the Post Office Department shall prescribe.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the second section of the act entitled "An act to modify and reduce the rates of postage in the United States, and for other purposes," approved March third, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, as relates to the postage or free circulation or transmission of newspapers, periodicals, and other printed matter, and all other provisions of law inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That when a list of uncalled-for letters shall be published in any newspaper printed in any foreign language, said list shall be published in such newspaper having the largest circulation within the range of delivery of said office.

Approved, August 30, 1852.

AN ACT making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, and for other purposes.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be and he is hereby authorized, whenever he shall deem it discreet, to dispense with the route agents now sent with the mails from New York to California, and in lieu thereof to appoint not more than two resident agents to take charge of the mail service across the Isthmus of Panama, and to allow said agents for salary and personal expenses not exceeding three thousand dollars per year for each of such agents, which shall be paid out of the amount annually appropriated for the transportation of the mails.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the salary of the route agents be and the same is hereby increased to one thousand dollars per annum.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be and he is hereby authorized, if he shall deem it proper, to advertise for and establish service upon the regular mail route between New Orleans and certain Gulf ports of Florida.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General is authorized to contract with the Ocean Steam Navigation Company for one additional trip on the Havre line, and one additional trip on the Bremen line, until the expiration of their existing contract, receiving and delivering mails at Southampton, Cowes, or Plymouth, as the Postmaster General may direct, according to such schedule as shall be prescribed by the Postmaster General, in order thereby to maintain through such lines, and the Collins line, a regular weekly communication by American mail steamers between the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; but the

[PUBLIC—No. 34.]

AN ACT to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, namely :

For the service of the Post Office Department, a sum not exceeding five hundred and five thousand dollars, to supply a deficiency in the revenues of said department, to meet the appropriations therefor for the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

For compensation of five clerks, authorized to be appointed and employed by the Postmaster General, under the thirteenth section of the act of thirty-first August, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, four thousand five hundred and four dollars and ninety cents.

For compensation to an assistant day watchman of the General Post Office, from the fifteenth of September, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, until the thirtieth June, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, four hundred and seventy-five dollars.

[Approved, March 8, 1853.]

[PUBLIC—No. 35.]

AN ACT making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of Government for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-four.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be and are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the objects hereafter expressed, for the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, namely :

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

For compensation of the Postmaster General, three Assistant Postmasters General, and the clerks, messenger, assistant messengers, and watchmen of said department, one hundred and eight thousand nine hundred dollars.

For compensation of the superintendent of the Post Office building, two hundred and fifty dollars.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

For blank books, binding, stationery, fuel for the General Post Office building, including the Auditor's office, oil, gas, and candles, labor, day watchman, and for miscellaneous expenses, eleven thousand eight hundred dollars.

For repairs of the General Post Office building, for office furniture, glazing, whitewashing, and for keeping the fire-places and furnaces in order, one thousand five hundred dollars.

Auditor of the Post Office Department :

For compensation of the Auditor of the Post Office Department, and the clerks, messenger, and assistant messenger in his office, one hundred and three thousand two hundred dollars.

For contingent expenses of said office, viz :

For labor, three thousand and eighty dollars.

For stationery, two thousand three hundred dollars.

For blank books, one thousand two hundred dollars.

For binding and ruling, six hundred and twenty dollars.

For miscellaneous items, viz :

For file-boards, repairs, cases, and desks, for safekeep-

ing of paper, new furniture, lights, washing towels, ice, horse for messenger, telegraphic despatches, stoves, &c., one thousand five hundred dollars.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, the clerks in the Departments of the Treasury, War, Navy, the Interior and the Post Office shall be arranged into four classes, of which class number one shall receive an annual salary of nine hundred dollars each, class number two an annual salary of one thousand two hundred dollars each, class number three an annual salary of one thousand five hundred dollars each, and class number four an annual salary of one thousand eight hundred dollars each.

In the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, four of class one, six of class two, six of class three, and five of class four.

In the office of the Solicitor, one of class one, two of class two, three of class three, and one of class four.

In the office of the First Comptroller, two of class one, five of class two, and seven of class three.

In the office of the Second Comptroller, three of class one, four of class two, and seven of class three.

In the office of the First Auditor, three of class one, six of class two, and nine of class three.

In the office of the Second Auditor, two of class one, six of class two, and eleven of class three.

In the office of the Third Auditor, three of class one, forty-one of class two, and eight of class three.

In the office of the Fourth Auditor, one of class one, four of class two, and nine of class three.

In the office of the Fifth Auditor, two of class one, three of class two, and two of class three.

In the office of the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, twenty of class one, fifty of class two, twenty-six of class three, and five of class four.

In the office of the Register, five of class one, eighteen of class two, and four of class three.

In the office of the Commissioner of Customs, three of class one, four of class two, and three of class three.

In the office of the Treasurer, two of class one, five of class two, and five of class three.

And in the office of the Lighthouse Board, one of class one, one of class two, and two of class three.

In the office of the Secretary of War, one of class one, two of class two, two of class three, and one of class four.

In the office of the General-in-Chief, one of class two.

In the office of the Adjutant General, two of class one, five of class two, one of class three, and one of class four.

In the office of the Quartermaster General, three of class one, five of class two, two of class three, and one of class four.

In the office of the Paymaster General, two of class one, three of class two, two of class three, and one of class four.

In the office of the Commissary General, two of class one, two of class two, one of class three, and one of class four.

In the office of the Surgeon General, one of class one, one of class two, and one of class four.

In the office of the Colonel of Engineers, one of class one, two of class two, one of class three, and one of class four.

In the office of the Colonel of Topographical Engineers, one of class one, two of class two, one of class three, and one of class four.

And in the office of the Colonel of Ordnance, two of class one, four of class two, one of class three, and one of class four.

In the office of the Secretary of the Navy, four of class two, six of class three, and one of class four.

In the bureau of Construction, Equipment, and Repairs, one of class one, seven (including the draughtsman) of class two, and one of class four.

In the Bureau of Yards and Docks, one of class one, four (including the draughtsman) of class two, and one of class four.

In the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing, four of class two, and one of class four.

In the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, four (including the draughtsman) of class two, and one of class four.

And in the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, two of class two, and one (the assistant) of class four.

In the office of the Secretary of the Interior, four of class two, three of class three, and three of class four.

In the office of the Commissioner of Pensions, ten of class one, thirty of class two, five of class three, and four of class four.

In the office of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, forty of class one, forty of class two, twenty-three of class three, and three of class four.

In the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, six of class two, six of class three, and three of class four.

And in the office of the Commissioner of Patents, eight of class two, twelve (including the six assistant examiners) of class three, and one of class four.

In the office of the Postmaster General, ten of class one, thirty-three of class two, twenty-nine of class three, and six (including the topographer) of class four.

And there shall be a chief clerk for each of the offices of the Solicitor, First Comptroller, Second Comptroller, First Auditor, Second Auditor, Third Auditor, Fourth Auditor, Fifth Auditor, Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, Register, Commissioner of Customs, Treasurer, Lighthouse Board, Commissioner of Pensions, Commissioner of the General Land Office, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and Commissioner of Patents, who shall be allowed an annual compensation of two thousand dollars each; and there shall be a chief clerk for each of the Departments of the Treasury, War, Navy, Interior, and General Post office, who shall be allowed an annual compensation of two thousand two hundred dollars each.

No clerk shall be appointed in either of the four classes until after he has been examined and found qualified by a board, to consist of three examiners, one of them to be the chief of the bureau or office into which he is to be appointed, and the two others to be selected by the head of the Department to which the said clerk will be assigned. Nor shall any clerk in the Departments herein named receive any other salary or money for extra services than the sum or sums specified in this section, at any time after this section has been executed by a classification of the clerks as it prescribes. There shall be a disbursing clerk for each of the Departments of War, Navy, and the Post Office; not more than three for the Treasury Department, at the discretion of the Secretary thereof; and not more than three for the Department of the Interior, at the discretion of the Secretary thereof. The said clerks to be appointed out of class four by the heads of the respective Departments, and to receive such sum in addition to their regular salaries as may amount in all to two thousand dollars per annum. But it shall be their further duty, when designated by the head of the Depart-

ment for that service, to superintend the buildings, and they shall give bonds as required by the Independent Treasury act: *Provided*, That the clerks when distributed and arranged as required by this section shall be paid according to its provisions, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and shall constitute the whole of the permanent clerical force of the Departments of the Treasury, War, Navy, the Interior, and the Post Office, with the exception of the Census Bureau, which is not included in this arrangement, and the clerks temporarily employed in the office of the Third Auditor on bounty land service, and on arrearages of pay: *And provided further*, That each head of the said Departments may alter the distribution herein made of the clerks amongst the various bureaux and offices in his departments, if he should find it necessary and proper to do so.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That hereafter the annual compensation of the Vice President, Secretaries of State, Treasury, War, Navy, and Interior, and the Postmaster and Attorney General, shall be eight thousand dollars each.

Approved, March 3, 1853.

[PUBLIC—No. 38.]

AN ACT making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated for the service of the Post Office Department, for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, out of any moneys in the treasury arising from the revenues of the said department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, and for other purposes, viz:

For transportation of the mails, five million and twenty-nine thousand dollars.

For compensation to postmasters, two million and twenty-six thousand dollars.

For ship, steamboat, and way letters, thirty thousand dollars.

For wrapping-paper, fifty-two thousand dollars.

For office furniture, in the offices of postmasters, eight thousand dollars.

For advertising, seventy-six thousand five hundred dollars.

For mail-bags, fifty-one thousand dollars.

For blanks, fifty-five thousand dollars.

For mail-locks, keys, and stamps, twenty thousand dollars.

For mail depreddations, and special agents, fifty thousand dollars.

For clerks in the offices of postmasters, five hundred and fifty-six thousand dollars.

For miscellaneous items, one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

For postage stamps and stamped envelopes, fifty-five thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That there be and is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sum not exceeding one million eight hundred thousand dollars, to supply any deficiency that may arise in the revenues of the Post Office Department, to meet the foregoing appropriations, for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

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Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That in all cases where the Postmaster General shall be satisfied that either money or property, stolen from the United States mail, shall have been exchanged for other money or property, and has been, upon the conviction of the thief, received at his Department, he shall have authority, upon satisfactory evidence that the same justly belonged to any individual, firm, or corporation, to pay over and deliver such money or property to the owner thereof.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That section three of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, and for other purposes," and approved the thirty-first of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, be and the same is hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General is hereby authorized to make such arrangement as he may deem advisable, by causing letters sent to California and Oregon to be advertised free of expense to the United States, and by the issuing of circulars to postmasters, and causing the same to be published, to ensure as far as possible the delivery of letters sent by mail from the Atlantic States to California, to the individuals to whom they are directed.

Approved, March 3, 1853.

PUBLIC—No. 40.

AN ACT making appropriations for the transportation of the United States mail by ocean steamers and otherwise, during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four:

For transportation of the mails from New York to Liverpool and back, eight hundred and fifty-eight thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails from New York to New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, Havana, and Chagres and back, two hundred and ninety thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails from Panama to California and Oregon and back, three hundred and forty-eight thousand two hundred and fifty dollars.

For carrying out the contract entered into by the Post Office Department under the law passed at the last session of Congress, establishing a tri-monthly mail by steam vessels between New Orleans and Vera Cruz, via Tampico, seventy thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated for the service of the Post Office Department, for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, out of any moneys in the treasury arising from the revenues of said Department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

For transportation of the mails in two steamships from New York, by Southampton, to Bremen and back, at one hundred thousand dollars for each ship; and in two steamships from New York, by Cowes, to Havre and back, at seventy-five thousand dollars for each ship, under the contract with the Ocean Steam Navigation Company of New York, three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails between Charleston and Havana, under the contract with M. C. Mordecai, fifty

The act here referred to increased the pay of all kind agents \$5000 a year see act of March 1845 page 64.

For transportation of the mails across the Isthmus of Panama, one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General shall cause the facts to be investigated in relation to the contract of A. G. Sloo, for the transportation of the mail in ocean steamers from New York to New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, Havana, and Chagres and back, per act of March third, eighteen hundred and forty-seven, for the purpose of ascertaining how far the contract corresponds with the original bids, and shall report to Congress at the next session the facts and circumstances connected with the said contract; and also for what amount the said mail service could be performed if a new contract should be made, and whether the ships furnished under said contract are built according to its terms. The Postmaster General is further directed by this act to ascertain and report to Congress at its next session for what amounts the service now performed under the several contracts with the Navy and Post Office Department for carrying the mail in ocean steamers can be hereafter performed, upon the supposition that the United States shall take the steamers according to contract and sell or transfer them.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That upon the application of either of the companies contracting to carry the mail in ocean steamers from New York to Havre, or from New York to Bremen, the Postmaster General is hereby authorized to discharge such company from said contract: *Provided*, That no further compensation shall be paid to either of said companies after such discharge from its contract.

[Approved, March 3, 1853.]

[PUBLIC.—No. 47.]

AN ACT to establish certain post roads, and for other purposes.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be authorized and required to establish a mail between Bainbridge and Apalachicola.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That all railroads and parts of railroads which are now or hereafter may be in operation be and the same are hereby declared to be post roads; and the Postmaster General may contract for carrying the mails thereon according to existing laws.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department be and he is hereby authorized to allow the postmaster at Richmond, Virginia, and the postmaster at Cleveland, Ohio, the same commission on all mailable matter distributed at their respective offices as is allowed by law to the postmasters of the other distributing offices; such allowance to date from the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That hereafter, as the office of Assistant Postmaster General, or either of them, shall be vacated, the appointment of his successor shall be made by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the first day of April next, in place of the compensation now allowed deputy postmasters, the Postmaster General be and is hereby authorized to allow them commissions at the following rates, on the postage collected at their respective offices, in each quarter of the year, and in due proportion for any period less than a quarter, viz: on any sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, fifty per cent., but any postmaster, at whose office the mail is to arrive regularly between the hours of nine o'clock at night and five o'clock in the morning, may be allowed sixty per cent.

See similar act
passed July,
1838, p. 57.

Sec. 2
Sec. 3
Sec. 4

on the first hundred dollars; on every sum over and above one hundred dollars, but not exceeding four hundred dollars, forty per cent.; on every sum over and above four hundred dollars, but not exceeding twenty-four hundred dollars, thirty-five per cent.; on every sum exceeding twenty-four hundred dollars, fifteen per cent. And on the amount of postage on letters and packages received at a distributing office for distribution may be allowed ten per cent. Every postmaster whose compensation shall not exceed five hundred dollars in one quarter shall be allowed one cent for every free letter delivered out of his office, excepting such as are for the postmaster himself. But the special allowance now made by law to the postmaster at New Orleans and Washington city shall not otherwise be either increased or diminished. Each postmaster who shall be required to keep a register of the arrival and departure of the mails shall be allowed ten cents for each monthly return which he makes to the Postmaster General. Each postmaster may be allowed two mills for delivery from his office to a subscriber each newspaper not chargeable with postage: *Provided*, That the commissions and allowances hereby authorized shall be subject to the provisions of the forty-first section of the act entitled "An act to reduce into one the several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department," approved March the third, eighteen hundred and twenty-five.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That any person who shall forge or counterfeit any postage stamp printed or impressed upon any letter envelope authorized by the eight section of an act entitled "An act to establish certain post roads, and for other purposes," approved August thirty-first, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, or by any other act, or who shall counterfeit any die, plate, or engraving therefor, or who shall make or print, or knowingly use or sell, or have in his possession with intent to use or sell, any such false, forged, or counterfeited die, plate, engraving, or stamped envelope, or who shall make or knowingly use, or sell or have in his possession with intent to use or sell, any paper bearing the water mark of such letter envelopes, or any fraudulent imitation thereof, or who shall make or print, or authorize or procure to be made or printed, any stamped or printed letter envelope of the kind provided by the Postmaster General under the authority aforesaid, without the especial direction of the Post Office Department, or who, after such letter envelopes have been prepared or printed, shall, with intent to defraud the revenues of the Post Office Department, deliver any such letter envelopes to any person or persons other than such as shall be authorized to receive the same by instrument of writing, duly executed under the hand of the Postmaster General and the seal of the Post Office Department, shall, on conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of felony, and be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of every postmaster to cause to be defaced, in such manner as the Postmaster General may direct, all letter envelopes with postage stamps thereon which may be deposited in his office for conveyance in the mail; and if any postmaster sending such envelopes in the mail shall omit to deface the same, it shall be the duty of the postmaster to whose office such envelopes shall be sent for delivery to deface them, and report the delinquent postmaster to the Postmaster General. And if any person shall use, or attempt to use, for the conveyance of any letter or other mailable matter or thing, over any post road of the United

States, either by mail or otherwise, any such stamped letter envelope which has been before used for a like purpose, such person shall be liable to a penalty of fifty dollars, to be recovered, in the name of the United States, in any court having competent jurisdiction.

Approved, March 3, 1853.

1853 April 2. See letter from Chief Director of P. O. at Berlin, on which the following is predicated:

UNITED STATES AND PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL.

By existing regulations in Prussia, letters received from the United States exceeding in weight three and a half ounces, and which contain articles other than written matter, or coined money, cannot be treated as mail matter; and it is requested that packets of this description be withheld from the United States and Prussian closed mail. The despatch post offices at New York and Boston are instructed to take note of and be governed by these regulations.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO BRAZIL AND JAVA.

We are authorized to say that hereafter the single rate of letter-postage between the United States and Brazil, via England, will be 45 cents, instead of 87 cents, as heretofore—prepayment required.

We are further requested to say that a direct communication by British mail packets, running once in two months between Singapore and Batavia, having been established in connexion with the overland mails to India and Australia, all letters, newspapers, &c. addressed to *Java*, or to any of the *Dutch Possessions in India*, will in future be forwarded by these packets, unless specially directed to be sent by other conveyance.

The regular mails for Java are to be made up in London for transmission, via Marseilles, on the 8th of each of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November; but letters and newspapers may also be sent, if so addressed, by the route of Southampton on the 4th of each of the months above mentioned.

The rate of postage to Java (to be prepaid on letters sent from and collected on letters received in the United States) is *sixty-five cents* per letter of less than a quarter of an ounce via Marseilles, and *forty-five cents* per letter weighing less than half an ounce via Southampton.

See instructions 22 April, 1853.

Postage on Newspapers to the Continent of Europe, &c.

We have been furnished by the Post Office Department with the following list of countries, the postage on newspapers to which, when sent from the United States in the *British or open mail* to Great Britain for transmission, is two cents each, to be prepaid, (instead of four cents, as stated in the postage tables last published,) *being the United States postage only*. When newspapers for these countries are to go in the United States and Prussian *closed mail*, the rate required to be prepaid is *six cents*—being the full United States, British, and German postage:

Alexandria, city of, via Marseilles, by French packet.
Algeria.
*Austria and its States, via France.
*Baden, do.
*Bavaria, do.
Belgium.
Bremen, city of.
*Brunswick, via France.
Beyrout, city of, via Marseilles, by French packet.
Cuxhaven.
Dardanelles, the, via Marseilles, by French packet.
*Denmark, via France.
France.
German States.
Greece, via Marseilles, by French packet.
Hamburg.
*Hanover, via France.
Holland.
Lubec, free city of.
*Mecklenburg, via France.
Moldavia.
Naples, kingdom of, via Marseilles, by French packet.
*Norway, via France.
*Oldenburgh, do.
Poland, (*cannot be forwarded except as letters.*)
Prussia.
Roman or Papal States.
Russia, (*cannot be forwarded except as letters.*)
Saxony, via France
*Schwerin, do.
*Strelitz, do.
Scutari, Asia, city of, via Marseilles.
Smyrna, do do do do.
*Sweden, via France.
Switzerland.
Turkey, (Europe.)
Tuscany, via Marseilles.
Venetian States.
Wallachia.
Wurtemberg.

