
THE POSTAL LAWS,

AS NOW IN FORCE,

CLASSIFIED BY SUBJECTS.

ALSO THE

REGULATIONS

OF THE

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

THE POSTAL LAWS.

CHAPTER I.

ORGANIZATION AND MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That there be established, at the seat of the Government of the United States, a General Post Office, under the direction of a Postmaster General. The Postmaster General shall appoint two Assistants,* and such clerks† as may be necessary for the performance of the business of his office, and as are authorized by law; and shall procure, and cause to be kept, a seal for the said office, which shall be affixed to commissions of postmasters, and used to authenticate all transcripts and copies which may be required from the Department. He shall establish post offices and appoint postmasters at all such places as shall appear to him expedient, on the post roads that are or may be established by law. He shall give his assistants, the postmasters, and all other persons whom he shall employ, or who may be employed, in any of the departments of the General Post Office, instructions relative to their duty. He shall provide for the carriage of the mail on all post roads that are or may be established by law, and as often as he, having regard to the productiveness thereof, and other circumstances, shall think proper. He may direct the route or road, where there are more than one, between places designated by law for a post road, which route shall be considered the post road. He shall obtain from the postmasters their accounts, and vouchers for their receipts and expenditures, once in three months, or oftener, with the balances thereon arising in favor of the General Post Office. He shall pay all expenses which may arise in conducting the post office, and in the conveyance of the mail, and all other necessary expenses arising on the collection of the revenue, and management of the General Post Office. He shall prosecute offenses against the Post Office establishment. He shall, once in three months, render‡ to the Secretary of the Treasury a quarterly account of all the receipts and expenditures in the said Department, to be adjusted and settled as other public accounts. He shall, also, superintend the business of the Department in all the duties that are or may be assigned to it. * * * —*Sec. 1, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to decide on the official forms of all papers to be used by postmasters, and other officers or agents of the Post Office Department, concerned in its receipts and payments, and the manner and form of keeping and stating its accounts; to enforce the prompt rendition of the returns of postmasters, and of all certificates, acknowledgments, receipts, and other papers, by postmasters and contractors, relative to the accounts of the Department; to control, according to law, and subject to the settlement of the Auditor, the allowances to postmasters, the expenses of post offices, and all other expenses incident to the service of the Department; to regulate and direct the payment of the said allowances and expenses for which

* The law of July 2, 1836, (see Sec. 3 of this compilation,) authorizes a Third Assistant. That of March 3, 1853, directs their appointment by the President and Senate; see No. 5 of this compilation.

† The clerks in the settling branch (Auditor's Office) are appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

‡ Postmasters of offices yielding \$1,000 per annum and upwards are appointed, under the act of July 2, 1856, (see No. 7 below,) by the President and Senate.

§ The 8th Sec. of the Act of July 2, 1836, devolves this duty upon the Auditor.

appropriations have been made; to superintend the disposition of the proceeds of post offices and other moneys of the Department; to prescribe the manner in which postmasters shall pay over their balances, to grant warrants for money to be paid into the Treasury, and out of the same, in pursuance of appropriations by law, to persons to whom the same shall be certified to be due by the said Auditor: *Provided*, That advances of necessary sums to defray expenses may be made by the Postmaster General to agents of the Department employed to investigate mail depredations, examine post routes and post offices, and perform other like services, to be charged by the Auditor for the Post Office Department, and be accounted for in the settlement of their accounts.—*Sec. 9, Act of July 2, 1836.*

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That there shall be employed by the Postmaster General a Third Assistant Postmaster General, who may receive and send letters and packets free of postage.*—*Sec. 20, Act of July 2, 1836.*

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That in case of the death, resignation, or absence of the Postmaster General, all his powers and duties shall devolve, for the time being, on the First Assistant Postmaster General.—*Sec. 40, Act of July 2, 1836.*

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. 3, Act of March 3, 1853, establishing post routes.*

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That there shall be appointed by the President, with the consent of the Senate, an Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, whose duty it shall be to receive all accounts arising in the said Department, or relative thereto, to audit and settle the same, and certify their balances to the Postmaster General: *Provided*, That if either the Postmaster General, or any person whose account shall be settled, be dissatisfied therewith, he may, within twelve months, appeal to the First Comptroller of the Treasury, whose decision shall be final and conclusive. The said Auditor shall report to the Postmaster General, when required, the official forms of papers to be used by postmasters and other officers or agents of the Department concerned in its receipts and payments, and the manner and form of keeping and stating its accounts. He shall keep and preserve all accounts, with the vouchers, after settlement. He shall promptly report to the Postmaster General all delinquencies of postmasters in paying over the proceeds of their offices. He shall close the accounts of the Department quarterly, and transmit to the Secretary of the Treasury quarterly statements of its receipts and expenditures. He shall register, charge, and countersign all warrants upon the Treasury for receipts and payments issued by the Postmaster General, when warranted by law. He shall perform such other duties, in relation to the financial concerns of the Department as shall be assigned to him by the Secretary of the Treasury, [or Postmaster General,] and shall make to them respectively such reports as either of them may require respecting the same. The said Auditor may frank, and receive free of postage, letters and packets under the regulations provided by law for other officers of the Government. And all letters and packets to and from the Chief Engineer, which may relate to the business of his office, shall be free of postage.†—*Sec. 8, Act of July 2, 1835.*

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That there shall be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a deputy postmaster for each post office at which the commissions allowed to the postmaster amounted to one thousand dollars or upwards in the year ending the thirtieth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, or which may, in any subsequent year, terminating on the thirtieth day of June, amount to or exceed that sum, who shall hold his office for the term of four years, unless sooner removed by the President.—*Sec. 33, Act of July 2, 1836.*

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That * * * no person shall hold the office of postmaster who shall not be an actual resident of the city or town wherein the office is situated, or the district of country usually supplied by said office.—*Sec. 36, Act of July 2, 1836.*

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General, and all other persons employed in the General Post Office, or in the care, custody, or conveyance of the mail, shall, previous to entering upon the duties assigned to them, or the execution of their trusts, and before they shall be entitled to receive any emolument therefor, respectively take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation before some magistrate, and cause a certificate thereof to be filed in the General Post Office: "I, A B, do swear, or affirm, [as the case may be,] that I will faithfully perform all the duties required of me, and abstain from every thing forbidden by the laws in relation to the establishment of the post office and post roads within the United States." Every person who shall be, in any manner, employed in the care, custody, conveyance, or management of the mail shall be subject to all pains, penalties, and forfeitures for violating the injunctions or neglecting the duties required of him by the laws relating to

* See note to No. 87; see also *Sec. 95*

† The act of March 3, 1845, (see *Sec. 93* of this compilation,) repeals the privilege of these officers to frank; but the heads of the Government bureaus are allowed to frank papers and documents on official business under the provisions of the acts of 1847 and 1851. See notes to *Sec. 87*.

the establishment of the post office and post roads, whether such person shall have taken the oath of affirmation above prescribed or not.—*Sec. 2, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That no fees or perquisites shall be received by any person employed in the General Post Office, on account of the duties to be performed by virtue of his appointment.*—*Sec. 12, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That the postmasters, postriders, and drivers of the mail stages, shall be exempt from militia duties, and serving on juries, or any fine or penalty for neglect thereof.—*Sec. 35, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That assistant postmasters and clerks regularly employed and engaged in post offices, shall be exempt from militia duty, and serving on juries, and from any fine or penalty for neglect thereof.—*Sec. 34, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General, upon the appointment of any postmaster, to require, and take of such postmaster, bond, with good and approved security, in such penalty as he may judge sufficient, conditioned for the faithful discharge of all the duties of such postmaster required by law, or which may be required by any instruction or general rule for the government of the Department: *Provided, however,* That, if default shall be made by the postmaster aforesaid, at any time, and the Postmaster General shall fail to institute suit against such postmaster, and said sureties, for two years from and after such default shall be made, then, and in that case, the said sureties shall not be held liable to the United States, nor shall suit be instituted against them.†—*Sec. 3, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That when any one or more of the sureties of a postmaster shall notify to the Postmaster General their desire to be released from their suretyship, or when the Postmaster General shall deem it necessary, he shall require the said postmaster to execute a new bond, with security, which, when accepted by the Postmaster General, shall be as valid as the bond given upon the original appointment of said postmaster, and the sureties in the prior bond shall be released from responsibility for all acts or defaults of said postmaster which may be done or committed subsequent to the acceptance of the new bond, the date of which shall be indorsed thereon: *Provided,* That payments made subsequent to the execution of the new bond by said postmaster shall be applied first to discharge any balance which may be due on the old bond, unless he shall, at the time of payment, expressly direct them to be applied to the credit of his new account.—*Sec. 37, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General shall, within sixty days after the making of any contract, cause a duplicate thereof to be lodged in the office of the Auditor of the Post Office Department. Upon the death, resignation, or removal of any postmaster, he shall cause his bond of office to be delivered to the said Auditor; and shall also cause to be promptly certified to him all establishments and discontinuances of post-offices, and all appointments, deaths, resignations, and removals of postmasters, together with all orders and regulations which may originate a claim, or in any manner affect the accounts of the Department.—*Sec. 11, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted,* That all waters on which steamboats regularly pass from port to port, shall be considered and established as post roads, subject to the provisions contained in the several acts regulating the Post Office establishment.—*Sec. 3, Act of March 3, 1823.*

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General shall be authorized, in his discretion, to contract for carrying the mail on the navigable canals of the several States, in all cases where, in his opinion, the public interest and convenience shall require it; and for the time during which mails may be carried on such canals, or any parts thereof, the same are hereby declared to be post roads.—*Sec. 42, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 18. *Resolved,* That the Postmaster General shall be, and he is hereby, authorized, in his discretion, to contract for carrying the mail on all the plank roads which have been or shall be constructed in the United States, and in all cases when, in his opinion, the public interest and convenience require it; and that for the time during which mails may be carried on such plank roads, or any part thereof, the same shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, post roads of the United States—*Joint Resolution of July 12, 1852.*

SEC. 19. *And be it further enacted,* That all post routes which hereafter, within the term of three successive years, fail to yield one fourth of the expense incident to their establishment, shall be discontinued by the Postmaster General, unless in cases where it may be necessary as a connection or continuance of a route or routes: *Provided also,* That this section shall not be so construed as to deprive the seat of justice in each county of one mail going to and from said town.‡—*Sec. 2, Act of March 3, 1825.*

* The 3d Sec. of Act of March 3, 1839, has a more comprehensive provision on this subject. See No. 204.

† See provisions of following Sec.; also of Nos. 184 and 185.

‡ See Sec. 34, as to mails for county towns.

SEC. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That every postmaster shall keep an office, in which one or more persons shall attend on every day on which a mail shall arrive, by land or water, as well as on other days, at such hours as the Postmaster General shall direct, for the purpose of performing the duties thereof; and it shall be the duty of the postmaster, at all reasonable hours, on every day of the week, to deliver, on demand, any letter, paper, or packet, to the person entitled to, or authorized to receive the same; and all letters brought to any post office half an hour before the time of making up the mail at such office, shall be forwarded therein, except at such post offices where, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, it requires more time for making up the mail, and which he shall accordingly prescribe; but this shall in no case exceed one hour.—*Sec. 11, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 21. *Be it further enacted*, * * * That no greater sum shall be paid to any mail agent of any description than one thousand dollars per annum, and no greater sum for all his traveling and incidental expenses than at the rate of two dollars for each day he shall be actually employed in the capacity of mail agent.*—*Post Office Appropriation, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 22. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to allow hereafter to the special agents of the Post Office Department the annual salary of sixteen hundred dollars. * * * —*Sec. 4, Act of March 3, 1851.*

SEC. 23. *And be it further enacted*, * * * That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to employ, when the service may require it, the Assistant Postmasters General as special agents, and to make them compensation and allowance therefor, not to exceed the amount expended by said agents as necessary traveling expenses while so employed.—*Sec. 2, Act of March 3, 1847.*

CHAPTER II.

COMMISSIONS OF POSTMASTERS.

SEC. 25. *Be it further enacted*, That * * * the Postmaster General may allow to the postmaster at New Orleans† at the rate of eight hundred dollars a year in addition to his ordinary commissions. The Postmaster General is hereby authorized to allow to the postmaster of the city of Washington, in addition to the allowance made by this Act, for postage collected and for free letters received by him for delivery, a commission of five per cent. on the amount of mails distributed at his office: *Provided, nevertheless*, That the whole annual emolument of the said postmaster, including the extra compensation of eight hundred dollars, which is hereby allowed him, shall be subject to the restrictions imposed by the forty-first section of this Act.—*Sec. 14, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 26. *And be it further enacted*, That, whenever the annual emoluments of any postmaster, after deducting therefrom the necessary expenditures incident to his office, shall amount to more than two thousand dollars, the surplus shall be accounted for, and paid to the Postmaster General, and by him to be accounted for, in the same manner as other moneys accruing from the Post Office establishment.—*Sec. 41, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 27. *Be it further enacted*, That in addition to returns now required to be rendered by postmasters, it shall be the duty of postmasters at New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Orleans, and the other several cities of the Union, each and every year hereafter, to render a quarter yearly account to the Postmaster General, under oath, in such form as the latter shall prescribe, for the purpose of giving full effect to this proviso, of all emoluments or sums by them respectively received for boxes or pigeon-holes, or other receptacles for letters or papers, and by them charged for to individuals; or for the delivery of letters or papers at or from any place in either of said cities, other than the actual post office of such city; and of all emoluments, receipts, and profits that have come to their hands by reason of keeping branch post offices in either of said cities; and if, from such accounting, it shall appear that the net amount received by either of the postmasters at either of such cities, for such boxes and pigeon-holes, and other receptacles for letters and papers, and for delivering letters or papers at or from any place in either of said cities, other than said post office, and by reason of keeping a branch post office in either of said cities, shall, in the aggregate, exceed the sum of three thousand dollars in any one year, such excess shall be paid to the Postmaster General, for the use and purposes of the Post Office Department; and no postmaster shall, hereafter, under any pretence whatsoever, have, or receive,

* Following Sec. (No. 22) modifies this. † See Secs. 29 and 31, for renewal of this provision.

† Sec. 13, Act of March 3, 1847, (see Sec. 29 below,) restricts this allowance to \$2,000, and consequently the limit of a postmaster's entire income to \$4,000 a year.

or retain for himself, in the aggregate, more than five thousand dollars per year, including salary, commissions, boxes, and all other fees, perquisites, and emoluments, of any name or character whatsoever, and for any service whatsoever.—Sec. 2, *Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation Bill of May 18, 1842.*

Sec. 28. *Be it further enacted,* That in lieu of commissions allowed deputy postmasters by the fourteenth Section of the Act of the third of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, the Postmaster General may allow on the proceeds of their respective offices, a commission not exceeding the following rates on the amount received in any one year, or a due proportion thereof for less than a year: * * * on all sums arising from the postage on newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets, fifty per cent.; on the amount of postages on letters or packets received for distribution, seven* per cent.: *Provided,* That all allowances, commissions, or other emoluments shall be subject to the provisions of the forty-first Section of the Act which this is intended to amend; and that the annual compensation therein limited shall be computed for the fiscal year commencing on the first of July and ending the thirtieth of June each year, and that for any period less than a year the restrictions contained in said section shall be held to apply in a due proportion for such fractional period: *And provided further,* That the compensation to any deputy postmaster under the foregoing provisions (to be computed upon the receipt at his office of a larger sum) shall in no case fall short of the amount to which he would have been entitled under a smaller sum received at his office.—Sec. 1, *Act of March 1, 1847.*

Sec. 29. *Be it further enacted,* That * * * it shall not be lawful to make any allowance or compensation to deputy postmasters in addition to their commissions as authorized by law, excepting the receipts, from boxes, of which all beyond two thousand dollars, shall be applied in defraying the expenses of their offices, and to be accounted for in the same manner as they are required to account for their commissions; and excepting the special allowance made by law to the postmasters at Washington city and New Orleans.†—Sec. 13, *Act of March 3, 1847.*

Sec. 31. *Be it further enacted,* 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 dispatching 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

* The Act of June 22, 1854, (see No. 31,) raises the commissions of general distributing offices to 12½ per cent.

† See Sec. 25 for statute referred to.

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.—*Act of June 22, 1854.*

SEC. 32. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General may allow to the postmasters in the State of California, and in the Territories of Oregon and Washington, from the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, such sums 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.—*Sec. 4, Act of July 27, 1854.*

SEC. 33. *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.—*Sec. 5, Act of July 27, 1854.*

CHAPTER III.

CONTRACTS.

SEC. 34. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General shall cause a mail to be carried from the nearest post office on any established post road, to the court-house* of any county which is now, or may hereafter be, established in any of the States or Territories of the United States, and which is without a mail; and the road on which such mail shall be transported shall become a post road, and so continue, until the transportation thereon shall cease. It shall, also, be lawful for the Postmaster General to enter into contracts, for a term not exceeding four years, for extending the line of posts, and to authorize the persons so contracting, as a compensation for their expenses, to receive during the continuance of such contract, at rates not exceeding those for like distances established by this act, all the postage which shall arise on letters, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, and packets, conveyed by any such posts; and the roads, designated in such contracts, shall, during the continuance thereof, be deemed and considered as post roads, within the provision of this act. * * * —*Sec. 4, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 35. *And be it further enacted,* That no other than a free white person shall be employed in conveying the mail; and any contractor who shall employ, or permit any other than a free white person to convey the mail, shall, for every such offense, incur a penalty of twenty dollars.—*Sec. 7, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 36. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General, that any roads established, or which may hereafter be established as a post road, is obstructed by fences, gates, or bars, or other than those lawfully used on turnpike roads to collect their toll, and not kept in good repair, with proper bridges and ferries, where the same may be necessary, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to report the same to Congress with such information as can be obtained, to enable Congress to establish some other road instead of it, in the same main direction.—*Sec. 8, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 37. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person shall, knowingly and willfully, obstruct or retard the passage of the mail, or of any driver or carrier, or of any horse or carriage carrying the same, he shall, upon conviction of every such offense, pay a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars; and if any ferryman shall, by willful negligence, or refusal to transport the mail across any ferry, delay the same, he shall forfeit and pay, for every ten minutes that the same shall be so delayed, a sum not exceeding ten dollars.—*Sec. 9, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 38. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to give public notice,† in one newspaper published at the seat of Government of the United States, and in one or more of the newspapers published in the State or States, or Territory, where the contract is to be

* See Sec. 22 for further provision on this head.

† See Sec. 215 for modification of statute as to number of newspapers in which to publish.

performed, for at least twelve* weeks before entering into any contract for carrying the mail, that such contract is intended to be made, and the day on which it is to be concluded, describing the places from and to which such mail is to be conveyed, the time at which it is to be made up, and the day and hour at which it is to be delivered. * * * *Provided*, That no contract shall be entered into for a longer term than four† years.—*Sec. 10, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 39. And be it further enacted, That no postmaster, assistant postmaster, or clerk, employed in any post office, shall be a contractor, or concerned in a contract for carrying the mail: *Provided*, That this section shall not interfere with contracts heretofore made.—*Sec. 42, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 40. And be it further enacted, That no additional allowance shall be made, by the Postmaster General, to the contractor or carrier of any mail, on any route, over or beyond the amount stipulated in the contract entered into for the transportation of the mail on such route, unless additional service shall be required; and then no additional compensation shall be allowed, to exceed the exact proportion of the original amount to the additional duties required. * * * —*Sec. 43, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 41. And be it further enacted, That any person or persons, who shall hereafter make any proposal in writing to carry or transport the mail upon any route or routes which may be advertised to be let, and such person or persons shall be determined by the Postmaster General to be entitled to the contract, by virtue of such proposition, and such person or persons shall fail or refuse to enter into an obligation, with good and sufficient security, to perform such contract within the time required by the Postmaster General in such advertisement, such person or persons shall forfeit and pay so much money as shall be the difference between the amount contained in such proposal, and the amount the Postmaster General shall have to pay for the same transportation of the mail on such route or routes, which sum may be recovered by the Postmaster General in an action on the case.—*Sec. 44, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 42. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General, before advertising for proposals for the transportation of the mail, to form the best judgment practicable as to the mode, time, and frequency of transportation on each route, and to advertise accordingly. No consolidated or combination bid shall be received, and no additional compensation shall be made to any mail contractor, so as that the compensation for additional regular service shall exceed the exact proportion which the original compensation bears to the original services stipulated to be performed; and no extra allowance shall be made to any contractor, by the Postmaster General, for an increase of expedition in the transportation of the mail, unless thereby the employment of additional stock or carriers, by the contractor, shall be rendered necessary; and in such case the additional compensation|| shall never bear a greater proportion to the additional stock or carriers rendered necessary, than the sum stipulated in the original contract bears to the stock and carriers necessarily employed in its execution; and when any extra service shall be ordered, the amount of the allowance therefor, in dollars and cents, shall be signified in the order for such service, and be forthwith entered upon the books of the Post Office Department, and no additional compensation shall be paid for any extra regular service rendered before the issuing of such order, and the making of such entry; and every order, entry, or memorandum whatever, on which any action of the Department is to be had, allowance made, or money paid, and every contract, paper, or obligation drawn up in said office, by any officer thereof, shall have affixed to it its true date; and every paper relating to contracts or allowances filed in said office shall have the date of its filing indorsed thereon. And whenever it shall become necessary to change the terms of any existing contract in any other manner than that designated in this Act, or to enter into a contract for the transportation of the mail at any other time than at the annual letting, the Postmaster General shall give notice¶ in one newspaper published at Washington city, and in one newspaper published as near as may be to the route on which the services are to be performed, for at least four weeks before changing or making such contract, inviting proposals therefor; which proposals shall be received and opened, and such proceedings thereon had, in all things, as at the annual lettings: *Provided, however*, That the Postmaster General may make temporary contracts until a regular letting can take place.—*Sec. 23, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 43. And be it further enacted, That proposals for mail contracts shall be delivered to the Department sealed, and shall be kept sealed until the biddings are closed, and shall then be opened and marked

* The 23d Sec. of Act of July 2, 1836, (see No. 42,) provides for a four weeks' advertisement at other than the annual lettings. Railroad, also temporary service, can be let without advertising, (see Nos. 42 and 160.) Further, the 1st and 8th Sections of the Act of March 3, 1845, authorize contracts for sundry steamboats and foreign mails for periods of ten years.

† See further provision on this subject in No. 45. See also Sec. 197.

‡ See further legislation on this point in Sec. 42.

§ See also Sec. 27 of Act of July 2, 1836, (in No. 46.)

|| See antecedent provisions on this head in Sec. 40.