NOTE.—For the countries marked thus *, newspapers can be forwarded, in the British or open mail, only by the routes respectively specified above.

For above, see case made April 18, 1853.

See case - Instructions 28 April, 1853.

PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL.

Information having been received of the establishment of certain regulations by the German-Austrian Postal Union, requiring slight modifications of the instructions contained in the Postage Tables of 13th October last in regard to the United States and Prussian closed mail, we are requested to publish the following list as embracing all the countries and places to which letters and newspapers may be forwarded in said closed mail, with the necessary alterations.

Postmasters will do well to compare this with and note the alterations upon the postage circular above referred to :

German-Austrian Postal Union, States of, viz: Prussia, all other German States and the whole Austrian Empire, by the Prussian closed mail, via Lon- don and Ostend.....	30 cents.	} Prepayment optional.
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Alexandria, (by Prussian closed mail,).....	38 cents.	} Prepayment optional.
Beyrout.....	do.....40 "	
Candia.....	do.....40 "	
Cesme.....	do.....40 "	
Constantinople...do.....	40 "	
Dardanelles, the..do.....	40 "	
Denmark.....do.....	37 "	
Galatz.....do.....	40 "	
Gallipoli.....do.....	40 "	
Greece.....do.....	42 "	
Ibraila.....do.....	40 "	
Ionian Islands...do.....	37 "	
Larnaca.....do.....	40 "	
Modena.....do.....	33 "	
Mytilene.....do.....	40 "	
Norway.....do.....	48 "	
Papal States.....do.....	35 "	
Parma.....do.....	33 "	
Poland.....do.....	37 "	
Rhodes.....do.....	40 "	
Russia.....do.....	37 "	
Salonica.....do.....	40 "	
Samsun.....do.....	40 "	
Smyrna.....do.....	40 "	
Sweden.....do.....	42 "	
Switzerland.....do.....	35 "	
Tenedos.....do.....	40 "	
Trebizonde.....do.....	40 "	
Tuloza.....do.....	40 "	
Tuscany.....do.....	35 "	
Varna.....do.....	40 "	

China, (except Hong Kong,) via Trieste (by Prus- sian closed mail,).....	62 cents.	} Prepayment reqd.
East Indies (English possessions in) via Trieste.....	do.....38 "	
East Indies, all other countries in and beyond the East Indies, via Trieste.....	do.....70 "	
Hong Kong, via Trieste.....	do.....38 "	

Egypt (except Alexandria).....do.....30	“	} Prepayment required.
Italy (except Lombardy, Modena, Parma, Tuscany, and the Papal States).....do.....30	“	
[Lombardy and Venice are parts of the Austrian Empire.]		
Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.....do.....30	“	
Turkey, Wallachia, Moldavia, Servia, Levante, and Turkish islands in the Mediterranean (except Constantinople, Beyrout, Rhodes, Larnaca, Smyrna, Cesme, Tenedos, Mytilene, Salonica, Dardanelles, Gallipoli, Samsun, Varna, Trebizonde, Tuloza, Candia, Galatz, and Ibraïla).....do.....30	“	

Except to the countries last above named (commencing with Egypt) as requiring the prepayment of 30 cents a letter, which is the United States and Prussian postage only, the rates set down are the full postage through to destination.

Newspapers to be sent in the Prussian closed mail must be prepaid six cents each, which is the full United States and Prussian postage. If to go in this said closed mail to the British possessions in the East Indies or to Hong Kong, they must be prepaid 10 cents, and if to other points in China, or to countries beyond the East Indies, 13 cents each. But to the East Indies and China it is believed that the cheapest route for newspapers is in the British mail, via Southampton, 4 cents each, to be prepaid, being the full United States and British postage.

With reference to the Prussian closed mail, we are desired to remark, also, that in many instances letters which should come in this mail, particularly from the southern part of Germany, are received in the open mail, generally via France, thus rendering them subject to additional and much higher rates of postage; and it is suggested that writers would aid greatly toward correcting this irregularity by requesting their correspondents in Germany to inform themselves as to the correct rates of postage, and to mark their letters specially to be forwarded in the “Prussian closed mail, via Ostend and London.” It is to be observed that a prepayment in either country of less than the combined rate of 30 cents on a letter goes for nothing.

OFFICIAL.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

May 25, 1853.

Pursuant to authority vested in the Postmaster General, and by and with the advice and consent of the President of the United States, (which advice and consent more fully appear by an instrument in writing this day filed in the department,) and with a view to bring about lower and more uniform rates of pamphlet and magazine postage in the contemplated postal arrangements with foreign governments, particularly on the continent of Europe—

It is hereby ordered, That, hereafter, the United States postage, to be charged and collected on all pamphlets and magazines mailed within the United States for, or received from any foreign country, (except Great Britain,* the British North American provinces and the west coast of South America,) be at the rate of two cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce, instead of the rates established by the act of 3d March, 1851.

JAMES CAMPBELL,
Postmaster General.

* We are informed that the reason why pamphlets, &c., to Great Britain are excepted in this order is, that the present rate to that country of four cents an ounce, above the first two ounces, is the British charge on such publications sent to or received from the United States. A late proposition from our Post Office Department to reduce the rate to two cents an ounce was declined by the British office. To the west coast of South America the rates established by the act of 1851 are retained, owing to the high cost of the isthmus transportation; and to the British North American provinces the domestic rates of the act of 1852 apply. New postage tables, embodying these and other changes in the foreign rates, we understand, will be published in the course of a few days.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 9, 1853.

Improved Postal Communication between the United States and Bremen.

Having some days since seen it stated in the New York papers that an agent from Bremen—Mr. R. Schleiden—had come to the United States with the view to make arrangements for putting on two additional steamers between New York and Bremen, and, if practicable, to effect some improvement in the postal communication between the United States and the continent, we made inquiry, and have obtained from the Post Office Department the following interesting facts on the subject.

It appears that under the existing international postal arrangements between the United States and Bremen, the postmaster of Bremen acts as the agent of our Post Office Department in receiving and forwarding the mails by the United States steamers "Washington" and "Hermann," and that the Postmaster General allows him for his services a commission of 20 per cent. on the amount of postage collected by him and credited to the United States. This commission of 20 per cent. covers the expense also of the service performed by Bremen, of conveying the mails between the landing-place of our steam-

ers at Bremenhaven, and the city of Bremen, a distance of about 40 miles; and, under the arrangement, the Bremen inland postage is remitted on all mails conveyed by said steamers.

The intention now is to place two more steamers on the line, and thus to secure semi-monthly, instead of monthly trips, at regular intervals of about two weeks. These steamers, the "Hansa" and "Germania," have already been purchased, and are to be run by the enterprising Bremen house of W. A. Fritze & Co.; and in order that a due share of the postage might go toward the support of this new undertaking, it became necessary, of course, to modify in some degree the existing postal arrangements with Bremen. For this purpose, Mr. Schleiden, on the 4th instant, addressed a communication to the Postmaster General, setting forth the views and wishes of his government on the subject; whereupon the Postmaster General proposed to him, in substance, the following articles of agreement, in which we understand Mr. Schleiden entirely concurs, viz:

1. There shall be a regular exchange of mails between the post offices of New York and Bremen by the Bremen steamers Hansa and Germania, which shall run between the respective ports of New York and Bremen, as near as possible at equal intervals with the trips of the United States steamers Washington and Hermann.

2. The rates of postage on such mails shall be the same as by said mail steamers of the United States line, to wit: 20 cents the single rate for letters of half an ounce and under, 2 cents each for newspapers, and 2 cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce for pamphlets and magazines.

3. With reference to letters, 5 cents shall be considered as the United States inland postage, and 15 cents as the sea postage.

4. Ten cents a single letter, or two-thirds of the sea-postage on all letters conveyed by them, shall be considered as belonging to the proprietors of the said steamers Hansa and Germania, and this proportion of the postage on all letters prepaid in the United States, as well as on all unpaid letters from Bremen for the United States, forwarded by said steamers, shall be paid to the Bremen post office by the United States Post Office Department, to be so appropriated. The balance (one-third) of the sea-postage shall belong to the United States.

5. The postmaster at Bremen shall not be entitled to receive from the United States any commissions on the sea-postage he may collect upon any letters sent or received by said steamers "Hansa" and "Germania."

6. The United States Post Office Department will keep an account of all newspapers and other printed matter conveyed by said steamers "Hansa" and "Germania," and will pay for the benefit of the proprietors thereof one quarter of the whole (inland and sea) postage thereon to the Bremen post office.

7. Said steamers "Hansa" and "Germania" shall be required to convey all dead and returned letters and the official communications of the respective governments of the United States and Bremen free of charge.

8. This arrangement shall go into effect on the 1st of August next, and it may be terminated on three months' notice by either party to the other, and at any time by mutual consent.

It will be perceived that it is not proposed by this arrangement to make any alteration in the rates of postage

to Bremen ; but we are informed that Mr. Schleiden is instructed by his government to submit to the Postmaster General the question of a reduction of postage by this line of United States and Bremen steamers, and that the subject will receive immediate attention. As it will be seen by the pamphlet edition of Post Office Regulations, 1852, this route is at present the cheapest for letters and newspapers, not only to Bremen, but to many other of the German States ; and with yet lower rates, and an increase of the mail service to semi-monthly trips, it can hardly fail to become the channel of a large portion of the correspondence between the United States and Germany.

OFFICIAL.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, August 4, 1853.

Pursuant to authority vested in the Postmaster General, and by and with the advice and consent of the President of the United States, (which advice and consent more fully appear by an instrument in writing this day filed in the department,) and with a view to make better postal arrangements between the United States and Europe, particularly with the government of Bremen—

It is hereby ordered, That from and after the 15th of August, 1853, the postage on a single letter to Bremen, by the Bremen line, be reduced from 20 to 10 cents ; which rate is to be charged also on letters to and from Bremen, for all States beyond Bremen whose postage to Bremen shall not exceed 5 cents the single rate. On letters for States beyond Bremen, whose postage to or from Bremen is over 5 cents, the single rate between the United States and Bremen shall be 15 instead of 10 cents ; the postage beyond, whatever it may be, to be added to the said rate of 15 cents.

On all pamphlets and magazines mailed within the United States for, or received from, any foreign country, (except Great Britain, the British North American provinces, and the west coast of South America,) the postage shall be at the rate of one cent an ounce, or fraction of an ounce, instead of two cents, as established by the order of 25th of May last. And whenever the British government shall reduce their postage on works of this kind from the present rate of 4 cents to 1 cent an ounce, the same reduction may be made in the United States postage to and from Great Britain.

JAMES CAMPBELL,
Postmaster General.

Reduction of Postage to the Continent of Europe.

From an official notice in to-day's paper it will be observed that the Postmaster General has taken another important step toward facilitating correspondence between the United States and the continent of Europe by the United States and Bremen line. We are authorized to say, also, that additional articles have been agreed upon and signed by the Postmaster General and Mr. R. Schleiden, the resident minister of the republic of Bremen, modifying the existing postal arrangement between the two countries, by providing for a reduction of the postage by the Bremen line from 20 to 10 cents the single rate, as contemplated by the order above referred to. States beyond Bremen are to have the benefit of this reduced postage, provided the rate between Bremen and such States respectively does not exceed 5 cents—thus making the entire postage of a single letter to or from any

part of the United States only 15 cents. For letters, the German postage on which beyond Bremen is over 5 cents, the single rate between the United States and Bremen is reduced from 20 to 15 cents. It will be seen that at present the German rate is generally 7 cents, which, added to the 15, makes the whole rate 22 cents. Should an inducement, however, be offered for a reduction of the German rate to 5 cents, there is little doubt that it will very soon be done.

It will be observed, also, that the postage on pamphlets and periodicals to all foreign countries, except Great Britain and the west coast of South America, has been reduced to the uniform rate of 1 cent an ounce—a most desirable improvement.

The following list has been handed to us for publication:

Rates of postage on letters of the weight of half an ounce and under, by the United States and Bremen line of steamers, hereafter to sail semi-monthly between New York and Bremen, to go into effect with the first outgoing steamer after the 15th August current:

PREPAYMENT OPTIONAL.

Bremen -	-	-	-	-	10	cts
Altona -	-	-	-	-	21	"
Austria (empire and province of) -	-	-	-	-	21	"
Baden -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Bavaria -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Cassel -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Coburg -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Darmstadt -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Frankfurt-on-the-Main -	-	-	-	-	21	"
Gotha -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Hamburg -	-	-	-	-	15	"
Hanover -	-	-	-	-	21	"
Hesse Hamburg -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Kiel -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Lippe Detmold -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Lubeck -	-	-	-	-	21	"
Mecklenberg-Schwerin -	-	-	-	-	21	"
Mecklenberg-Strelitz -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Nassau -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Oldenburg -	-	-	-	-	12	"
Prussia (kingdom and Province of) -	-	-	-	-	12	"
Reuss -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Saxe-Altenburgh -	-	-	-	-	21	"
Saxe-Meiningen -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Saxe-Weimar -	-	-	-	-	21	"
Saxony (kingdom of) -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Schaumburg-Lippe -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Schwartzburg-Rudolstadt -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Schwartzburg-Sonderhausen -	-	-	-	-	22	"
Wurtemberg (kingdom of) -	-	-	-	-	22	"

Newspapers sent from the United States must be prepaid two cents each, and pamphlets and magazines one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce. This is the United States postage only—the foreign postage having to be paid at the point of delivery. On all printed matter from the continent by the United States and Bremen line, the whole postage (United States and foreign) is to be repaid.

Unpaid letters, and newspapers and magazines, prepaid as above, for any of the following countries, may also be sent by the Bremen line, viz: Alexandria, Cairo, Constantinople, Denmark, Greece, Italy, (eastern towns of)

Norway, St. Petersburg, or Cronstadt, Sweden, and Switzerland. The exact rates to these countries, since no provision is made, will be given by the department, and optional prepayment extended also to them.

We regard this measure for a reduction of the postage to the continent as holding out encouragement of the happiest results. It is a bold movement, and one that no timid head of a department would venture to make. We know that it has not been made without due reflection. The order of reduction, it will be seen, has received the official sanction of the President, as required by law. To our German population particularly, and to their friends at home, the arrangement cannot fail to be hailed with great satisfaction; and we look to see them avail themselves of it to an extent that shall not only place its success beyond doubt, but afford an additional proof in favor of low postage.

We are glad to perceive, also, that the Postmaster General intends renewing the proposal for the reduction of magazine postage between the United States and Great Britain. The present combined rate of eight cents an ounce is little better than an act of entire prohibition. We can conceive of no good reason why the British authorities should desire to keep up this high rate on magazines, but, on the contrary, there are many reasons why it would appear to be greatly for their interest to adopt the lowest rate possible to obtain. Should the rate on either side be reduced to one cent an ounce, we are sure it would give great satisfaction, particularly to literary and scientific men, on both sides of the water.

United States and Bremen Postal Arrangement.

The following table will explain itself. It has been prepared at the Post Office Department:

List of foreign countries between which and Bremen letters and newspapers may be sent through the United States [The rates here set down are the FOREIGN postage, which, with the United States and Bremen postage, must be collected by Bremen, as well on matter sent as on matter received—the United States not having the means of collecting postage in the countries and places herein named:]

Mexico.....	
Cuba.....	
West Indies, &c., (British) viz:	
Antigua.....	
Barbadoes.....	
Bahamas.....	
Berbice.....	
Curaçoon.....	
Demerara.....	
Dominica.....	10 cents on each letter of half an ounce or under, and 2 cents on each newspaper.
Essequibo.....	
Granada.....	
Jamaica.....	
Montserrat.....	
Nevis.....	
St. Kitts.....	
St. Lucia.....	
St. Vincent.....	
Tobago.....	
Tortola.....	
Trinidad.....	
West Indies, &c. (not British)	
Carthagena.....	34 cents on each letter of half an ounce or under, and 6 cents on each newspaper.
Honduras.....	
St. Juan (Nicaragua).....	

Modified 10 Oct. 57 by reducing 5 Cents in each instance.

Bogotá, (New Granada).....	} 35 cents on each letter of half an ounce or under, and 5 cents on each newspaper.
Buenaventura, (New Granada)...	
Guayaquil, (Ecuador).....	} 45 cents on each letter of half an ounce or under, and 5 cents on each newspaper.
Quito.....do.....	
Cobija, (Bolivia).....	
La Paz.....do.....	
Copapo, (Chili).....	
Huasco.....do.....	
Coquimbo, do.....	
Valparaiso, do.....	} 35 cents on each letter of half an ounce or under, and 5 cents on each newspaper.
St. Jago.....do.....	
Paya.....(Peru).....	
Lambayecue.....do.....	
Huanchaco.....do.....	
Casma.....do.....	
Huacho.....do.....	
Callao.....do.....	
Isima.....do.....	
Pisco.....do.....	
Islay.....do.....	} 30 cents on each letter of half an ounce or under, and 2 cents on each newspaper.
Arica.....do.....	
Iquique.....do.....	
Chigres, (New Granada).....	} 30 cents on each letter of half an ounce or under, and 2 cents on each newspaper.
Panama.....do.....	

To any of the British North American provinces and to the Sandwich islands, prepaid letters, newspapers, and magazines may be sent through at the same rates as to the United States. In these cases the postage accruing beyond the frontier of the United States must be paid at the points of delivery.

Sept. 11, Jan'y 87.
Canada letter to post
this is the U. S. to
cause the Canada
postage - all to be
collected by Bremen

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1853.

IMPORTANT TO POSTMASTERS AND OTHERS.

We are requested by the Postmaster General to call attention to the following regulations in regard to postage on letters to Foreign Countries :

In the Mail to Great Britain the single rate of postage is 24 cents, prepayment optional. On either a letter or packet of any weight the whole postage or none at all should be prepaid. If any thing less than the whole is prepaid, no account is taken of it, and it is entirely lost to the sender. The British Post Office declines to change this rule, except on conditions considered inadmissible.

In the Prussian closed Mail to Germany 30 cents is the single rate, prepayment optional. This pays from any part of the United States to any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union. A prepayment of any sum less than the regular rate of 30 cents is not recognised, and is of course lost to the sender. A note of fractions of the rate could not be taken without seriously complicating the accounts, besides causing much additional labor and trouble at the exchange offices. But, contrary to the practice under the United States and British Postal Convention, in the Prussian mail every full rate of 30 cents is credited, whether the whole postage on a letter or packet is prepaid or not.

leaving any balance due to be collected at the office of delivery.

By the *Bremen Mail* the rule is the same as under the Prussian arrangement. The single rate to Bremen is 10 cents, to Oldenburg 12, to Hamburg 15, to Altona and Hanover 21, and to any other place in Germany 22 cents, prepayment optional. In either case a prepayment of any fraction of the full rate goes for nothing.

The rule for rating letters to all foreign countries (except the British North American Provinces) is to charge one rate for half an ounce or under, *two rates* if the weight is over one-half and not exceeding an ounce, *four rates* if over one and not exceeding two ounces, *six rates* if over two and not exceeding three ounces, and so on, charging *two rates* for every ounce or *fractional part of an ounce* over the *first ounce*. As this rule differs from that followed in respect to domestic letters, where each half ounce or fraction of a half ounce counts as one rate only, Postmasters who are not careful to observe this difference are liable of course to commit mistakes.

We beg to suggest that in calling attention to this subject Editors generally would render to many of their readers an essential service, and we would suggest to those of our readers who have any foreign correspondence to preserve the above explanations for reference.

FOREIGN MAILS.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Sept. 1, 1853.

THE following is a copy of section 3d of the act of Congress, entitled "An act making appropriations for the transportation of the United States mail by ocean steamers, and otherwise, during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four," approved March 3d, 1853, viz:

"SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General shall cause the facts to be investigated in relation to the contract of A. G. Sloop, for the transportation of the mail in ocean steamers from New York to New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, Havana, and Chagrea, and back, per act of March third, eighteen hundred and forty-seven, for the purpose of ascertaining how far the contract corresponds with the original bids, and shall report to Congress at the next session the facts and circumstances connected with the said contract; and also for what amount the said mail service could be performed if a new contract should be made, and whether the ships furnished under said contract are built according to its terms. The Postmaster General is further directed by this act to ascertain, and report to Congress at its next session, for what amounts the service, now performed under the several contracts with the Navy and Post Office Departments for carrying the mail in ocean steamers, can be hereafter performed, upon the supposition that the United States shall take the steamers according to contract, and sell or transfer them."

Except in respect to the New Orleans and Vera Cruz route, which may be discontinued by the Postmaster General, on the allowance of one month's extra pay, the clause in all the contracts giving to the United States the right to take possession of the ships is, in substance, as follows:

"And the said Secretary of the United States navy, for the time being, shall at all times exercise control over said steamships, and shall at any time have the right to take them for the exclusive use and service of the United States, and to direct such changes in their machinery and internal arrangements as the said Secretary may require; the cost of such changes to be ascertained by the bills actually paid therefor, and the proper compensation of the value of the ships, when so taken as aforesaid, to be ascertained by appraisers to be mutually chosen by the parties aforesaid."

NOW, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that with a view of reporting to Congress, in as complete a manner as possible, the information called for by Congress in section third above quoted from the act of 3d March last—

PROPOSALS

Will be received at the Post Office Department, in the city of Washington, until 3 o'clock, p. m., of Monday, 31st day of October next, for conveying the mails of the United States for six years from the first day of October, 1854, in the manner and time herein specified.

No. 1. From New York to Cowes, in England, and thence to Bremen Haven, in Germany, and from said Bremen Haven, by Cowes to New York, once a month.

Proposals for one additional trip a year, each way, will be considered.

No. 2. From Charleston, South Carolina, by Savannah, Georgia, and Key West, Florida, to Havana, in Cuba, and from said Havana, by Key West and Savannah, to Charleston, twice a month.

No. 3. From New York to New Orleans, twice a month, and back, touching at Charleston, (if practicable,) Savannah, and Havana, and from Havana to Chagres (Aspinwall) and back, twice a month.

Proposals to omit Charleston and Savannah will be considered.

In lieu of above, proposals will also be received for service from New York to Aspinwall, direct, 2,600 miles, and back, semi-monthly, in not exceeding nine days to the trip each way; from New York by Havana to New Orleans, 2,000 miles, and back, semi-monthly, in not exceeding ten days to the trip each way; and from New Orleans to Aspinwall, direct, 1,400 miles, and back, semi-monthly, in not exceeding seven days to the trip each way.

No. 4. From Panama, New Granada, to San Diego, California, Monterey, San Francisco, and Astoria, in Oregon, twice a month each way—touching, if practicable, at Port Orford, in Oregon, and at such other intermediate port on the coast of Oregon or California as in the opinion of the Postmaster General the public interest may require.

The schedules of Nos. 3 and 4 must be so arranged as to make due connexion at the isthmus of Panama, thus forming a continuous route from New York, &c., to Astoria and back, twice a month.

No. 5. From New York to Liverpool, in England, and back, twenty-six trips per annum, at such times as the Postmaster General shall direct.

Proposals to touch at Holyhead, in England, will be considered.

No. 6. From New York, by Cowes, in England, to Havre, in France, and back, once a month.

Proposals for changing the terminus of this line from Havre to Antwerp, in Belgium, and for one additional trip a year, each way, will be considered.

No. 7. From New Orleans, Louisiana, to Vera Cruz, Mexico, and back, three times a month, supplying Tampico, Mexico, by a side mail going and returning.

Leave New Orleans on the first, fourteenth, and twenty-fifth days.

Arrive at Vera Cruz same month by the fourth, seventeenth, and twenty-eighth days.

Leave Vera Cruz every month on the first, sixth, and twenty-first days.

Arrive at New Orleans same month by the fourth, ninth, and twenty-fourth days.

The proposals in each instance should specify the number of days to be taken for the trip each way, and the mode of conveyance, which must be by steamships in all respects suitable for the service.

If contracts should be entered into, contractors will be required to conform in all respects to the laws and regulations applicable to the ordinary contracts of the Post Office Department.

The bids should be sent duly guaranteed, under seal, to the Postmaster General, and the words "Mail Proposals—Foreign Mail" written on the face of the letter.

Sept 2—law6w

JAMES CAMPBELL,
Postmaster General.

MAILS BY THE BREMEN LINE.

We are authorized to say that the following table has been made up at the Post Office Department on official information received by the last steamer from Bremen, and that, so soon as fully perfected, these rates will be introduced into the general table of foreign postages. In the mean time Postmasters and others will do well to preserve this for reference.

RATES OF POSTAGE by the New York and Bremen Semi-Monthly Line on Letters and Newspapers from any part of the United States to the following States and Countries, viz :

	On a letter of 1 oz. or under; prepaym't optional.	On a letter of 1 oz. or under; prepaym't required.	On single newspapers, (U. S. postage only); prepaym't required.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
Bremen.....	10	—	2
Hamburg.....	15	—	2
Hanover.....	15	—	2
Oldenburg.....	13	—	2
All other German States, cities, towns, Kingdom of Prussia, Austrian Empire, Hungary, Galicia, Lombardy, and Upper Italy.....	22	—	2
Alexandria.....	—	30	—
Constantinople.....	33	—	2
Corfu.....	—	30	—
Denmark.....	27	—	2
Greece.....	33	—	2
Italy, (except upper part).....	—	33	—
Malta, Island of.....	—	30	—
Netherlands, the.....	25	—	2
Norway.....	37	—	2
Poland.....	29	—	2
Russia.....	29	—	2
Schleswig.....	27	—	2
Sweden.....	33	—	2
Switzerland.....	25	—	2
Wallachia.....	—	30	—

On pamphlets and magazines the United States postage by the Bremen line is one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce, prepayment required. On all printed matter received in the Bremen mail the whole postage (United States and foreign) is prepaid on the other side. To Alexandria, Corfu, Lower Italy, Malta, and Wallachia the rates on newspapers by the Bremen line have not been furnished to the Department. All matter sent to either of these last named countries by this route must be prepaid to destination.

17th Sept. 1853.

FOREIGN MAILS.

The following Table of Comparison, prepared at the Post Office Department, is interesting as showing that for the correspondence between Germany and the British North American Provinces, the British West Indies, Cuba, and Mexico, the United States and Prussian closed mail arrangement offers cheaper rates of communication than those charged on such correspondence when sent in the British mail.

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COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the rates of postage on letters between the German-Austrian Postal Union and the following-named countries, first, when transmitted via the United States in the United States and Prussian closed mail in either direction, and, secondly, via England in the British mail:

NAMES OF COUNTRIES.	In the United States and Prussian closed mail, via the U. S.; to be paid in Germany, whether the letter is sent from or received in that country.	In the British mail, via England.	
		Prepaym't optional.	Prepaym't compulsory.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
Canada.....	35	45	
Do., via Halifax, when desired	35	41	
Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, via the United States, when desired..	30	45	
Do., via Halifax.....	30	41	
Newfoundland.....	30	41	
<i>British Colonies and Possessions in the West Indies, viz :</i>			
Antigua	35	41	
Bahamas, (Nassau)	35	41	
Barbadoes.....	35	41	
Cariacou.....	35	41	
Demerara	35	41	
Dominica.....	35	41	
Essequibo	35	41	
Grenada.....	35	41	
Montserrat.....	35	41	
Nevis.....	35	41	
St. Kitt's.....	35	41	
St. Lucia	35	41	
St. Vincent	35	41	
Tobago.....	35	41	
Tortola.....	35	41	
Trinidad	35	41	
Belize.....	35	41	
Bermuda.....	35	41	
Berbice.....	35	45	
Jamaica, (except Kingston).....	35	45	
Kingston.....	35	41	
Honduras	59	41	

<i>West Indies, &c., (not British), viz:</i>			
Guadaloupe.....	59	-	47
Martinique.....	59	-	47
Hayti, (St. Domingo)....	59	-	47
Porto Rico.....	59	-	47
St. Eustatius.....	59	-	47
St. Martin.....	59	-	47
St. Croix.....	59	-	41
St. John.....	59	-	41
St. Thomas.....	59	-	41
Cuba, via United States, when desired.....	35	-	46
Do., direct.....	-	-	43
Mexico.....	45	-	67
Central America, (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mos- quito Coast).....	59	-	67
Bogota, (New Grenada). Bueneventura, do.....	53	-	41
Chagres,.....do.....	53	-	41
Panama.....do.....	45	-	41
Bolivia, (South America) Chili.....do.....	45	-	65
Ecuador.....do.....	73	-	65
Peru.....do.....	73	-	65
Venezuela.....do.....	57	-	41
Sandwich Islands.....	59	-	41
	30	-	33

On newspapers sent to or from any of the above-named countries in the Prussian closed mail, the postage, which must in all cases be collected in Germany, is as follows, viz: To or from the British North American Provinces and the Sandwich Islands, 6 cents each; to or from the British West Indies, Cuba, Mexico, Chagres, and Panama, 8 cents; to or from the West Indies, &c. (not British) and Central America, 12 cents; and to or from the West coast of South America, 14 cents. Of the rates on newspapers by the British mail we are not advised.

Rates of Postage by the New York and Bremen Line on letters and newspapers from any part of the United States to the following States and Countries, viz:

COUNTRIES.	On a letter of ½ oz. or under.		On single newspapers (if post only prepayment required).	
	cts.	cts.	cts.	cts.
Bremen.....	10	3	2	2
Altona.....	10	3	2	2
Austria, Empire of (including Hungary, Galicia, Lombardy, Venice, &c.)	15	3	2	2
Brunswick.....	15	3	2	2
Hamburg.....	15	3	2	2
Hanover.....	15	3	2	2
Mecklenberg-Schwerin.....	15	3	2	2
Mecklenberg-Strelitz.....	15	3	2	2
Ostenburg.....	13	3	2	2
Russia, Kingdom and Provinces of.	15	3	2	2
Saxe-Altenburg.....	15	3	2	2
Saxe-Koburg.....	15	3	2	2
Other German States, cities and towns.....	22	30	2	2
Alexandria.....	33	30	2	2
Constantinople.....	33	30	2	2
Corfu.....	37	30	2	2
Denmark.....	33	33	2	2
Greece.....	33	33	2	2
Italy, (except Lombardy and Venice.)	35	30	2	2
Malta, Island of.....	35	30	2	2
Netherlands, The.....	35	30	2	2
Norway.....	37	30	2	2
Poland.....	37	30	2	2
Russia.....	29	33	2	2
Schleswig.....	29	33	2	2
Sweden.....	27	33	2	2
Switzerland.....	27	33	2	2
Waltchia.....	29	33	2	2

On pamphlets and magazines, the United States postage by the Bremen line is one cent an ounce, or fraction of an ounce, prepayment required. On all printed matter received in the Bremen mail, the whole postage (United States and foreign) is prepared on the other side. To Alexandria, Corfu, &c., the whole postage, through to destination having to be prepaid, no rates are given for newspapers.

28 Nov. 1853

IMPORTANT TO POSTMASTERS AND OTHERS.

We understand that, by recent instructions of the Postmaster General, the exchange offices of New York and Boston are required to report every Postmaster taking wrong rates of postage on letters to foreign countries. We also learn that from these reports it appears that, besides other errors, a great many letters for the continent of Europe, marked to go "via Liverpool" or "via England," are taken by offices in the interior at rates applicable only to the *direct* Bremen line. This, of course, causes confusion, and often results in loss to the sender.

Persons writing to the continent are advised to use light paper, especially if their letters are to go either through or to France, Switzerland, or Italy, where the quarter-ounce scale for letters (except by the Prussian closed mail) still prevails.

} 26 Dec.
1853.

Reduction of Postage to Montevideo.—We are authorized to say that the single rate of postage between England and Montevideo, or any other part of the Republic of the Uruguay, having been reduced from 2s. 7d. to 1s., the whole postage on a letter from the United States to that Republic will hereafter be 45 instead of 83 cents, prepayment required.

18th March
1854.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO BAVARIA AND LUBEC.

We are authorized to say that the Kingdom of Bavaria and the free city of Lubec (Germany) having acceded to the United States and Bremen arrangement, the single rate of postage to those States respectively, by the Bremen line, will hereafter be 15 instead of 22 cents, prepayment optional.

Postmasters are advised to note these and all similar changes upon their Table of Foreign Postages.

22nd March
1854.

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MARCH 23, 1854.**

Pursuant to authority vested in the Postmaster General, and by and with the advice and consent of the President of the United States, (which advice and consent fully appear by an instrument in writing this day filed in the Department,) and with a view to improved postal arrangements with foreign Governments, particularly with Australia—

23 March
1854.

It is hereby ordered, That hereafter the single rate of postage on all letters for Australia, or other foreign country, to which the ocean transportation thereof may be obtained at not exceeding two cents a letter, be and the same is hereby fixed at the uniform rate of five cents, except where, over three thousand miles, the lowest United States inland rate is six cents, when the whole rate, inland and sea, shall be eight cents, in both cases to be prepaid.

**JAMES CAMPBELL,
Postmaster General.**

OCEAN PENNY POSTAGE.

Our Government has achieved the first step in this important object, and a long step too, for it embraces half the circumference of the globe—that is to say, a penny postage has been established between this country and Australia. We learn this interesting fact from the following announcement which we have received from the POSTMASTER GENERAL for publication :

REGULAR MONTHLY MAIL BETWEEN NEW YORK AND AUSTRALIA DIRECT.—Single rate of postage five cents, pre-paid.—The POSTMASTER GENERAL has made an arrangement with the proprietors of the "Australia Pioneer Line of Monthly Packets" to convey the mail regularly between New York and Australia by sailing ships monthly in each direction. It is expected that the first mail under this arrangement will be dispatched from New York on the 25th of April. The single rate of postage for letters is five cents; for pamphlets and magazines one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce; and for newspapers two cents each, pre-payment required. The incoming mails, as the United States postage thereon cannot be pre-paid, will be treated as ordinary private ship mails.

The above successful step is the first fruit of a general authority wisely given by the PRESIDENT to the POSTMASTER GENERAL to enter into such arrangements for cheap ocean postage, and by the latter has been promptly and happily carried out with perhaps the most distant region on the globe with which our people have any considerable correspondence. The migratory habits of the age impart to cheap ocean and international postage an importance immeasurably greater now than it would have been a hundred or even fifty years ago; and we cannot doubt that an object so beneficent will soon overcome all existing obstacles to its universal extension. We think that our Government, and especially our Postal Department, deserves credit for its endeavors to carry forward the good work.

NEWSPAPERS BY THE BREMEN LINE.

We are authorized to say that the United States and Bremen Postal Arrangement has been so far modified that newspapers by the Bremen line, when not over two ounces in weight, done up singly in narrow bands, open at the ends or sides, may be fully prepaid to any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union; the rate thus required to be prepaid being three cents per newspaper.

Nat. Int.
28th March
1854.

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Nat. Int.
25th April 1854

[Public, No. 21.]

AN ACT to amend the third section of the "Act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of government for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-four," and for other purposes.

Stamp agent.

1

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That of the clerks authorized by the third section of the act approved March third, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, entitled "An act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of government for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-four," those of the first class shall receive a salary of twelve hundred dollars per annum; those of the second class, a salary of fourteen hundred dollars per annum; those of the third class, a salary of sixteen hundred dollars per annum: and all clerks not provided for in this act, performing the same or similar duties with any one of the classes, shall receive the same compensation as is allowed to such class; and the clerks employed in the Census Bureau shall be paid, during the present fiscal year, the same as is hereby allowed to clerks of the second class.

SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the stamp and blank agent for the Post Office Department receive the same salary as clerks of the second class, provided for in the first section of this act; and an addition of twenty per cent. is hereby added to the pay now authorized by law to each of the messengers, packers, laborers and watchmen of the different executive departments of the government in Washington; to the clerks employed at the navy-yard and marine barracks at Washington; to the clerk, messenger and laborer in the office of Commissioner of Public Buildings, doorkeeper and assistant doorkeeper at the Executive Mansion; public gardener, laborers employed in the public grounds and President's garden; two additional watchmen and the police at the Capitol; watchmen employed at the President's House and reservation No. two, lamplighter, the general superintendent; the draw-keepers of the bridges across the Eastern Branch and Potomac; and that the provisions of the second section of the act of August thirty-first, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, "making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the government for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-three," &c. be, and is hereby extended to such persons herein enumerated who were in employment during that fiscal year, and were excluded from the benefit of said act by the decision of the Comptroller of the Treasury.

SECTION 3. *And be it further enacted,* That instead of the salaries now allowed by law to the Superintendent of the Census, and to the Assistant Postmasters General, they shall each receive the same salary that is paid to the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

SECTION 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the increased compensation provided for in this act shall commence from the first day of July, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, and the necessary money to carry this act into effect is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall be construed as making an appropriation for any period beyond the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-four.

Approved April 22, 1854.

[Public, No. 16.]

A RESOLUTION for extending an existing contract for carrying the mail in Alabama.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Postmaster General be, and he hereby is, authorized to extend the existing contract for carrying the mail upon the route between Montgomery and Mobile, for four years from the time at which said contract would expire by its own limitation, if, in his opinion, the public interest and convenience will be promoted by such extension of said contract.

Approved May 3, 1854.

[Public, No. 25.]

AN ACT regulating the pay of deputy postmasters.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in place of the compensation now allowed deputy postmasters, the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby authorized to allow them commissions at the following rates on the postage collected at their respective offices in each quarter of the year, and in due proportion for any period less than a quarter, viz:

On any sum not exceeding one hundred dollars sixty per cent.; but any postmaster at whose office the mail is to arrive regularly, between the hours of nine o'clock at night and five o'clock in the morning, may be allowed seventy per cent. on the first hundred dollars;

On any sum over and above one hundred dollars, and not exceeding four hundred dollars, fifty per cent.:

On any sum over and above four hundred dollars, but not exceeding twenty-four hundred dollars, forty per cent.;

And on all sums over twenty-four hundred dollars, fifteen per cent.:

On the amount of postage on letters and packages received at a distributing office for distribution, twelve and one-half per cent. commission may be allowed;

Every postmaster whose compensation shall not exceed five hundred dollars in one quarter, shall be allowed one cent on every free letter delivered out of his office, except such as are for the postmaster himself. But the special allowance now made by law, to the postmasters at New Orleans and Washington city, shall not otherwise be either increased or diminished;

Each postmaster who shall be required to keep a register of the arrival and departure of the mails, shall be allowed ten cents for each monthly return which he makes to the Postmaster General;

Each postmaster may be allowed two mills for the delivery from his office to a subscriber of each newspaper not chargeable with postage: *Provided*, That to any postmaster of a distributing office at which the commissions, allowances and emoluments, since the thirty-first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, have been insufficient to defray the actual and necessary expenses and afford the postmaster the annual compensation derived from commissions at the office before said thirty-first of March, the Postmaster General may, in his discretion, allow quarterly from the date aforesaid, out of the postages collected at any such office, an amount sufficient to supply such deficiency: *Provided further*, That to any postmaster of a separating office whose commissions, allowances and emoluments may be found insufficient to provide the extra labor necessary to a prompt and efficient performance of the duties of separating and despatching the mails passing through his office, the Postmaster General may make such quarterly allowance, out of the postages collected at such office, as he may deem sufficient to compensate such extra labor: *Provided further*, That the commissions and allowances authorized by this act shall be subject to the provisions of the forty-first section of the act entitled "An act to reduce into one the several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department:" *And provided further*, That the Postmaster General may, in his discretion, dispose of any quarterly returns of mails sent or received, which were made up previous to the first day of July, eighteen hundred and fifty, preserving the accounts current, and all vouchers accompanying such accounts, and use such portion of the proceeds thereof as may be necessary to defray the cost of separating and disposing of the same. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after the commencement of the next fiscal quarter after its passage.