¶ See Sec. 215.

in the presence of the Postmaster General and of one of the Assistant Postmasters General, or in the presence of two of the Assistant Postmaster's General. And the contracts in all cases shall be awarded to the lowest bidder, except* when his bid is not more than five per centum below that of the last contractor on the route bid for, who shall have faithfully performed his contract: *Provided, however,* That the Postmaster General shall not be bound to consider the bid of any person who shall have willfully or negligently failed to execute or perform a prior contract.—*Sec. 24, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 44. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to have recorded in a well-bound book, a true and faithful abstract of offers made to him for carrying the mail, embracing as well those which are rejected as those which are accepted. The said abstract shall contain the names of the party or parties offering, the terms on which he or they propose to carry the mail, the sum for which it is offered to contract, and the length of time the agreement is to continue. And it shall also be the duty of the Postmaster General to put on file and preserve the originals of the propositions of which abstracts are here directed to be made, and to report at each session of Congress a true copy from the said record of all offers made for carrying the mail as aforesaid.—*Sec. 25, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 45. And be it further enacted, That if any person employed in the Post Office Department, or postmaster, shall become interested in any mail contract, or act as agent, with or without compensation, in any matter or thing relating to business in said Department, for any contractor, or person offering to become a contractor, he shall be forthwith dismissed from office, and shall be liable to pay so much money as would have been realized from said contract, to be recovered in an action of debt in any court having jurisdiction thereof, in the name of the United States, for the use of the Post Office Department; and it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to cause prosecution to be instituted.—*Sec. 26, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 46. And be it further enacted, That every proposal for the transportation of the mail shall be accompanied by a written guarantee, signed by one or more responsible persons, to the effect that he or they undertake that the bidder or bidders will, if his or their bid be accepted, enter into an obligation, in such time as may be prescribed by the Postmaster General, with good and sufficient sureties, to perform the service proposed. No proposal shall be considered unless accompanied by such guarantee. If, after the acceptance of a proposal, and notification thereof to the bidder or bidders, he or they shall fail to enter into an obligation within the time prescribed by the Postmaster General, with good and sufficient sureties for the performance of the said service, then the Postmaster General shall proceed to contract with some other person or persons for the performance of the service, and shall forthwith cause the difference between the amount contained in the proposal so guaranteed, and the amount for which he may have contracted for the performance of said service, for the whole period of the proposal, to be charged up against the said bidder or bidders, and his or their guarantor or guarantors, and the same may be immediately recovered by the United States, for the use of the Post Office Department, in an action of debt against either or all of the said persons.—*Sec. 27, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 47. And be it further enacted, That no contract for the transportation of the mail shall knowingly be made by the Postmaster General with any person who shall have entered into any combination, or proposed to enter into any combination, to prevent the making of any bid for a mail contract by any other person or persons; or who shall have made any agreement, or shall have given or performed, or promised to give or perform, any consideration whatever, or to do or not to do anything whatever, in order to induce any other person or persons not to bid for a mail contract. And if any person so offending be a mail contractor, he may be forthwith dismissed from the service of the Department: *Provided,* That whenever the Postmaster General shall exercise the power conferred on him by this section, he shall transmit a copy or statement of the evidence on which he acts to Congress, at its next session.—*Sec. 28, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 48. And be it further enacted, That no person whose bid for the transportation of the mail may be accepted, shall receive any pay until he shall have executed his contract according to law and the regulations of the Department; nor shall any payment be made for any additional regular service in the transportation of the mail, unless the same shall have been rendered in obedience to a prior legal order of the Postmaster General.—*Sec. 29, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 49. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to furnish to the postmasters at the termination of each route, a schedule, specifying the times of the arrival and departure at their offices, respectively, of each mail, a copy of which the postmaster shall post up in some conspicuous place in his office: and the Postmaster General shall also furnish a notice in like manner, of any change or alteration in the arrivals and departures which may be ordered by him. And it shall be the duty of every postmaster promptly to report to the Department every delinquency, neglect, or malpractice of the contractors, their agents or carriers, that may come to his knowledge.

* The 18th Section of the Act of March 3, 1845, (see No. 52 below,) repeals this provision.

† See also Sec. 41.

And the Postmaster General shall cause to be kept, and returned to the Department, at short and regular intervals, by postmasters at the ends of routes, and such others as he may think proper, registers, showing the exact times of the arrivals and departures of the mails.—*Sec. 31, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 51. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby authorised, upon all mail routes over or upon which the amount of matter usually transported, or which may be offered or deposited in the post office, or post offices, for transportation, is or may become so great as to threaten materially to retard the progress or endanger the security of the letter mail, or to cause any considerable augmentation of the cost of transporting the whole mail at the present rate of speed, to provide for the separate and more secure conveyance of the letter mail, at a speed at least equal to that at which the mail is now transported over such route, taking care to allow in no case of any greater delay in the transportation of the other matters and things to be transported in the mail on any such route than may appear to be absolutely necessary, regard being had to the cost of expediting its transportation, and the means at his disposal or under his control for effecting the same.*—*Sec. 4, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 52. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General in all future lettings of contracts for the transportation of the mail, to let the same, in every case, to the lowest bidder tendering sufficient guarantees for faithful performance, without other reference to the mode of such transportation than may be necessary to provide for the due celerity, certainty, and security of such transportation: nor shall any new contractor hereafter be required to purchase out, or take at a valuation, the stock or vehicles of any previous contractor for the same route.—*Sec. 18, Act of March 3, 1845.*

CHAPTER IV.

DEAD LETTERS.

SEC. 53. And be it further enacted, That the postmasters shall, respectively, publish,† at the expiration of every three months, or oftener, when the Postmaster General shall so direct, in one of the newspapers published at or nearest the place of his residence, for three successive weeks, a list of all the letters remaining in their respective offices, or instead thereof, shall make out a number of such lists, and cause them to be posted at such public places in their vicinity as shall appear to them best adapted for the information of the parties concerned: and at the expiration of the next three months shall send such of the said letters as then remain on hand, as dead letters, to the General Post Office, where the same shall be opened and inspected; and if any valuable papers, or matters of consequence, shall be found therein, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to return such letter to the writer thereof, or cause a descriptive list thereof to be inserted in one of the newspapers published at the place most convenient to the supposed residence of the owner, if within the United States; and such letter, and the contents, shall be preserved to be delivered to the person to whom the same shall be addressed, upon payment of the postage, and the expense of publication. And if such letter contain money, the Postmaster General may appropriate it to the use of the Department, keeping an account thereof, and the amount shall be paid by the Department to the rightful claimant as soon as he shall be found.—*Sec. 26, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 54. And be it further enacted, That all newspapers conveyed in the mail shall be under cover, open at one end, * * * and should the publisher of any newspaper, after being three months previously notified that his paper is not taken out of the office to which it is sent for delivery, continue to forward such paper in the mail, the postmaster to whose office such paper is sent, may dispose of the same for the postages, unless the publisher shall pay it. * * * —*Sec. 30, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 55. And be it further enacted, That lists of letters remaining uncalled for in any post office in any city, town, or village where a newspaper shall be printed, shall hereafter be published once only in the newspaper which, being issued weekly or oftener, shall have the largest circulation within the range of delivery of said office, to be decided by the postmaster at such office, at such time, and under such regulations, as the Postmaster General shall prescribe, and at a charge of one cent for each letter advertised. And the postmaster at such office is hereby directed to post in a conspicuous place in his

* See kindred statute in No. 170.

† See in following Sec. from act of March 3, 1851, superseding these provisions as to advertising.

office a copy of such list, on the day or day after the publication thereof; and if the publisher of any such paper shall refuse to publish the list of letters as provided in this section, the postmaster may designate some other paper for such purpose. Such lists of letters shall be published once in every six weeks, and as much oftener, not exceeding once a week, as the Postmaster General may specially direct: *Provided*, That the Postmaster General may, in his discretion, direct the publication of German and other foreign letters in any newspaper printed in the German or any other foreign language, which publication shall be either in lieu of, or in addition to, the publication of the list of such letters in the manner first in this section provided, as the Postmaster General shall direct.—*Sec. 5, Act of March 3, 1851.*

SEC. 56. 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.—*Sec. 6, Act of August 30, 1852.*

SEC. 57. 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 at 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. 4, Act of August 30, 1852.*

SEC. 58. 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 insure, 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.—*Sec. 5, Act of March 3, 1853.*

SEC. 59. 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 State of California, and in the Territories of Oregon and Washington, after the 30th of June, 1854, 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 at 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 letter shall be opened which the postal arrangements of the United States with foreign countries require to be returned unopened to such countries respectively.—*Sec. 3, Act of July 27, 1854.*

CHAPTER V.

FINANCE.

SEC. 60. Be it further enacted, That the revenues arising in the Post Office Department, and all debts due to the same, shall, when collected, be paid, under the direction of the Postmaster General, into the Treasury of the United States.—*Sec. 1, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 61. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General shall submit to Congress at the next and each succeeding annual session specific estimates of the sums of money expected to be required for the service of the Department in the subsequent year, commencing on the first day of July, under the following heads, viz: "Compensation of Postmasters," "Transportation of Mails," "Ship, Steamboat, and Way Letters," "Wrapping Paper," "Office Furniture," "Advertising," "Mail Bags," "Blanks," "Mail Locks, Keys, and Stamps," "Mail Depredations and Special Agents," "Clerks for Offices," and "Miscellaneous." And the Postmaster General shall render an account to Congress, at each succeeding annual session, of the amounts actually expended for each of the purposes above specified.—*Sec. 2, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 62. And be it further enacted, That the aggregate sum required "for the service of the Post

* See antecedent provisions on this point in Sec. 54.

Office Department" in each year shall be appropriated by law out of the revenue of the Department, and that all payments of the receipts of the Post Office Department into the Treasury shall be to the credit of the said appropriation.—*Sec. 3, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 63. And be it further enacted, That the sums appropriated for the service aforesaid shall be paid by the Treasurer in the manner herein directed: *Provided,* That the compensation of postmasters, the expenses of post offices, and such other expenses of the Department for which appropriations have been made, as may be incurred by postmasters, may be deducted out of the proceeds of their offices, under the direction of the Postmaster General: *And provided also,* That all charges against the Department by postmasters, on account of such expenses, shall be submitted for examination and settlement to the Auditor herein provided for; and that no such deduction shall be valid unless the expenditure so deducted be found to have been made in conformity to law: *And provided also,* That the Postmaster General shall have power to transfer debts due on account of the Department, by postmasters and others, in satisfaction of the legal demands for which appropriations have been made, of such contractors who may be creditors of the Department, as shall have given bonds, with security, to refund any moneys that may come into their hands over and above the amount which may be found due to them on the settlement of their accounts.—*Sec. 4, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 64. And be it further enacted, That the Treasurer of the United States shall give receipts for all moneys received by him to the credit of the appropriation for the service of the Post Office Department; which receipt shall be indorsed upon warrants drawn by the Postmaster General, and without such warrant no acknowledgment for money received as aforesaid shall be valid.—*Sec. 5, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 65. And be it further enacted, That the appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department shall be disbursed by the Treasurer out of the moneys paid into the Treasury for the service of the Post Office Department, upon the warrants of the Postmaster General, registered and countersigned as herein provided, and expressing on their faces the appropriation to which they should be charged.—*Sec. 6, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 66. And be it further enacted, That the Treasurer shall render his accounts of the moneys received and paid by him on account of the Post Office Department, quarterly, to the Auditor for the Post Office Department, hereinafter provided for, and shall transmit copies of the same, when adjusted by him, to the two Houses of Congress.—*Sec. 7, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 67. And be it further enacted, That the Auditor for the Post Office Department shall state and certify, quarterly, to the Postmaster General, accounts of the moneys paid, pursuant to appropriations, in each year, by postmasters out of the proceeds of their offices towards the expenses of the Department, under each of the heads of the said expenses specified in the second section of this act; upon which the Postmaster General shall issue warrants to the Treasurer of the United States, as in case of the receipt and payment of the said moneys into and out of the Treasury, in order that the same may be carried to the credit and debit of the appropriation for the service of the Post Office Department, on the books of the Auditor for said Department.—*Sec. 10, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 68. And be it further enacted, That the accounts of the Post Office Department shall be kept in such manner as to exhibit the amount of its revenues, derived respectively from "Letter postages," "Newspapers and pamphlets," and "Fines;" and the amount of its expenditures, for each of the following objects, namely: "Compensation of postmasters," "Transportation of the mails," "Ship, steamboat, and way letters," "Wrapping paper," "Office furniture," "Advertising," "Mail bags," "Blanks, mail locks, keys, and stamps," "Mail depredations and special agents," "Clerks for offices," and "Miscellaneous."—*Sec. 12, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 69. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to make to Congress, at each annual session thereof, the following several reports:

First. A report of all contracts made for the transportation of the mail within the preceding year, stating in each case of contract its date and duration, the name of the contractor, the route or routes embraced in the contract, with the length of each, with the times of arrival and departure at the ends of each route, the mode of transportation contracted for, and the price stipulated to be paid by the Department: Also, a statement of all such land and water mails as may have been established or ordered by the Department within the year preceding, other than those let to contract at the annual lettings of mail contracts, specifying, in each case, the route or water course on which the mail is established, the name of the person employed to transport it, the mode of transportation, the amount paid or to be paid, and the proposed duration of the order or contract.

Second. A report of all allowances made to contractors, within the year preceding, beyond the sums originally stipulated in their respective contracts, and the reasons for the same; and of all orders made by the Department, whereby additional expense is, or will be incurred, beyond the original contract price on any land or water route, specifying, in each case, the route to which the order relates, the name of the contractor, the original service provided by the contract, the original price, the date of the order for additional service, the additional service required, and the additional allowance therefor;

also, a report of all curtailments of expenses effected by the Department, within the preceding year, specifying, in each case, the same particulars as required in cases of additional allowances.

Third. A report of all incidental expenses of the Department for the year ending on the thirtieth day of June preceding, arranged according to the several objects, as for "Wrapping paper," "Office furniture," "Advertising," "Mail bags," "Blanks," "Mail locks, keys, and stamps," "Mail deprecations and special agents," "Clerks for offices," "Miscellaneous," showing the sum paid under each head of expenditures, and the names of the persons to whom paid, except only that the names of the persons employed in detecting deprecations on the mail, and other confidential agents, need not be disclosed in said report.

Fourth. A report of the finances of the Post Office Department for the year ending on the thirtieth day of June preceding, showing the whole amount of balances due to the Department at the beginning of the year, from the postmasters and all others, the whole amount of postage that accrued within the year, the whole amount of the engagements and liabilities of the Department for mail transportation during the year, the amount actually paid during the year for and on account of mail transportation, and otherwise, stating separately so much of the said amount as may have been paid on account of the transportation of the mail, and for other debts for the same object, in preceding years.

Fifth. A report of all fines imposed, and deductions from the pay of contractors made during the preceding year, for failures to deliver the mail, or for any other cause, stating the names of the delinquent contractors, the nature of the delinquency, the route on which it occurred, the time when it occurred, the time when the fine was imposed, and whether the fine has been remitted, or order for deduction rescinded, and for what reason.—*Sec. 22, Act of July 2, 1836.*

CHAPTER VI.

FOREIGN MAILS.

Sec. 70. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to make provision, where it may be necessary, for the receipt of all letters and packets intended to be conveyed by any ship or vessel beyond sea, or from any port in the United States to another port therein; and the letters so received shall be formed into a mail, sealed up, and directed to the postmaster of the port to which such ship or vessel shall be bound; and for every letter or packet so received there shall be paid, at the time of its reception, a postage of one cent, which shall be for the use of the postmasters respectively receiving the same. And the Postmaster General may make arrangements with the postmasters in any foreign country for the reciprocal receipt and delivery of letters and packets through the post office.—*Sec. 34, Act of March 3, 1825.*

Sec. 71. Be it resolved, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to make such arrangements as may be deemed expedient, with the Post Office Department of the British Government, for the transmission of the British mail in its unbroken state or condition between Boston and Canada.

Be it further resolved, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to enter into such arrangement or arrangements with the proper authorities of France and Germany, and the owners or agents of vessels plying regularly between those countries and the United States, whereby a safe and, as near as possible, a regular direct mail communication, under official guarantee between the United States and the continent of Europe, viz: the ports of Bremen in Germany and Havre in France, and such other principal ports on said continent as the Postmaster General may deem most proper, shall be secured—so that the entire inland and foreign postage on letters and all other mail matter, sent over sea from and to the United States, to and from any part of France, and of the States comprehended within the German Customs Union, and of those countries on the continent between which and France, and of the said Germanic States, there exists a continued arrangement of the like kind, may be paid at the place where they are respectively mailed or received.—*Joint Resolution of June 15, 1844.*

Sec. 72. Be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized, under the restrictions and provisions of the existing laws, to contract for the transportation of the United States mail between any of the ports of the United States and a port or ports of any foreign Power, whenever, in his opinion, the public interest will thereby be promoted; and it shall be his duty to report to the next ensuing Congress a copy of each of said contracts, with a statement of the amount of postage derived under the same, as far as the returns of the Department will enable him to do. And such contracts may be made, if it shall appear to the Postmaster General to be required by

the public interest, for any greater period than four years, and not exceeding ten years.—*Sec. 1, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 73. And be it further enacted, That all such contracts shall be made with citizens of the United States, and the mail to be transported in American vessels, by American citizens. Each contract entered into under the provisions of this Act, besides the usual stipulations for the right of the Postmaster General to discontinue the same, shall contain the further stipulation that it may, at any time, be terminated by a joint resolution of the two Houses of Congress.—*Sec. 2, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 74. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General, or the Secretary of State, be, and he is hereby, authorized to empower the consuls of the United States to pay the foreign postage of such letters destined for the United States, as may be detained at the ports of foreign countries for the non-payment of postage; which postage shall be by the consul marked as paid by him, and the amount thereof shall be collected in the United States, as other postage, on the delivery of the letters, and repaid to said consul, or credited on his account at the State Department.—*Sec. 6, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 75. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General shall, in all cases of offers to contract for carrying the mail between any of the ports of the United States and any foreign port or place, give the preference to such bidder for the contract as shall propose to carry the mail in a steamship or ships, and the said contractor stipulating to deliver said ship or ships to the United States, or to their proper officer, upon demand made, for the purpose of being converted into a vessel or vessels of war; the United States being bound, on their part, to pay to said owner or owners the fair full value of every such ship or vessel at the time of such delivery; said value to be ascertained by four appraisers, to be appointed, two by the President of the United States, and two by the owner or owners; and in case of disagreement among said appraisers, the President of the United States to select and appoint an umpire, who shall fix the value.—*Sec. 7, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 76. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General may, if he shall deem it to be for the public interest, make contracts to continue not exceeding ten years, for the transportation of the mail from place to place in the United States in steamboats, by sea and on the Gulf of Mexico, and on the Mississippi river from the mouth thereof up to the city of New Orleans, on the condition specified in the last preceding section of this act.—*Sec. 8, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 77. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to contract for transporting a mail from Charleston, South Carolina, to Chagres, touching at St. Augustine and Key West, and also at Havana, in the Island of Cuba, if deemed expedient, and across the Isthmus of Panama, and from thence to Astoria, or the mouth of the Columbia river, touching at Monterey, St. Francisco, and such other places on the coast as the Postmaster General may direct; the mail to be conveyed from Charleston to Chagres, and from Panama to Astoria in steamships, and to be transported each way once every two months, or oftener, as the public interest may require: *Provided,* That the expenditure for said service shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars per annum.—*Sec. 6, Act of March 3, 1847.*

SEC. 78. And be it further enacted, That any contract made in pursuance of this act shall provide for the purchase by the United States of the steamships to be employed in conveying the mail, at its option, agreeably to the provisions of an act entitled "An act to provide for the transportation of the mail between the United States and foreign countries, and for other purposes," approved the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five: *Provided,* That the departure and return of said mail may, at the discretion of the Postmaster General, be either from Charleston, New York, Savannah, Pensacola, or New Orleans, as may be deemed most consistent with the public interest.—*Sec. 8, Act of March 3, 1847.*

SEC. 79. And be it further enacted, That to secure the regular transmission of the mail to and from foreign countries, the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized and required to impose fines on contractors for any unreasonable or unnecessary delay in the departure of such mails, or in the performance of the trip: *Provided,* That the fine for any one default shall not exceed one half of the contract price paid for the trip.—*Sec. 4, Act of June 27, 1848.*

SEC. 80. And be it further enacted, That in case the person or persons, or the directors of any incorporated company, who have entered into any contract, or who may hereafter enter into any contract, with the Postmaster General for conveying the mail of the United States to any foreign country in pursuance of the act entitled, "An act to provide for the transportation of the mail between the United States and foreign countries and for other purposes," approved the third day of March, eighteen hundred and forty-five, or of any other act, in which said contract there is a stipulation on the part of such contractor, giving to the United States the right to purchase, at an appraised value, the steamship, or ships, required by such contract to be employed in conveying the mail, shall decline to sell and deliver to the United States such ship or ships, or shall refuse to name and appoint appraisers to value the same agreeably to the provisions of said act, or the same having been appraised and valued, shall refuse to convey and deliver said ship or ships to the United States, on the payment, or tender of

payment, by the United States, of the sum at which the said ship or ships may have been appraised and valued, such person or persons so offending shall forfeit a sum not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, to be recovered in any proper action, for the use of the Treasury of the United States; and in case of refusal or inability to pay the same, shall be liable to be imprisoned not exceeding one year at the discretion of the court rendering judgment for such penalty.—*Sec. 3, Act of June 27, 1848.*

SEC. 81. And be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any contractor for transporting the mail to any foreign country to assign or transfer his contracts; and all such assignments or transfers shall be null and void: *Provided,* That assignments and transfers which have been made and accepted by the Postmaster General, or the Secretary of the Navy, before the passage of this act, shall not be affected by this section.—*Sec. 5, Act of June 27, 1848.*

SEC. 82. Be it further enacted, * * * That the Postmaster General, by and with the advice and consent of the President of the United States, shall be, and he hereby is, authorized to reduce or enlarge, from time to time, the rates of postage* upon all letters and other mailable matter conveyed between the United States and any foreign country, for the purpose of making better postal arrangements with other Governments or counteracting any adverse measures affecting our postal intercourse with foreign countries. * * * —*Sec. 2, Act of March 3, 1851.*

SEC. 83. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to enter into a contract for the transportation of the United States mail on board of the steam vessels which at present ply regularly between Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, and Halifax, in Nova Scotia, upon such terms as may appear to him reasonable: *Provided,* That the contracts authorized by this section shall be let to the lowest bidder according to the provisions of the existing laws: *And provided further,* That the amount paid shall in no case exceed the amount of postage derived from the said mails.—*Sec. 2, Act of August 31, 1852.*

SEC. 84. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to enter into contracts, or to make suitable arrangements for transporting through any foreign country the mails of the United States, running from and to any point in the said United States: *Provided,* That such contracts as shall be made under the authority conferred by this section shall not be for a longer period than four years, and that, in making them, the Postmaster General shall be bound to select the speediest, safest, and most economical route: *Provided further,* That such contract shall be subject to be revoked and annulled whenever any new road or canal shall be cut or opened, affording a speedier, more economical, and equally as safe means of communication between the point of departure and the point of destination of the mail to be transported; and that, in such case, a fair indemnity be awarded to the parties concerned: *And provided further,* That before making such contracts notice shall be given during sixty days, by advertisements in the usual manner, for inviting proposals for mail contracts.—*Sec. 2, Act of March 3, 1851.*

SEC. 85. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General may, from time to time, by and with the advice and consent of the President, make any arrangements which may be deemed just and expedient for allowing the mails of Canada, or of any other Province, State, or country adjoining the United States, to be carried or transported at the expense of the Province, State, or country to which such mails belong, over any part or portion of the territory of the United States, from one point in the Province, State, or country to which such mails belong, to any other point in the same, upon obtaining the same privileges for the transportation of the mails of the United States through the Province, State, or country to which such privileges shall be granted: *Provided,* That such privileges may at any time be annulled by the President of the United States, or by joint resolution of the two Houses of Congress, from and after the expiration of one month next succeeding the day on which the notice of the act of the President or of the joint resolution of the two Houses shall be given to the chief executive officer or head of the Post Office Department of the Province, State, or country whose privilege is to be thereby annulled.—*Sec. 6, Act of August 31, 1852.*

SEC. 86. And be it further enacted, That every mail of any Province, State, or country having the privilege authorized to be granted in and by the next preceding section, shall, while in the territories of the United States, be deemed and taken to be a mail of the United States, so far as to make any violation thereof, any depredation thereon, or any act or offense in respect thereto, or any part thereof, which would be punishable under the existing laws of the United States, in case the same had been a mail or part of a mail of the United States, an offense of the same grade, and punishable in the same manner, and to the same extent, as though the said mails were those of the United States: and in any indictment for such act or offense, the said mails, or any part thereof, may be alleged to be, and on the trial of any such indictment they shall be, deemed and held to be mails or parts of mails of the United States.—*Sec. 7, Act of August 31, 1852.*

* See Sec. 172.