Approved 22 June, 1854.

[Public, No. 22.]

An act granting the franking privilege to the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, and the assistant in charge of the office of said coast survey.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, and the assistant in charge of the office of the coast survey, shall be authorized to receive and transmit, free of postage, by the mails, all letters and documents in relation to their public duties.

Approved February 2, 1854.

[PUBLIC—No. 50.]

AN ACT making provision for the postal service in the State of California and in the Territories of Oregon and Washington.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Postmaster General be and he is hereby authorized to empower the special agents of the Post Office Department in the State of California and in the Territories of Oregon and Washington to appoint letter-carriers for the delivery of letters from any post office in the said State or Territories, and to allow any letter-carrier so appointed to demand and receive a sum for all letters, newspapers, or other mailable matter not more than may be recommended by the postmaster for whose office such letter-carrier may be appointed: *Provided*, That not more than twenty-five cents shall be charged for any letter, newspaper, or ounce of other mailable matter. All such appointments may be determined and rates of compensation modified within the limits aforesaid, whenever the same is found expedient in the opinion of the appointing agent: *And it is further provided*, That all such appointments and contracts shall be subject to the approval of the Post-

A true copy from the original roll. W. J. Quantor, Chief Clerk. Department of State, Washington 29th August, 1854.

118

18
master General; and upon notice to any carrier of his rejection by the Postmaster General, his appointment and contract shall be determined; and that all letter-carriers appointed in pursuance of this act shall be subject to the provisions of the forty-first section of the act entitled "An act to change the organization of the Post Office Department and to provide more effectually for the settlement of the accounts thereof," approved July second, eighteen hundred and thirty-six, except as herein otherwise provided: *Provided*, That no letter or letters or other mailable [matter] shall be delivered by any postmaster to said carriers unless requested in writing by the person or persons to whom said letters or other mailable matter may be directed.

119
Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That each and every letter-carrier route which may be established under the provisions of this act shall be deemed a post route during its continuance; and the provisions contained in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, and fifteenth sections of an act entitled "An act to reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the revenues of the Post Office Department," approved March third, eighteen hundred and forty-five; and the fifth and eighth sections of an act entitled "An act to establish certain post roads and for other purposes," approved August thirty-first, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, are hereby made applicable to said letter-carrier routes.

59
Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be and he is hereby authorized to cause the dead letters which may accumulate in the post offices in said State and Territories after the thirtieth day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, to be returned in periods not less than quarter-yearly to the post office at San Francisco, to be there opened and examined under the direction of the postmaster of that office, who shall, according to such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, return to the Post Office Department such of said letters as shall be found to contain money, valuable papers, or matters of consequence, to be disposed of according to law, and destroy such letters as shall be found to contain nothing of value: *Provided, however*, That no dead letters shall be opened which the postal arrangements of the United States with foreign countries require to be returned unopened to such countries respectively.

32
Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General may allow to the postmasters in said State and Territories from the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, such sums out of the postage collected at their respective offices as will, in addition to the commissions, allowances, and emoluments, be sufficient to defray the actual and necessary expenses of their offices.

33
Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be and he is hereby authorized and directed, in the settlement of the accounts of postmasters in the State of California and Territory of Oregon, serving as such previous to the thirtieth of June, anno Domini eighteen hundred and fifty-three, to allow to such postmasters all just and reasonable expenses incurred by them in and about the business of their respective offices and the discharge of their official duties: *Provided*, That no allowance shall be made whereby the United States shall be charged with any indebtedness whatsoever.

Approved, July 27, 1854.

AN ACT making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of government for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the objects hereafter expressed, for the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, namely:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

For compensation of the Postmaster General, three Assistant Postmasters General, and the clerks, messenger, assistant messengers, and watchmen of said department, one hundred and twenty-four thousand four hundred dollars:

For compensation of temporary clerks necessarily employed from the ninth of May, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, to the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, one thousand four hundred and fifty dollars, and ninety-eight cents;

Contingent expenses of said department:

For blank books, binding and stationery, fuel for the General Post Office building, (including the Auditor's office,) oil, gas, and candles, printing, labor, day watchmen, and for miscellaneous, thirteen thousand two hundred dollars;

For repairs of the General Post Office building, for office furniture, glazing, painting, whitewashing, and for keeping the fire-places and furnaces in order, two thousand five hundred dollars;

For paper and printing for the Executive Departments, including paper, printing, and binding the annual "Statement of Commerce and Navigation," and paper and printing the annual "Estimates of Appropriations," thirty thousand eight hundred dollars.

CUSTOM-HOUSES.

To purchase a site for custom-house at Providence, Rhode Island, twenty-four thousand dollars;

And the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized to contract for the construction of a custom-house on said site, to include accommodations for a post office and United States court room, at a cost not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars;

For purchasing a site for a custom-house at San Francisco, California, a sum not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand dollars;

For the rebuilding of the custom-house, Portland, Maine, including accommodations for a post office and rooms for the United States courts, two hundred thousand dollars;

For extinguishment of private claims to the possession of the whole or any part of the custom-house lot in San Francisco, ten thousand dollars.

Provided, That none of the moneys appropriated by this act for any custom-house or marine hospital shall be used or applied for the purposes mentioned, until a valid title to the land for the site of such building, in each case shall be vested in the United States; and until the State in which such building is to be completed shall in due form, and in a manner that shall bind such State, release and surrender to the United States jurisdiction over the site of such building; and shall, also, duly release and relinquish to the United States the right to tax or in any way assess said site, or the property of the United States that may be thereon, during the time that the said United States shall be or remain the owner thereof; That none of the said moneys appropriated for said buildings by this act, or heretofore appropriated for the purposes mentioned, shall be used or applied for the purposes for which they are appropriated, unless the same shall be sufficient in each case to complete the building in such case fully, and entirely accomplish the object for which the appropriation in this act is made. And the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby prohibited from using or applying any of the moneys aforesaid in any one case, until he shall have made a contract with such security as he shall approve for the completion of the entire building and work in such case, at a sum

not exceeding the sum of the moneys appropriated and expended in such case. And the said Secretary of the Treasury shall enter into no contract, either conditional or final for the purposes mentioned which shall involve an expenditure in any one case beyond the sums appropriated and remaining unexpended for such case; and in all cases where such unexpended appropriations shall be insufficient to complete the entire work in such case, the said Secretary of the Treasury shall suspend all action in reference thereto, and shall report to Congress on the first day of its session the condition of the work in such case, and shall at the same time lay before Congress such plans and estimates as, in his judgment, shall be proper for the completion of the building and work in such case.

For improving and repairing the room in the custom-house at Savannah, used as a post office, one thousand dollars:

That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to apply such sum as, in his opinion, may be necessary to complete the building for the custom-house, post office, and court-house in the city of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and to furnish such building in a manner appropriate to its uses, and to improve the grounds attached to said building; and also to pay to the two commissioners who superintended the construction of said building such compensation as to said Secretary shall deem just, not to exceed three dollars a day each: *Provided*, That the sum so, as aforesaid, to be expended by the Secretary of the Treasury, shall not exceed the sum now remaining unexpended of appropriations heretofore made for the said building;

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause to be constructed the following buildings: At Ellsworth, Maine, for the accommodation of the custom-house and post office, a building of brick, with fire-proof floors, constructed of iron beams and brick work, iron roof, shutters, sills, &c., twenty-five feet by thirty, and twenty-five feet in height from the foundation, to cost not more than ten thousand dollars: At Belfast, Maine, for the accommodation of the custom-house and post office, a building of like materials, forty-five feet by thirty-two, and thirty-two feet high and to cost not more than twenty thousand dollars; At Gloucester, Massachusetts, Toledo, Ohio, Burlington, Vermont, and Sandusky, Ohio, for the accommodation of the custom-house and post office, a building of like materials, sixty feet by forty-five feet, and thirty-two feet from the foundation, and to cost not more than forty thousand dollars for each building; At Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the accommodation of the custom-house, post office, and United States courts, a building of like material, sixty feet by forty-five feet, forty-eight feet in height from the foundation, to cost not more than fifty thousand dollars; At New Haven, Connecticut, Newark, New Jersey, Buffalo, New York, Oswego, New York, Wheeling, Virginia, Chicago, Illinois, and Detroit, Michigan, each for the accommodation of the custom-house, post office, United States courts, and steamboat inspectors, a building of stone, of like floors, beams, roofs, shutters, &c., eighty-five feet by sixty feet, sixty feet in height from the foundation, to cost not more than eighty-eight thousand dollars for each building: the building at Detroit to be erected upon a water lot belonging to the United States; At Galveston, Texas, for the accommodation of the custom-house, post office, and United States courts, a building of brick, of like floors, beams, roofs, shutters, &c., forty-five feet by seventy feet, forty-eight feet high from the foundation, with a portico on two sides, and to cost not more than one hundred thousand dollars; At Petersburg, Virginia, for the accommodation of the custom-house and post office, a building of stone, of like floors, beams, roofs, shutters, &c., sixty feet by forty-five feet, thirty-two feet high from the foundation, to cost not more than sixty-two thousand dollars.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the several sums mentioned in the preceding section of this act as the cost of the buildings therein authorized to be constructed, together with ten per cent. thereon to cover the compensation of architects, superintendents, advertising, and other contingent expenses, and so much as may be required to purchase suitable sites for said buildings, be, and the same are hereby, appropriated for the purposes aforesaid out of any money in

the treasury not otherwise appropriated: *Provided*, That no money hereby appropriated shall be used or applied for the purposes mentioned until a valid title to the land for the sites of such buildings, in each case shall be vested in the United States, and until the State shall also duly release and relinquish to the United States the right to tax or in any way assess said site, or the property of the United States that may be thereon, during the time that the said United States shall be or remain the owner thereof.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That there be appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sum sufficient to pay the clerks and employees of the government, for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, such additional compensation as they may be entitled to receive, under the act of twenty-second April, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, entitled "An act to amend the third section of the act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of government for the year ending thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and for other purposes," and, where additional compensation is not otherwise provided for, *Provided*, That all laborers in the employment of the Executive departments of the government in the city of Washington, shall receive an annual salary of four hundred and eighty dollars each, *Provided, further*, That the Postmaster General be allowed in addition to his present number three clerks of class two and two of class three; That the Attorney General be allowed in addition to his present number, one clerk of class one, two of class two, and one of class three; That the Secretary of the Treasury be allowed in the First Auditor's office, in addition to the present number, two clerks of class one; in the Sixth Auditor's office, in addition to the present number, seven clerks of class one, and one shall be taken from class three and put in class four; and, in the Treasurer's office, one clerk shall be taken from class two, and one from class three, and put in class four; and that the Secretary of State be allowed in addition to his present number of clerks, two at an annual salary of twelve hundred dollars each, one at an annual salary of fourteen hundred dollars, and one at an annual salary of sixteen hundred dollars; and the money necessary to pay the compensation and increased compensation under this section be, and the same is hereby appropriated.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever it shall become necessary for the head of any department or office to employ special agents, other than officers of the army or navy, who may be charged with the disbursement of public moneys, they shall, prior to entering upon duty as such, give bond in such form and with such security as the head of the department or office employing said agent may approve.

Approved August 4, 1854.

To provide for the accommodation of the Courts of the United States in the city of Massachusetts, and in the cities of New York and Philadelphia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, authorized and empowered to provide necessary accommodations for the Courts of the United States, and the officers connected with them, in the district of Massachusetts, and in the cities of New York and Philadelphia, by fitting up and leasing the same until permanent accommodations can be provided as hereinafter proposed.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the President cause to be procured, by purchase or otherwise, suitable sites for buildings, to be used as Court Houses and Post Offices, in the cities of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia; and that he prepare and submit to Congress, at as early a day as practicable, plans and estimates for the same, together with any contract or contracts he may make for any such site or sites, which contract or contracts shall be conditional and made subject to the approval of Congress.

Approved August 2, 1854.

AN ACT making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated for the service of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, out of any moneys in the Treasury arising from the revenues of the said Department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

For transportation of the mails, five million two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars.

For compensation to postmasters, two millions of dollars.

For ship, steamboat, and way letters, twenty-five thousand dollars.

For wrapping paper, fifty-five thousand dollars.

For office furniture in the post offices, eight thousand dollars.

For advertising, eighty-five thousand dollars.

For mail bags, fifty-five thousand dollars.

For blanks, sixty-five thousand dollars.

For mail locks, keys, and stamps, twenty-five thousand dollars.

For mail depreddations and special agents, sixty thousand dollars.

For clerks in the offices of postmasters, five hundred and sixty thousand dollars.

For postage stamps and stamped envelopes, fifty-five thousand dollars.

For miscellaneous items, one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

For compilation of post routes, as contained in the bill passed at the present session of Congress establishing routes, one thousand dollars.

To enable the Postmaster General to purchase the patent of the clam-shell padlock, should he be of opinion the public service requires it, the sum of five thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be and is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sum not exceeding two million three hundred and forty-four thousand four hundred and sixty-four dollars, to supply any deficiency that may arise in the revenues of the Post Office Department to meet the foregoing appropriations for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That hereafter the Postmaster General be authorized and directed to continue the mail service between Charleston, Key West, and Havana, during August and September, by a competent steamer, as it is now being performed during ten months of the year, and that to enable him to do so ten thousand dollars are hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That there be allowed and paid to the postmaster of Washington City, District of Columbia, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, a commission of one mill per pound upon the aggregate weight of public documents printed by order of Congress and deposited in the office of said postmaster to be mailed, this allowance to commence with the passage of this act, and to continue for one year only, and to be computed from the ascertained weight for

the month of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-four; and that the said postmaster be required to pay out of the said commissions to the clerks and other employes of his office a sum not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars each per annum as compensation for the extra labor performed by them in the assortment and mailing of said documents; and that he be required to account for and settle with the Post Office Department for the disbursement of these commissions and any surplus that may remain, in the same manner as is now required in the settlement of his other accounts.

Sec. 5 *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be authorized and directed to establish a mail on the Mississippi river from Cairo to New Orleans, and from Keokuk, Iowa, to Galena, in Illinois, and that he contract for the same in one line, or in such divisions, or sections or both, as may be most compatible with the public service; and to facilitate the execution of this section the Postmaster General may make immediate temporary arrangements for carrying said mail by the trip; and if he fails to obtain acceptable bids after advertising for thirty days he may make private contracts for carrying said mail, and the said mail shall be carried daily from Cairo to New Orleans; but the Postmaster General is authorized at his discretion to restrict the delivery of the mail at all other points than Cairo, Memphis, Napoleon, Vicksburg, Natchez, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans to three mails a week each way: *Provided*, Nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to impair the rights of parties heretofore contracting for said service.

Approved, August 5, 1854.

MAILS FOR JAVA.

We are authorized to say that notice has been received from the British Post Office Department that the direct communication by British mail packets, running once in two months between Singapore and Batavia, heretofore existing in connexion with the overland mails to India and Australia, has been discontinued.

The regular mails for Java will henceforward be made up in London on every occasion of the dispatch of a mail for India, both *via* Southampton and *via* Marseilles, as heretofore, and will be conveyed by British packets as far as Singapore, whence they will be carried to their destination by the packets of the Netherlands Government.

The rates of postage, however, remain unchanged.

POSTAGE ON LETTERS TO ALTONA.

We are requested to say that, *Altona* having withdrawn from the German Postal Union, the single rate on letters between the United States and Altona, *by the Bremen line*, will hereafter be twenty-two instead of fifteen cents, prepayment optional.

Aug. 21.

1854.

Sept. 2.

1854.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO NEW SOUTH WALES,
VICTORIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, &c.

We are authorized to say that hereafter the single rate of letter postage between the United States and New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, either by packet or by private ship, *via England*, will be 33 cents instead of 45 cents, pre-payment required.

A French transit rate of ten cents the *quarter ounce* must be added in the case of all letters to or from said colonies which may be specially addressed "*via Marseilles*."

The same reduction to 33 cents the single rate will extend to all letters directed to Van Dieman's Land which are sent by the Australian Mail Packets, as well as to letters for New Zealand specially addressed "*via Melbourne*" or "*via Sidney*;" and to letters for Western Australia addressed to go by the "*Direct Australian Packet*."

The single rate on letters by private ship *direct from New York* is five cents, pre-payment required.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO HONG KONG.

We are authorized to say that the *British Colonial postage* on all letters conveyed direct between the United Kingdom and Hong Kong, whether by packet or private ship, is reduced from twenty-four to twelve cents the single rate.

To this postage of twelve cents a French transit rate of ten cents the *quarter ounce* will be added in the case of letters which may be forwarded *via Marseilles*.

Arrangements having been made by Great Britain to collect the British postage on letters to Hong Kong by the route *via Marseilles*, as well as *via Southampton*, hereafter the *United States postage only* should be prepaid in this country on all letters addressed to Hong Kong, without reference to the route by which they are to be forwarded, viz. five cents the single rate when the Atlantic conveyance is by British packet, and twenty-one cents the single rate when by United States packet.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO CHINA.

We are authorized to say that, owing to a reduction of the British postage beyond England, the single rate for letters between the United States and China, (except Hong-Kong,) *via England*, will hereafter be thirty-three cents instead of forty-five cents, when sent *via Southampton*, pre-payment required; and forty-three cents instead of sixty-five cents the *quarter ounce*, or fifty-three cents instead of seventy-

Intelligence
Oct. 16, 1854.

Int. Oct. 25
1854.

Int. Nov. 30,
1854.

five cents the half ounce, by closed mail *via* **Marseilles**, *pre-payment also required.*

On letters to *Hong-Kong*, either *via* Southampton or *via* Marseilles, the United States postage only should be pre-paid, viz. twenty-one cents the single rate of half an ounce or under when the Atlantic conveyance is by United States steamers, and five cents when by British steamers, leaving the remainder to be collected at Hong-Kong.

China Mails.—The mails for Penang, Singapore and China will in future be forwarded from England *once a month only*, instead of twice a month, as heretofore, and the packet service, which hitherto has not extended beyond Hong Kong, will be carried on to Shanghai. The mails for the above places, commencing with those of January, will be made up in London on the 4th of every month, for despatch by the packet from Southampton, and on the evening of the 9th of every month for despatch *via* Marseilles, excepting when the 4th or 9th fall on a Sunday, on which occasions the mail *via* Southampton will be made up on the evening of the 3d, and that *via* Marseilles on the evening of the 10th of the month.

Jan 6. 1855

AN ACT to provide for the accommodation of the courts of the United States for the district of Maryland, and for a post office at Baltimore city, Maryland.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be authorized to procure, or cause to be procured, a suitable site or sites for a building or buildings for a court-house and post office in the city of Baltimore; and that he prepare and submit to Congress, at as early a day as practicable, plans and estimates for the construction of a building or buildings on such site or sites, together with the estimates for fitting up or furnishing the same for the purposes indicated. And if a building or buildings should be on such site or sites which can be remodelled or changed so as to answer the purposes indicated in the title of this bill, he shall submit to Congress plans and estimates for such alterations; and also estimates for fitting up or furnishing such building or buildings: *Provided,* That any contract or contracts he may make for any such site or sites shall be conditional and made subject to the approval of Congress.

Approved February 17, 1855.

[Public 33.]

AN ACT authorizing the construction of a line of telegraph from the Mississippi or Missouri rivers to the Pacific ocean.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Hiram O. Alden and James Eddy, their associates, and assigns, are hereby authorized and empowered to construct, at their own expense, a line of telegraph, from such point on the Mississippi or Missouri river as they may hereafter select, through the public lands belonging to the United States, over which lands the right of way two hundred feet in width, for that purpose is hereby granted, to San Francisco, in California, in as direct a line as practicable.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all voluntary or intentional injuries to said line of telegraph, or to any property thereto belonging, within the Territories of the United States, shall be deemed, and are hereby declared to be wilful and malicious trespasses, and shall be punished as such, and all laws of the United States now in force in any Territory thereof, or which may hereafter be enacted for the better security and protection of property, and applicable to such offences, shall be, and they are hereby, extended, for the protection of said line of telegraph, into and over all the territory belonging to, and under the jurisdiction of, the United States, through which the same may be constructed; and all legal process and

proceedings for the detection and punishment of the aforesaid offences shall be within the jurisdiction of the courts, and shall be issued and executed by the proper law officers in the States and organized Territories.
Approved Feb. 17, 1855.

RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER BY
THE BREMEN LINE.

We are authorized to say that the Postal Convention between the United States and Bremen has been so modified that pamphlets, magazines, and other printed matter, as well as newspapers, may be sent in narrow bands, open at the sides or ends, by the Bremen line of steamers, from the United States to any point beyond, as well as to Bremen, belonging to the German Austrian Postal Union; and *vice versa*, from any such point to the United States.

On newspapers sent from the United States by the Bremen line the postage is three cents each, prepayment required. This pays in full to any part of the German Austrian Postal Union. Any postage accruing on newspapers beyond the German Austrian Postal Union must be collected at the points of delivery.

Newspapers received by the Bremen line are in like manner fully prepaid.

On pamphlets, magazines, and other printed matter (except newspapers) a postage of one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce must be prepaid at the mailing office when sent from, and collected at the office of delivery when received in the United States. This is the United States postage only.

Proposals for Stamps.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
February 24, 1855.

PROPOSALS will be received at this department until the 30th day of March next for furnishing stamps for the use of the post offices in the United States for four years from the first day of April next, when ordered by the department, of the following descriptions, viz:

The name of the office and State in circular form cut from a solid block of hardened steel, and made in such manner as to admit of letters and figures to designate the month and day, with a thumb-screw to keep such letters and figures in place. Such stamp, and the letters composing the same, to be of the same size as those now manufactured and in use. A turned mahogany handle, of the same like size, to be securely fastened to the stamp. The months of the year abbreviated so as to contain but three letters each, of the same size now in use, and to be cut from solid blocks of hardened steel. Figures for the days of the month, from 1 to 31, inclusive, to be made of like hardened metal, and of the size last aforesaid.

Also, stamps with the words "paid" and "free," of the form of those now in use, with turned handles.

Also, stamps with figures denoting the rates of postage, and similar to those now in use, with turned handles.

Also, stamps for foreign mails used by the New York and Boston offices.

All of the above stamps to be made of hardened steel.

The proposals must also contain separate bids for the circular stamp, with the months and figures.

Also, for each separate piece, containing the month, consisting of three letters.

Also, for each separate piece for the days of the month.

Also, for complete sets of months and figures.

Also, for each separate piece, with the words "paid" and "free."

Also, for each separate piece, with the figures denoting the rates of postage. The making of the different sets will not, however, be given to different contractors, but the proposal for the whole which is deemed most favorable to the department will be accepted. The department reserves to itself the right to reject all proposals if the price is deemed extravagant, and also the right to accept proposals from the same individual or firm for the circular stamp, with names of months and figures of hardened steel, and all the other stamps of other material, if deemed advisable.

Proposals will be received and considered for all the stamps above named to be composed of other material than hardened steel; and

Int. 22
Feb. 1855.

the department reserves the right to accept such proposals if it shall be deemed for the interest of the department to do so.
Specimens of the various kinds of stamps required (on steel) can be seen at the Appointment Office of this department.

JAMES CAMPBELL,
Postmaster General.

Feb 28—law4w

AN ACT further to amend the act entitled "An act to reduce and modify the rates of postages in the United States, and for other purposes," passed March three, eighteen hundred and fifty-one.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in lieu of the rates of postage now established by law, there shall be charged the following rates, to wit:

For every single letter in manuscript, or paper of any kind in which information shall be asked for or communicated in writing, or by marks or signs, conveyed in the mail for any distance between places in the United States not exceeding three thousand miles, three cents; and for any distance exceeding three thousand miles, ten cents.

And for a double letter there shall be charged double the rate above specified; and for a treble letter, treble those rates; and for a quadruple letter, quadruple those rates; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter; and every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, shall be charged with an additional single postage; and upon all letters passing through or in the mail of the United States, excepting such as are to or from a foreign country, the postages as above specified shall be prepaid, except upon letters and packages addressed to officers of the government on official business, which shall be so marked on the envelope. And from and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-six the Postmaster General may require postmasters to place postage stamps upon all prepaid letters upon which such stamps may not have been placed by the writers.

And all drop-letters, or letters placed in any post office not for transmission through the mail, but for delivery only, shall be charged with postage at the rate of one cent each; and all letters which shall hereafter be advertised as remaining over, or uncalled for, in any post office, shall be charged with one cent each, in addition to the regular postage, both to be accounted for as other postages now are.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any postmaster or other person to sell any postage stamp or stamped envelope for any larger sum than that indicated upon the face of such postage stamp or for a larger sum than that charged therefor by the Post Office Department; and any person who shall violate this provision shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be fined in any sum not less than ten, nor more than five hundred dollars. This act to take effect and be in force from and after the commencement of the next fiscal quarter after its passage. *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to alter the laws in relation to the franking privilege.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That for the greater security of valuable letters posted for transmission in the mails of the United States, the Postmaster General be and hereby is authorized to establish a uniform plan for the registration of such letters on application of parties posting the same, and to require the prepayment of the postage, as well as a registration fee of five cents on every such letter or packet to be accounted for by postmasters receiving the same in such manner as the Postmaster General shall direct: *Provided*, however, That such registration shall not be compulsory; and it shall not render the Post Office Department or its revenue liable for the loss of such letters or packets or the contents thereof.

Approved March 3, 1855.

AN ACT making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of government for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty six, and for other purposes.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

For compensation of the Postmaster General, three Assistant Postmasters General, and the clerks, messenger, assistant messengers, watchmen, and laborers of said department, one hundred and fifty thousand five hundred and fifty-two dollars.

Contingent expenses of said department :

For blank books, binding, and stationery, fuel for the General Post Office building, including the Auditor's office, oil, gas, and candles, printing, labor, day watchman, and for miscellaneous items, nine thousand five hundred dollars.

For the continuation of the Post Office building, three hundred thousand dollars, to be expended under the direction of the President of the United States, according to the plan submitted by Thomas U. Walter, architect, to the Postmaster General, and approved of by the committees of the Senate and House of Representatives at the present session of Congress.

For repairs of the General Post Office building, for office furniture, glazing, painting, whitewashing, and for keeping the fireplaces and furnaces in order, four thousand dollars.

For the renewal of the furnaces in the General Post Office building, and for repairing the mantels and fireplaces therein, two thousand dollars.

For paper and printing for the executive departments, including the annual statement of commerce and navigation, the Biennial Register, and annual estimates of appropriations, one hundred and forty-six thousand five hundred dollars: *Provided*, All blank books, binding, and ruling the same for the several executive departments herein appropriated for, shall be furnished under the direction and supervision of the Superintendent of Public Printing.

For payment of clerks temporarily employed in the office of the Postmaster General from first July to tenth August eighteen hundred and fifty-four, three hundred and eighty-seven dollars and thirty-eight cents.

Sec. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to cause to be constructed the following buildings :

At Bristol, Rhode Island, for the accommodation of the custom-house and post office, a building of brick, with fire-proof floors, constructed of iron beams and brick work, iron roof, shutters, sills, &c., twenty-five feet by thirty, and twenty-five feet high, to cost not more than twelve thousand five hundred dollars.

At Pensacola, Florida, for the accommodation of the custom-house, post office, and United States court a building of like materials, thirty-five by fifty feet, and forty feet high, to cost not more than thirty-five thousand dollars.

At Cleveland, Ohio, for the accommodation of the custom-house, post office, and United States court, a building of stone, eighty-five by sixty feet, and sixty feet high, of like floors, beams, roof, shutters &c., to cost not more than eighty-eight thousand dollars.

At Plattsburgh, New York, for the accommodation of the custom-house, post office and United States court, a building of brick, of like floors, roof, beams, shutters &c., forty-five feet by sixty, and forty-eight feet high, to cost not more than fifty thousand dollars.

At Alexandria, Virginia, to accommodate the custom-house, post office, and United States court, a building of brick, of like floors, beams, roof, shutters, &c., forty-five

feet by sixty and forty-eight feet high, to cost not more than fifty thousand dollars.

At Barnstable, Massachusetts, for the accommodation of the custom-house and post office, a building of brick, of like floors, beams, roof, shutters &c., forty-five feet by thirty-two, and thirty-two feet in height, and to cost not more than twenty thousand dollars.

SECTION 17. *And be it further enacted*, That the several sums mentioned in the preceding section of this act as the cost of the buildings therein authorized to be constructed, together with ten per cent. thereon to cover the compensation of architects, superintendents, advertising and other contingent expenses, and so much as may be required to purchase suitable sites for said buildings, be, and the same are hereby appropriated for the purposes aforesaid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated: *Provided*, That no money hereby appropriated shall be used or applied for the purposes mentioned until a valid title to the land for the site of such buildings, in each case, shall be vested in the United States, and until the State shall also duly release and relinquish to the United States the right to tax, or in any way assess said site, or the property of the United States that may be thereon during the time that the United States shall be, or remain the owner thereof.

For the erection of a building for a court-house, post office, and other public purposes at Indianapolis, Indiana, fifty thousand dollars.

Approved March 3, 1855.

AN ACT making appropriations for the naval service for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six:

For transportation of the mails from New York to Liverpool, and back, eight hundred and nineteen thousand five hundred dollars

For transportation of the mails from New York to New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, Havana, and Chagres, and back, two hundred and sixty-one thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails from Panama to California and Oregon, and back, three hundred and twenty-eight thousand three hundred and fifty dollars.

For carrying out the contract entered into by the Post Office Department, under the provisions of the act approved thirtieth August, one thousand, eight hundred and fifty-two, establishing a tri-monthly mail by steam-vessels between New Orleans and Vera Cruz, via Tampico, sixty-nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated for the service of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, out of any moneys in the treasury arising from the revenues of said department, in conformity to the act of the second July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six:

For transportation of the mails, in two steamships, from New York, by Southampton, to Bremen, and back, at one hundred thousand dollars for each ship; and in two steamships from New York, by Cowes, to Havre, and back, at seventy-five thousand dollars for each ship, under the contract with the Ocean Steam Navigation Company of New York, three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails between Charleston and Havana, a sum not exceeding fifty thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails across the isthmus of

For furnishing the custom-house, post office, and United States court-room at Bangor, Maine, one thousand five hundred dollars for each, making four thousand five hundred dollars; the appropriation for the custom-house, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury; that for the post office, under the Postmaster General; and that for the court-room, under the Secretary of the Interior.

Panama, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, namely:

For transportation of the mails from New York to Liverpool, and back, five hundred and fifty-nine thousand two hundred and thirty-eight dollars and sixty-five cents.

For transportation of the mails from New York to New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, Havana, and Chagres, and back, two hundred and two thousand three hundred and seventy-eight dollars and twenty-one cents.

For transportation of the mails from Panama to California and Oregon, and back, two hundred and forty-nine thousand two hundred and forty-two dollars and two cents.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated for the service of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, out of any moneys in the treasury arising from the revenues of said department in conformity to the act of the second of July, one thousand eight hundred and ~~thirty-six~~:

For transportation of the mails, in two steamships, from New York, by Southampton, to Bremen, and back, at one hundred thousand dollars for each ship; and in two steamships from New York, by Cowes, to Havre, and back, at seventy-five thousand dollars for each ship, under the contract with the Ocean Steam Navigation Company of New York, three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails between Charleston and Havana under the contract with M. C. Mordecai, fifty thousand dollars.

For the transportation of the mails across the isthmus of Panama, one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

Approved March 3, 1855.

AN ACT making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated for the service of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, out of any moneys in the treasury arising from the revenues of the said department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six:

For transportation of the mails, five million nine hundred and eighty-one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight dollars.

For the transportation of the United States mail over the Michigan Central railroad, (five hundred and eighteen miles,) from the ninth of June, eighteen hundred and forty-nine, to the twenty-eighth November, of the same year, five thousand one hundred and seventy-seven dollars and sixty cents.

For compensation to postmasters, two million one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

For ship, steamboat, and way letters, twenty thousand dollars.

For wrapping-paper, forty-eight thousand dollars;

For office furniture in the post offices, six thousand five hundred dollars;

For advertising, one hundred thousand dollars;

For mail-bags, fifty-four thousand dollars;

For blanks, eighty thousand dollars;

For mail-locks, keys, and stamps, fifteen thousand dollars;

For mail depredations and special agents, fifty-eight thousand dollars;

For clerks in the offices of postmasters, six hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars;

For postage stamps and stamped envelopes, seventy thousand dollars;

For miscellaneous items, one hundred and sixty thousand dollars;

For compensation to William M. F. Magraw, for carrying the mail on route number eight thousand nine hundred and eleven, from Independence, Missouri, to Great Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, monthly, each way, according to the contract under which said service is now being performed, the sum of thirty-six thousand dollars per annum commencing with the eighteenth day of August, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and continuing one year, and in lieu of the compensation therein stipulated; *Provided*, That the Postmaster General with the assent of the contractors be, and he is hereby authorized to annul said contract. Also for compensation to Jacob Hale for carrying the mail on route number eight thousand nine hundred and twelve, from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, Territory of New Mexico, monthly, each way, according to the contract under which said service is now being performed, the sum of twenty-two thousand dollars per annum for one year from the eighteenth day of August, eighteen hundred and fifty-four: *Provided*, That the Postmaster General, with the assent of the contractors, be, and he is hereby authorized to annul said contract.

For compensation to George H. Giddings for carrying the mail on route number twelve thousand nine hundred, from Santa Fe New Mexico, to San Antonio, Texas, monthly, each way, according to the contract under which said service is now being performed, the sum of thirty three thousand five hundred dollars per annum, commencing with the eighteenth day of August, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, continuing one year, and in lieu of the compensation therein stipulated: *Provided*, That the Postmaster General with the assent of the contractors, be and he is hereby authorized to annul said contract. And that each contractor engaged or to be engaged in carrying mails through any of the Territories, west of the Mississippi shall have the privilege of occupying stations at the rate of not more than one for every twenty miles of the route on which he carries a mail, and shall have a pre-emptive right therein, when the same shall be brought into market, to the extent of six hundred and forty acres to be taken contiguously, and to include his improvements, but no such pre-emptive right shall extend to any pass in a mountain or other defile.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the fourth section of the act of Congress approved fifth August, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department, during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five," be, and the same is hereby, continued for one year from August fifth, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, and that the allowance granted by said section to the deputy postmaster at Washington city, District of Columbia, of one mill per pound upon the aggregate weight of public documents printed by order of Congress, and deposited in the office of the said postmaster to be mailed, shall be so construed as to commence on the fifth of August, eighteen hundred and fifty-three.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to establish and put in operation a semi-monthly mail by sea from San Francisco, in the State of California, to Olympia, in the Territory of Washington, touching at Humbolt Bay, Trinidad, and Crescent City, in the State of California, Port Orford, Gardiner City or Umpqua, and Astoria, in the Territory of Oregon; Shoal Water Bay, Fort Townsend, in the Territory of Washington, and at such other points as shall be designated by the Postmaster General: *Provided*, That the contract for the said service be advertised by the Postmaster General in pursuance of existing laws and let to the lowest bidder: *And provided further*, that the whole cost of said service shall not exceed the sum of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars per annum: *Provided further*, that the Postmaster General may, if he shall deem it for the public interest, contract for said service with the lowest bidder as aforesaid, under the advertised proposals heretofore made for mail service between the points aforesaid.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the right to frank

112
111

letters and documents now allowed by law to the Vice President be continued to those who have heretofore, or shall hereafter, hold that office, during life.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That all books, maps, and charts, or other publications entered for copyright and which, under the act of August tenth, eighteen hundred and forty-six, are required to be deposited in the Library of Congress and in the Smithsonian Institution may be sent through the mail free of postage under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized, in the settlement of the accounts of the late postmaster at Waterville, Maine, to allow such sum, in addition to the commissions which accrued at his office during his term of service, as will make his compensation equal to one hundred and seventy-five dollars per quarter, and cover all such necessary items of incidental expenses as have been usually incurred and allowed in a post office of this class: *Provided, however*, That the whole compensation and expenses shall not exceed four hundred and twenty-five dollars per quarter.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the First Comptroller of the Treasury be instructed to examine the claim of William R. Glover and Thomas W. Mather and their associates, and ascertain and allow such damages as they are entitled to in justice and equity, in consequence of the refusal of the Postmaster General to carry into effect the contract entered into between William R. Glover and Thomas W. Mather and the Postmaster General, in eighteen hundred and fifty-three, for the transportation of the mails on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, and that such damages be paid to the said William R. Glover and Thomas W. Mather and their associates, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated: *Provided*, The sum allowed shall not exceed the sum of two hundred thousand dollars.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to pay to Uriah P. Monroe, his representatives or assigns, as pay in full for extra mail service on the mail route from Sacramento to Shasta, in the State of California, commencing October the first, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-one, and ending July the fifteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, the sum of five thousand five hundred and forty-one dollars and sixty-six cents.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the proper comptroller of the treasury, under instructions of the Attorney General, inquire whether the contract made by the Postmaster General with William L. Blanchard for carrying the United States mail on route numbered five thousand and sixty-six, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-three, was violated by the Postmaster General without legal and adequate cause given by said Blanchard; and if it was so violated, then to ascertain and allow such damages as he is entitled to in equity and justice, by reason of such violation, and that such damages be paid to said Blanchard out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Approved March 3, 1855.

New Postage Act.—Notice to the Public and Instructions to Postmasters.

NOTICE is hereby given, that, agreeably to an act of Congress approved March 3, 1855, the following rates of postage are to be charged, on and after the first day of April next, in lieu of those now established, to wit:

On every single letter conveyed in the mail, between places in the United States, for any distance not exceeding three thousand miles, three cents; and for any distance exceeding three thousand miles, ten cents.

From and after said first day of April prepayment on letters is required, excepting upon such as are to or from a foreign country, or to officers of the government on official business. The franking privilege remains unchanged.

From and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-six, postmasters are required to place postage stamps upon all prepaid letters on which such stamps may not have been placed by the writers.

By the second section of the act the Postmaster General is authorized to establish a uniform system for the registration of valuable letters. This provision of the law will be carried into effect, and

AN ACT further to amend the act entitled "An act to reduce and modify the rates of postages in the United States, and for other purposes," passed March three, eighteen hundred and fifty-one.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in lieu of the rates of postage now established by law, there shall be charged the following rates, to wit :

For every single letter in manuscript, or paper of any kind in which information shall be asked for or communicated in writing, or by marks or signs, conveyed in the mail for any distance between places in the United States not exceeding three thousand miles, three cents ; and for any distance exceeding three thousand miles, ten cents.

And for a double letter there shall be charged double the rate above specified ; and for a treble letter, treble those rates ; and for a quadruple letter, quadruple those rates ; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter ; and every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, shall be charged with an additional single postage ; and upon all letters passing through or in the mail of the United States, excepting such as are to or from a foreign country, the postages as above specified shall be prepaid, except upon letters and packages addressed to officers of the government on official business, which shall be so marked on the envelope. And from and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-six, the Postmaster General may require postmasters to place postage stamps upon all prepaid letters upon which such stamps may not have been placed by the writers.