CHAPTER VII.

FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

SEC. 87. *And be it further enacted*, That letters and packets to and from the following officers of the United States, shall be received and conveyed by post free of postage: Each postmaster, provided each of his letters or packets shall not exceed half an ounce in weight; each member of the Senate, and each member and delegate of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States; the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives; provided each letter or packet (except documents printed by the order of either House of Congress) shall not exceed two ounces in weight, and during their actual attendance in any session of Congress, and sixty days before and after such session, and in case of excess of weight, that excess alone shall be paid for; the President of the United States, Vice President; the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, of War, of the Navy; Attorney General; Postmaster General, and the Assistant Postmasters General; the Comptrollers of the Treasury, Auditors, Register, Treasurer, and Commissioners of the General Land Office; and such individuals who shall have been, or may hereafter be, President of the United States; and each may receive newspapers by post, free of postage: *Provided*, That postmasters shall not receive, free of postage, more than one daily newspaper each, or what is equivalent thereto; nor shall members of the Senate, or of the House of Representatives, the Clerk of the House, or Secretary of the Senate, receive newspapers free of postage, after the privilege of franking shall cease.*—*Sec. 27, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 88. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall frank any letter or letters, other than those written by himself, or by his order on the business of his office, he shall, on conviction thereof, pay a fine of ten dollars, and it shall be the especial duty of postmasters to prosecute for said offense: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of State, Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy, and Postmaster General, may frank letters or packets on official business, prepared in any other public office, in the absence of the principal thereof. And if any person, having the right to receive his letters free of postage, shall receive inclosed to him any letter or packet addressed to a person not having that right, it shall be his duty to return the same to the post office, marking thereon the place from whence it came, that it may be charged with postage. And if any person shall counterfeit the handwriting or frank of any person, or cause the same to be done, in order to avoid the payment of postage, each person so offending shall pay, for every such offense, five hundred dollars.†—*Sec. 28, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 89. *And be it further enacted*, That the Commissioners of the Navy Board, the Adjutant General, Commissary General, Inspectors General, Quartermaster General, Paymaster General, the Secretary of the Senate, Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the Superintendent of the Patent Office, be authorized to frank, and to receive letters and packets by post, free of postage, and that no other persons or officers, excepting those enumerated herein, and in the act "to reduce into one the several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department," passed on the third of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, shall be authorized to frank or to receive letters through the mail free of postage.‡—*Sec. 4, Act of March 2, 1827.*

SEC. 90. *And be it further enacted*, That no postmaster or assistant postmaster shall act as agent for lottery offices, or under any color of purchase, or otherwise, vend lottery tickets; nor shall any postmaster receive, free of postage, or frank, lottery schemes, circulars, or tickets. For a violation of this provision, the person offending shall suffer a penalty of fifty dollars.§—*Sec. 6, Act of March 2, 1827.*

SEC. 91. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for the Governors of the several States to transmit by mail, free of postage, all laws and reports, whether bound or unbound, and all records and documents of their respective States which may be directed by the Legislatures of the several States, to be transmitted to the Executives of other States; and the Governor of the State transmitting the same shall, in addition to his frank, indorse the kind of book or document inclosed, and direct the same to the Governor of the State to which the same may be sent.||—*Act of June 30, 1834.*

* The franking privilege was repealed by the fifth Section of the Act of March 3, 1845, (see Sec. 93 below,) with the exceptions specified in Sections 94 to 98. Nevertheless, in consideration of the allowances to the Department for transporting the free matter of Congress, the Departments, and other Government offices, directed by the Acts of 1847 and 1851, (see Sections 103 and 108 below,) it is revived under certain restrictions, to the members of that body, and with reference to *official packages* to the heads of Government Departments and bureaus, and sundry other public functionaries. See the remaining sections of this Chapter for the special legislation referred to; and for privilege of postmasters in this particular, Nos. 95 and 102.

† See Note to Sec. 87. See also No. 93.

‡ See Note to Sec. 87. See also Sec. 93.

§ See Sections 95 and 102 for privilege of postmasters on the subject of franking.

|| See Nos. 93 and 96, also Note to No. 87.

SEC. 92. *And be it further enacted*, That no postmaster shall receive free of postage, or frank any letter or packet composed of, or containing anything other than paper or money; and for a violation of this provision, the offender shall be dismissed from office, and upon conviction in any court of competent jurisdiction, pay a fine of twenty dollars. * * * —Sec. 36, *Act of July 2, 1836*.

SEC. 93. *And be it further enacted*, That the twenty-seventh Section of the Act of Congress, entitled "An act to reduce into one the several acts for establishing and regulating the Post Office Department," approved and signed the third day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, and all other acts and parts of acts granting and conferring upon any person whatsoever the right or privilege to receive and transmit through the mail, free of postage, letters, packets, newspapers, periodicals, or other matters, be, and the same are hereby, utterly abrogated and repealed.—*Sec. 5, Act of March 3, 1845*.

SEC. 94. *Be it further enacted*, That from and after the first day of July next, members of Congress and delegates from Territories may receive letters, not exceeding two ounces in weight, free of postage, during the recess of Congress, anything to the contrary in this Act notwithstanding; and the same franking privilege which is granted by this Act to the members of the two Houses of Congress, is hereby extended to the Vice President of the United States. * * * —*Sec. 1, Act of March 3, 1845*.

SEC. 95. *And be it further enacted*, That * * * the three Assistant Postmasters General shall be entitled to have remitted by the postmaster in Washington all postage charged upon letters, packages, or other matter received by them respectively, through the mail, touching the business of the Post Office Department, or the particular branch of that business committed to them respectively; and each of the said Assistant Postmasters General shall be, and hereby is, authorized to transmit through the mail, free of postage, any letters, packages, or other matters relating exclusively to his official duties, or to the business of the Post Office Department; but he shall, in every such case, indorse on the back of the letter or package so to be sent free of postage, over his own signature, the words "official business." And for any such indorsement falsely made, the person so offending shall forfeit and pay three hundred dollars. And the several deputy postmasters throughout the United States shall be authorized to charge, and have allowed to them in the settlement of their accounts with the Post Office Department, all postage which they may have paid or had charged to them, respectively, for letters, packages, or other matters received by them on the business of their respective offices, or of the Post Office Department, upon a verification on oath of their accounts for the same, and the transmission of the charged letters as vouchers; and the several deputy postmasters shall be, and hereby are, authorized to send through the mail, free of postage, all letters and packages which it may be their duty, or they may have occasion to transmit to any person or place, and which shall relate exclusively to the business of the respective offices, or to the business of the Post Office Department; but in every such case the deputy postmaster sending any such letter or package, shall indorse thereon, over his own signature, the words "Post Office business." And for any and every such indorsement falsely made, the person making the same shall forfeit and pay three hundred dollars. * * * —*Sec. 6, Act of March 3, 1845*.

SEC. 96: *And be it further enacted*, That the act of Congress entitled "An act authorizing the Governors of the several States to transmit by mail certain books and documents," approved June the thirtieth, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, shall remain and continue in full force, anything hereinbefore to the contrary notwithstanding; and the members of Congress, the Delegates from the Territories, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, shall be, and they are hereby, authorized to transmit, free of postage, to any post office within the United States, or the Territories thereof, any documents which have been or may be printed by order of either House of Congress, anything in this law to the contrary notwithstanding.—*Sec. 7, Act of March 3, 1845*.

SEC. 97. *And be it further enacted*, That each member of the Senate, each member of the House of Representatives, and each Delegate from a Territory of the United States, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, may, during each session of Congress, and for a period of thirty days before the commencement and thirty days after the end of each and every session of Congress, send and receive through the mail, free of postage, any letter, newspaper, or packet, not exceeding two ounces in weight; and all postage charged upon any letters, packages, petitions, memorials, or other matters or things received during any session of Congress by any Senator, member, or Delegate of the House of Representatives, touching his official or legislative duties, by reason of any

* Exception in favor of Governors of States and members of Congress, and in favor of Presidents and former Presidents, and Mrs. Madison and Mrs. Harrison; and privilege extended to postmasters whose compensation is less than \$200 per annum. See Sections 94, 95, 96, 97, 98.

† Sections 97-99 and 101 extend this privilege.

‡ This authority to charge is no longer in force. See Sec. 102 for special provision for postmasters whose compensation does not exceed \$200 a year.

excess of weight above two ounces, of the matter or thing so received, shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House of which the person receiving the same may be a member. And they shall have the right to frank written letters from themselves during the whole year, as now authorized by law.—*Sec. 8, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 98. And be it further enacted, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to repeal the laws heretofore enacted granting the franking privilege to the President of the United States when in office, and to all ex-Presidents, and to the widows of the former Presidents Madison and Harrison.—*Sec. 23, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 99. And be it further enacted, That all members of Congress, Delegates from Territories, the Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, shall have the power to send and receive public documents free of postage during their term of office; and that the said Members and Delegates shall have the power to send and receive public documents free of postage up to the first Monday in December following the expiration of their term of office.—*Sec. 3, Act of March 3, 1847.*

SEC. 100. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives shall have the power to receive, as well as to send, all letters and packages not weighing over two ounces, free of postage, during their term of office.—*Sec. 4, Act of March 3, 1847.*

SEC. 101. And be it further enacted, That members of Congress shall have the power to receive, as well as to send, all letters and packages not weighing over two ounces, free of postage, up to the first Monday in December following the expiration of their term of office.—*Sec. 5, Act of March 3, 1847.*

SEC. 102. Be it further enacted, * * * That each deputy postmaster whose compensation for the last preceding year did not exceed two hundred dollars,* may send through the mail all letters written by himself, and receive through the mail all written communications addressed to himself on his private business which shall not exceed in weight one half ounce, free of postage. * * * —*Sec. 1, Act of March 2, 1847.*

SEC. 103. Be it further enacted, That, * * * in compensation for such mail services as may be performed for the several Departments of the Government, there shall be paid to the Post Office Department, from the Treasury, for each year's service, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, which is hereby appropriated for that purpose, out of any unappropriated money in the Treasury.†—*Sec. 12, Act of March 3, 1847.*

SEC. 104. Be it further enacted, That * * * such publications or books as have been or may be published, procured, or purchased by order of either House of Congress or a joint resolution of the two Houses, shall be considered as public documents, and entitled to be franked as such; * * * —*Sec. 13, Act of March 3, 1847.*

SEC. 105. Be it further enacted, That all letters and packages to and from Sarah Polk, relict of the late James K. Polk, shall be received and conveyed by post, free of postage, for and during her life.—*Act of January 10, 1850.*

SEC. 107. Be it further enacted, * * * that postmasters at the office of delivery are hereby authorized, and it shall be their duty, to remove the wrappers and envelopes from all printed matter and pamphlets not charged with letter postage, for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is upon or connected with any such printed matter or in such package any matter or thing which would authorize or require the charge of a higher rate of postage thereon. And all publishers of pamphlets, periodicals, magazines, and newspapers which shall not exceed sixteen ounces in weight, shall be allowed to interchange their publications‡ reciprocally free of postage: *Provided,* That such interchange shall be confined to a single copy of each publication: *And provided also,* That said publishers may inclose in their publications the bills for subscription thereto, without any additional charge for postage;§ * * * —*Sec. 2, Act of March 3, 1851.*

SEC. 108. And be it further enacted, That there shall be paid to the Post Office Department, in further payment and compensation for the mail service performed for the two Houses of Congress and the other Departments and offices of the Government in the transportation of free matter, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars per year, which shall be paid quarterly, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated; * * * —*Sec. 8, Act of March 3, 1851.*

SEC. 109. Be it resolved, That from and after the present session of Congress, the Congressional Globe and Appendix, which contain the laws and debates thereon, shall pass free through the mails so long as the same shall be published by order of Congress: *Provided,* That nothing herein shall be construed to authorize the circulation of the Daily Globe free of postage. * * * —*Joint Resolution of August 6, 1852.*

* See No. 95 above, for right of other postmasters in the matter.

† See Sec. 108 for additional allowance for this purpose.

‡ See more comprehensive statute in Sec. 168, as contained in act of August 30, 1852.

§ See Sec. 168.

Sec. 110. *Be it further enacted*, 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.—*Act of February 2, 1854.*

Sec. 111. *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. 5, Act of March 3, 1855.*

Sec. 112. *And be it further enacted*, That the right to frank 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. 4, Act of March 3, 1855.*

CHAPTER VIII.

LETTER CARRIERS.

Sec. 113. *And be it further enacted*, That letter carriers shall be employed at such post offices as the Postmaster General shall direct, for the delivery of letters* in the places respectively where such post offices are established; and, for the delivery of each such letter, the letter carrier may receive, of the person to whom the delivery is made, two cents: *Provided*, That no letter shall be delivered to such letter carrier for delivery, addressed to any person who shall have lodged at the post office a written request that the letter shall be detained in the office. And, for every letter lodged at any post office, not to be carried by post, but to be delivered at the place where it is so lodged, the postmaster shall receive one cent† of the person to whom it shall be delivered.—*Sec. 36, Act of March 3, 1825.*

Sec. 114. *And be it further enacted*, That * * * the letter carriers employed at post offices shall be authorized to receive for each newspaper delivered by them an half cent, and no more.—*Sec. 2, Act of March 2, 1827.*

Sec. 115. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General shall be authorized, whenever the same may be proper for the accommodation of the public in any city, to employ‡ letter carriers for the delivery of letters received at the post office in said city; except such as the persons to whom they are addressed may have requested, in writing, addressed to the postmaster, to be retained in the post office; and for the receipt of letters at such places, in the said city as the Postmaster General may direct, and for the deposit of the same in the post office; and for the delivery by a carrier of each letter received from the post office, the person to whom the same may be delivered shall pay not exceeding two cents; and for the delivery of each newspaper and pamphlet, one half cent; and for every letter received by a carrier to be deposited in the post office, there shall be paid to him, at the time of the receipt, not exceeding two cents; all of which receipts, by the carriers in any city, shall, if the Postmaster General so direct, be accounted for to the postmaster of said city, to constitute a fund for the compensation of the said carriers, and to be paid to them in such proportions and manner as the Postmaster General may direct. Each of the said carriers shall give bond with sureties, to be approved by the Postmaster General, for the safe custody and delivery of letters, and for the due account and payment of all moneys received by him.—*Sec. 41, Act of July 2, 1836.*

Sec. 116. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be authorized and directed, when in his judgment the public interest or convenience may require it, to establish one or more branch post offices, to facilitate the operation of the post office in any city or place which in the opinion of the Postmaster General may require such additional accommodation for the convenience of the inhabitants; and it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to prescribe the rules and regulations for the branch post offices which may be established by virtue of this act; and no additional postage shall be charged for the receipt or delivery of any letter or packet at such branch post office.—*Sec. 10, Act of March 3, 1847.*

Sec. 117. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be in the power of the Postmaster General, at all post offices where the postmasters are appointed by the President of the United States, to establish

* See Nos. 115 and 117. † See Sections 165 and 166 for further provisions respecting drop letters.

‡ Following section, from the Act of July 2, 1836, renews this statute.

§ See antecedent provisions on this head in 113.

post routes within the cities or towns, to provide for conveying letters to the post office, by establishing suitable and convenient places of deposit, and by employing carriers to receive and deposit them in the post office; and at all such offices it shall be in his power to cause letters to be delivered by suitable carriers, to be appointed by him for that purpose, for which not exceeding one or two cents shall be charged, to be paid by the person receiving or sending the same; and all sums so received shall be paid into the Post Office Department: *Provided*, The amount of compensation allowed by the Postmaster General to carriers shall in no case exceed the amount paid into the Treasury, by each town or city, under the provisions of this section.—*Sec. 10, Act of March 3, 1851.*

SEC. 118. And be it further enacted, 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 Postmaster 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 2, 1836, 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.—*Sec. 1, Act of July 27, 1854.*

SEC. 119. 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 3, 1845, and the fifth and eighth sections of an Act entitled "An act to establish certain post roads, and for other purposes," approved August 31, 1852, are hereby made applicable to said letter-carrier routes. *Sec. 27, Act of July, 1854.*

CHAPTER IX.

MAIL DEPREDATIONS.

SEC. 120. And be it further enacted, That if any person employed in any of the departments of the Post Office establishment shall unlawfully detain,* delay, or open, any letter, packet, bag or mail of letters, with which he shall be intrusted, or which shall have come to his possession, and which are intended to be conveyed by post; or, if any such person shall secrete, embezzle, or destroy, any letter or packet intrusted to such person as aforesaid, and which shall not contain any security for, or assurance relating to money, as hereinafter described, every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offense, be fined, not exceeding three hundred dollars, or imprisoned, not exceeding six months, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offense. And if any person, employed as aforesaid, shall secrete, embezzle, or destroy any letter, packet, bag or mail of letters, with which he or she shall be intrusted, or which shall have come to his or her possession, and are intended to be conveyed by post, containing any bank note or bank post bill, bill of exchange, warrant of the Treasury of the United States, note of assignment of stock in the funds, letters of attorney for receiving annuities or dividends, or for selling stock in the funds, or for receiving the interest thereof, or any letter of credit, or note for, or relating to, payment of moneys, or any bond, or warrant, draft, bill, or promissory note, covenant, contract, or agreement, whatsoever, for, or relating to, the payment of money, or the delivery of any article of value, or the performance of any act, matter, or thing, or any receipt, release, acquittance, or discharge of, or from, any debt, covenant, or demand, or

* *Sec. 32, Act of 1836*, makes special provision against detention of letters and packets, or forwarding one in preference to others by postmasters. See *Sec. 129.*

any part thereof, or any copy of any record of any judgment, or decree, in any court of law, or chancery, or any execution which may have issued thereon, or any copy of any other record, or any other article of value, or any writing representing the same; or if any such person employed as aforesaid, shall steal, or take, any of the same out of any letter, packet, bag or mail of letters, that shall come to his or her possession, such person shall, on conviction for any such offense, be imprisoned not less than ten years, nor exceeding twenty-one years; and if any person who shall have taken charge of the mails of the United States shall quit or desert the same before such person delivers it into the post office kept at the termination of the route, or some known mail carrier, or agent of the General Post Office, authorized to receive the same, every such person, so offending, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, for every such offense; and if any person concerned in carrying the mail of the United States shall collect, receive, or carry any letter, or packet, or shall cause or procure the same to be done, contrary to this Act, every such offender shall forfeit and pay, for every such offense, a sum not exceeding fifty dollars.—*Sec. 21, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 121. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall rob any carrier of the mail of the United States, or other person intrusted therewith, of such mail, or of part thereof, such offender or offenders shall, on conviction, be imprisoned not less than five years, nor exceeding ten years; and, if convicted a second time of a like offense, he or they shall suffer death; or if in effecting such robbery of the mail the first time, the offender shall wound the person having custody thereof, or put his life in jeopardy by the use of dangerous weapons, such offender or offenders shall suffer death. And if any person shall attempt to rob the mail of the United States by assaulting the person having custody thereof, shooting at him, or his horse, or mule, or threatening him with dangerous weapons, and the robbery is not effected, every such offender, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment, not less than two years, nor exceeding ten years. And if any person shall steal the mail, or shall steal or take from, or out of, any mail, or from, or out of, any post office, any letter or packet; or if any person shall take the mail, or any letter or packet therefrom, or from any post office, whether with or without the consent of the person having custody thereof, and shall open, embezzle, or destroy any such mail, letter, or packet, the same containing any article of value, or evidence of any debt, due, demand, right, or claim, or any release, receipt, acquittance, or discharge, or any other article, paper, or thing, mentioned and described in the twenty-first section of this act; or if any person shall, by fraud or deception, obtain from any person having custody thereof, any mail, letter, or packet, containing any article of value, or evidence thereof, or either of the writings referred to, or next abovementioned, such offender or offenders, on conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned, not less than two, nor exceeding ten years. And if any person shall take any letter or packet, not containing any article of value, nor evidence thereof, out of a post office, or shall open any letter or packet, which shall have been in a post office, or in custody of a mail carrier, before it shall have been delivered to the person to whom it is directed, with a design to obstruct the correspondence, to pry into another's business or secrets; or shall secrete, embezzle, or destroy, any such mail, letter, or packet, such offender, upon conviction, shall pay, for every such offense, a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and be imprisoned not exceeding twelve months.—*Sec. 22, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 122. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall rip, cut, tear, burn, or otherwise injure any valise, portmanteau, or other bag, used, or designed to be used, by any person acting under the authority of the Postmaster General, or any person in whom his powers are vested, in a conveyance of any mail, letter, packet, or newspaper or pamphlet, or shall draw or break any staple, or loosen any part of any lock, chain, or strap attached to or belonging to any such valise, portmanteau, or bag, with an intent to rob or steal any mail, letter, packet, newspaper, or pamphlet, or to render either of the same insecure, every such offender, upon conviction, shall, for every such offense, pay a sum not less than one hundred dollars, nor exceeding five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one year, nor exceeding three years, at the discretion of the court before whom such conviction is had.—*Sec. 23, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 123. Be it further enacted, That, * * * if any person employed in any department of the post office shall improperly detain, delay, embezzle, or destroy any newspaper, or shall permit any other person to do the like, or shall open, or permit any other to open, any mail or packet of newspapers, not directed to the office where he is employed, such offender shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit a sum not exceeding fifty dollars for every such offense. And if any other person shall open any mail or packet of newspapers, or shall embezzle or destroy the same, not being directed to such person, or not being authorized to receive or open the same, such offender shall, on conviction thereof, pay a sum not exceeding twenty dollars for every such offense. And if any person shall take or steal any packet, bag, or mail of newspapers from or out of any post office, or from any person having custody thereof, such person shall, on conviction, be imprisoned not exceeding three months for every such offense, to be kept at hard labor during the period of such imprisonment. If any person shall inclose or conceal a letter, or other thing, or any memorandum in writing, in a newspaper, pamphlet, or magazine, or in any package of newspapers, pamphlets, or magazines, or make any writing or memorandum thereon, which

he shall have delivered into any post office, or to any person for that purpose, in order that the same may be carried by post free of letter postage, he shall forfeit the sum of five dollars for every such offense; and the letter, newspaper, package, memorandum, or other thing, shall not be delivered to the person to whom it is directed, until the amount of single letter postage is paid for each article of which the package is composed. * * * —*Sec. 30, Act of March 3, 1825.*

Sec. 124. And be it further enacted, That every person who, from and after the passage of this act, shall procure and advise, or assist, in the doing or perpetration of any of the acts or crimes by this act forbidden, shall be subject to the same penalties and punishments as the persons are subject to who shall actually do or perpetrate any of the said acts or crimes, according to the provisions of this act.—*Sec. 24, Act of March 3, 1825.*

Sec. 125. And be it further enacted, That every person who shall be imprisoned by a judgment of court, under and by virtue of the twenty-first, twenty-second, twenty-third, or twenty-fourth sections of this act, shall be kept at hard labor during the period of such imprisonment.—*Sec. 25, Act of March 3, 1825.*

Sec. 126. And be it further enacted, That all pecuniary penalties and forfeitures incurred under this Act shall be one half for the use of the person or persons informing and prosecuting for the same, and the other half to the use of the United States, and shall be paid over to the Postmaster General, and accounted for by him as other moneys of the Department.—*Sec. 33, Act of March 3, 1825.*

Sec. 127. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall buy, receive, or conceal, or aid in buying, receiving, or concealing, any article mentioned in the twenty-first section of this Act, knowing the same to have been stolen or embezzled from the mail of the United States, or out of any post office, or from any person having the custody of the said mail, or the letters sent or to be sent therein; or if any person shall be accessory after the fact to any robbery of the carrier of the mail of the United States, or other person intrusted therewith, of such mail, or of part thereof, every person so offending shall, on conviction thereof, pay a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, and be imprisoned and confined to hard labor for any time not exceeding ten years. And such person or persons so offending may be tried and convicted without the principal offender being first tried, provided such principal offender has fled from justice, or cannot be found to be put on his trial.—*Sec. 45, Act of March 3, 1825.*

Sec. 128. And be it further enacted, That if any postmaster shall unlawfully detain in his office any letter, package, pamphlet, or newspaper, with intent to prevent the arrival and delivery of the same to the person or persons to whom such letter, package, pamphlet, or newspaper may be addressed or directed in the usual course of the transportation of the mail along the route; or if any postmaster shall, with intent as aforesaid, give a preference to any letter, package, pamphlet, or newspaper, over another which may pass through his office, by forwarding the one and retaining the other, he shall, on conviction thereof, be fined in a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and imprisoned for a term not exceeding six months, and shall, moreover, be forever thereafter incapable of holding the office of postmaster of the United States.—*Sec. 32, Act of July 2, 1836.*

Sec. 129. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall be accessory after the fact to the offense of stealing or taking the mail of the United States, or of stealing or taking any letter, or packet, or inclosure in any letter or packet sent or to be sent in the mail of the United States, from any post office in the United States, or from the mail of the United States, by any person or persons whatever, every person so offending as accessory shall, on conviction thereof, pay a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and be imprisoned for a term not exceeding five years; and such accessory after the fact may be tried, convicted, and punished in the district in which his offense was committed, though the principal offense may have been committed in another district, and before the trial of the principal offender: *Provided,* Such principal offender has fled from justice, or cannot be arrested to be put upon his trial.—*Sec. 38, Act of July 2, 1836.*

Sec. 130. And be it further enacted, That all moneys taken from the mails of the United States by robbery, theft, or otherwise, which have come or may hereafter come into the possession or custody of any of the agents of the Post Office Department, or any other officers of the United States, or any other person or persons whatever, shall be paid to the order of the Postmaster General, to be kept by him as other moneys of the Post Office Department, to and for the use and benefit of the rightful owner, to be paid whenever satisfactory proof thereof shall be made; and upon the failure of any person in the employment of the United States to pay over such moneys when demanded, the person so refusing shall be subject to the penalties prescribed by law against defaulting officers.—*Sec. 2, Act of March 1, 1847.*

Sec. 131. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall steal, purloin, embezzle, or obtain by any false pretense, or shall aid or assist in stealing, purloining, embezzling, or obtaining by any false pretense, or shall knowingly and unlawfully make, forge, or counterfeit, or cause to be unlawfully made, forged, or counterfeited, or knowingly aid or assist in falsely and unlawfully making, forging, or counterfeiting any key suited to any lock which has been or shall be adopted for use by the Post Office Department of the United States, and which shall be in use on any of the mails or mail bags of the said

Post Office Department, or shall have in his possession any such mail key or any such mail lock, with the intent unlawfully or improperly to use, sell, or otherwise dispose of the same, or cause the same to be unlawfully or improperly used, sold, or otherwise disposed of, or who being employed in the manufacture of the locks or keys for the use of the said Post Office Department, whether as contractor or otherwise, shall deliver or cause to be delivered any finished or unfinished key or lock used or designed by the said Post Office Department, or the interior part of any such mail lock, to any person not duly authorized under the hand of the Postmaster General of the United States and the seal of the said Post Office Department to receive the same (unless such person so receiving the same shall be the contractor for furnishing such locks and keys, or engaged in the manufacture thereof in the manner authorized by the contract, or the agent for such manufacturer,) such person so offending shall be deemed guilty of felony, and, on conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned for a period not exceeding ten years.—*Sec. 3, Act of August 31, 1852.*

Sec. 132. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall steal, purloin, or embezzle any mail bags in use by or belonging to the Post Office Department of the United States, or any other property in use by or belonging to the said Post Office Department, or shall, for any lucre, gain, or convenience, appropriate any such property to his own, or any other than its proper use, or for any lucre or gain shall convey away any such property to the hindrance or detriment of the public service of the United States, the person so offending, his counsellors, aiders, and abettors (knowing of and privy to any offense aforesaid) shall, on conviction thereof, if the value of such property shall exceed twenty-five dollars, be deemed guilty of felony, and shall be imprisoned for a period not exceeding three years; or, if the value of such property shall be less than twenty-five dollars, shall be imprisoned not more than one year, or be fined not less than ten dollars, nor more than two hundred dollars for every such offense.—*Sec. 4, Act of August 31, 1852.*

Sec. 133. And be it further enacted, That all fines and penalties imposed for any violation of any law relating to the Post Office Department shall, when collected or recovered, be paid into the Treasury, to the credit of the United States for the use of the Post Office Department, excepting, however, such part thereof as may by law belong to the party informing or prosecuting for the same.—*Sec. 10, Act of August 31, 1852.*

Sec. 134. 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. 3, Act of March 3, 1853.*

CHAPTER X.

MAILABLE MATTER.

Sec. 135. And be it further enacted, That no postmaster shall receive, to be conveyed by the mail, any packet which shall weigh more than three pounds; and the postage marked on any letter or packet, and charged in the post bill which may accompany the same, shall be conclusive evidence in favor of the postmaster who delivers the same, of the lawful postage thereon, unless such letter or packet shall be opened in the presence of the postmaster or his clerk.* Any memorandum which shall be written on a newspaper or other printed paper, pamphlet, or magazine, and transmitted by mail, shall be charged with letter postage.—*Sec. 13, Act of March 3, 1825.*

Sec. 136. And be it further enacted, * * * That no newspapers shall be received by the postmasters, to be conveyed by the post, unless they are sufficiently dried, and inclosed in proper wrappers, on which, besides the direction, shall be noted the number of papers which are inclosed for subscribers, and the number for printers: *Provided,* That the number need not be indorsed, if the publisher shall agree to furnish the postmaster, at the close of each quarter, a certified statement of the number of papers sent in the mail chargeable with postage. The Postmaster General in any contract he may enter into for the conveyance of the mail, may authorize the person with whom such contract is to be made, to carry newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets, other than those conveyed in the mail:

* The second Section of the Act of August 30, 1852, (see No. 168,) makes *books, bound* or unbound, not weighing over four pounds, mailable matter. Also, public documents are unrestricted as to weight.

Provided, That no preference shall be given to the publisher of one newspaper over that of another in the same place.—*Sec. 30, Act of March 3, 1825.*

Sec. 137. And be it further enacted, That "mailable matter," and "matter properly transmittible by mail," shall be deemed and taken to mean all letters and newspapers, and all magazines and pamphlets periodically published, or which may be published in regular series or in successive numbers, under the same title, though at irregular intervals, and all other written or printed matter whereof each copy or number shall not exceed eight* ounces in weight, except bank notes, sent in packages or bundles, without written letters accompanying them; but bound books,† of any size, shall not be held to be included within the meaning of these terms. And any packet or packets, of whatever size or weight, being made up of any such mailable matter, shall subject all persons concerned in transporting the same to all the penalties of this law, equally as if it or they were not so made up into a packet or packages. But nothing in this Act contained shall be so construed as to prohibit any person whatever from transporting, or causing to be transported, over any mail route, on any road or way parallel thereto, any books, magazines, or pamphlets, or newspapers, not marked, directed, or intended for immediate distribution to subscribers or others, but intended for sale as merchandise, and transported in the usual mode of transporting merchandise over the particular route used, and sent or consigned to some *bona fide* dealer or agent for the sale thereof; nor shall anything herein be construed to interfere with the right of any traveler to have and take with him or her, for his or her own use, any book, pamphlet, magazine, or newspaper.—*Sec. 15, Act of March 3, 1845.*

Sec. 138. And be it further enacted, That the term "newspaper," hereinbefore used, shall be, and the same is hereby, defined to be any printed publication, issued in numbers, consisting of not more than two sheets, and published at short stated intervals of not more than one month, conveying intelligence of passing events, and *bona fide* extras and supplements of any such publication. And nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent the free exchange of newspapers between the publishers thereof, as provided for under the twenty-ninth section of the Act entitled "An act to reduce into one the several acts for establishing and regulating the Post Office Department," approved the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five.—*Sec. 16, Act of March 3, 1845.*

Sec. 139. And be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful to deposit in any post office, to be conveyed in the mail, two or more letters directed to different persons inclosed in the same envelope or packet; and every person so offending shall forfeit the sum of ten dollars, to be recovered by action *qui tam*, one half for the use of the informer, and the other half for the use of the Post Office Department: *Provided*, That this prohibition shall not apply to any letter or packet directed to any foreign country, and all newspapers conveyed in the mail shall be subject to postage, except those sent by way of exchange between the publishers of newspapers, and except those franked by persons enjoying the franking privilege: * * * and it shall be lawful for any contractor, or mail carrier, to transport newspapers‡ out of the mail for sale or distribution to subscribers. * * * —*Sec. 13, Act of March 3, 1847.*

Sec. 140. And be it further enacted, That * * * bound books, and parcels of printed matter not weighing over thirty-two ounces,§ shall be deemed mailable matter. * * * —*Sec. 2, Act of March 3, 1851.*

CHAPTER XI.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

Sec. 141. And be it further enacted, That to facilitate the transportation of letters in the mail, the Postmaster General be authorized to prepare postage stamps, which, when attached to any letter or packet, shall be evidence of the payment of the postage chargeable on such letter, which said stamps the Postmaster General may deliver to any deputy postmaster who may apply for the same, the deputy postmaster paying, or becoming accountable for the amount of the stamps so received by him; and if any of said stamps shall not be used, but be returned to the General Post Office, the amount so returned shall be credited to such deputy postmaster; and such deputy postmaster may sell or dispose of any

* Reference to *Sec. 140* shows the limit in this particular is thirty-two ounces under Act of March 3, 1851. † Books to amount of four pounds mailable under Act of August 30, 1852. See *Sec. 168.*

‡ See also Sections 136 and 137.

§ Limit for books extended to four pounds by Act of 1852. See *Sec. 168.*

stamps so received by him, to any person who may wish to use the same; but it shall not be lawful for any deputy postmaster to prepare, use, or dispose of any postage stamps not authorized by and received from the Postmaster General; and any person who shall falsely and fraudulently make, utter, or forge any postage stamp with the intent to defraud the Post Office Department, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and on conviction shall be subject to the same punishment as is provided in the twenty-first section of the Act approved the third day of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, entitled "An act to reduce into one the several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department.—Sec. 11, *Act of March 3, 1847.*

SEC. 142. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to provide and furnish to all deputy postmasters and to all other persons applying and paying therefor, suitable postage stamps, of the denomination of three cents, and of such other denominations as he may think expedient to facilitate the prepayment of the postages provided for in this Act; and any person who shall forge or counterfeit any postage stamp provided or furnished under the provisions of this or any former Act, whether the same are impressed or printed on or attached to envelopes or not, or any die, plate, or engraving therefor, or 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 postage stamp, or who shall make or print, or authorize or procure to be made or printed, any postage stamps of the kind provided and furnished by the Postmaster General as aforesaid, without the especial authority and direction of the Post Office Department, or who, after such postage stamps have been printed, shall, with intent to defraud the revenues of the Post Office Department, deliver any postage stamps to any person or persons other than such as shall be authorized to receive the same by an 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; and the expenses of procuring and providing all such postage stamps and letter envelopes, as are provided for or authorized by this Act, shall be paid, after being adjusted by the Auditor of the Post Office Department, on the certificate of the Postmaster General, out of any money in the Treasury arising from the revenues of the Post Office Department.—*Sec. 3, Act of March 3, 1851.*

SEC. 143. *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 shall direct, all postage stamps attached to letters deposited in his office for delivery, or to be sent by mail; and if any postmaster, sending letters in the mail with postage stamps attached, shall omit to deface the same, it shall be the duty of the postmaster to whose office such letters shall be sent for delivery to deface the stamps and report the delinquent postmaster to the Postmaster General. And if any person shall use or attempt to use, in prepayment of postage, any postage stamp which shall have been before used for like purposes, such person shall be subject to a penalty of fifty dollars for every such offense, to be recovered in the name of the United States, in any court of competent jurisdiction.—*Sec. 4, Act of March 3, 1851.*

SEC. 144. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person or persons shall forge or counterfeit, or shall utter or use knowingly, any counterfeit stamp of the Post Office Department of the United States issued by authority of this Act, or by any other act of Congress, within the United States, or the post office stamp of any foreign Government, he shall be adjudged guilty of felony, and, on conviction thereof in any court having jurisdiction of the same, shall undergo a confinement at hard labor for any length of time not less than two years, nor more than ten, at the discretion of the court.—*Sec. 5, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 145. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to provide and furnish to all postmasters and other persons applying and paying therefor, suitable letter envelopes, with such water-marks or other guards against counterfeits as he may deem expedient, and with one or more suitable postage stamps, with such device and of such denominations and value as he may direct, printed or impressed thereon; which envelopes shall be sold at the cost of procuring and furnishing the same, as near as may be, with the addition of the value or denomination of the postage stamps so printed or impressed thereon or attached thereto, as aforesaid; and letters, when inclosed in such envelope, with postage stamps printed or impressed thereon, (the postage stamp or stamps in every such case being of the value, denomination, or amount required to prepay the postage which would be chargeable on such letters and envelopes if sent by mail to the place of their destination under the provisions of the laws then in force, and such stamps and envelopes not having been before used,) shall pass in the mails as prepaid letters; and all letters inclosed in such envelopes as shall be provided and furnished by the Postmaster General, as first in this section prescribed, and with postage stamps thereon as aforesaid (and such postage stamps on such envelopes being equal in value and amount to the rates of postage to which such letters would be liable if sent by mail, and such postage stamps and envelopes not having been before used) may be sent, conveyed, and delivered

* See also No. 147.

otherwise than by post or mail,* notwithstanding any prohibition thereof under any existing law: *Provided*, That the said envelope shall be duly sealed, or otherwise firmly and securely closed, so that such letter cannot be taken therefrom without tearing or destroying such envelope, and the same duly directed and addressed, and the date of such letter, or the receipt or transmission thereof, to be written or stamped, or otherwise appear on such envelope.—*Sec. 8, Act of August 31, 1852.*

SEC. 146. 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 eighth section of an act entitled “An act to establish certain post roads, and for other purposes,” approved August 31st, 1852, 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. 7, Act of March 3, 1853.*

SEC. 147. 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.—*Sec. 8, Act of March 3, 1853.*

SEC. 148. 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. 2, Act of March 3, 1855.*

CHAPTER XII.

PRIVATE EXPRESSES.

SEC. 149. And be it further enacted, That no stage or other vehicle which regularly performs trips on a post road, or on a road parallel to it, shall convey letters; nor shall any packet boat or other vessel which regularly plies on a water declared to be a post road, except such as relates to some part of the cargo. For the violation of this provision, the owner of the carriage or other vehicle, or vessel, shall incur the penalty of fifty dollars. And the person who has charge of such carriage, or other vehicle, or vessel, may be prosecuted under this section, and the property in his charge may be levied on and sold in satisfaction of the penalty and costs of suit: *Provided*, That it shall be lawful for any one to send letters by special messenger.—*Sec. 19, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 150. And be it further enacted, That no person other than the Postmaster General, or his authorized agents, shall set up any foot or horse post for the conveyance of letters and packets upon any

* Under this section letters inclosed in stamped envelopes may be sent out of the mail. A letter with a postage stamp merely cannot be so sent.

† See further provisions on this head in No. 143.

post road which is or may be established as such by law. And every person who shall offend herein, shall incur a penalty of not exceeding fifty dollars for each letter or packet so carried.—*Sec. 3, Act of March 2, 1827.*

SEC. 151. And be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any person to carry or transport any letter, packet, newspaper, or printed circular or price current (except newspapers in use, and not intended for circulation in the country to which such vessel may be bound) on board the vessels that may hereafter transport the United States mail, as provided for in this Act; and for every violation of this provision, a penalty of five hundred dollars is hereby imposed, to be recovered by presentment, by information, or *qui tam* action—one half for the use of the informer, and the other half for the use of the Post Office Department.—*Sec. 4, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 152. And be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to establish any private express or expresses for the conveyance, nor in any manner to cause to be conveyed, or provide for the conveyance or transportation, by regular trips, or at stated periods or intervals, from one city, town, or other place, to any other city, town, or place in the United States, between and from and to which cities, towns, or other places the United States mail is regularly transported under the authority of the Post Office Department, of any letters, packets, or packages of letters, or other matter properly transmittible in the United States mail, except newspapers,* pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals; and each and every person offending against this provision, or aiding and assisting therein, or acting as such private express, shall, for each time any letter or letters, packet or packages, or other matter properly transmittible by mail, except newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals, shall or may be, by him, her, or them, or through his, her, or their means or instrumentality, in whole or in part, conveyed or transported contrary to the true intent, spirit, and meaning of this section, forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars.—*Sec. 9, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 153. And be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any stage coach, railroad car, steamboat, packet boat, or other vehicle or vessel, nor any of the owners, managers, servants, or crews of either, which regularly perform trips at stated periods on a post route, or between two or more cities, towns, or other places, from one to the other of which the United States mail is regularly conveyed under the authority of the Post Office Department, to transport or convey, otherwise than in the mail, any letter or letters, packet or packages of letters, or other mailable matter whatsoever,† except such as may have relation to some part of the cargo of such steamboat, packet boat, or other vessel, or to some article at the same time conveyed by the same stage coach, railroad car, or other vehicle, and excepting also newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals; and for every such offense the owner or owners of the stage coach, railroad car, steamboat, packet boat, or other vehicle or vessel, shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars; and the driver, captain, conductor, or person having charge of any such stage coach, railroad car, steamboat, packet boat, or other vehicle or vessel, at the time of the commission of any such offense, and who shall not at that time be the owner thereof, in whole or in part, shall, in like manner, forfeit and pay, in every such case of offense, the sum of fifty dollars.—*Sec. 10, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 154. And be it further enacted, That the owner or owners of every stage coach, railroad car, steamboat, or other vehicle or vessel, which shall, with the knowledge of any owner or owners, in whole or in part, or with the knowledge or connivance of the driver, conductor, captain, or other person having charge of any such stage coach, railroad car, steamboat, or other vessel or vehicle, convey or transport any person or persons acting or employed as a private express for the conveyance of letters, packets, or packages of letters, or other mailable matter, and actually in possession of such mailable matter, for the purpose of transportation, contrary to the spirit, true intent, and meaning of the preceding sections of this law, shall be subject to the like fines and penalties as are hereinbefore provided and directed in the case of persons acting as such private expresses and of persons employing the same; but nothing in this act contained shall be construed to prohibit the conveyance or transmission of letters, packets, or packages, or other matter to any part of the United States by private hands, no compensation being tendered or received therefor in any way, or by a special messenger employed only for the single particular occasion.—*Sec. 11, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 155. And be it further enacted, That all persons whatsoever who shall, after the passage of this act, transmit by any private express or other means by this act declared to be unlawful any letter or letters, package or packages, or other mailable matter, excepting newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals, or who shall place or cause to be deposited at any appointed place, for the purpose of being transported by such unlawful means, any matter or thing properly transmittible by mail, excepting newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals,‡ or who shall deliver any such matter, excepting

* By the eighth section of Act of August 31, 1852, letters inclosed in stamped envelopes may be sent out of the mail. See No. 145.

† See Section 145, for exception in favor of letters inclosed in stamped envelopes.

‡ See Sec. 145 for provision in relation to letters inclosed in stamped envelopes.

newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals, for transmission to any agent or agents of such unlawful expresses, shall, for each and every offense, forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars.—*Sec. 12, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 156. And be it further enacted, That nothing in this act contained shall have the effect, or be construed to prohibit the conveyance or transportation of letters by steamboats, as authorized by the sixth section of the act entitled "An act to reduce into one the several acts for establishing and regulating the Post Office Department," approved the third of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five: *Provided,* That the requirements of said sixth section of said act be strictly complied with by the delivery, within the time specified by said act, of all letters so conveyed, not relating to the cargo or some part thereof to the postmaster or other authorized agent of the Post Office Department at the port or place to which said letters may be directed or intended to be delivered over from said boat; and the postmaster or other agent of the Post Office Department shall charge and collect upon all letters or other mailable matter so delivered to him, except newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals, the same rates of postage as would have been charged upon said letters had they been transmitted by mail from the port or place at which they were placed on board the steamboat from which they were received; but it is hereby expressly provided that all the pains and penalties provided by this act for any violation of the provisions of the eleventh section of this act shall attach in every case to any steamboat, or to the owners and persons having charge thereof, the captain or other person having charge of which shall not, as aforesaid, comply with the requirements of the sixth section of the said law of one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five. And no postmaster shall receive to be conveyed by the mail any packet which shall weigh more than three* pounds.—*Sec. 13, Act of March 3, 1845.*

SEC. 157. And be it further enacted, That all pecuniary penalties and forfeitures incurred under this act shall be one half for the use of the person or persons informing and prosecuting for the same, and the other half to the use of the United States, and shall be paid over to the Postmaster General, and accounted for by him as other moneys of the Department; and all causes of action arising under this act may be sued, and all offenders against this act may be prosecuted, before the justices of the peace, magistrates, or other judicial courts of the several States and of the several Territories of the United States, they having competent jurisdiction by the laws of such States or Territories, to the trial of claims and demands of as great value, and of the prosecutions where the punishments are of as great extent; and such justices, magistrates, or judiciary shall take cognizance thereof, and proceed to judgment and execution as in other cases.—*Sec. 17, Act of March 3, 1845.*

CHAPTER XIII.

RAILROAD SERVICE.