And all drop-letters, or letters placed in any post office not for transmission through the mail, but for delivery only, shall be charged with postage at the rate of one cent each ; and all letters which shall hereafter be advertised as remaining over, or uncalled for, in any post office, shall be charged with one cent each, in addition to the regular postage, both to be accounted for as other postages now are.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall not be lawful for any postmaster or other person to sell any postage stamp or stamped envelope for any larger sum than that indicated upon the face of such postage stamp or for a larger sum than that charged therefor by the Post Office Department ;* and any person who shall violate this provision shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not less than ten nor more than five hundred dollars. This act to take effect and be in force from and after the commencement of the next fiscal quarter after its passage. *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to alter the laws in relation to the franking privilege.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That for the greater security of valuable letters posted for transmission in the mails of the United States, the Postmaster General be and hereby is authorized to establish a uniform plan for the registration of such letters on application of parties posting the same, and to require the prepayment of the postage, as well as a registration fee of five cents on every such letter or packet to be accounted for by postmasters receiving the same in such manner as the Postmaster General shall direct : *Provided, however,* That such registration shall not be compulsory ; and it shall not render the Post Office Department or its revenue liable for the loss of such letters or packets or the contents thereof.

Approved March 3, 1855.

special instructions therefor will be issued to postmasters, as soon as the necessary blanks can be prepared and distributed.

JAMES CAMPBELL,
Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
March 9, 1855.
Mar 10—3taW1Ap

Prussian Closed Mail.—We are requested to state that the rates of postage for the correspondence between the United States and foreign countries passing through the German Postal Union, under the Prussian-American postal convention, have undergone some slight modifications since the publication of the foreign postage table of March 1, 1855; and that the following list embraces all the countries and places to which letters and newspapers may be forwarded in said closed mail, with the necessary alterations.

Postmasters should compare this with, and note the alterations upon, the postage table above referred to.

Prepayment Optional.

German-Austrian Postal Union, States of, viz :

Prussia, all other German States, and the whole Austrian empire, by the Prussian closed mail, via London and Ostend	-	-	-	-	30 cents.
		Cents.			Cents.
Alexandria	-	38	Modena	-	33
Altona	-	33	Norway	-	46
Beyrout	-	40	Papal States	-	35
Candia	-	40	Parma	-	33
Cesme	-	40	Poiland	-	37
Constantinople	-	40	Rhodes	-	40
Dardanelles, the	-	40	Russia	-	37
Denmark (Holstein included)	-	35	Salonica	-	40
Galatz	-	40	Samsum	-	40
Gallipoli	-	40	Sardinia	-	38
Greece	-	42	Smyrna	-	40
Ibraila	-	40	Sweden	-	42
Ionian islands	-	38	Switzerland	-	35
Italy	-	33	Taltcha	-	40
Larnæa	-	40	Trebizonde	-	40
Lauenburg	-	33	Tuloza	-	40
Lombardy	-	33	Tuscany	-	35
			Varna	-	40

Prepayment Required.

China, (except Hong Kong,) via Trieste	-	62
East Indies, (English possessions in,) via Trieste	-	38
East Indies, and all other countries in and beyond the East Indies, via Trieste	-	70
Hong Kong do	-	38
Egypt, (except Alexandria,) do	-	38
Turkey, Wallachia, Moldavia, Servia, Levante, and Turkish islands in the Mediterranean, via Trieste, (except Alexandretta, Antivari, Beyrout, Bourghas, Caifa, Candia, Canea, Cesme, Constantinople, Dardanelles, Durazzo, Galatz, Gallipoli, Ibraila, Ineboli, Jaffa, Larnæa, Latakia, Mersina, Mytelene, Prevesa, Rhodes, Salonica, Samsum, Sinope, Smyrna, Tenedos, Trebizonde, Taltcha, Tuloza, Valona, Varna, and Volo,) by Prussian closed mail	-	30
Alexandretta, Antivari, Bourghas, Caifa, Durazzo, Ineboli, Jaffa, Latakia, Mersina, Mytelene, Prevesa, Sinope, Tenedos, Valona, and Volo, via Trieste, by Prussian closed mail	-	40

The rates above mentioned are the full postage through to destination, with the exception of "Turkey, Wallachia, Moldavia, Servia, Levante, and Turkish islands in the Mediterranean," as requiring the prepayment of 30 cents a letter, which is the United States and Prussian postage.

Newspapers to be sent in the Prussian closed mail must be prepaid 6 cents each, which is the full United States and Prussian postage. If to go through said closed mail to the British possessions in the East Indies, or to Hong-Kong, they

Union
29th May 1855.

must be prepaid 10 cents, and if to other points in China, or to countries beyond the East Indies, 13 cents each. But to the East Indies and China it is believed that the cheapest route for newspapers is in the British mail via Southampton, 4 cents each, to be prepaid, being the full United States and British postage.

With reference to the Prussian closed mail, we are desired to remark, also, that in many instances letters which should come in this mail, particularly from the southern part of Germany, are received in the open mail generally via France, thus rendering them subject to additional and much higher rates of postage; and it is suggested that writers would aid greatly toward correcting this irregularity by requesting their correspondents in Germany to inform themselves as to the correct rates of postage, and to mark their letters specially to be forwarded in the "Prussian closed mail, via Ostend and London."

It should also be observed that a prepayment in either country of less than the combined rate of 30 cents on a single letter goes for nothing, no account being taken of partial prepayments.

Postage to Turk's Island.—We are requested to state that the post office at Turk's Island being under the control of the colonial authorities, there is no officer there to collect, on behalf of the British Post Office Department, the postage chargeable on letters from the United States conveyed to that island by British packets. Unless, therefore, the British postage of 24 cents per half ounce, in addition to the United States postage of 10 or 20 cents, according to distance, is prepaid in the United States, the same as upon letters for foreign places (not British) in the West Indies, they cannot be forwarded to their destination.

POSTAGE TO VICTORIA, (PORT PHILIP.)

We are requested to state that notice has been given by the British Office that the single rate of letter postage between the United States and Victoria, (Port Philip,) via England, will hereafter be 45 instead of 33 cents; the postage in all cases required to be paid in advance.

Letters directed to be forwarded from England to Victoria by *private ship* will be liable to a postage of 37 cents the single rate; prepayment also required.

Postmasters should note this change upon their foreign postage tables.

By the "Pioneer Line of Monthly Paekets" from New York *direct* the postage is five cents, prepaid.

Important Mail Communication with St. Johns, Porto Rico, St. Thomas, Lagwayra, and Puerto Cabello.

A semi-monthly line of steamships, commencing with the "Tennessee," on or about the 8th of January next, will run between New York and Puerto Cabello, South America, touching at St. Johns, Porto Rico, St. Thomas, and Lagwayra.

Mails for these points will be regularly made up at the New York Post Office and dispatched by this line, the United States postage charge being ten cents the single rate, *pre-payment required.*

Int. 29 Dec. 55. Int. 10 July 55. 1 June, 1855.

Since reserved.

Canada Postage—New Arrangement.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1855.

My attention has been called to the circumstances that letters enclosed in the United States postage stamps, or prepaid with United States stamps, are received in this country from Canada charged by our frontier exchange officers as unpaid.

This practice on the part of the United States exchange offices is, strictly speaking, correct, as each country recognizes its own postage stamps only in the prepayment of letters, and hence it is irregular to use United States stamps, in the prepayment of letters from Canada.

But in as much as the parties addressed feel aggrieved if postage is demanded on the delivery of such letters, and urge that the practice of charging them as unpaid operates as a hardship upon them, the postage having been once received by this Department, I am disposed to treat for the future such letters as prepaid, and deliver them as such.

You will therefore, discontinue the present practice of charging letters of this character as unpaid, in United States stamps, and forward them to destination without additional charge.

JAMES CAMPBELL.

Canada
Postage

RATES OF POSTAGE TO THE EAST INDIES, JAVA, BORNEO, LABUAN, SUMATRA, THE MOLUCCAS, AND THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

We are authorized to state that, arrangements having been made by Great Britain for collecting in India the British and other foreign postage on letters between the United Kingdom and the East Indies, whether transmitted via Southampton or via Marseilles in the British mails, hereafter *the United States postage only* should be prepaid in this country on letters for the East Indies to be transmitted by either of the above routes, viz: *five cents* the single rate when the Atlantic conveyance is by British packet, and *twenty-one cents* when by United States packet.

Owing to a reduction of twelve cents in the British postage beyond England, which took place on the 1st of February instant, the single rates of letter postage between the United States and Java, Borneo, Labuan, Sumatra, the Moluccas, and the Philippine islands, will hereafter be as follows:

To Java, via Southampton, 33 instead of 45 cents the half-ounce; and via Marseilles, 53 instead of 65 cents the quarter-ounce, and 63 instead of 75 cents the half-ounce; *prepayment required.*

To Borneo, Labuan, Sumatra, the Moluccas, and the Philippine islands, the single rate will be 41 instead of 53 cents when sent via Southampton, and 61 instead of 73 cents the quarter-ounce, or 71 instead of 83 cents the half-ounce, when sent by closed mail via Marseilles; *prepayment also required.*

The rates above mentioned as chargeable on letters for the island of Java will provide for their conveyance by British packet as far as Singapore, but they will afterwards be subject to a Netherland rate of postage on account of the conveyance from Singapore to Java.

By the Prussian closed mail the rates to these countries remain unchanged.

Union 7 March, 1856.

RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER TO OR FROM FRANCE.

We are authorized to state that a postal arrangement, relating particularly to printed matter of every kind passing between the French and English post offices, has recently been concluded by the French and English governments, by the terms of which newspapers and other printed matter may be transported to and from France, on French account, through the territory of the United Kingdom, and by British mail packets or commercial vessels arriving at and departing from the ports of the United Kingdom.

Hereafter, therefore, not only newspapers, but also gazettes, periodical works, books, stitched or bound, pamphlets, papers of music, catalogues, circulars, and notices of various kinds, printed or lithographed, addressed to France, Algeria, or cities of Turkey, Syria, and Egypt, in which France has post offices; also, similar printed matter, (except bound books,) addressed to countries to which France serves as an intermediate point, may be forwarded to or from France in United States or British packets, by way of England, on payment of the same rates of postage as are now charged in this country on like matter despatched to, or received from, France *direct*.

The United States postage on newspapers or gazettes will be two cents each; on periodical works, catalogues, or pamphlets, one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce; and on all other kinds of printed matter, the same as domestic rates; to be in all cases collected in the United States, whether sent or received.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO VAN DIEMEN'S LAND AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

We are requested to state that the British charge on letters between the United Kingdom and the British Colonies of Van Diemen's Land and Western Australia, having been recently reduced to sixpence the half ounce, whether such letters are conveyed by packet or by private ship, the single rate of letter postage between the United States and either of those Colonies will hereafter be thirty-three instead of forty-five cents; the postage in all cases to be paid in advance.

This rate is, however, independent of any transit postage to which the letters may be liable for conveyance through a foreign State, other than Great Britain and her colonies.

9 Aug 1856.

Unpaid Letters.

The plan put in operation at New York some weeks ago for the disposition of unpaid letters addressed to persons *within the United States* being found to work satisfactorily, we are authorized to say that the Postmaster General has given directions for it to be extended to all other offices as early as practicable. Blank circulars and note of instructions have been printed and will be distributed to postmasters in due course of business. The following copy of this circular and note will show what this plan is, viz :

July 10. 1856

POST OFFICE, ———, 185—.

A letter bearing your address is detained in this office for non-payment of postage. By enclosing to me, immediately on receipt of this, — *three-cent stamp and prepaying your note of reply*, the letter will be duly forwarded according to its direction.

Respectfully, yours,

Postmaster.

NOTE.—Postmasters will fill up, address, and frank the above notice, without the use of an envelope, to all persons within the United States for whom *unpaid letters* shall have been deposited in their offices; and may dispense with the former practice of posting up notices in their offices that such letters have been deposited therein.

JAMES CAMPBELL,
Postmaster General.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO EGYPT.

We are requested to state, that the British postage charge on letters between the United Kingdom and Egypt, whether sent via Southampton or via Marseilles, has been reduced to sixpence (12 cents) the half ounce, and therefore the single rate of letter postage between the United States and Egypt will be for the future 33 cents via Southampton, and 43 cents via Marseilles, instead of the rates heretofore charged. The postage must in all cases be pre-paid.

July 14 '56.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO BORNEO, LABUAN, SUMATRA, THE MOLUCCAS AND THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

We are requested to state that the single rate of letter postage between the United States and Borneo, Labuan, Sumatra, the Molluccas and the Philippine islands, when *specially addressed to be forwarded via India*, will in future be 33 cents when sent via Southampton, and 53 cents the quarter-ounce, or 63 cents the half-ounce, when sent by closed mail via Marseilles; *prepayment required*.

12 Dec. 1856.

The postage on newspapers for Borneo, Labuan, Sumatra

tra, the Moluccas and the Philippine islands, addressed to be forwarded via India, will in future be 6 instead of 4 cents each; *prepayment required.*

POSTAGE TO PANAMA.

The act of 3d March, 1851, provides that, except where specially otherwise adjusted, the rate of postage to or from a foreign country, for any distance over two thousand five hundred miles, shall be twenty cents, and for any distance under two thousand five hundred miles ten cents. From New York via Havana to Panama, the regularly established mail route, the distance is over two thousand five hundred miles; consequently the rate hitherto collected on letters to go from New York to Panama has been twenty cents. It appearing, however, that the distance between those points *by the direct line* is only two thousand three hundred and forty-five miles, we are authorized to say that the Postmaster General has made an order to receive postage accordingly. Therefore, from New York, or any place within one hundred and fifty-five miles of that city, to Panama, the rate will hereafter be ten cents, prepayment required. From all points over two thousand five hundred miles, of course, the rate is twenty cents, prepayment also required.

Reduction of Postage to the West Coast of South America.

We are authorized to say that the Postmaster General, by and with the advice and consent of the President of the United States, agreeably to a provision in section 2d of the act of 3d March, 1851, has made an order fixing the uniform rate of ten cents United States postage for all letters to and from all points south of Panama, on the west coast of South America, and two cents each as the United States postage on newspapers. Adding the British Pacific postage, therefore, the rates will be as follows :

NEW GRANADA.

Bogota and Buenaventura, eighteen cents on letters *sent*; being the United States and foreign postage. Prepayment required. Ten cents on letters *received*; being the United States postage only.

Newspapers sent, six cents, and newspapers received, two cents, to be collected in the United States.

PERU.

Payta, Lambayeque, Huanchaco, Casma, Huacho, Callao, Lima, Pisco, Islay, Arica, and Iquique, twenty-two cents on letters *sent*; being the United States and foreign postage. Prepayment required. Ten cents on letters *received*; being the United States postage only.

Newspapers sent, six cents, and newspapers received, two cents each, to be collected in the United States.

ECUADOR, BOLIVIA, AND CHILL.

Guayaquil, Quito, Cobijs, La Paz, Copiapo, Huasco, Cocombo, Valparaiso, and St Iago, thirty-four cents on

Dec. 1856.

letters sent; being the United States and foreign postage. Prepayment required. Ten cents on letters received; being the United States postage only. Newspapers sent, six cents, and newspapers received, two cents each, to be collected in the United States.

MAILS FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.—A monthly mail will hereafter be made up at the New York and New Orleans post Offices for Punta Arenas, La Unión, Acajula and San Jose de Guatemala (Central America,) for dispatch by the California mail steamers of the 5th of each month from those ports. Said mail, on arrival at Panama, will be immediately dispatched thence to destination by the steamship Columbus, belonging to the Panama Railroad Company. The single rate of United States postage is ten cents when the distance from mailing office is under 2,500 miles, and 20 cents when the distance is over 2,500 miles—prepayment compulsory.

3 Jan. 1857

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO SPAIN.

We are requested to state, that in consequence of a reduction in the French transit rate on letters forwarded from the United Kingdom, through France, to Spain, the postage between the United States and Spain, via England and France, will be hereafter as follows—prepayment compulsory:

On a letter not exceeding a quarter of an ounce.....	37	cents
“ “ above a quarter and not exceeding half an ounce.....	43	“
“ “ above half an ounce and not exceeding three-quarters of an ounce.....	80	“
“ “ above three-quarters of an ounce and not exceeding an ounce.....	86	“

15 Jan'y '57.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN, INDIA, AND CHINA.

We are requested to give public notice that the single rate of postage upon letters addressed to the following places, via England, and intended to be forwarded by British packet via Marseilles, will hereafter be as follows—prepayment required:

Egypt (except Alexandria).....	39	cents.
China (except Hong-Kong).....	39	“
Java.....	49	“
Borneo.....	49	“
Labuan.....	49	“
Sumatra.....	49	“
Moluccas.....	49	“
Phillipine Islands.....	49	“

On letters addressed to Alexandria, Hong-Kong, and the British possessions in India, the United States postage only, of 21 or 5 cents, according as they are despatched by United States or British packets, must be prepaid in this country.

FOREIGN POSTAGE.

Rates of Postage to the Australian Colonies, including Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land) and New Zealand.

We are requested to state that notice has been given by the British Post Office of a recent arrangement made by the British Government for the conveyance of mails once a month, by the route of Suez, between Great Britain and the Australian Colonies, including Tasmania and New Zealand. Under this arrangement mails will be dispatched from Southampton (England), regularly on the 12th of each month; and, in addition to and connexion with the direct packet service from Southampton, a special service will be maintained, via France, for the conveyance of supplementary mails, which will be dispatched from London four days after the departure of the packet from Southampton. Thus the correspondence via Marseilles will be made up and forwarded from London on the 16th of each month.

The postage on all letters and newspapers addressed to the Australian Colonies *must be paid in advance* or they cannot be forwarded from Great Britain. The rates upon letters to New South Wales, Victoria, (Port Philip,) South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, (Van Diemen's Land,) and New Zealand will be thirty-three cents the single letter, not exceeding half an ounce, when sent via Southampton, and thirty-nine cents the single letter, not exceeding one-quarter of an ounce, when sent via Marseilles. Newspapers when sent via Southampton four cents each—*pre-payment required.*

* Letters via Southampton are charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of half an ounce; double rate if exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding an ounce; quadruple rate if exceeding an ounce, but not exceeding two ounces; and so on, two rates being charged for every ounce or fractional part of an ounce over the first ounce.

Letters via Marseilles are charged with an additional French rate of six cents the *quarter ounce*. The postage, therefore, via Marseilles, on a letter not exceeding one quarter of an ounce is thirty-nine cents; when above one quarter of an ounce, and not exceeding half an ounce, forty-five cents; when above half an ounce, and not exceeding three-quarters of an ounce, eighty-four cents; and when above three-quarters of an ounce, and not exceeding one ounce, ninety cents.

POSTAL CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE.

We are authorized to state that a Postal Convention has been concluded between the United States and France, having been signed on the 2d instant by JAMES CAMPBELL, Postmaster General, on the part of this Government, and by Count DE SAR-

27 July
1854

TIGES, Minister, &c. on the part of France. It is to go into effect on the 1st of April next.

The rate for a letter of the weight of one-quarter of an ounce, or under, is fifteen cents, and fifteen cents for each additional quarter of an ounce, or fraction of a quarter of an ounce, from any part of the United States to any part of France or Algeria; prepayment optional. The postage is the same whether the letter passes through England or direct to or from France.

The rates on letters of a quarter of an ounce, or under, for countries beyond France, will be as follows, viz :

Great Britain, Belgium, the Low Countries, the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, the Swiss Cantons, the Sardinian States, and the German States, (except the Empire of Austria,) 21 cents to destination; prepayment optional.

Denmark, Empire of Austria, Servia, Tuscany, States of the Church and Duchies of Parma and Modena, 27 cents to destination; prepayment optional.

Russia, Poland, the Two Sicilies, Malta, the Kingdom of Greece, Alexandria, Jaffa, Beyrout, Tripoli in Syria, Latakia, Alexandretta, Masina, Rhodes, Smyrna, Mitylene, the Dardanelles, Gallipolis, Constantinople, Tunis, Tangiers, Pondicherry, Karikal, Yancoan, Maba, and Chandernager, 30 cents to destination; prepayment optional.

Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway, 33 cents to destination; prepayment optional.

Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar, 21 cents to Behobia; prepayment required.