SEC. 158. And be it further enacted, That each and every railroad within the limits of the United States, which now is, or hereafter may be made and completed, shall be a post route; and the Postmaster General shall cause the mail to be transported thereon, provided he can have it done upon reasonable terms, and not paying therefor, in any instance, more than twenty-five per centum over and above what similar transportation would cost in post coaches.—*Sec. 2, Act of July 7, 1838.*

SEC. 159. Be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General shall not by virtue of the authority vested in him by the second section of the "Act to establish certain post routes and to discontinue others," approved July 7, 1838, allow more than three hundred dollars per mile per annum to any railroad company in the United States, for the conveyance of one or more daily mails upon their roads: *Provided,* That nothing in this Act contained shall be construed so as in any way to remove or impair the limitations upon the power of the Postmaster General, imposed by that section.—*Act of January 25, 1839.*

SEC. 160. Be it resolved, That the Postmaster General be, and he hereby is, authorized to make and enter into contracts with any railroad company for the transmission of the mail, without advertising for bids on such railroads, as now required by law.—*Joint Resolution of February 20, 1845.*

SEC. 161. And be it further enacted, That to insure, as far as may be practicable, an equal and just rate of compensation, according to the service performed, among the several railroad companies in the United States for the transportation of the mail, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to arrange

* Limit with respect to books extended to four pounds by second section of Act of August 30, 1852 See No. 168.

and divide the railroad routes, including those in which the service is partly by railroad and partly by steamboats, into three classes according to the size of the mails, the speed with which they are conveyed, and the importance of the service; and it shall be lawful for him to contract for conveying the mail with any such railroad company, either with or without advertising for such contract: *Provided*, That for the conveyance of the mail on any railroad of the first class, he shall not pay a higher rate of compensation than is now allowed by law; nor for carrying the mail on any railroad of the second class, a greater compensation than one hundred dollars per mile per annum; nor for carrying the mail on any railroad of the third class, a greater compensation than fifty dollars per mile per annum. And in case the Postmaster General shall not be able to conclude a contract for carrying the mail on any of such railroad routes, at a compensation not exceeding the aforesaid maximum rates, or for what he may deem a reasonable and fair compensation for the service to be performed, it shall be lawful for him to separate the letter mail from the residue of the mail, and to contract, either with or without advertising, for conveying the letter mail over such route, by horse express or otherwise, at the greatest speed that can reasonably be obtained, and also to contract for carrying over such route the residue of the mail, in wagons or otherwise, at a slower rate of speed: *Provided*, That if one half of the service on any railroad is required to be performed in the night season, it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to pay twenty-five per cent. in addition to the aforesaid maximum rates of allowance. *And provided further*, That if it shall be found necessary to convey over any railroad route more than two mails daily, it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to pay such additional compensation as he may think just and reasonable, having reference to the service performed, and the maximum rate of allowance established by this Act.—*Sec. 19, Act of March 3, 1845.*

CHAPTER XIV.

RATES OF POSTAGE.

SEC. 162. And be it further enacted, That every letter or packet brought into the United States, or carried from one port therein to another, in any private ship or vessel, shall be charged with six cents, if delivered at the post office where the same shall arrive; and if destined to be conveyed, by post, to any place, with two cents added to the ordinary rates of postage.—*Sec. 15, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 163. And be it further enacted, That the deputy postmasters, and other agents of the Postmaster General, shall duly account, and answer to him, for all way letters which shall come to their hands; and for this purpose the post riders and other carriers of the mail receiving any way letter or letters, (and it shall be their duty to receive them, if presented more than one mile from a post office,) shall deliver the same, together with the postage, if paid, at the first post office to which they shall afterwards arrive; where the postmaster shall duly enter the same, and specify the number, and rate or rates, in the post bill, adding to the rate of each way letter one cent, which shall be paid by the postmaster to the mail carrier from whom such way letters shall be received.—*Sec. 20, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 164. Be it further enacted, That the better to enable the postal treaty with Great Britain to go into full effect, with equal advantage to both countries, letters shall be mailed as composing one rate only where the letter does not exceed the weight of a half ounce avoirdupois; where it exceeds a half ounce but does not exceed an ounce, as composing two rates; where it exceeds an ounce but does not exceed two ounces, as composing four rates; where it exceeds two ounces but does not exceed three ounces, as composing six rates; where it exceeds three ounces but does not exceed four ounces, as composing eight rates; and in like progression for each additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce, and that each rate shall be subject to the full postage charge; and that letters refused, or which cannot be delivered, may be immediately returned to the dead letter office, and that newspapers not sent from the office of publication shall be charged with the same postage as other papers to be prepaid.—*Sec. 3, Act of March 3, 1849.*

SEC. 165. Be it further enacted, That from and after the thirtieth day of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, 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 upon which information shall be asked for, or communicated in writing, or by marks or signs, conveyed in the mail, * * * wholly or in part by sea, and to or from a foreign country, for any distance over twenty-five hundred miles, twenty cents, and for any distance under twenty-five hundred miles, ten cents, (excepting, however, all cases where such postage has been or shall be adjusted at different rates by postal treaty or convention, already concluded or hereafter to be made;) and for a double letter there shall be charged

double the rates 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 all drop-letters, or letters placed in any post office not for transmission, 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 in addition to the regular postage, both to be accounted for as other postages now are.*—*Sec. 1, Act of March 3, 1851.*

Sec. 166. Be it further enacted, 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. 1, Act of March 3, 1855.*

Sec. 167. Be it further enacted, 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 prepaid by stamps or otherwise, or shall be charged double the rates first above mentioned.—*Sec. 1, Act of August 30, 1852.*

Sec. 168. 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, inclosed 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. 2, Act of August 30, 1852.*

* See Nos. 113 and 166 in regard to drop letters.

† See No. 165.

‡ The Act of January 2, 1857, makes the prepayment of postage on transient printed matter compulsory. See Sec. 174a.

SEC. 169. *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 inclosed 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. 3, Act of August 30, 1852.*

SEC. 170. *And be it further enacted*, That in case the Postmaster General shall deem it expedient to establish an express mail, in addition to the ordinary mail, on any of the post roads in the United States, for the purpose of conveying slips from newspapers in lieu of exchange newspapers, or letters, other than such as contain money, not exceeding half an ounce in weight, marked "express mail," and public dispatches, he shall be authorized to charge all letters and packets carried by such express mail with triple the rates of postage to which letters and packets, not free, may be by law subject, when carried by the ordinary mails.*—*Sec. 33, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 171. *And be it further enacted*, That if any postmaster, or other person authorized by the Postmaster General to receive the postage of letters, shall fraudulently demand or receive any rate of postage, or gratuity, or reward, other than is provided by this Act, for the postage of letters or packets, on conviction thereof he shall forfeit, for every such offense, one hundred dollars.—*Sec. 16, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 172. *Be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General, under the direction of the President of the United States, be, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered to charge upon, and collect from, all letters and other mailable matter carried to or from any port of the United States, in any foreign packet ship or other vessel, the same rate or rates of charge for American postage,† which the Government to which such foreign packet or other vessel belongs imposes upon letters or other mailable matter conveyed to or from such foreign country in American packets or other vessels, as the postage of such Government, and at any time to revoke the same. And it shall be the duty of all custom-house officers and other United States agents designated or appointed for that purpose to enforce or carry into effect the foregoing provision, and to aid or assist in the collection of such postage. And to that end, it shall be lawful for such officers and agents, on suspicion of fraud, to open and examine, in the presence of two or more respectable persons, being citizens of the United States, any package or packages supposed to contain mailable matter found on board such packets or other vessels, or elsewhere, and to prevent, if necessary, such packets or other vessels from entering, breaking bulk, or making clearance, until such letters or other mailable matter are duly delivered into the United States Post Office.‡—*Sec. 1, Act of June 27, 1848.*

SEC. 173. *And be it further enacted*, That all letters or other mailable matter conveyed to or from any port of the United States, by any foreign packet or ship, except such unsealed letters relating to said ship or vessel, or any part of the cargo thereof as may be directed to the owner or owners, consignee or consignees of said ship or other vessel, shall be so subject to postage charge as aforesaid, whether addressed to any person in the United States or elsewhere: provided it is done by the packet or other ship of a foreign country imposing postage on letters or mailable matter conveyed to or from such country by any packet or other ship of the United States, and such letters or other mailable matter carried in foreign packet ships or other vessels, except such unsealed letters relating to the ship or vessel or any part of the cargo thereof, as may be directed to the owner or owners, consignee or consignees, as aforesaid, are hereby required to be delivered into the United States Post Office by the master or commanders of all such packets or other vessels when arriving, and to be taken from a United States Post Office, when departing, and the postage paid thereon justly chargeable by this Act, and for refusing or failing to do so, or for conveying said letters or any letters intended to be conveyed in any ship or vessel of such foreign country over or across the United States, or any portion thereof, the party offending shall, on conviction, forfeit and pay not exceeding five thousand dollars for each offense.§—*Sec. 2, Act of June 27, 1848.*

SEC. 174. *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

* See kindred statute in No. 51.

† See Sections 70 and 79.

‡ See, also, Nos. 82 and 182.

§ See Sections 172 and 182.

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. 5, Act of August 30, 1852.*

SEC. 174a. Be it enacted, &c., 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.—*Act of January 2, 1857.*

CHAPTER XV.

REGISTRATION OF LETTERS.

SEC. 175. 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.—*Sec. 3, Act of March 3, 1855.*

CHAPTER XVI.

SHIP AND STEAMBOAT MAILS.

SEC. 176. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General be authorized to have the mail carried in any steamboat or other vessel which shall be used as a packet in any of the waters of the United States, on such terms and conditions as shall be considered expedient: *Provided,* That he does not pay more than three cents for each letter, and more than one half cent for each newspaper conveyed in such mail.—*Sec. 5, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 177. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of every master or manager of any steamboat which shall pass from one port or place to another port or place in the United States, where a post office is established, to deliver, † within three hours after his arrival, if in the day time, and within two hours after the next sunrise, if the arrival be in the night, all letters and packets addressed to, or destined for, such port or place, to the postmaster there, for which he shall be entitled to receive of such postmaster two ‡ cents for every letter or packet so delivered, unless the same shall be carried or conveyed under a contract with the Postmaster General; and if any master or manager of a steamboat shall fail so to deliver any letter or packet which shall have been brought by him, or shall have been in his care, or within his power, he shall incur a penalty of thirty dollars for every such failure. And every person employed on board any steamboat shall deliver every letter and packet of letters intrusted to such person to the master or manager of such steamboat, and before the said vessel shall touch at any other port or place; and for every failure or neglect so to deliver, a penalty of ten dollars shall be incurred for each letter or packet.—*Sec. 6, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 178. And be it further enacted, That no ship or vessel arriving at any port within the United States where a post office is established shall be permitted to report, make entry, or break bulk, until the master or commander shall have delivered to the postmaster all letters directed to any person or persons within the United States or the Territories thereof, which under his care, or within his power,

* See Sections 179 and 180.

† See also Sections 172, 173, 178, 182.

‡ See Sections 179 and 181 for further provisions on this point.

shall be brought in such ship or vessel, except such as are directed to the owner or consignee of the ship or vessel. And it shall be the duty of the collector, or other officer of the port empowered to receive entries of ships or vessels, to require, from every master or commander of such ship or vessel, an oath or affirmation, purporting that he has delivered all such letters, except as aforesaid; and if any commander or master of any such ship or vessel shall break bulk before he shall have complied with the requirements of this act, every such offender shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit, for every such offense, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars.—*Sec. 17, Act of March 3, 1825.*

Sec. 179. And be it further enacted, That the postmaster to whom such letters may be delivered shall pay the master or commander, or other person delivering the same, except the commanders of foreign packets, two cents for each letter or packet; and shall obtain from the person delivering the same a certificate specifying the number of letters and packets, with the name of the ship or vessel, and the place from whence she last sailed; which certificate, together with a receipt for the money, shall be, with his quarterly accounts, transmitted to the Postmaster General, who shall credit him with the amount.—*Sec. 18, Act of March 3, 1825.*

Sec. 180. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General shall have power, and he is hereby authorized to contract with the owners or commanders of any steamboat plying upon the western or other waters of the United States, for the transportation of the mail for any length of time or number of trips, less than the time for which contracts for transporting the mail of the United States are now usually made under existing laws, and without the previous advertisements now required before entering into such contracts, whenever in his opinion the public interest and convenience will be promoted thereby: *Provided,* That the price to be paid for such service shall in no case be greater than the average rate paid for such service under the last preceding or then existing regular contract for transporting the mail upon the route he may so for a less time contract for the transportation of the mail upon.—*Sec. 14, Act of March 3, 1845.*

Sec. 181. Be it further enacted, That * * * the Postmaster General shall have authority to pay or cause to be paid a sum not exceeding two cents each for all letters or packets conveyed in any vessel or steamboat not employed in carrying the mail from one port or place to any other port or place in the United States, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

* * * —*Sec. 13, Act of March 3, 1847.*

Sec. 182. And be it further enacted, That no collector or other officer of the customs shall permit any ship or vessel arriving within any port or collection district of the United States to make entry or break bulk until all letters on board the same shall be delivered into the post office at or nearest said port or place, nor until the captain or commander of such ship or vessel shall have signed and sworn to a declaration before such collector or officer of the customs, in the form and to the effect following, that is to say: "I, A B, commander of the [state the name of the ship or vessel,] arriving from, [state the place,] and now lying in the port of, [state the name of the port,] do, as required by law, solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I have, to the best of my knowledge or belief, delivered, or caused to be delivered, into the post office at or nearest said port, every letter and every bag, parcel or package of letters that were on board the [state the name of the ship or vessel] during her last voyage; and that I have so delivered, or caused to be delivered, all such letters, bags, parcels, and packages as were in my possession or under my power or control." And the collector, and every officer of the customs at every port, without special instructions, and every special agent of the Post Office Department, when instructed by the Postmaster General to make examinations and seizures, shall carefully search every vessel for letters which may be on board, or have been carried or transported contrary to law; and each and every of such officers and agents, and every marshal of the United States and his deputies, shall at all times have power to seize all letters and packages and parcels containing letters which shall have been sent or conveyed contrary to law on board any ship or vessel, or on or over any post route of the United States, and to convey such letters to the nearest post office, or may, if the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Treasury shall so direct, detain the said letters, or any part thereof, until two months after the trial and final determination of all suits and proceedings which may at any time within six months after such seizure be brought against any person for sending, or carrying, or transporting any such letter contrary to any provisions of any Act of Congress; and one half of any penalties that may be recovered for the illegal sending, carrying, or transportation of any such letters, shall be paid to the officer so seizing, and the other half to the use of the Post Office Department; and every package or parcel so seized, in which any letter shall be concealed, shall be forfeited to the United States, and the same proceedings may be had to enforce such forfeiture as are authorized in respect to goods, wares, and merchandise forfeited by reason of any violation of the revenue laws of the United States; and all laws for the benefit and protection of officers of the customs

* Section 13, Act of March 3, 1847, (see No. 181,) makes further provision on this subject.

† See previous legislation on this subject in No. 176.

‡ See antecedent legislation on this point in Sec. 172.

seizing goods, wares, or merchandise for a violation of any revenue law of the United States shall apply to the officers and agents making seizures by virtue of this Act.—*Sec. 5, Act of August 31, 1852.*

SEC. 183. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to issue proposals and contract for the transportation of a daily mail between Louisville and Cairo, St. Louis and Cairo, Cairo and Memphis, and Memphis and New Orleans, and to supply such intermediate points as he may order from time to time on suitable and safe steamboats.—*Sec. 11, Act of August 31, 1852.*

CHAPTER XVII. J McL HARRINGTON.

S U I T S.

SEC. 184. *And be it further enacted*, That the Auditor of the Post Office Department shall superintend the collection of all debts due to the Department, and all penalties and forfeitures imposed on postmasters for failing to make returns, or pay over the proceeds of their offices; he shall direct suits and legal proceedings, and take all such measures as may be authorized by law to enforce the prompt payment of moneys due to the Department.—*Sec. 14, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 185. *And be it further enacted*, That if any postmaster, or other person authorized to receive the postage of letters and packets, shall neglect or refuse to render his accounts, and pay over to the Postmaster General the balance by him due, at the end of every three months, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to cause a suit to be commenced against the person or persons so neglecting or refusing. * * * —*Sec. 31, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 186. *And be it further enacted*, That if any postmaster shall neglect to render his accounts for one month after the time, and in the form and manner prescribed by law, and by the Postmaster General's instructions, conformable therewith, he shall forfeit double the value of the postages which shall have arisen at the same office in any equal portion of time previous or subsequent thereto; or, in case no account shall have been rendered at the time of trial of such case, then such sum as the court and jury shall estimate, equivalent thereto, to be recovered by the Postmaster General, in an action of debt, on the bond against the postmaster and his securities, and for which the securities shall be liable.—*Sec. 32, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 187. *And be it further enacted*, That, in all suits or causes arising under this act, the court shall proceed to trial, and render judgment the first term after such suit shall be commenced: *Provided always*, That, whenever service of the process shall not have been made twenty days, at least, previous to the return day of such term, the defendant shall be entitled to one continuance, if the court, on the statement of such defendant, shall judge it expedient: *Provided also*, That if the defendant in such suits shall make affidavit that he has a claim against the General Post Office, not allowed by the Postmaster General, although submitted to him conformably to the regulations of the Post Office, and shall specify such claim in the affidavit, and that he could not be prepared for the trial at such term, for want of evidence, the court, in such case, being satisfied in those respects, may grant a continuance until the next succeeding term; and the Postmaster General shall be authorized to discharge from imprisonment any person confined in jail, on any judgment in a civil case, obtained in behalf of the Department: *Provided*, It be made to appear that the defendant has no property of any description: *And provided*, That such release shall not bar a subsequent execution against the property of the defendant.—*Sec. 38, Act of March 3, 1825.*

SEC. 188. *And be it further enacted*, That the bonds and contracts of postmasters, mail contractors, and other agents of the Post Office Department, shall hereafter be made to and with the United States of America; and all suits to be commenced for the recovery of debts or balances due by postmasters and others, or upon bonds or contracts made to or with the present or any former Postmaster General, or for any fines, penalties, or forfeitures imposed by the laws respecting the Post Office Department, or by the Postmaster General, pursuant thereto, shall be instituted in the name of the United States of America; and the demands in such suits shall have all the privileges and priorities in adjudication and payment secured to other claims of the United States by the existing laws: *Provided*, That actions and suits which may have been instituted in the name of the Postmaster General previous to the passage of this act shall not be affected by the provisions of this section.—*Sec. 13, Act of July 2, 1836.*

SEC. 189. *And be it further enacted*, That copies of the quarterly returns of postmasters, and of any papers pertaining to the accounts in the office of the Auditor of the Post Office Department, certified

* See Sections 172, 173, 177, and 178, for antecedent legislation in regard to this matter.

by him, under his seal of office, shall be admitted as evidence in the courts of the United States; and in every case of delinquency of any postmaster or contractor, in which suit may be brought, the said Auditor shall forward to the attorney of the United States certified copies of all papers in his office tending to sustain the claim; and in every such case a statement of the account, certified as aforesaid, shall be admitted as evidence, and the court trying the cause shall be thereupon authorized to give judgment and award execution, subject to the provisions of the thirty-eighth section of the act to reduce into one the several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department, approved March third, eighteen hundred and twenty-five. No claim for a credit shall be allowed upon the trial but such as shall have been presented to the said Auditor, and by him disallowed in whole or in part, unless it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the court that the defendant is at the time of the trial in possession of vouchers not before in his power to procure, and that he was prevented from exhibiting to the said Auditor a claim for such credit by some unavoidable accident. In suits for balances due from postmasters, interest at the rate of six per centum per annum shall be recovered, from the time of the default until payment.—*Sec. 15, Act of July 2, 1836.*

Sec. 190. And be it further enacted, That the attorneys of the United States, in the prosecution of suits for moneys due on account of the Post Office Department, shall obey the directions which may, from time to time, be given to them by the Auditor of the Post Office Department; and it shall be the duty of each of the said attorneys, immediately after the end of every term of any court in which any of the suits aforesaid shall have been pending, to forward to the said Auditor a statement of all the judgments, orders, and steps which have been made or taken in the same during the said term, accompanied by a certificate of the clerk showing the parties to, and amount of each judgment, with such other information as may be required by the said Auditor. The said attorneys shall direct speedy and effectual process of execution upon the said judgments; and it shall be the duty of the marshals of the United States, to whom the same shall be directed, to make to the said Auditor, at such times as he may direct, returns of the proceedings which have taken place upon the said process of execution.—*Sec. 16, Act of July 2, 1836.*

Sec. 191. And be it further enacted, That in all cases where any sum or sums of money have been paid out of the funds of the Post Office Department to any individual or individuals, under pretence that service has been performed therefor, when in fact such service has not been performed, or by way of additional allowance for increased service actually rendered, when the additional allowance exceeds the sum which, by the provisions of law, might rightfully have been allowed therefor, and in all other cases where the moneys of the Department have been paid over to any person in consequence of fraudulent representations, or by the mistake, collusion, or misconduct of any officer or clerk of the Department, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to cause suit to be brought, in the name of the United States of America, to recover back the same, or the excess, as the case may be, with interest thereon.—*Sec. 17, Act of July 2, 1836.*

Sec. 192. And be it further enacted, That the Auditor of the Post Office Department shall adjust and settle all balances due from postmasters on account of transactions prior to the first day of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six. He shall, when necessary, institute suits for the same, and cause them to be effectually prosecuted to judgment and execution; and in cases in which proceedings at law for these or any other balances that are or may become due on account of the Post Office Department have been or shall be fruitless, may direct the institution of suits in chancery, to set aside fraudulent conveyances or trusts, or attach debts due to the defendants, or obtain any other proper exercise of the powers of equity, to have satisfaction of the said judgments; and the courts of the United States, sitting in chancery, shall have jurisdiction to entertain such bills, and make such decrees and orders thereupon as may be consonant to the principles and usages of equity. The said Auditor shall report to the Postmaster General, to be by him submitted to Congress, at its next annual session, a statement of all the balances and debts due to the Post Office Department as aforesaid, by late postmasters, showing, in each case, the name and office of the principal debtor, the names of the sureties, if any, the amount of the debt, the time at which it accrued, the steps taken to collect the same, and whether they have been successful or not. The said statement shall also classify such of the said balances as may then remain due, into such as are considered collectible, and such as are not, with the whole amount of each class.—*Sec. 18, Act of July 2, 1836.*

Sec. 193. And be it further enacted, That the Auditor of the Post Office Department, or any mayor of a city, justice of the peace, or judge of any court of record in the United States, by him especially designated, shall be authorized to administer oaths and affirmations, in relation to the examination and settlement of the accounts committed to his charge; and if any person shall knowingly swear or affirm falsely, touching the expenditures of the Post Office Department, or in relation to any account of, or claim against, or in favor of, the said Department, he or she shall, upon conviction thereof, suffer as for willful and corrupt perjury.—*Sec. 19, Act of July 2, 1836.*

Sec. 194. And be it further enacted, That in all cases of fine, penalty, forfeiture, or disability, or alleged liability for any sum or sums of money, by way of damages or otherwise, under any provision

of law relating to the Post Office Department, or the offices, operations, or business thereof, the Postmaster General shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to prescribe such general rules and mode of proceeding as shall to him appear expedient for the Government of the Auditor of the Post Office Department, in ascertaining the facts in each case in which it shall be certified to him by such Auditor that the interests of the Department probably require the exercise of the power conferred by this Act; and upon the facts being ascertained as aforesaid, the said Auditor shall have power, with the written consent of the Postmaster General, to mitigate or remit such fine, penalty or forfeiture, remove such disability, and to compromise, release, and discharge such claims for such sum or sums of money and damages, on such terms as the said Auditor shall deem just and expedient; and that in all cases where a judgment shall have been obtained for a debt or damages due the Post Office Department, and it shall satisfactorily appear, by the return of execution or otherwise, that such judgment, or so much thereof as remains unpaid, cannot be collected by due process of law, the said Auditor shall be, and he is hereby, authorized, with the written consent of the Postmaster General, to compromise such judgment, and accept, in satisfaction thereof, less than the amount of such judgment: *Provided*, That the power conferred by this section shall not extend to any case of fine, penalty, forfeiture, disability, alleged liability, or claim which shall be incurred, accrue, or arise subsequent to the passage of this Act or to any judgment obtained after the passage thereof.—*Sec. 3, Act of March 3, 1851.*

CHAPTER XVIII.

ACTS BEARING ON THE POST OFFICE IN COMMON WITH THE OTHER EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

SEC. 195. *And be it further enacted*, That, on the said first Monday in December, in the year one thousand eight hundred, the seat of the Government of the United States shall, by virtue of this act, be transferred to the District and place aforesaid, (District of Columbia, Washington city.) And all offices attached to the said seat of Government shall accordingly be removed thereto by their respective holders, and shall, after the said day, cease to be exercised elsewhere; and that the necessary expense of such removal shall be defrayed out of the duties on imports and tonnage—of which a sufficient sum is hereby appropriated.—*Act of July 16, 1790.*

SEC. 196. *And be it further enacted*, That where any revenue officer, or other person, hereafter becoming indebted to the United States, by bond or otherwise, shall become insolvent, or where the estate of any deceased debtor, in the hands of executors or administrators, shall be insufficient to pay all the debts due from the deceased, the debt due to the United States shall be first satisfied; and the priority* hereby established shall be deemed to extend, as well as to cases in which a debtor not having sufficient property to pay all of his debts, shall make a voluntary assignment thereof, or in which the estate and effects of an absconding, concealed, or absent debtor shall be attached by process of law, as to cases in which an act of legal bankruptcy shall be committed.—*Sec. 5, Act of March 3, 1797.*

SEC. 197. *Be it further enacted*, That from and after the passage of this act, no member of Congress shall, directly or indirectly, himself, or by any other person whatsoever in trust for him, or for his use or benefit, or on his account, undertake, execute, hold, or enjoy, in the whole or in part, any contract or agreement, hereafter to be made or entered into with any officer of the United States, in their behalf, or with any person authorized to make contracts on the part of the United States; and if any member of Congress shall, directly or indirectly, himself, or by any other person whatsoever in trust for him, or for his use or benefit, or on his account, enter into, accept of, agree for, undertake, or execute, any such contract or agreement, in the whole or in part, every member so offending shall, for every such offense, upon conviction thereof before any court of the United States, or of the Territories thereof, having cognizance of such offense, be adjudged guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall be fined three thousand dollars; and every such contract or agreement as aforesaid shall, moreover, be absolutely void and of no effect: *Provided, nevertheless*, That in all cases where any sum or sums of money shall have been advanced on the part of the United States, in consideration of any such contract or agreement, the same shall be forthwith repaid; and in case of refusal or delay to repay the same, when demanded by the proper officer of the Department, under whose authority such contract or agreement shall have been made or entered into, every person so refusing or delaying, together with his surety or sureties, shall be forthwith prosecuted at law for the recovery of any such sum or sums of money advanced as aforesaid.—*Sec. 1, Act of April 21, 1808.*

* See No. 188 for subsequent statute on this head.

SEC. 198. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to any contract or agreement, made, or entered into, or accepted by any incorporated company, where such contract or agreement shall be made for the general benefit of such incorporation or company; nor to the purchase or sale of bills of exchange, or other property, by any member of Congress, where the same shall be ready for delivery, and for which payment shall be made at the time of making or entering into the contract or agreement.—*Sec. 2, Act of April 21, 1808.*

SEC. 199. *And be it further enacted*, That in every such contract or agreement to be made, or entered into, or accepted, as aforesaid, there shall be inserted an express condition that no member of Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of such contract or agreement, or to any benefit to arise thereupon.—*Sec. 3, Act of April 21, 1808.*

SEC. 200. *And be it further enacted*, That if any officer of the United States, on behalf of the United States, shall, directly or indirectly, make or enter into any contract, bargain, or agreement, in writing or otherwise, other than such as are herein excepted, with any member of Congress, such officer so offending, on conviction thereof before any court having jurisdiction thereof, shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and be fined in a sum of three thousand dollars.—*Sec. 4, Act of April 21, 1808.*

SEC. 201. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy, and the Postmaster General annually, to lay before Congress a statement of all the contracts which have been made in their respective departments, during the year preceding such report, exhibiting in such statement the name of the contractor, the article or thing contracted for, the place where the article was to be delivered or the thing performed, the sum to be paid for its performance or delivery, the date and duration of the contract.—*Sec. 5, Act of April 21, 1808.*

SEC. 202. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for any person or persons to whom letters testamentary, or of administration, have been or may hereafter be granted by the proper authority in any of the United States or the Territories thereof, to maintain any suit or action, and to prosecute and recover any claim in the District of Columbia, in the same manner, as if the letters testamentary or of administration had been granted to such person or persons by the proper authority in the said District; and the letters testamentary or of administration, or a copy thereof, certified under the seal of the authority granting the same, shall be sufficient evidence to prove the granting thereof, and that the person or persons, as the case may be, hath or have administration.—*Sec. 11, Act of June 24, 1812.*

SEC. 203. *Be it further enacted*, That no money hereafter appropriated shall be paid to any person, for his compensation, who is in arrears to the United States, until such person shall have accounted for, and paid into the Treasury, all sums for which he may be liable: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to balances arising solely from the depreciation of Treasury notes received by such person, to be expended in the public service; but in all cases where the pay or salary of any person is withheld, in pursuance of this Act, it shall be the duty of the accounting officers, if demanded by the party, his agent or attorney, to report forthwith to the agent of the Treasury Department the balance due, and it shall be the duty of the said agent, within sixty days thereafter, to order suit to be commenced against such delinquent and his sureties.—*Sec. 1, Act of January 25, 1828.*

SEC. 204. *And be it further enacted*, That no officer in any branch of the public service, or any other person whose salaries, or whose pay or emoluments is or are fixed by law and regulations, shall receive any extra allowance or compensation, in any form whatever, for the disbursement of public money, or the performance of any other services, unless the said extra allowance or compensation be authorized by law.—*Sec. 3, Act of March 3, 1839.*

SEC. 205. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duties of the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, War, and Navy, of the Commissioners of the Navy, of the Postmaster General, of the Secretary of the Senate, and of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, to report to Congress, at the beginning of each year, the names of the clerks and other persons that have been employed, respectively, during the preceding year, or any part thereof, in their respective departments and offices, together with the time that each clerk or other person was actually employed, and the sums paid to each: and also whether they have been usefully employed; whether the services of any of them can be dispensed with without detriment to the public service; and whether the removal of any individuals, and the appointment of others in their stead, is required for the better dispatch of business; and no greater allowance shall be made to any such clerk, or other person, than is or may be authorized by law, except to watchmen and messengers, for any labor or services required of them beyond the particular duties of their respective stations, rendered at such times as does not interfere with the performance of their regular duties.—*Sec. 11, Act of August 26, 1842.*

SEC. 206. *And be it further enacted*, That no allowance or compensation shall be made to any clerk, or other officer, by reason of the discharge of duties which belong to any other clerk or officer in the same or any other Department; and no allowance or compensation shall be made for any extra

services whatever which any clerk or other officer may be required to perform.—*Sec. 12, Act of August 26, 1842.*

Sec. 207. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of each chief or principal clerk in the respective Departments, bureaus, and other offices, to supervise, under the direction of his immediately superior officer, the duties of the other clerks therein, and to see that their duties are faithfully executed, and that such duties are distributed with equality and uniformity, according to the nature of the case. And such distribution shall be revised from time to time, by the said chief or principal clerk, for the purpose of correcting any tendency to undue accumulation or reduction of duties, whether arising from individual negligence or incapacity, or from increase or diminution of particular kinds of business; and such chief or principal clerk shall report monthly to his superior officer any existing defect that he may be aware of in the arrangement or despatch of business; and such defect shall be amended by new arrangements of duties, dismissal of negligent or incompetent officers, or otherwise.—*Sec. 13, Act of August 26, 1842.*

Sec. 208. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the several heads of Departments, in communicating estimates of expenditures and appropriations to Congress, and to any of the committees thereof, to specify as nearly as may be convenient the sources from which such estimates are derived, and the calculations upon which they are founded; and, in so doing, to discriminate between such estimates as are conjectural in their character, and such as are framed upon actual information and application from disbursing officers; and in communicating the several estimates, reference shall be given to the laws and treaties by which they are authorized, the dates thereof, and the volume, page, and section in which the necessary provisions are contained.—*Sec. 14, Act of August 26, 1842.*

Sec. 209. And be it further enacted, That no extra clerk shall be employed in any Department, bureau, or office, at the seat of Government, except during the session of Congress, or when indispensably necessary to enable such Department, bureau, or office to answer some call made by either House of Congress at one session, to be answered at another, and not then, except by order of the head of the Department in which, or in some bureau or office of which such extra clerk shall be employed; and no such extra clerk, for copying, shall receive more than three dollars per day, or for any other service more than four dollars per day, for the time actually and necessarily employed.—*Sec. 15, Act of August 26, 1842.*

Sec. 210. And be it further enacted, That no messenger, assistant messenger, laborer, or other person, shall be employed in any Department, bureau, or office, at the seat of Government, or paid out of the contingent fund appropriated to such Department, bureau, or office, unless such employment shall be authorized by law, or shall become necessary to carry into effect some object for which appropriations may be specifically made; and not exceeding one hundred dollars per annum shall be applied by each Department (except the Department of State) for the purchase of newspapers for such Department, and all the bureaus and offices connected therewith; and such papers shall be preserved as files for said Department.—*Sec. 16, Act of August 26, 1842.*

Sec. 211. And be it further enacted, That all stationery, of every name and nature, for the use of the two Houses of Congress, and all stationery and job printing, of every name and nature, for the use of the several Departments of the Government, and for the bureaus and offices of those Departments at Washington, including all stationery, blanks, wrapping paper, and twine, and mail bags, furnished the post offices and collectors' offices throughout the United States, shall hereafter be furnished and performed by contract, by the lowest bidder, as follows: the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the head of each Department, and such deputy postmasters in the Post Office establishment, and such collectors in the custom house establishment, as the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Treasury shall respectively designate for that purpose, shall respectively advertise, once a week, for at least four weeks, in one or more of the principal papers published in the places where such articles are to be furnished, or such printing done, for sealed proposals for furnishing such articles, or the whole of any particular class of articles, or for doing such printing, or the whole of any specified job thereof, to be done at such place, specifying in such advertisement the amount, quantity, and description of each kind of articles to be furnished, and, as near as may be, the nature, amount, and kind of printing to be done; and all such proposals shall be kept sealed until the day specified in such advertisement for opening the same, when they shall be opened, by or under the direction of the officer making such advertisement, in the presence of at least two persons; and the person offering to furnish any class of such articles, or to perform any specified portion or job of said work, and giving satisfactory security for the performance thereof, under a forfeiture not exceeding twice the contract price in case of failure, shall receive a contract for doing the same; and in case the lowest bidder shall fail to enter into such contract, and give such security within a reasonable time, to be fixed in such advertisement, then the contract shall be given to the next lowest bidder who shall enter into such contract and give such security. And in case of a failure to supply the articles or to perform the work, by the person entering into such contract, he and his sureties shall be liable for the forfeiture specified in such contract, as liquidated damages, to be sued for in the name of the United States, in any court having jurisdiction thereof.—*Sec. 17, Act of August 26, 1842.*

Sec. 212. *And be it further enacted*, That all such bids or proposals shall be returned by the person authorized, as aforesaid, to receive the same, to the Executive Department from which such authority is derived, and shall be preserved in said Department, subject to such examination as Congress may at any time order and direct.—*Sec. 18, Act of August 26, 1842.*

Sec. 213. *And be it further enacted*, That no part of the contingent fund appropriated to any Department, bureau, or office, shall be applied to the purchase of books, periodicals, pictures, or engravings, or other thing, except such books, periodicals, and maps, or other thing, as the head of such department shall deem necessary and proper to carry on the business of such department, and shall, by written order, direct to be procured for that purpose.—*Sec. 19, Act of August 26, 1842.*

Sec. 214. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Senate, at the commencement of every regular session of Congress, to report to the Senate, and of the Clerk of the House of Representatives to report to the House, and of the head of each Department to report to Congress a detailed statement of the manner in which the contingent fund for each House, and of their respective Departments, and for the bureaus and offices therein, has been expended, giving the names of every person to whom any portion thereof has been paid; and if for anything furnished, the quantity and price; and if for any services rendered, the nature of such service, and the time employed, and the particular occasion or cause, in brief, that rendered such service necessary; and the amount of all former appropriations in such case on hand, either in the Treasury or in the hands of any disbursing officer or agent. And they shall require of the disbursing officers, acting under their direction or authority, the return of precise and analytical statements and receipts for all the moneys which may have been, from time to time, during the next preceding year, expended by them; and the results of such returns, and the sums total shall be communicated annually to Congress, by the said officers, respectively.—*Sec. 20, Act of August 26, 1842.*

Sec. 215. *And be it further enacted*, That in all cases where proposals for any contract or contracts to be made by any of the Executive Departments or bureaus, and in all cases where notices of any description issuing from the same, are now required by law to be advertised, the same shall be advertised by publication, in the two newspapers in the city of Washington having the largest permanent subscription, and at the discretion of the Executive, in any third paper that may be published in said city: *Provided*, That the charges for such publications shall not be higher than such as are paid by individuals for advertising in said papers: *And provided also*, That the same publication shall be made in each of said papers equally as to frequency.—*Sec. 12, Act of March 3, 1845.*

Sec. 216. *And be it further enacted*, That the Treasurer of the United States, the Treasurer of the Mint of the United States, the treasurers, and those acting as such, of the various branch Mints, all collectors of the customs, all surveyors of the customs acting also as collectors, all assistant treasurers, all receivers of public moneys at the several land offices, all postmasters, and all public officers of whatsoever character, be, and they are hereby, required to keep safely, without loaning, using, depositing in banks, or exchanging for other funds than as allowed by this act, all the public money collected by them, or otherwise at any time placed in their possession and custody, till the same is ordered, by the proper Department or officer of the Government, to be transferred or paid out; and when such orders for transfer or payment are received, faithfully and promptly to make the same as directed, and to do and perform all other duties as fiscal agents of the Government which may be imposed by this or any other acts of Congress, or by any regulation of the Treasury Department, made in conformity to law; and also to do and perform all acts and duties required by law or by direction of any of the Executive Departments of the Government, as agents for paying pensions or for making any other disbursements which either of the heads of those Departments may be required by law to make, and which are of a character to be made by the depositaries hereby constituted, consistently with the other official duties imposed upon them.—*Sec. 6, Act of August 6, 1846.*

Sec. 217. *And be it further enacted*, That all collectors and receivers of public money, of every character and description, within the District of Columbia, shall, as frequently as they may be directed by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Postmaster General so to do, pay over to the Treasurer of the United States at the Treasury, all public moneys collected by them or in their hands; and that all such collectors and receivers of public moneys within the cities of Philadelphia and New Orleans shall, upon the same direction, pay over to the Treasurers of the Mints in their respective cities, at the said Mints, all public moneys collected by them or in their hands; and that all such collectors and receivers of public moneys within the cities of New York, Boston, Charleston, and St. Louis, shall, upon the same direction, pay over to the assistant treasurers in their respective cities, at their offices respectively, all the public moneys collected by them or in their hands, to be safely kept by the said respective depositaries until otherwise disposed of according to law; and it shall be the duty of the said Secretary and Postmaster General respectively to direct such payments by the said collectors and receivers at all the said places, at least as often as once in each week, and as much more frequently, in all cases, as they in their discretion may think proper.—*Sec. 9, Act of August 6, 1846.*

Sec. 218. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer the moneys in the hands of any depositary hereby constituted to the Treasury of the United States,

to be there safely kept to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, according to the provisions of this Act; and also to transfer moneys in the hands of any one depository constituted by this Act to any other depository constituted by the same, at his discretion, and as the safety of the public moneys and the convenience of the public service shall seem to him to require; which authority to transfer the moneys belonging to the Post Office Department is also hereby conferred upon the Postmaster General, so far as its exercise by him may be consistent with the provisions of existing laws; and every depository constituted by this act shall keep his account of the money paid to or deposited with him belonging to the Post Office Department, separate and distinct from the account kept by him of other public moneys so paid or deposited. And for the purpose of payments on the public account, it shall be lawful for the Treasurer of the United States to draw upon any of the said depositories, as he may think most conducive to the public interest or to the convenience of the public creditors, or both. And each depository so drawn upon shall make returns to the Treasury and Post Office Departments of all moneys received and paid by him, at such times and in such form as shall be directed by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Postmaster General.—Sec. 10, *Act of August 6, 1846.*

SEC. 219. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Treasury may, at his discretion, transfer the balances remaining with any of the present depositories to any other of the present depositories, as he may deem the safety of the public money or the public convenience may require: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall be so construed as to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer the balances remaining with any of the present depositories to the depositories constituted by this Act before the first day of January next: *And provided*, That for the purpose of payments on public account, out of balances remaining with the present depositories, it shall be lawful for the Treasurer of the United States to draw upon any of the said depositories as he may think most conducive to the public interests, or to the convenience of the public creditors, or both.—Sec. 14, *Act of August 6, 1846.*

SEC. 220. *And be it further enacted*, That all marshals, district attorneys, and others having public money to pay to the United States, and all patentees wishing to make payment for patents to be issued, may pay all such moneys to the Treasurer of the United States, to the treasurer of either of the Mints in Philadelphia or New Orleans, or to either of the other assistant treasurers, or to such other depository constituted by this act as shall be designated by the Secretary of the Treasury in other parts of the United States to receive such payments, and give receipts or certificates of deposit therefor.—Sec. 15, *Act of August, 1846.*

SEC. 221. *And be it further enacted*, That all officers and other persons charged by this act, or any other act, with the safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public moneys, other than those connected with the Post Office Department, are hereby required to keep an accurate entry of each sum received, and of each payment or transfer; and that if any one of the said officers, or of those connected with the Post Office Department, shall convert to his own use, in any way whatever, or shall use by way of investment in any kind of property or merchandise, or shall loan, with or without interest, or shall deposit in any bank, or shall exchange for other funds, except as allowed by this act, any portion of the public moneys intrusted to him for safe-keeping, disbursement, transfer, or for any other purpose, every such act shall be deemed and adjudged to be an embezzlement of so much of the said moneys as shall be thus taken, converted, invested, used, loaned, deposited, or exchanged, which is hereby declared to be a felony; and any failure to pay over or to produce the public moneys intrusted to such person shall be held and taken to be *prima facie* evidence of such embezzlement; and if any officer charged with the disbursements of public moneys shall accept or receive, or transmit to the Treasury Department to be allowed in his favor, any receipt or voucher from a creditor of the United States, without having paid to such creditor, in such funds as the said officer may have received for disbursement, or such other funds as he may be authorized by this act to take in exchange, the full amount specified in such receipt or voucher, every such act shall be deemed to be a conversion by such officer to his own use of the amount specified in such receipt or voucher; and any officer or agent of the United States, and all persons advising or participating in such act, being convicted thereof before any court of the United States of competent jurisdiction, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than six months nor more than ten years, and to a fine equal to the amount of the money embezzled. And upon the trial of any indictment against any person for embezzling public money under the provisions of this act, it shall be sufficient evidence, for the purpose of showing a balance against such person, to produce a transcript from the books and proceedings of the Treasury, as required in civil cases, under the provisions of the act entitled "An act to provide more effectually for the settlement of accounts between the United States and receivers of public money," approved March third, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven; and the provisions of this act shall be so construed as to apply to all persons charged with the safe-keeping, transfer, or disbursement of the public money, whether such persons be indicted as receivers or depositaries of the same; and the refusal of such person, whether in or out of office, to pay any draft, order, or warrant which may be drawn upon him by the proper officer of the Treasury Department for any public money in his hands belonging to the United States, no matter in what capacity the same may have been received or may be held, or

to transfer or disburse any such money ~~prima facie~~ ~~upon~~ ~~the~~ ~~ground~~ ~~of~~ ~~any~~ ~~authorized~~ ~~officer~~ of the United States, shall be deemed and taken, upon the trial of any indictment against such person for embezzlement as *prima facie* evidence of such embezzlement.—*Sec. 16, Act of August 6, 1846.*

SEC. 222. And be it further enacted, That on the first day of ~~January~~, in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, and thereafter, all duties, taxes, sales of ~~public~~ ~~lands~~, debts, and sums of money accruing or becoming due to the United States, and also all sums due for postages or otherwise, to the General Post Office Department, shall be paid in gold and silver coin only, or in Treasury notes issued under the authority of the United States: *Provided,* That the Secretary of the Treasury shall publish, monthly, in two newspapers at the city of Washington, the amount of specie at the several places of deposit, the amount of Treasury notes or drafts issued, and the amount outstanding on the last day of each month.—*Sec. 18, Act of August 6, 1846.*

SEC. 223. And be it further enacted, That on the first-day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, and thereafter, every officer or agent engaged in making disbursements on account of the United States, or of the General Post Office, shall make all payments in gold and silver coin, or in Treasury notes, if the creditor agree to receive said notes in payment; and any receiving or disbursing officer or agent who shall neglect, evade, or violate the provisions of this and the last preceding section of this act, shall, by the Secretary of the Treasury, be immediately reported to the President of the United States, with the facts of such neglect, evasion, or violation; and also to Congress, if in session, and if not in session, at the commencement of its session next after the violation takes place.—*Sec. 19, Act of August 6, 1846.*

SEC. 224. And be it further enacted, That no exchange of funds shall be made by any disbursing officers or agents of the Government, of any grade or denomination whatsoever, or connected with any branch of the public service, other than an exchange for gold and silver; and every such disbursing officer, when the means for his disbursements are furnished to him in gold and silver, shall make his payments in the money so furnished; or when those means are furnished to him in drafts, shall cause those drafts to be presented at their place of payment, and properly paid according to the law, and shall make his payments in the money so received for the drafts furnished, unless, in either case, he can exchange the means in his hands for gold and silver at par. And it shall be and is hereby made the duty of the head of the proper Department immediately to suspend from duty any disbursing officer who shall violate the provisions of this section, and forthwith to report the name of the officer or agent to the President with the fact of the violation, and all the circumstances accompanying the same, and within the knowledge of the said Secretary, to the end that such officer or agent may be promptly removed from office, or restored to his trust and the performance of his duties, as to the President may seem just and proper: *Provided, however,* That those disbursing officers having at present credits in the banks shall, until the first day of January next, be allowed to check on the same, allowing the public creditors to receive their pay from the banks either in specie or bank notes.—*Sec. 20, Act of August 6, 1846.*

SEC. 225. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to issue and publish regulations to enforce the speedy presentation of all Government drafts for payment at the place where payable, and to prescribe the time, according to the different distances of the depositaries from the seat of Government, within which all drafts upon them, respectively, shall be presented for payment: and, in default of such presentation, to direct any other mode and place of payment which he may deem proper; but in all these regulations and directions, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to guard, as far as may be, against those drafts being used or thrown into circulation as a paper currency or medium of exchange. And no officer of the United States shall, either directly or indirectly, sell or dispose to any person or persons or corporations, whatsoever, for a premium, any treasury note, draft, warrant, or other public security, not his private property, or sell or dispose of the avails or proceeds of such note, draft, warrant, or security in his hands for disbursement, without making return of such premium, and accounting therefor by charging the same in his accounts to the credit of the United States; and any officer violating this section shall be forthwith dismissed from office.—*Sec. 21, Act of August 6, 1846.*

SEC. 226. And be it further enacted, That all acts or parts of acts which come in conflict with the provisions of this Act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.—*Sec. 24, Act of August 6, 1846.*

SEC. 227. And be it further enacted, That all books, papers, documents, and records in the War, Navy, Treasury, and Post Office Departments, and the Attorney General's office, may be copied and certified under seal in the same manner as those in the State Department may now by law be, and with the same force and effect, and the said Attorney General shall cause a seal to be made and provided for his office, with such device as the President of the United States shall approve.—*Sec. 3, Act of February 22, 1849.*

REGULATIONS.

CHAPTER I.