Ionian Islands, 27 cents to Trieste; prepayment required

Aden, East Indies, Ceylon, Mauritius, Isle of Reunion, Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, China, Batavia, and other countries whose correspondence can advantageously be sent by Suez, 30 cents to seaport of the Indies or sea of China to which the British packets ply; prepayment required.

Countries beyond seas other than those designated, 30 cents to port of arrival in the country of destination; prepayment required.

As the balances now in use in our post offices are adjusted to no weight below the half ounce, the quarter ounce may be ascertained by placing a die (a new quarter of a dollar will answer) of the weight of a quarter of an ounce upon the plate of the balance with the letter.

The previous arrangement for printed matter, on which each country collects its own postage, remains unchanged. The United States postage on newspapers is two cents each, and on periodicals and pamphlets one cent an ounce, or fraction of an ounce; prepayment required. Books and all other kinds of printed matter are chargeable with the United States domestic rates; prepayment also required.

Intelligencer
5th March
1867.

AN ACT to expedite telegraphic communication for the use of the government in its foreign intercourse.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of State, in the discretion, and under the direction of the President of the United States, may contract with any competent person, persons, or association, for the aid of the United States, by furnishing not exceeding two ships in laying down a submarine cable, to connect existing telegraphs between the coast of Newfoundland and the coast of Ireland, and for the use of such submarine communication when established by the government of the United States, on such terms and conditions as shall seem to the President just and reasonable not exceeding seventy thousand dollars, per annum until the nett profits of such person, or persons, or association, shall be equal to a dividend of six per cent per annum, and then not exceeding fifty thousand dollars per annum for twenty: *Provided*, That the government of Great Britain shall, before or at the same time, enter into a like contract for those purposes with the same person, persons, or association, and upon terms of exact equality with those stipulated by the United States: *And provided*, That the tariff of prices for the use of such submarine communication by the public shall be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States and the government of Great Britain, or its authorized agent: *Provided further*, That the United States and the citizens thereof shall enjoy the use of the said submarine telegraph communication for all time on the same terms and conditions which shall be stipulated in favor of the government of Great Britain, and the subjects thereof, recognising equality of rights among the citizens of the United States in the use of said submarine communication and the lines of telegraph which may at any time connect with the same at its terminus on the coast of Newfoundland and in the United States, in any contract so to be entered into by such person, persons, or association, with that government: *Provided further*, that the contract to be made by the British government, shall not be different from that already proposed by the government to the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company except such provisions as may be necessary to secure to each government the transmission of its own messages by its own agents; *and provided further*, that it shall be in the power of Congress, after ten years, to terminate said contract upon giving one years notice to the parties to such contract.*

Approved March 3, 1857

Public 25

AN ACT making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated for the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, out of any moneys in the treasury arising from the revenues of the said department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six:

For transportation of the mails, (inland,) seven million six hundred and twenty-two thousand two hundred and forty-seven dollars.

For compensation to postmasters, two million one hundred and forty thousand dollars.

For ship, steamboat, and way letters, twenty thousand dollars.

For wrapping-paper, forty-five thousand dollars.

For office furniture in the post offices, six thousand dollars.

For advertising, eighty thousand dollars.

NEW POSTAGE ACT.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE COMPULSORY PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE ON ALL TRANSIENT
PRINTED MATTER.

17/11/57
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provision in the act approved August thirty, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, entitled "An act to amend the act entitled an act to reduce and modify the rates of postage in the United States, and for other purposes, passed March three, eighteen hundred and fifty-one," permitting transient printed matter to be sent through the mail of the United States without prepayment of postage, be, and the same is hereby, repealed. And the postage on all such transient matter shall be prepaid by stamps or otherwise, as the Postmaster General may direct.

APPROVED *January 2, 1857.*

For mail-bags, fifty-five thousand dollars.
For blanks, and paper for the same, ninety-five thousand dollars.
For mail-locks, keys, and stamps, fifteen thousand dollars.
For mail depredations and special agents, sixty-five thousand dollars.
For clerks in the offices of postmasters, seven hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars.
For postage stamps and stamped envelopes, ninety-five thousand dollars.
For miscellaneous items, one hundred and seventy thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of six hundred and sixty-six thousand eight hundred and eighty-three dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to supply deficiencies in the revenue of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That if the revenues of the Post Office Department shall be insufficient to meet the appropriations of this act the sum of two million five hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to supply deficiencies in the revenue of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to establish and put in operation a semi-monthly mail, by sea, from San Francisco, in the State of California, to Olympia, in the Territory of Washington, touching at Humboldt bay, Trinidad, and Crescent city, in the State of California; Port Orford, Gardiner city, or Umpqua, and Astoria, in the Territory of Oregon; Shoal-water bay, Fort Townsend, in the Territory of Washington; and at such other points as shall be designated by the Postmaster General: *Provided*, That the contract for the said service be advertised by the Postmaster General in pursuance of existing laws, and let to the lowest bidder: *And provided, further*, That the whole cost of said service shall not exceed the sum of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars per annum, which sum is hereby appropriated for that purpose, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated: *Provided, further*, That the Postmaster General may, if he shall deem it for the public interest, contract for said service with the lowest bidder, as aforesaid, under the advertised proposals heretofore made for mail service between the points aforesaid.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be authorized and directed to continue the mail service between Charleston, Key West, and Havana, during the months of August and September in each year for the residue of the present contract term of the southern section by a competent steamer as it is now being performed during ten months of the year; and that to enable him to do so, a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars per annum is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted* That the fourth section of the act of Congress approved fifth of August, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five," be and the same is hereby continued for one year from August fifth, eighteen hundred and fifty seven.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be and he is hereby, authorized to re-examine and adjust all questions arising out of fines imposed upon the contractors for carrying the mails upon the Mississippi river.

Sec. 8 *And be it further enacted*, That the Post Master General be; and is hereby, authorized and directed to examine the applications of Vassal D Pinkham, contractor for carrying the United States mail on route sixty seven, between Bangor and Calais, in the State of Maine, and of Lewis W. Ludlow, contractor for carrying the United States mails on route one thousand two hundred and forty two, from Auburn to South Lansing, in the State of New York, to be released from their respective contracts, and in his discretion to release either or both of them therefrom.

Sec. 9 *And be it further enacted* That the eighth section of the act of the eighteenth of August, eighteen hundred and fifty six, entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department" &c, be construed as mandatory; and the Postmaster General be, and he hereby is, required to pay to the said Giddings the sum of thirty three thousand and five hundred dollars per annum in lieu of the contract pay, on mail route number twelve thousand nine hundred, as directed by said section, deducting payments heretofore made.

Sec. 10 *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby authorized to contract for the conveyance of the entire letter mail from such point on the Mississippi river, as the contractors may select, to San Francisco, in the State of California, for six years, at a cost not exceeding three hundred thousand dollars per annum for semi monthly, four hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for weekly, or six hundred thousand dollars for semi-weekly service to be performed semi-monthly, weekly, or semi-weekly, at the option of the Postmaster General.

Sec. 11 *And be it further enacted*, That the contract shall require the service to be performed with good four-horse coaches, or spring wagons, suitable for the conveyance of passengers, as well as the safety and security of the mails.

Sec. 12, *And be it further enacted*, That the contractors shall have the right of pre-emption to three hundred and twenty acres of any land not then disposed of or reserved, at each point necessary for a station, not to be nearer than ten miles from each other: and provided, that no mineral land shall be thus pre-empted.

Sec. 13 *And be it further enacted*, That the said service shall be performed within twenty-five days for each trip; and that, before entering into such contract, the Postmaster General shall be satisfied of the ability and disposition of the parties bona fide and in good faith to perform the said contract, and shall require good and sufficient security for the performance of the same; the service to commence within twelve months after the signing of the contract.

Sec. 14 *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General of the United States be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to accept the lowest bid offered and now on record, (Provided the same shall not exceed twenty three thousand dollars a year, for weekly services,) to convey the United States mails in good and sufficient steamer or steamers under the advertisement of the Postmaster General of January nineteen, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, for "proposals for conveying the United States mails on Puget's Sound, Washington Territory" and to contract with the bidders thereof to put into immediate operation the said service on Puget's Sound, Washington Territory commencing at Olympia and supplying Steilacoom, Seattle, Port Madison, Port Gamble, Port Ludlow, Port Townsend, Penn's Cove Bellingham Bay, (Whatcom,) New Dungeness, and such other places on said route as the Postmaster General may direct; said service to be paid for out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated; Provided, That the said service shall be performed in first class steamboats, under the eighth section of the act approved March third eighteen hundred and forty-five.

Sec. 15 *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to pay to George Whitman the

sum of ten thousand one hundred dollars, being the amount of a draft issued in his favor by the Postmaster General on the evening of August eighteen hundred and thirty-eight upon the postmaster at New Orleans in payment of services rendered by said Whitman as mail contractor, less two thousand dollars paid thereon, which draft was not satisfied by the drawer.

Approved March 3, 1857

Public 47

AN ACT to construct a building for a custom house and post office at Perth Amboy New Jersey

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of twenty thousand dollars with ten per cent. thereon to cover contingencies and so much as may be required to purchase a suitable site be, and the same are hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated for the construction in the city of Perth Amboy, in the State of New Jersey for the accommodation of a Custom House and Post Office, of a brick building perfectly fire proof with floors constructed of iron beams and buck arches, and an iron roof of forty five by thirty two feet, and thirty two feet high : Provided that no money hereby appropriated shall be used or applied for the purpose mentioned until a valid title to the land for the site of said building shall be vested in the United States, and until the State, of New Jersey shall also duly relinquish and release to the United States the right to tax or in any way assess said site, or the property of the United States that may be thereon during the time that the United States shall be or remain the owner thereof.

Approved March 3, 1857

Public 42

AN ACT making appropriation for the transportation of the United States mail, by ocean steamers and otherwise, during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight :

For transportation of the mails from New York to Liverpool, and back, three hundred and forty-six thousand five hundred dollars.

For transportation of the mails from New York to New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, Havana, and Cbagres, and back, two hundred and sixty-one thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails from Panama to California and Oregon, and back, three hundred and twenty-eight thousand three hundred and fifty dollars.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That* the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated for the service of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, out of any moneys in the treasury arising from the revenues of said department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six :

For transportation of the mails between Charleston and Havana, a sum not exceeding fifty thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails across the Isthmus of Panama, one hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars.

Approved March 3, 1857

BY AUTHORITY.
LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Public 37

AN ACT making appropriations for certain civil expenses of the government for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty eight.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated for the objects hereafter expressed, for the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, viz:

For extension of the General Post Office, two hundred thousand dollars.

For the continuation and completion of the custom-house, post office, &c., at Dubuque, Iowa, twenty thousand dollars, with ten per cent, for contingencies, and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to take possession and pay for the land and prosecute the work conditioned upon the city of Dubuque, entering into a bond in its corporate capacity, with good and sufficient individual security for twice the amount of the appropriations that the legislature of Iowa will at its next session pass an act ceding exclusive jurisdiction over the site to the United States, and forever exempting the property from all taxation.

For enlarging the building for a custom-house, post office, and court-room at Buffalo, New York, one hundred and twenty-one thousand dollars, including the ten per cent. for incidentals, and for the like purpose at Chicago, Illinois, two hundred thousand dollars, with the ten per cent. for incidental expenses.

For the construction of a custom-house, United States court-rooms, and post office at Cairo, Illinois, fifty thousand dollars.

For building a court house and post office at Raleigh North Carolina fifty thousand dollars.

For building a court-house and post office at Columbia South Carolina fifty thousand dollars.

For building a court house at Madison Wisconsin fifty thousand dollars.

For a court house and post office at Memphis in the State of Tennessee fifty thousand dollars.

For a building at Tallahassee Florida to accommodate the United States courts and post office fifty thousand dollars.

For completing and furnishing the building purchased of the Bank of Pennsylvania to adapt it to the uses of a post office in the city of Philadelphia one hundred thousand dollars.

For completing and fitting up the post office in the building erected for a custom-house and post offices, at Cincinnati four thousand three hundred and thirty-eight dollars and ninety cents.

For the completion of a United States court house and post office at Key West Florida thirty thousand dollars with ten per cent. for contingencies and so much as may be necessary for the purpose of a suitable site for the same.

For the continuation and completion of the United States court-house and post office at Indianapolis, Indiana, sixty-seven thousand dollars (with ten per cent for contingencies).

For the continuation and completion of the buildings for the United States courts and post office at Rutland and Windsor Vermont forty thousand dollars each (with ten per cent for contingencies.)

SEC 3. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Treasury be and he hereby is authorized to increase the length of the building for the custom-house, post office and court rooms at Galveston Texas, as many feet as the appropriation heretofore made will admit of being done,
 Approved March 3, 1857.

**NEWSPAPER POSTAGE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES,
 VIA ENGLAND.**

We are requested to state that the following is a list of the countries and places to which newspapers from the United States cannot be forwarded, via England, unless prepaid at a higher rate than four cents each, (United States and British postage.)

The charges on a single newspaper to each of these countries, via England, are as follows—prepayment compulsory :

Australia, South.....	via Marseilles.....	8 cents.
“ Western.....	do.....	8 “
Borneo.....	do.....	10 “
“	via Southampton... 6	“
Bourbon, (Reunion).....	via Marseilles.....	10 “
“ (Reunion).....	via Southampton... 6	“
Ceylon.....	via Marseilles.....	8 “
China, including Hong Kong.....	do.....	8 “
Egypt.....	do. by British packet	8 “
India, including Aden.....	via Marseilles.....	8 “
Java.....	do.....	8 “
Mauritius.....	do.....	8 “
New South Wales.....	do.....	8 “
New Zealand.....	do.....	8 “
Penang.....	do.....	8 “
Philippine Islands.....	do.....	10 “
“	via Southampton... 6	“
Tasmania (Van Dieman's Land) via Marseilles... 8	“	“
Victoria.....	do.....	8 “
Belgrade.....	via Belgium.....	7 “
Other parts of Turkey not enumerated below, via Belgium.....		6 “
Moldavia, (except places enumerated below,) via Belgium.....		7 “
Wallachia via Southampton.....		7 “

Upon newspapers to the following places the United States and British postage is four cents each, to which must be added a foreign postage beyond England of three cents for every half ounce in weight—prepayment required :

Botuschany,	Jassy,	Salonica,	Tenedos,
Bucharest,	Lornica,	Samsoun,	Trebizond,
Candii.,	Mostar,	Seres,	Tultcha,
Galatz,	Ratchuck,	Tchesme,	Varna.

Postmasters should note these rates upon the table of postages to foreign countries.

Int. 17 June 1857

Int. 22 June 1857

Reduction of Postage to the Cape of Good Hope.

We are requested to state that the postage upon letters between Great Britain and the Cape of Good Hope, whether conveyed by packet or by private ship, has been reduced to sixpence (twelve cents) the half-ounce; and that in consequence of this reduction the single rate of postage between the United States and the Cape of Good Hope via England will be in future thirty-three instead of forty-five cents, prepayment compulsory.

RATES OF POSTAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES TO
THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK BY THE BREMEN
LINE.

We are requested to state that the Bremen office
has recently furnished the Post Office Department
with the following table of postages to Denmark and
the Danish Duchies by the Bremen line.

" Union, 4th July 1887.

	½ ounce letter or under.	Over ½ ounce, and not exceeding an ounce.	Over 1 ounce, and not exceeding 1½ ounce.	Over 1½ ounce, and not exceeding 2 ounces.	Over 2 ounces, and not exceeding 2½ ounces.	Over 2½ ounces, & not exceeding 3 ounces.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
Denmark	25	50	90	100	140	150
Dakedom of Holstein and of Lauenburg—						
Ahrensböck	22	44	81	88	125	132
Ahrensburg	22	44	81	88	125	132
Altona	22	44	81	88	125	132
Barmstedt	22	44	81	88	125	132
Blankensee	22	44	81	88	125	132
Bonhoed	22	44	81	88	125	132
Brams-toit	22	44	81	88	125	132
Bunsbützel	22	44	81	88	125	132
Büchen	22	44	81	88	125	132
Buße	22	44	81	88	125	132
Bunshörn	22	44	81	88	125	132
Eutin	22	44	81	88	125	132
Glücksbdt.	22	44	81	88	125	132
Heide	25	50	90	100	140	150
Heiligenhafen	25	50	90	100	140	150
Horst	22	44	81	88	125	132
Itzehoe	22	44	81	88	125	132
Kellinghusen	22	44	81	88	125	132
Kiel	25	50	90	100	140	150
Lütjenburg	25	50	90	100	140	150
Lauenburg	22	44	81	88	125	132
Lunden	25	50	90	100	140	150
Meldorf	25	50	90	100	140	150
Mölln	22	44	81	88	125	132
Neumünster	22	44	81	88	125	132
Neustadt	22	44	81	88	125	132
Norbn.	22	44	81	88	125	132
Oldenburg	25	50	90	100	140	150
Oldesloe	22	44	81	88	125	132
Pinnaburg	22	44	81	88	125	132
Plohn	22	44	81	88	125	132
Preetz	25	50	90	100	140	150
Ratz-burg	22	44	81	88	125	132
Reinbeck	22	44	81	88	125	132
Reinolds	22	44	81	88	125	132
Rein-sburg	25	50	90	100	140	150
Schwartau	22	44	81	88	125	132
Schwarzenböck	22	44	81	88	125	132
Szegoberz	22	44	81	88	125	132
Uetersen	22	44	81	88	125	132
Wandsbck	22	44	81	88	125	132
Wibster	22	44	81	88	125	132
Dakedom of Schleswig	25	50	90	100	140	150

Postage to Ports of the Black Sea and of the Danube by French Mail.

We are requested to state that the French Government has recently established Post Offices at Volo, Varna, Sulina, Tultcha, Galatz, Ibraila, Ineboli, Sinope, Samsoun, Kerasund, and Trebizond, and that correspondence of every description originating in or destined for those cities will hereafter be transmitted in the mail via France upon the same terms and conditions as correspondence of the like nature originating in or destined for the cities of the Levant in which France has post offices.

The single rate of letter postage between the United States and those places by the French mail will therefore be thirty cents the *quarter ounce* and sixty cents the *half ounce* letter. *Pre-payment optional.* Printed matter of every description may also be transmitted to those ports by way of France on pre-payment of the United States postage, viz: two cents on newspapers; one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce on pamphlets and periodicals; and the regular domestic rates on other kinds of printed matter. The same rates of postage must be collected at the office of delivery in the United States upon printed matter from those places received by French mail.

6th Nov. 1857.

POSTAGE TO PORTS OF THE BLACK SEA AND OF THE DANUBE, AT WHICH THE FRENCH PACKETS TOUCH.—The Postmaster General of France has notified the Post Office Department of the United States of the recent establishment of two lines of such mail packets in the Black Sea, conveying mails weekly—the one from Constantinople, Varna, Sulina, Tultcha and Galatz, to Ibraila, in Wallachia; and the other from Constantinople, by Sinope, Samsoun, and Kerasoun, to Trebizonde, in Russian Armenia.

In consequence of the establishment of these two lines, letters from the United States for Varna, Sulina, Tultcha, Galatz, Ibraila, Sinope, Samsoun, Kerasoun and Trebizonde can be forwarded via France, in the French mail, to destination, on prepayment of 30 cents the single rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce or under, being the same postage as is chargeable on correspondence of the same nature destined for cities of the Levant, in which France has post offices.

In like manner unpaid correspondence for the United States coming from the above-named ports of the Black sea and of the Danube by French packets, will be subject to the same rate as is charged on unpaid correspondence from the cities of the Levant above named, viz. 30 cents the single letter of $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce or under.

The French office at Constantinople is charged with the duty of forwarding this correspondence to its destination, by means of the packets belonging to the two new lines above named, no additional charge being made for the conveyance beyond Constantinople.—*Washington Union.*

REDUCED RATES OF POSTAGE TO AUSTRIA, ETC. VIA FRANCE.—The Postoffice Department announces that a new postal convention was concluded between the governments of France and Austria on the 3d of September last, by which certain changes have resulted in the rates of postage upon correspondence exchanged by the way of France between the United States and Austria and the countries to which Austria serves as an intermediate point. The rates to be levied in the United States, on and after the 1st of February, 1858, upon letters addressed to the following countries and places, by French mail, will be as follows, viz:

To Austria and its States, and the city of Belgrade, 21 cents the single rate of a quarter ounce or under, *prepayment optional*, being in full to destination.

To Moldavia, Ionian Islands, Adrianople, Seves, Sophia, Rustchuck, Antivan, Scio, Bourghes, Canea, Durazze, Janina, Larnica, Prevesa, Sinope, Tenedos and Velona, 30 cents the single rate of a quarter ounce or under, *prepayment optional*, being in full to destination.

To Montenegro, Servia, (except Belgrade,) and cities in European Turkey other than those enumerated above, or in the "table of postages to foreign countries," 21 cents the quarter ounce letter, *prepayment required*, being in full to the Austrian-Turkish frontier only.

Postmasters should note these changes of rates upon their tables of postages to foreign countries.

Postage to Ports on the West Coast of Africa, via England.

We are requested to state that the British Mail packet on the west coast of Africa proceeds as far as Fernando Po, calling at Madeira, Teneriffe, Goree, Bathurst, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Whydah, Badagry, Lagos, Bonny, Old Calabar, and Cameroon; and that the rates of postage chargeable in the United States upon letters addressed to be forwarded via England to the several ports here mentioned are sixty-one cents per half ounce to Madeira and Teneriffe, and forty-five cents per half ounce to Fernando Po, Goree, Bathurst, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Whydah, Badagry, Lagos, Bonny, Old Calabar, and Cameroon. These rates should be prepaid in all cases, and are in full of the United States and British charge to port of destination, but do not include any foreign local postage which may be levied at any of these places.

POSTAGE TO LIBERIA VIA ENGLAND.—We are requested to state that notice has been given by the British Post Office of the conclusion of a postal convention between Great Britain and the Republic of Liberia, which establishes a combined British and Liberian rate of six pence the half ounce letter as the charge for the conveyance of letters posted in one country and delivered in the other, after the 1st of April next, *prepayment of which is made compulsory.*

The Government of Liberia having expressed a desire that letters originating in the United States addressed to Liberia, as well as letters originating in Liberia addressed to the United States, and forwarded through Great Britain, may be fully prepaid in either country to their destinations, a regulation to that effect has been adopted by the United States and British Post Office Departments.

The postage, therefore, to be levied in the United States upon letters addressed to Liberia, via England, after the 1st of April next, will be 33 cents the single rate of half an ounce or under, *prepayment required.*

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, Feb. 22, 1858.

SIR:—I have to inform you that the following regulations have been agreed upon between this Department and the British Post Office, for the future treatment of newspapers containing writing or any enclosure, conveyed in the mails between the two countries, viz:

1. That newspapers posted in the United Kingdom, and addressed to the United States, or vice versa, if found to contain writing or any enclosure, shall, at the option of the despatching office, either be stopped and sent to the Returned (Dead) Letter office, or be forwarded, charged with full letter postage, both British and United States combined.

2. That a like course shall be adopted to the Post office of the country to which the newspapers are sent, if the writing or enclosure be detected in such country, and not in the country from which the newspapers were despatched.

3. That in order to avoid complexity in reclaiming the postage upon such newspapers as may fail to be delivered, the postage shall be retained by the office collecting it, and shall give rise to no accounts between the two Post Offices.

You are therefore desired to scrutinize closely all newspapers addressed to Great Britain, and in all cases where writing or enclosures are detected, rate them with full letter postage, *omitting claim for any U. S. postage thereon.* In like manner, newspapers of this description, received in this country from Great Britain, will be rated with letter postage, *without British claim for any portion thereof.*

You will, however, continue the existing practice of affixing printed labels to all newspapers received from Great Britain, charged with letter postage.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HORATIO KING.

GARDNER G. WESTCOTT, Postmaster, Philadelphia, Penn.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO THE BRITISH COLONIES OF FALKLAND ISLANDS, GAMBIA, LABUAN, IONIAN ISLANDS, AND NATAL.—We are requested to state that, in consequence of a recent reduction of the British postage, the single rate of letter postage between the United States and the British colonies of Falkland Island, Gambia, Labuan, Ionian Islands, and Natal, via England, will hereafter be 33 cents, prepayment required, when conveyed from England, as follows, viz:

Falkland Islands and Gambia by packet or by private ship.

Labuan and Ionian Islands by private ship.

Natal by packet, via the Cape of Good Hope, or by private ship, direct.

LAW OF THE UNITED STATES.

Pub: 49.

AN ACT making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That so much of all acts and parts of acts, as require or authorize the Postmaster General to publish notice of letting contracts to carry the mails in the respective States, in newspapers published in the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, be and the same is hereby repealed.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted,* that all the ruling and binding for the several Executive Departments shall be executed by practical and competent binders, to be appointed by the head of the Department.

Continued from same act.

Continued -

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That the collectors of the customs, in the several collection districts, be, and they are hereby and hereafter, required to act as disbursing agents, for the payment of all moneys that are or may hereafter be appropriated for the construction of custom houses, court houses, post offices, and marine hospitals, with such compensation, not exceeding one quarter of one per cent., as the Secretary of the Treasury may deem equitable and just: *And provided further*, that where there is no collector at the place of location of any public work herein specified, the superintendent of such public work shall act as disbursing agent without any additional compensation therefor: and all laws and parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this section, be and the same are, hereby repealed.

Approved 12 June 1858.

AN ACT making appropriations for the transportation of the United States mail by ocean steamers and otherwise during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine:

For transportation of the mails from New York to Liverpool, and back, three hundred and forty-six thousand five hundred dollars; and it is hereby provided that there be paid to the Post Office Department out of said appropriation such sums as may be required to procure the transportation of the mails from New York to Liverpool, and back, on such days as the Collins line may fail to take them from New York.

For transportation of the mails from New York to New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, Havana, and Chagres, and back, two hundred and sixty-one thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails from Panama to California and Oregon, and back, three hundred and twenty-eight thousand three hundred and fifty dollars.

For transportation of the mails between San Francisco, California, and Olympia, Washington Territory, one hundred and twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars.

For transportation of the mails on Puget's Sound, twenty-two thousand four hundred dollars.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That there be paid to the Post Office Department, out of the appropriation of three hundred and forty-six thousand five hundred dollars granted by the first section of the act of third March, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, "for transportation of the mails from New York to Liverpool, and back," the sum of sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven dollars and seventy cents, for five outward trips from New York to Liverpool, to wit: on fourteenth February and eleventh April, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, and thirteenth February, thirteenth March, and tenth April, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, when the Collins line failed to perform service; and that the further sum of thirty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be paid to the Post Office Department, out of the appropriation aforesaid, to enable the Postmaster General to procure the transportation of the mails from New York to Liverpool, and back, on the twenty-fourth April, the eighth and twenty-second May, and the fifth and nineteenth June, eighteen hundred and

nty-eight, if the Collins line should fail to perform service on those days.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, for the service of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, out of any money in the treasury arising from the revenues of said department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six :

For transportation of the mails from New York, by Southampton or Cowes, to Havre, two hundred and thirty thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails between Charleston and Havana, fifty thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails across the Isthmus of Panama, one hundred thousand dollars.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall not be lawful for the Postmaster General to make any steamship or other new contract for carrying the mails on the sea for a longer period than two years, nor for any other compensation than the sea and inland postages on the mails so transported.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby authorized to cause the mails to be transported between the United States and any foreign port or ports, by steamship, allowing and paying therefor out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, if by an American vessel, the sea and United States inland postage, and if by any foreign vessel the sea postage only, on the mails so conveyed : Provided that the preference shall always be given to an American over a foreign steamship when departing from the same port for the same destination, within three days of each other.

Approved 14 June 1858.

AN ACT making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, for the service of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty nine, out of any moneys in the treasury arising from the revenues of the said department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six :

For transportation of the mails, (inland,) ten millions one hundred and forty thousand five hundred and twenty dollars.

For compensation to postmasters, two millions three hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

For ship, steamboat, and way letters, twenty thousand dollars.

For wrapping-paper, fifty-five thousand dollars.

For office furniture in the post offices, five thousand dollars.

For advertising, eighty-five thousand dollars.

For mail-bags, sixty-five thousand dollars.

For blanks, and paper for the same, one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

For mail-locks, keys, and stamps, fifteen thousand dollars.

For mail depredations and special agents, seventy thousand dollars.

For clerks in the offices of postmasters, eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

For postage stamps and stamped envelopes, one hundred thousand dollars.

For miscellaneous items, one hundred and eighty thousand dollars.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if the revenues of the Post Office Department shall be insufficient to meet the appropriations of this act, then the sum of three millions five hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to supply deficiencies in the revenue of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine.

Approved 14 June 1858.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE ON LETTERS TO
SPAIN.

We are authorized to state that, by a reduction of the rates of postage between the kingdoms of Great Britain and Spain, the rates on letters (*in the British mail*) between the United States and Spain, including Majorca, Minorca, and the Canary Islands, will hereafter be as follows :

Not exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.-----	\$0 33
Above $\frac{1}{4}$ oz., and not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.-----	45
Above $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and not exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.-----	78
Above $\frac{3}{4}$ oz., and not exceeding 1 oz.-----	90
Above 1 oz., and not exceeding $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz.-----	1 44
Above $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz., and not exceeding $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.-----	1 56
Above $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and not exceeding $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz.-----	2 03
Above $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz., and not exceeding 2 oz.-----	2 00

BY AUTHORITY.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

THIRTY-SIXTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

Congress of the United States at the first session, begun and held at the city of Washington in the District of Columbia, on Monday the fifth day of December one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine.

AN ACT making appropriations to defray the deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1859, and in part for the support of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending 30th June 1860.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of four million two hundred and ninety-six thousand and nine dollars and twenty-six cents is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the purpose of supplying the deficiency in the revenues and defraying the expenses of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand, eight hundred and fifty-nine.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That towards the support of the Post Office Department, for the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty, the sum of four millions of dollars, payable out of any money in the Treasury arising from the revenues of the Post Office Department is hereby appropriated, and the further sum of two millions, four hundred thousand dollars is hereby appropriated, payable out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, said sums to be expended in conformity with the provisions of the act of the second day of July, one thousand, eight hundred and

2 Oct. 1858.

thirty-six, in the payment exclusively of compensation to Postmasters and clerks in their offices, mail depredations and special agents, and for the transportations of the mails, for wrapping paper, mail bags, blanks and paper for the same, mail locks, keys and stamps, postage stamps and stamped envelopes.

SEC: 3. *And be it further enacted*, That interest at the rate of six per cent., per annum, to commence sixty days after the expiration of the quarter in which the service was rendered, but, in no case, prior to the first day of May, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine to the date of the approval of this act, shall be paid on all sums found due to the contractors for carrying the mail, and that a sum sufficient to pay the same be and is hereby appropriated out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated; *Provided*, That such interest shall be payable only to the contractors themselves; and the same is hereby declared to be in full of all damages by reason of failure or delay in payment; and the same shall be received for accordingly. But no interest shall be allowed on payments for the last quarter ending the thirty-first of December, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine.

SEC: 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of one thousand dollars, be, and the same is, hereby, appropriated, for the services of temporary clerks in expediting the payment of creditors of the Post Office Department.

SEC: 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the Superintendent of the Public Printing be required to procure the printing of the Post Office blanks by contract, after thirty days public notice, and to award said contract for the usual period of Post Office contracts, to the bidder who offers to print said blanks at the greatest per centum deduction from the prices authorized to be paid by law for the printing of the Executive Departments; and that all laws or parts of laws now in force, in relation to the printing of post bills, or Post Office blanks be, and the same are hereby repealed.

15th February 1860.

Approved.

Pub: Res: 3.

A JOINT RESOLUTION for the relief of the contractors of the Post Office Department.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the accruing revenues of the Post Office Department be, and the same are hereby appropriated in part payment of contractors for carrying the mails, and of route agents, during the quarter ending thirty-first March, eighteen hundred and sixty, under the provisions of the act of July second, eighteen hundred and thirty-six.

Approved 28 March 1860.

AN ACT authorizing publishers to print on their papers the date when subscriptions expire, and in relation to the postage on drop letters.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the second clause of section third of the act of thirtieth August eighteen hundred and fifty-two, establishing the rates of postage on printed matter is hereby so modified as to read as follows, namely:

Second; There shall be no word or communication printed on the same after its publication, or upon the cover or wrapper thereof nor any writing nor mark upon it, nor upon the cover or wrapper thereof, except the name, the date when the subscription expires and the

*Date of expiration of sub.
scriptions may be printed on the wrapper.*

address of the person to whom it is to be sent.

Sec: 2. And be it further enacted, That on all drop letters delivered within the limits of any city or town by carriers, under the authority of the Post Office Department, one cent each shall be charged for the receipt and delivery of said letters and no more.

Approved, 3 April 1860.

AN ACT in relation to the return of undelivered letters in the Post Office.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That when any person shall endorse on any letter his or her name and place of residence, as writer thereof, the same after remaining uncalled for at the office to which it is directed thirty days, or the time the writer may direct, shall be returned by mail to said writer; and no such letters shall be advertised, nor shall the same be treated as dead letters, until so returned to the post office of the writer and there remain uncalled for, one quarter.

Approved 6 April 1860.

AN ACT making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-one.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, for the service of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, out of any moneys in the treasury arising from the revenues of the said department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six:

For transportation of the mails within the jurisdiction of the United States, and on such routes along the coasts of the United States as do not touch at a foreign port, nine million six hundred and forty-four thousand five hundred and ninety-eight dollars; *Provided, however,* That the maximum compensation to be paid to route agents shall not exceed eight hundred dollars per year.

For compensation to postmasters, two million six hundred and fifty-four thousand dollars, *Provided, however,* That where packages of newspapers or periodicals are received at any post office directed to one address, and the names of the club of subscribers to which they belong, with the postage for a quarter in advance shall be handed to the postmaster, he shall deliver the same to their respective owners.

For clerks in the offices of postmasters, eight hundred thousand dollars.

For ship, steamboat, and way letters, twenty thousand dollars.

For office furniture in the post offices, four thousand dollars.

For advertising, seventy thousand dollars.

For mail bags, fifty-five thousand dollars.

For paper required for printing blanks, seventy thousand dollars.

For printing blanks, twelve thousand dollars.

For wrapping paper, fifty-two thousand dollars.

For mail locks, keys, and stamps, fifteen thousand dollars.

For mail depredations and special agents, seventy-five thousand dollars, *Provided,* That from and after the first of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty, not more than sixteen hundred dollars per annum shall be allowed

Carriers to have drop letters postage when they deliver letters.

Dead letters to be returned to writers.

Postmasters to distribute papers from furnished list

special agts. pay limited to \$1600.

to any special agent of the Post Office Department as compensation for his services; And provided further That the fourth section of an act entitled "An act to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four," approved May thirty-first, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, be and the same is hereby repealed.

For miscellaneous payments, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. *Provided*, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to furnish to Congress, in his annual report on the first Monday of December next, and of each and every year thereafter, a detailed statement of the expenditures made under the head of "miscellaneous payments;" and that it shall not be lawful to use any of the money hereby appropriated for the defence of suits brought against officers of the Post Office Department for malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance in office, or for acts committed by them under color of law, and in derogation of the rights of citizens.

For postage stamps and stamped envelopes, one hundred thousand dollars.

For payments of balances due to foreign countries, three hundred thousand dollars.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*; That from and after the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty, the charge for the delivery of letters by carriers, shall be not exceeding one cent each, the whole of which shall be paid to them for their services. And the Postmaster General may establish boxes for the delivery of letters at the outside stations in the suburbs of cities, provided it can be done without loss to the department or injury to the service; and any net revenue derived from the rent of said boxes may be applied by him towards the payment of the expense of collecting letters or towards the increase of the carrier's fund, as he may deem just or equitable.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That if the revenues of the Post Office Department shall be insufficient to meet the appropriations of this act, then the sum of five million seven thousand four hundred and twenty-four dollars and seventy five cents, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to supply deficiencies in the revenue of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth June, eighteen hundred and sixty-one.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause the mails to be transported between the United States and any foreign port or ports, or between any port of the United States to any other port of the United States, touching at a foreign port, by steamship, allowing and paying therefor, if by an American vessel, the sea and United States inland postage, and if by a foreign vessel, the sea postage only, on the mails so conveyed: *Provided*, That the preference shall always be given to an American over a foreign steamship, when departing from the same port for the same destination within three days of each other.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the appropriation for inland mail service as is provided for transportation of mails from San Francisco to Puget's Sound, via Astoria, in Oregon, shall be applied to the transportation of said mails by land to Olympia, whenever by law such service shall be provided in lieu of ocean service.

Approved 15 June 1860.

*Letter carriers
reduced to
one cent*

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Registration of Letters.—Important.—The regulations and instructions to postmasters for carrying into effect the 3d section of the act of March 3, 1855, providing for the registration of valuable letters, are, by direction of the Postmaster General, modified as follows, viz:

1st. So much of sections 4, 5, and 6 of these regulations as requires that packages of registered letters shall be sealed is hereby revoked.

2d. All registered letters are, before mailing, to be numbered on the upper left-hand corner; their numbers to correspond with those on the letter bills in which they are entered.

3d. Each registered letter, or package of registered letters, will be enclosed in a wrapper in the usual manner, and if there be a package of unregistered letters to be sent by the same mail, the package of registered letters will be placed in such package, without being tied, and the whole will then be carefully tied up into one package, addressed to the office of its destination, and placed in its appropriate bag at the moment when that bag is to be finally locked and sent from the office. If no unregistered letters are to be sent by that mail, the package of registered letters is to be tied and forwarded in the same manner without being sealed.

4th. The registered letter bill will be enclosed in a separate envelope, addressed to the postmaster, as now required, and will be forwarded by the usual route as an unregistered letter.

5th. The numbers given to registered letters at the office of mailing are not to be changed in the accounts or letter bills of distributing offices through which they may pass.

6th. Postmasters are required to see that the *postmark* of each registered letter (whether written or stamped) is clear and distinct, so that the place and date of mailing can be readily determined.

POSTAGE TO BRAZIL BY THE FRENCH MAIL
Prepayment Optional.—The French government has recently concluded a postal convention with Brazil by the terms of which letters may hereafter be transmitted between the United States and Brazil, via France, in the French mail, at a postage charge of 33 cents the single rate of one-fourth ounce or under, which embraces *the full postage* (United States, French and Brazilian) *chargeable to destination*; and may be prepaid or left unpaid, in either country, at the option of the sender. Closed mails for Brazil will be regularly dispatched by the French postoffice, alternately, by the French mail packets leaving Bordeaux on the 24th of each month, and by the British mail packets leaving Southampton on the 9th of each month.

IMPORTANT TO POSTMASTERS AND THE PUBLIC.—We are requested to publish the following important regulation for the information of the public as well as postmasters. It interests every citizen in the United States:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Oct. 8, 1860.

Whereas by act of 3d March, 1855, the postage upon all letters, except such as are entitled to pass free, between places in the United States, is required to be prepaid; and whereas the Department, through courtesy, has hitherto, at considerable labor and expense, notified the parties addressed, in all instances in which the writers failed to prepay, that their letters would be forwarded on receiving the postage due thereon; and whereas, instead of diminishing, the number of such letters continues to increase, thus showing that the omission to prepay is intentional: it is, therefore, *ordered*, that from and after the first day of November, 1860, all such unpaid letters be sent to the dead-letter office, to be disposed of in like manner as other dead letters.

J. HOLT,
Postmaster General.