APPOINTMENT OF POSTMASTERS.

SECTION 1. At all post offices where the compensation of the postmaster exceeded one thousand dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1835, or for any subsequent fiscal year, a deputy postmaster is to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and can be removed by the President only. At all other offices the Postmaster General has the sole power of appointment and removal.

SEC. 2. Upon the appointment of a postmaster, he is furnished with a letter of appointment and a blank bond. Upon executing the bond, as required, taking the oath of office, inclosing them in a letter directed to the Appointment Office, depositing such letter in the post office, and receiving his commission from the Department, and not before, he is authorized to take charge of the office.

SEC. 3. No person can be appointed postmaster who cannot legally execute an official bond.

SEC. 4. No person can hold the office of postmaster who is not an actual resident of the city or town wherein the post office is situated or within the delivery of the office.

SEC. 5. The duties of his office must be performed only by himself, personally, or by a sworn assistant or assistants, whom he may employ to aid him, when necessary; for the care and attention of every one of whom he will be responsible to the Department.

SEC. 6. Every postmaster, assistant postmaster, or clerk in a post office, also every letter carrier, before he is permitted to have any agency in the business of the office, must take and subscribe the following oaths, which must be certified by a magistrate, and forwarded to the Appointment Office:

"I, _____, do swear [or affirm, as the case may be] that I will faithfully perform all the duties required of me, and abstain from everything forbidden by the laws in relation to the establishment of the post office and post roads within the United States."

"I do solemnly swear [or affirm, as the case may be] that I will support the Constitution of the United States."

SEC. 7. These oaths should be certified by the magistrate who administers them.

SEC. 8. The person appointed postmaster will then execute the bond forwarded to him by the Department. It must be signed in the presence of suitable witnesses, by himself and at least two sureties, the sufficiency of each of whom, for the payment of the sum inserted in the bond, must be shown by the certificate of the magistrate who administers the oath.

SEC. 9. The oath and bond are then to be placed in the mail, and transmitted to the Appointment Office, and when received a commission will be issued.

SEC. 10. In case of the death, removal from the State, insolvency, or any other disability of one or both of the sureties, the postmaster will report the fact to the Department, in order that a new bond may be executed.

SEC. 11. It is forbidden that any person be employed as assistant or clerk in any post office, or as mail carrier, who shall be at the time when he subscribes the required oath of office, less than sixteen years old.

SEC. 12. On taking charge of a post office, the postmaster will make in duplicate four several inventories of the public property belonging to it as follows:

1. Of all laws, regulations, lists of post offices, circulars, orders, &c.;
2. Of all locks, keys, and mail bags;
3. Of all letters, packets, newspapers, pamphlets, and other mail matter, stating the amount of unpaid postages thereon; and
4. Of all desks, cases, and other furniture, or fixtures, books, maps, blanks, and stationery allowed or furnished by the Department.

SEC. 13. He will deliver one of each of these duplicates, with his receipt thereon, to his predecessor. The other he will transmit—No. 1 to the Appointment Office, No. 2 to the Inspection Office, and Nos. 3 and 4 to the Auditor's Office.

SEC. 14. Precaution should be taken by the postmaster in all cases to appoint an assistant, to prevent the office from being left without a duly qualified person to perform its duties, in case of the necessary absence, the sickness, resignation, or death of the postmaster.

SEC. 15. The postmaster will see that the oaths of the clerks and letter carriers attached to his office be forwarded for file to the Appointment Office, before they enter upon their duties. The agents of the Department will promptly report all instances of non-compliance with this regulation to the Appointment or Inspection Office, as the case may be.

SEC. 16. A postmaster will suffer no person whatever, except his duly sworn assistants, or clerks and letter carriers, who may also have been sworn, to have access to the letters, newspapers, and packets in his office, or whatever constitutes a part of the mail, or to the mail locks or keys.

SEC. 17. Mails should not be opened or made up by the postmaster or his assistant within the reach of persons not authorized to handle them; the postmaster will therefore while discharging these duties, if a room be appropriated to the use of his office, exclude from it all persons except his assistants regularly employed and sworn.

SEC. 18. For the safe-keeping of letters and packets at post offices, where the business is not so extensive as to require the appropriation of a room to that use, a cheap, plain desk, or case, is to be provided at the expense of the Department, with a good lock and key. But neither this nor any other contingent expense will be allowed, unless the net proceeds of the office amount to at least five dollars per quarter.

SEC. 19. No postmaster, assistant postmaster, or clerk employed in a post office, can hold a mail contract or be concerned in carrying the mail.

SEC. 20. The postmaster will keep his office open for the dispatch of business every day, except Sunday, during the usual hours of business in the place; and attend at such other hours as may be necessary to receive and dispatch mails. When the mail arrives on Sunday, he will keep his office open for one hour or more, if the public convenience require it, after the arrival and assortment thereof, unless it be during the time of public worship; in which case he will keep the office open for one hour or more, if necessary, after the religious services have ceased.

SEC. 21. Postmasters, assistants, and clerks, regularly employed in post offices, are exempt from militia duty, and from serving on juries, but not from working on roads, nor from obeying a summons to appear in court as witnesses, or to testify before a grand jury.

SEC. 22. A postmaster is responsible for the discharge, by himself, or his sworn assistant, of all the duties of the office, until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified—even although the term for which he may have been appointed has expired.

SEC. 23. Whether the appointment be from the President or the Postmaster General, in the event of death, the responsibility of the sureties will continue, for the fidelity of the person left in charge of the office, until a successor is appointed and qualified.

SEC. 24. And it may be lawful for the sureties, or any one of them, to perform the duties of postmaster, by themselves or agent, until their successor be appointed. The person performing such duties should, before entering on the discharge of them, take the usual oath. Justices of the peace, unless excluded by their own State laws, may serve also as postmasters.

SEC. 25. All instructions, circulars, and orders received by a postmaster, from any branch or officer of the Department, are to be filed in the office, and turned over to his successor. In like manner he will turn over to his successor, or, in the event of the discontinuance of the office, deliver to the nearest postmaster, as *public property*, all desks, cases, and other furniture and fixtures, and all books, maps, blanks, stationery, and other articles, which have either been furnished to him as postmaster, or have been charged and allowed at any time, whether as contingent expenses in the quarterly account, or as items in the commission, emolument, or other account, and which may remain on hand when the vacancy or discontinuance occurs.

SEC. 26. If, from any cause, a post office ceases to receive and deliver mails, the nearest postmaster on the same route will report the fact to the Department, and open the mails addressed to such office, deliver the letters and papers to the persons entitled to them, and account for the postage in the returns of his own office.

SEC. 27. When the Postmaster General shall change the name of an existing post office, the order will not take effect until the postmaster shall have executed new bonds and returned them to the Appointment Office. When the bond shall have been thus executed and returned, the name designated by the Postmaster General will be used from and after the first day of the next succeeding quarter. But no postmaster can change the name of his office without the order of the Department, and he is expected to be particular in seeing none other substituted. He must not remove the site of the office from the usual post road, or make any material change in such site without the consent of the Department.

SEC. 28. Every postmaster, in addressing the Department, should be careful to write the name of his office, county, and State, at the head of his letter, and to avoid writing upon more than one subject in the same letter. He should then post-mark the letter with the name of his office and State, as well as date of mailing, and address it to the proper bureau.

CHAPTER II.

MAKING UP THE MAILS.

SEC. 29. The mails were established for the transmission of intelligence; the articles, therefore, proper to be sent in them are letters, newspapers, pamphlets, and other printed matter, including parcels and bound books not weighing over four pounds.

SEC. 30. Packets of every description, weighing more than four pounds are to be excluded, except public documents, printed by order of either House of Congress, or such publications or books as have been or may be published, procured, or purchased, by order of either House of Congress, or joint resolution of the two Houses, and legally franked.

SEC. 31. Letters received to be sent by mail, should be carefully marked with the name of the post office at which they are received, and the abbreviated name of the State or Territory, the day of the month on which they are forwarded in the mail, and the rate of postage chargeable on them; or if they be free, with the word *Free*. The name, date, and *Free*, may be either written or stamped.

SEC. 32. At offices where there is much business, the work of rating and marking should be performed as fast as the letters are received, and not left until the time of closing the mail, when in the hurry of business many errors might be committed.

SEC. 33. Letters must bear post-mark, and post bills must bear the date on which the mail containing them is actually sent off, although they may have been made up on a previous day. The post bills, as to year, month, and day of the month, should be fully and plainly written.

SEC. 34. Postmasters will carefully assort the letters deposited in their offices for mailing, and will mail them as follows, to wit:

Every postmaster will mail and postbill *direct* to the place addressed, 1st, all letters for his own State or Territory; 2d, all letters, for post offices in other States and Territories, which should not pass through a distributing office on their proper route to the office of delivery; and 3d, all letters on which the instruction "*mail direct*" shall be written.

Letters not required by the foregoing provisions to be mailed direct shall be postbilled and mailed to the distributing office through which they should first pass on the proper route to the place of their destination—*unless the mailing office be a distributing office*.

All letters received at a distributing office for distribution, or deposited therein for mailing, and which are addressed to any other distributing office, or to places within the State or Territory where such distributing office is situated, or to places not more than one hundred miles distant from such distributing office, or which would not pass through a distributing office on the proper route to the office of delivery, shall be mailed *direct*; but if the office of delivery is more than one hundred miles from such distributing office, and the letters should properly pass through one or more distributing offices, they shall be mailed and postbilled to the *last* distributing office through which they are to pass on their route to the office of delivery. (Instructions as to the mailing of letters of which special accounts are required will be addressed to, and affect only, the distributing offices.)

SEC. 35. Each package containing letters mailed and postbilled *direct* should be plainly directed on the outside with the name of the office to which it is to be sent, and of the county and State in which such office is situated.

SEC. 36. Packages containing letters for distribution should be plainly directed in the same manner, with the addition of the letters "D. P. O." (for distributing post office) after the name of the office.

SEC. 37. The number of letters and amount of postage are to be entered under the proper heads in the post bill, to be sent with them. The names of the offices from and to which they are sent should appear in their proper places at the top of the bill, which must be plainly dated and signed by the postmaster.

SEC. 38. Every postmaster, special agent, or other officer of the Department, will report to the Postmaster General each case which may come to his knowledge in which any postmaster shall have so mailed letters as to subject them to more distributions than are authorized by the foregoing instructions.

SEC. 39. The post bill being completed, its contents are to be entered in the *Account of mails sent*, stating the name of the office and State to which the mail is sent, (and if sent to a distributing office for distribution, the letters D. P. O. must be added after the name of the office.) Letters for distribution, and letters for delivery, should be made up in separate packets, and each be accompanied by a post bill.

SEC. 40. The letters are to be made up into bundles, and the post bill with them, wrapped in paper of proper strength, and tied with twine. If there are more letters for one office than can be conveniently put into one bundle, they should be made up into two or more bundles, and numbered; the post bill being put into the package having the highest number, and the letters P. B. should be added to the number of the package containing the post bill. When there are more than one package included in the same post bill, the postmaster, in entering the same in his account of mails sent, will put at the end of the name of the office to which the packages are sent the number of packages included in the entry.

SEC. 41. The mails for all the offices to which there are any letters addressed, being in this manner complete, they are to be put into the bag or bags destined to receive them, which must be locked and delivered to the carrier.

CHAPTER III.

RECEIVING AND DISPATCHING MAILS.

SEC. 42. A postmaster will always be in readiness, in person, or by his assistants, to receive the mail when it arrives, and dispatch it with all possible expedition.

SEC. 43. If no special order upon the subject has been made in regard to his office, he is allowed seven minutes only to change the mail.

SEC. 44. Way offices on railroads will be supplied by the exchanging of pouches as the cars pass, without waiting for time to change the mail, and postmasters at such offices should have the mails ready when the cars arrive.

SEC. 45. If the mail be carried in a stage, coach, or sulky, it will be the duty of the driver to deliver it as near the door of the post office as he can come with his vehicle, but not to leave his horses; and he should not be permitted to throw the mail on the ground.

SEC. 46. The postmaster will never detain a mail beyond the time fixed for its departure, except in pursuance of special instructions received from the Department.

SEC. 47. When the mail is to remain but a few minutes at his office, his mail should be made up and ready to be put into the mail bag before the time when it usually arrives.

SEC. 48. He will stop all packets which he finds going in the wrong, and put them in the right direction.

SEC. 49. In case of a failure of the mail, he will forward all the packets by the next trip.

SEC. 50. It is inadmissible to send letters in a canvass bag without a lock, unless they are inclosed in a locked bag.

SEC. 51. Never deliver the mail bag to the carrier without being certain that it is locked.

CHAPTER IV.

OPENING AND CLOSING OF THE MAIL.

SEC. 52. Upon the arrival of the mail at any post office, the packets addressed to that office, and none other, should be opened, and the postmaster will find with each one a bill of the contents, called a *post bill*. Compare this bill with the contents, and if they do not agree, note upon the bill the amount of the difference, and whether *undercharged* or *overcharged*.

SEC. 53. Every postmaster will then look over the letters thus received, to see if the postages be properly paid on them, and correct the rates on the letters, where he finds mistakes, noting the amount corrected on the bill, as *under* or *overcharged*.

SEC. 54. If a postmaster finds any letters that are not for his delivery, and are mis-sent to his office, he will put them in the proper place to be forwarded, noting on the bill the amount forwarded, and writing on the letters the words "*mis-sent and forwarded,*" with the date. They should be forwarded by the first mail.

SEC. 55. It is proper to forward a letter when duly requested. When forwarded, no additional postage should be charged, if the letter, contrary to its address, has been mis-sent. If it has been sent according to its address, and then forwarded, it must be charged with additional postage, according to distance, established by the act of March 3, 1855, which additional postage may be paid either at the forwarding office or at the office of delivery.

SEC. 56. A postmaster will not suffer any package to be opened which is not addressed to his office, nor any addressed to his office to be opened by persons not duly authorized; and in no case may a postmaster open a letter arriving at his office not addressed to himself.

SEC. 57. Postmasters cannot deliver letters from their respective offices which may be addressed to and deliverable from other offices.

SEC. 58. Upon making up the mail, it is the duty of every postmaster, when he knows that any letter has been illegally franked, or that the frank of any letter is forged, to treat the same as unpaid; and the postmaster at the office of delivery of any letter which he knows has been illegally franked, or on which the frank has been forged, is directed to charge such letter with the legal postage.

SEC. 59. Having carefully examined the post bills, and found them right, or discovered and corrected their errors, as well in casting up as in the particulars above mentioned, every postmaster will enter their contents in the *Account of mails received*, stating the name of the office (and State, if it is out of his own) from which each bill came.

SEC. 60. Every postmaster will enter the amount of unpaid letters, as it is charged in the bill, whether the charge be correct or erroneous. If erroneous, it falls either under the denomination of *undercharged* or *overcharged*, and by an entry of the sum, *under* or *overcharged*, in the proper column, that error is balanced.

SEC. 61. When a postmaster opens the mail bag, he should be careful to leave no packets of letters or newspapers addressed to his office in it; and, if his office be at a connecting point of the mails, from which other mails branch, he will carefully examine the packets in the bag, take out all such as are addressed to offices supplied by the branching mails, and give them their proper direction by the earliest conveyance. When this is neglected, it is expected that the first postmaster who discovers the neglect will return the mis-sent packets, and promptly report the fact to the Department.

SEC. 62. The great mails are to be closed at all distributing offices not more than one hour before the time fixed for their departure; and all other mails at those offices, and all mails at all other offices, not more than half an hour before that time, unless the departure is between 9 o'clock, p. m., and 5, a. m., in which case the mail is to be closed at 9, p. m.

CHAPTER V.

MAILS FOR DISTRIBUTION, IN WHAT MANNER TO BE MADE UP.

SEC. 63. Distributing offices are established to insure certainty and regularity in the transmission of letters and packets between remote points; and to this end, besides the usual business of a post office, certain peculiar duties are performed therein.

SEC. 64. All letters and packets received for distribution, are to be distributed and remailed before the departure of the next mail, if practicable.

SEC. 65. All post bills sent from distributing offices are to be filled according to the directions in Chapter II., with the contents of each parcel, and addressed either to the particular office to which the letters are destined, or to the proper distributing office as such. These post bills are then to be dated, and entered in the *Account of mails sent from the distributing office.*

SEC. 66. A postmaster at a distributing office will not open and distribute a mail which is addressed to another office.

SEC. 67. If letters be sent by any postmaster to a distributing office, when they should have been mailed direct to the offices to which they are addressed, the postmaster at such distributing office will request the postmaster so sending to correct his practice; and if continued, report him, for such violation of instructions, to the Appointment Office.

CHAPTER VI.

DELIVERY AND RETURN OF LETTERS.

SEC. 68. The persons entitled to letters received by mail are those whose names are in the address, or to whose care they may be directed.

SEC. 69. The delivery should be either to the person addressed, or according to his order. The order is in some cases implied, as where a person is in the habit of receiving his letters through his son, clerk, or servant, and of recognizing the delivery to him. Letters addressed to a firm may be delivered to any member of the firm; and if addressed to several persons, they may be handed to any one of them.

SEC. 70. Letters and packages addressed to fictitious persons or firms, or to no particular person or firm, not being deliverable according to the Regulations, are to be returned at the end of each month to the Dead Letter Office; but such as are addressed to a box of a given number, may be delivered to the proprietor for the time being of the box thus indicated.

SEC. 71. If a letter appear to be of value, it will be safest to require a written order for its delivery to the person calling, if he be not the person addressed.

SEC. 72. If there be two or more persons of the same name, and a letter intended for one is delivered to another, the postmaster will reseal the letter in the presence of the person who opened it, and request him to write upon it the words, "*Opened by me through mistake,*" and sign his name; he will then replace the letter in the office.

SEC. 73. To prevent fraud, the postmaster will be careful not to return any letter put into his office for transmission by mail, unless to the writer thereof, or some one presenting his written order.

SEC. 74. And to enable him to know that the person applying for the return of a letter is the writer, he may require him, or his messenger, to exhibit to him the same superscription and seal that are upon the letter. And if the postmaster is satisfied that the handwriting and seal are the same, he will return the letter, taking a receipt, and preserving it with the paper containing the superscription, and the order, if one were sent.

SEC. 75. A letter bearing the frank of an individual may be returned to him or his order.

CHAPTER VII.

LETTER POSTAGES.

SEC. 76. The law requires postage on all letters, except those to foreign countries and to officers of the Government having the franking privilege, and on official business, to be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, prepayment in money being prohibited.

SEC. 77. Prepayment on drop letters is optional.

SEC. 78. Rates of Letter Postages between Offices in the United States, and to and from Canada and the other British North American Provinces.

DIRECTIONS.	WHEN PREPAID.					WHEN UNPAID.				
	Weighting $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce or under, being the single rate.	Over $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, and not over 1 ounce.	Over 1 ounce, and not over $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.	Over $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, and not over 2 ounces.	Over 2 ounces, and not over $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces.	Weighting $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, or under, being the single rate.	Over $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, and not over 1 ounce.	Over 1 ounce, and not over $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.	Over $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, and not over 2 ounces.	Over 2 ounces, and not over $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces.
	Rate.	Rate.	Rate.	Rate.	Rate.	Rate.	Rate.	Rate.	Rate.	Rate.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
For every single letter in manuscript, or paper of any kind upon which information shall be asked or communicated in writing, or by marks or signs sent by mail, the rates mentioned in this table shall be charged; and for every additional half ounce or fraction of an ounce above the weight named in this table, an additional single rate is to be charged.										
For any distance not over 3,000 miles.....	3	6	9	12	15	-	-	-	-	-
For any distance over 3,000 miles. To and from British N. A. Provinces, for any distance not over 3,000 miles.....	10	20	30	40	50	-	-	-	-	-
For any distance over 3,000 miles..	10	20	30	40	50	10	20	30	40	50
	15	30	45	60	75	15	30	45	60	75

SEC. 79. The mode of computing the rates upon inland letters—i. e., letters from one office within the United States or Territories to another, and also upon letters between the United States and the British North American provinces—is to be as follows, to wit: Single rate, if not exceeding half an ounce; double rate, if exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding an ounce; treble rate, if exceeding an ounce, but not exceeding an ounce and a half; and so on, charging an additional rate for every additional half ounce or fraction of half an ounce.

SEC. 80. All drop-letters or letters placed in any post office, not for transmission, but for delivery only, shall be charged with postage at the rate of one cent each.

SEC. 81. The 10 or 15 cents (according to the distance) pays for the single letter from any post office in the United States, to any post office in either of the British North American provinces, and vice versa; prepayment is optional in either country, but a prepayment of anything less than the full rate is not to be regarded.

The six pence (6d.) and shilling marks of prepayment in the British North American provinces will be recognized.

SEC. 82. The distance according to which postage is chargeable is that on the post road from one office to another upon which the mail is conveyed.

SEC. 83. Letters should, in all cases, be sent by the most expeditious routes, unless otherwise ordered by the person sending the same.

SEC. 84. It is a penal offense to deposit in any post office, to be conveyed in the mail, within the United States, any envelope or packet containing letters addressed to different persons.

SEC. 85. Letters and packets that are carried on any of the waters of the United States, in vessels, under an arrangement with the Department, are subject to the same postage as if carried in the mail overland.

SEC. 86. Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other printed matter which shall contain any manuscript writing whatever.

SEC. 87. Postmasters will charge letter postage on all packets that are closely enveloped and sealed, so that their contents cannot be known.

SEC. 88. Duguerreotypes when sent in the mail should be rated and charged with letter postage by weight.

SEC. 89. The act of March 3, 1855, making no provision for unpaid letters to places within the United States—on the same or day following any such unpaid letter or letters being put into a post office, the postmaster thereof will give notice, upon blanks furnished by the Post Office Department, to all persons within the United States for whom such letters shall have been deposited in their offices; and if not attended to in one month, they will return such letters to the Dead Letter Office.

SEC. 90. Any unpaid letters dropped into the mail cars to be forwarded must be deposited by the route agents in the post office at or nearest the point where they are received, and the postmaster will treat them as other unpaid letters deposited in his office. If not attended to, all such letters must be returned monthly to the Dead Letter Office.

SEC. 91. Letters mailed in the cars can be prepaid only by using postage stamps or stamped envelopes, and when not thus prepaid, it is the duty of postmasters to treat all such letters as unpaid, although marked "paid"—no route agent being permitted to receive prepayment in money.

SEC. 92. Letters *part paid* should be dispatched, charged with the additional postage due at the prepaid rate, according to distance, established by said act, except where the omission to pay the correct amount is known to have been intentional, when they should be treated the same as letters wholly unpaid.

SEC. 93. Bills of lading and unsealed letters relating exclusively to the whole or any part of the cargo of a vessel or steamboat, may be sent on such vessel or steamboat outside of the mail, unless they are placed in an envelope with other matter. In the latter case, the whole packet is subject to letter postage.

SEC. 94. The postmaster will pay the mail carrier one cent, if demanded, for each way letter he delivers to him, and add that cent to the ordinary postage on the letter.

SEC. 95. Ship letters, as they cannot be prepaid, and are not supposed to be embraced in the new act, will continue to be dispatched agreeably to the provisions of the fifteenth section of the act of March 3, 1825. Abstract logs, addressed to the Superintendent of the National Observatory, are to be treated as ship letters.

SEC. 96. Copyright books, charts, &c., required to be delivered to the library of Congress or Smithsonian Institution, and which are entitled to pass free in the mail, should be superscribed "Copyright for Congress Library," or "Smithsonian Institution," as the case may be.

SEC. 98. Each newspaper or periodical not exceeding one ounce and a half in weight, when circulated in the State where published, is subject to a postage of one half cent only.

SEC. 99. Small newspapers, &c., when sent in packets of less than eight ounces, or to more than one address, must be rated singly.

SEC. 100. The weight of newspapers, periodicals, and other printed matter, must be taken or determined when they are in a dry state; and when the weight of any book or other publication exceeds one pound, the same progressive rates, above laid down, must be charged for the excess.

SEC. 101. Newspapers, periodicals, magazines, books, or any other printed paper or matter, must be sent without any covers or wrappers, or in covers or wrappers open at the ends or sides, so that the character of the matter contained therein may be determined without removing such wrappers.

SEC. 102. It will be observed that except in respect to books, the postage on all printed matter to California, Oregon, and Washington Territory, is the same as to any other part of the United States.

SEC. 103. *Quarterly Rates of Postage, when paid quarterly or yearly in advance, on Newspapers and Periodicals, to actual subscribers.*

	Daily.	Six times a week.	Tri-weekly.	Semi-weekly.	Weekly.	Semi monthly.	Monthly.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
Weekly newspapers (one copy only) sent by the publishers to actual subscribers within the county where printed and published.....	-	-	-	-	Free.	-	-
Newspapers and periodicals not exceeding 1½ ounce in weight, when circulated in the State where published.....	22½	19½	9½	6½	3½	1½	½
Newspapers and periodicals of the weight of 3 ounces and under, sent to any part of the United States.....	45½	39	19½	13	6½	3	1½
Over 3 and not over 4 ounces.....	91	78	39	26	13	6	3
Over 4 and not over 5 ounces.....	136½	117	58½	39	19½	9	4½
Over 5 and not over 6 ounces.....	182	156	78	52	26	12	6
Over 6 and not over 7 ounces.....	227½	195	97½	65	32½	15	7½
Over 7 and not over 8 ounces.....	273	234	117	78	39	18	9

SEC. 104. By a joint resolution of Congress, the Congressional Globe and Appendix may also be sent free through the mails so long as the same may be published by order of Congress.

SEC. 105. Papers and documents relating to the census, marked "Official Business, Census," have a like privilege when sent by the Census Marshals or their Assistants.

SEC. 106. If the publisher of any newspaper or 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 will 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 will give such notice to the publisher; and if he fail to pay the postage thereon within a reasonable time, will sell the same and credit the proceeds of such sale in his quarterly accounts in the usual manner. A similar course is to be pursued in reference to pamphlets and magazines published periodically.

SEC. 107. Quarterly payments in advance may be made either at the mailing office or the office of delivery. When made at such mailing office, at the commencement of a year or of a quarter, (as he may elect,) the publisher must prepare and hand to the postmaster, ready for signature, a receipt for each post office to which the papers are to be sent for delivery—stating the number of papers to be sent to such post office, and the amount of postage to be paid thereon; also, giving the names of each of the subscribers. Upon the payment of the postage the receipts must be signed by the postmaster at the mailing office. The publisher will then direct such receipts to the postmasters at the offices of delivery, and they will be received there as evidence that the postage has been duly paid. To entitle them to pass free through the mails, such receipts must be left unsealed, indorsed "Post Office Business," and directed to the postmaster at the office of delivery. The postmasters to whom such

receipts have been sent will be thereby authorized to deliver the papers mentioned in such receipts to the subscribers therein named without further charge for postage.

SEC. 108. Newspapers and periodicals regularly mailed to *bona fide* subscribers are not "transient printed matter," and may, therefore, be mailed by agents, as well as publishers, in the same manner, and with the same privileges, as if they were mailed to such subscribers directly from the office of publication: *Provided*, The agent makes and files in the mailing office a statement signed by him, showing the names of the papers or periodicals which he thus mails, the offices, respectively, to which they are directed, and the number of such subscribers to each, with the dates to which their respective subscriptions extend, at each office to which said papers or periodicals are directed.

SEC. 109. When periodicals are printed not oftener than once a quarter, and are sent from the office of publication to actual subscribers, the amount of postage being marked thereon as prepaid, at the mailing office, and the name of that office with the date of mailing being written or stamped thereon, will be sufficient evidence to warrant their delivery without further charge.—*Such* periodicals may be prepaid by stamps.

SEC. 110. Publishers of newspapers may, without subjecting them to extra postage, fold within their regular issues a supplement, provided the weight of the whole does not exceed one and a half ounce within the State where printed, or three ounces when sent out of the State. But in all such cases, the added matter must be a genuine supplement, or appendage to the newspaper in question, and of the same essential character, conveying intelligence of passing events of general interest.

SEC. 111. Publishers of newspapers cannot send specimen numbers of their papers to postmasters and others, without prepaying postage thereon.

SEC. 112. To enclose or conceal a letter, or other thing, (except bills and receipts for subscription,) in, or to write or print anything after its publication upon, any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, is illegal, and subjects such printed matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage; and if done in order that the same may be carried by post free of postage, subjects the offender to a fine of five dollars for every such offense; and in such cases, if the person addressed refuse to pay such letter postage, the package should be returned to the postmaster from whose office it came, to prosecute the offender for the penalty. Printed slips or circulars stitched or pasted in with the body of periodicals or magazines with which they have no legitimate connection, are attempts to evade the law; and all such matter which does not form, and was not intended and originally printed to form, a regular part of the contents of any given number of a periodical or magazine and its cover, must be considered as extraneous matter subjecting the whole copy with which it is thus sought to be incorporated to letter postage. All transient printed matter should be distinctly postmarked and rated at the mailing office.

SEC. 113. Any word or communication, whether by printing, writing, marks, or signs, upon the cover or wrapper of a newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, other than the name and address of the person to whom it is to be sent, subjects the package to letter postage; and such postage should be like all other letter postage, prepaid, or the matter should not be mailed. If, however, it reaches the office of delivery unpaid, and the party addressed shall refuse to pay letter postage thereon, further proceedings should be waived, there being no concealment or attempt at fraud, and the package placed with the other refused matter in the office. A pen or pencil mark, made solely for the purpose of attracting the eye to a particular article or portion of printed matter, does not subject such matter to letter postage.

SEC. 114. *Bona fide* subscribers to weekly newspapers can receive the same free of postage, if they reside in the county in which the paper is printed and published, even if the office at which the paper is sent is without the county, provided it is the office at which they regularly receive their mail matter.

SEC. 115. Postage cannot be prepaid on regular newspapers or periodicals for a less term than one quarter; and in all cases postage must be paid on such matter at the commencement of a quarter.

SEC. 116. Exchange newspapers and periodicals cannot be remailed without being chargeable with postage.

SEC. 117. Books not weighing over four pounds may be sent in the mail, prepaid by postage stamps, at one cent an ounce, any distance in the United States under three thousand miles, and at two cents an ounce over three thousand miles, provided they are put up without a cover or wrapper, or in a cover or wrapper open at the ends or sides, so that their character may be determined without removing the wrapper.

SEC. 118. Small newspapers and periodicals, published monthly or oftener, and pamphlets containing not more than sixteen octavo pages each, when put up in single packages, weighing at least eight ounces, to one address, and prepaid by postage stamps, may be sent to any part of the United States at one half cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce.

SEC. 119. Unsealed circulars, advertisements, business cards, transient newspapers, and every other article of transient printed matter, (except books and packages of small publications, as above,) not weighing over three ounces, sent in the mail to any part of the United States, are chargeable with one cent postage each, to be prepaid by postage stamps. Where more than one circular is printed on a sheet, or a circular and letter, each must be charged with a single rate. This applies to lottery and other kindred sheets assuming the form and name of newspapers; and the miscellaneous matter in such sheets must also be charged with one rate. A business card on an unsealed envelope of a circular subjects the entire packet to letter postage. Any transient matter, like a circular or handbill, inclosed in or with a periodical or newspaper sent to a subscriber, or to any other person, subjects the whole package to letter postage; and whenever subject to letter postage from being sealed or from any cause whatever, all printed matter, without exception, must be prepaid or excluded from the mail. It is the duty of the postmaster at the mailing office, as well as at the office of delivery, carefully to examine all printed matter, in order to see that it is charged with the proper rate of postage and to detect fraud. At offices where postage stamps cannot be procured, postmasters are authorized to receive money in prepayment of postage on transient matter; but they should be careful to keep a supply of stamps on hand.

SEC. 120. It is a part of the duty of a postmaster, to receive and deliver to subscribers any other newspapers than those which come in the mail, or to put the address on newspapers sent to clubs, or to deliver them from a furnished list; nor should he do either, even through courtesy, unless it may be done without interfering with the legitimate business of his office.

SEC. 121. A *pamphlet* is a printed but unbound publication, relating solely to some subject of local ephemeral, or temporary interest or importance; or if upon a subject of general interest or importance called forth, like a lecture or an address, by or for some local event, or as appropriate to some particular occasion. Hence, with the exception of those not containing more than sixteen octavo pages each, for which, under certain conditions, the act of August 30, 1852, has made special provision, no publication, although folded and unbound, can be permitted to pass in the mail as a "pamphlet" instead of a "book," unless its scope and subject are such as to bring it fairly within the distinctive definition above given.

SEC. 122. A newspaper is defined to be any printed publication issued in numbers, and published at short stated intervals of not more than a month, conveying intelligence of passing events. It generally consists of a sheet, but may be composed of two sheets of paper.

SEC. 123. Publications borrowing the name, having the form and some of the characteristics of a newspaper, printed for gratuitous circulation, and depending on their advertisements for support, cannot be sent by mail gratuitously to persons not actual and *bona fide* subscribers upon the footing of newspapers "sent from the office of publication to actual and *bona fide* subscribers."

CHAPTER IX.

SEC. 12A.—POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed prepayment is optional; in all other cases prepayment is required.

COUNTRIES.	RATES OF POSTAGE ON LETTERS.		RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER.	
	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Not exceeding half ounce.	Newspapers.	Pamphlets per ounce.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
Acapulco.....	-	20	2	1
Aden, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	4	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	8	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Africa, (West Coast,) British mail.....	-	45	4	-
Alexandretta, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	6	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	2	1
do. open mail, via England, by American packet.....	-	21	2	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	2	-
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*38	6	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	2	1
do. open mail, via England, by American packet.....	-	21	2	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	2	-
Algeria, French mail.....	*15	*30	2	1
Altona, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*33	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*22	3	1
do. French mail.....	*27	*54	-	-
Antivari, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	6	-
Arabia, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	4	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	4	-
Ascension, via England.....	-	33	4	-
Aspinwall, for distances not exceeding 2,500 miles.....	-	10	2	1
do. do. exceeding do.....	-	20	2	1
Australia, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	4	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	8	-
do. by private ship, from New York or Boston.....	-	5	2	1
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles and Suez.....	50	100	-	-
do. do. do. via Trieste.....	-	55	-	-
Austria and its States, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*39	6	-
do. do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	3	1
do. do. French mail.....	*27	*54	2	1
Azores Islands, British mail, via Portugal.....	-	63	4	-
Baden, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*22	3	1
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Batavia, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	4	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	8	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Bavaria, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	3	1
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Belgium, French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
do. open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	2	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	2	-
Belgrade, do. do. by American packet.....	-	21	7	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	7	-
Beirut, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	6	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
Bogota, New Granada.....	-	18	6	4
Bolivia.....	-	34	6	4
Borneo, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	6	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	10	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Bourbon, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	6	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	10	-

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed prepayment is optional; in all other cases prepayment is required.

COUNTRIES.	RATES OF POSTAGE ON LETTERS.		RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER.	
	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Not exceeding half ounce.	Newspapers.	Pamphlets per ounce.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
Bourbon, French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
Bourghas, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	6	-
Brazils, via England.....	-	45	4	-
Bremen, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. Bremen mail.....	-	*10	3	1
do. Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	-	-
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
British North American Provinces, when distance does not exceed 3,000 miles.....	-	*10	-	-
British North American Provinces, when distance does exceed 3,000 miles.....	-	*15	-	-
Brunswick, Prussian mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	3	1
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Buenaventura.....	-	18	6	4
Buenos Ayres, via England.....	-	45	4	-
Caiffa, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	6	-
Canada—see <i>British North American Provinces.</i>				
Canary Islands, via England.....	-	65	4	-
Candia, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	6	-
do. open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	4	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	4	-
Canea, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	6	-
Cape of Good Hope, via England.....	-	33	4	-
Cape de Verde Islands, do.....	-	65	4	-
Carthagen.....	-	34	6	-
Ceylon, open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	8	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	8	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Chagres, (New Granada,) for distances not exceeding 2,500 miles.....	-	10	2	1
do. do. do. exceeding do.....	-	20	2	1
Chili.....	-	34	6	4
China, (except Hong Kong,) British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	4	-
do. do. do. via Marsilles.....	39	45	8	-
do. do. do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Trieste.....	-	55	-	-
do. do. do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marselles and Suez.....	40	72	-	-
do. do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
do. by mail to San Francisco, thence by private ship.....	-	10	-	-
Constantinople, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	6	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	2	1
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*33	3	1
do. open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	2	-
do. do. do. by British packets.....	-	5	2	-
Corfu, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*38	6	-
do. French mail.....	27	54	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	30	3	1
Cuba, when distance does not exceed 2,500 miles.....	-	10	2	1
do. do. does exceed do.....	-	20	2	1
Cuxhaven, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	3	1
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Dardanelles, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	6	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	2	1
Denmark, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*35	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*27	3	1
do. French mail.....	*27	*54	-	-
Durazzo, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	6	-
East Indies, open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	8	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	8	-
do. Prussian closed mail, via Trieste.....	-	70	13	-
do. (English Possessions,) Prussian closed mail, via Trieste.....	-	38	10	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marsilles and Suez.....	40	72	-	-
do. do. do. via Trieste.....	-	64	-	-

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed prepayment is optional; in all other cases prepayment is required.

COUNTRIES.	RATES OF POSTAGE ON LETTERS.		RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER.	
	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Not exceeding half ounce.	Newspapers.	Pamphlets per ounce.
East Indies, French mail.....	Cents. 30	Cents. 60		
Equador.....	-	34	8	4
Egypt, (except Alexandria,) British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	-	-
do. do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	-	-
do. do. Prussian closed mail.....	-	38	-	-
do. do. Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*30	-	-
do. do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Falkland Islands, via England.....	-	33	4	-
Fayal—see <i>Azores Islands</i> .				
France.....	*15	*30	2	1
Frankfort, French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
do. Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*22	3	1
Galatz, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	-	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
do. open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	-	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	-	-
Gallipoli, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	-	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	2	1
Gambia, via England.....	-	33	4	-
German States, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. (except Austria,) French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Gibraltar, French mail.....	21	42	-	-
do. open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	2	1
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	2	1
Great Britain and Ireland.....	-	24	2	*
Greece, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*42	6	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*35	3	1
do. open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	4	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	4	-
Hamburg, by Hamburg mail, direct from New York.....	-	*10	2	-
do. Bremen mail.....	-	*15	3	1
do. Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Hanover, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	3	1
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Havana—see <i>Cuba</i> .				
Heligoland, Island of, via England.....	-	33	4	-
Holland, French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
do. open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	2	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	2	-
Holstein, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*35	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*25	-	-
do. French mail.....	*27	*54	-	-
Honduras.....	-	34	6	-
Hong Kong, open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	2	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	2	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	30	-	-
do. Prussian closed mail.....	-	38	10	-
Ibraila, French mail.....	30	60	-	-
do. Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	-	-
India Archipelago, French mail.....	30	60	-	-
do. British mail, via Marseilles.....	-	73	-	-
Ineboli, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	6	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Ionian Islands, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*38	6	-
do. French mail.....	27	54	-	-

* Pamphlets and periodicals 2 cents each, if not weighing over two ounces, and 4 cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce if they exceed two ounces, to be collected in all cases in the United States.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed prepayment is optional; in all other cases prepayment is required.

COUNTRIES.	RATES OF POSTAGE ON LETTERS.		RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER.	
	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Not exceeding half ounce.	Newspapers.	Pamphlets per ounce.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
Italy—see <i>Sardinian States; Lombardy; Modena; Parma; Tuscany; Papal States; and Two Sicilies.</i>				
Java, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	4	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	8	-
Jaffa, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	-	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
Karikal, French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
Kerassunde, French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Labuan, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	6	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	6	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Lauenburgh, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*33	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*25	3	1
do. French mail.....	*27	*54	2	1
Latakia, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	6	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	2	-
Lombardy, Prussian closed mail.....	-	33	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	3	1
do. French mail.....	*27	*54	-	-
Lubec, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	3	1
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Luxemburg Grand Duchy, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
do. do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*22	3	1
Madeira, Island of, via England.....	-	65	4	-
Mahé, French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
Malta, Island of, open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	2	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	2	-
do. do. French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
do. do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	30	3	1
Mauritius, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	4	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	6	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Mexico, for distances under 2,500 miles.....	-	10	2	1
do. do. over do.....	-	20	2	1
Mecklenberg, (Strelitz and Schwerin,) Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	3	1
do. do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Messina, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	33	-	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
Mitylene, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	-	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
Modena, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*33	6	-
do. French mail.....	*27	*54	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*25	3	1
Moldavia, Prussian closed mail.....	-	30	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	30	-	-
Moluccas, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	6	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	6	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Montevideo, via England.....	-	45	4	-
Naples, Kingdom of, Prussian closed mail.....	-	30	6	-
do. do. French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
do. do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	22	3	1
Netherlands, The, French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
do. do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*25	3	1
do. do. open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	2	-
do. do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	2	-
New Brunswick, } See <i>British North American Provinces.</i>				
New Foundland, }				
New Granada (except Aspinwall, Panama, Bogota, and Buenaventura)....	-	34	6	-

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, prepayment is optional; in all other cases prepayment is required.

COUNTRIES.	RATES OF POSTAGE ON LETTERS.		RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER.	
	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Not exceeding half ounce.	Newspapers.	Pamphlets per ounce.
New South Wales, British mail, via Southampton.....	Cents. -	Cents. 33	Cents. 4	Cents. -
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	8	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
do. by mail to San Francisco, thence by private ship.....	-	10	2	1
New Zealand, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	4	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	8	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Nicaragua.....	-	34	6	-
Norway, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*46	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*38	3	-
do. French mail.....	*33	*66	-	-
Nova Scotia—see <i>British North American Provinces</i> , Oldenburgh, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*12	3	1
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Panama, when distance does not exceed 2,500 miles.....	-	10	2	1
do. do. does exceed 2,500 miles.....	-	20	2	1
Parma, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*33	6	-
do. French mail.....	*27	*54	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*25	3	1
Penang, open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	8	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	8	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Peru.....	-	22	6	4
Philippine Islands, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	6	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	10	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Placentia, Prussian closed mail.....	-	30	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*25	-	-
do. French mail.....	27	54	-	-
Poland, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*37	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*29	3	1
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
Pondicherry, French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
Portugal, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	63	4	-
do. do. via France.....	37	43	4	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	30	42	-	-
do. French mail.....	21	42	-	-
Prevesa, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	-	-
Prince Edward's Islands—see <i>British North American Provinces</i> . Prussia, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	3	1
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Re-Union—see <i>Bourbon</i> . Rhodes, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	6	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
Roman or Papal States, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*35	6	-
do. French mail.....	*27	*54	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*28	3	1
Russia, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*37	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*29	3	1
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
Salonica, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	6	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	2	1
Samsoun, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	-	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Sandwich Islands, by mail to San Francisco, thence by private ship.....	-	10	2	1
Sardinian States, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*38	6	-
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*30	3	1
Saxe-Altenburgh, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	3	1
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-

The asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, prepayment is optional; in all other cases prepayment is required.

COUNTRIES.	RATES OF POSTAGE ON LETTERS.		RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER.	
	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Not exceeding half ounce.	Newspapers.	Pamphlets per ounce.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
Saxe Coburg-Gotha, Meiningen, and Weimar, Prussian mail	-	*30	6	-
do. do. do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*22	3	1
do. do. do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Saxony, Kingdom of, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	3	1
do. do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Schleswig, by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*27	3	1
do. French mail.....	*27	*54	-	-
do. Prussian closed mail.....	-	*35	6	-
Scutari, (Asia,) Prussian closed mail.....	-	30	6	-
do. do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
do. do. open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	2	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	2	-
Servia, Prussian closed mail.....	-	30	6	-
do. French mail.....	*27	*54	2	1
Sicilies, The Two, Prussian mail.....	-	30	6	-
do. do. French mail.....	*30	*60	2	-
do. do. open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	2	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	2	-
do. do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*22	3	-
Singapore, open mail, via England, by American packet.....	-	21	-	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	-	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Sinope, open mail, via England, by American packet.....	-	21	-	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	-	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
do. Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	-	-
Spain, via France.....	37	43	4	-
do. via Southampton.....	-	73	4	-
do. via Bremen mail.....	21	42	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	30	42	-	-
St. Thomas, by United States packet to Kingston, Jamaica.....	-	18	6	-
do. via Havana.....	-	34	6	-
Sulina, French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Sumatra, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	6	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	-	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Sweden, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*42	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*33	3	1
do. French mail.....	*23	*66	-	-
St. Helena, via England.....	-	33	4	-
Smyrna, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	6	-
do. French mail.....	*30	*60	2	1
Switzerland, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*35	6	-
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
Syria, open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	2	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	2	-
do. British mail, via Marseilles, by French packet.....	33	45	4	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Tangiers, French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-
Tasmania—see <i>Van Dieman's Land</i> .				
Tchesme, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	6	-
do. open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	4	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	4	-
Tenedos, do. do. by American packet.....	-	21	-	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	-	-
do. Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	6	-
Trebizonde, open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	-	-
do. do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	-	-
do. Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	6	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Tunis, French mail.....	*30	*60	2	1
do. via Marseilles, by French packet.....	33	45	4	-

The asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, prepayment is optional; in all other cases prepayment is required.

COUNTRIES.	RATES OF POSTAGE ON LETTERS.		RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER.	
	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Not exceeding half ounce.	Newspapers.	Pamphlets per ounce.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
Turkey in Europe and Turkish Islands in the Mediterranean, except as herein mentioned—				
Prussian closed mail.....	-	30	6	-
By Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*32	-	-
Open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	2	-
do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	2	-
Turk's Island.....	-	34	6	-
Tripoli in Syria, French mail.....	*30	*60	2	-
Tuscany, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*35	6	-
do. French mail.....	*27	*54	2	1
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	40	3	1
Valona, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	-	-
Van Dieman's Land, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	33	4	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	8	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
Varna, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*40	6	-
do. French mail.....	30	60	-	-
do. open mail, via London, by American packet.....	-	21	4	-
do. do. by British packet.....	-	5	4	-
Venetian States, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. French mail.....	27	54	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*15	3	1
Venezuela, British mail, via Southampton.....	-	45	4	-
Victoria, (Port Philip), via Southampton.....	-	33	4	-
do. do. via Marseilles.....	39	45	8	-
Volo, Prussian closed mail.....	-	40	6	-
West Indies, British, (except Turk's Island,) when distance does not exceed 2,500 miles.....	-	10	2	1
West Indies, British, (except Turk's Island,) when distance does exceed 2,500 miles.....	-	90	2	1
West Indies, not British, (except Cuba).....	-	34	6	-
Wallachia, Prussian closed mail.....	-	30	6	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	30	3	1
Wurtemberg, Prussian closed mail.....	-	*30	6	-
do. French mail.....	*21	*42	-	-
do. by Bremen or Hamburg mail.....	-	*22	3	1
Yanaon, French mail.....	*30	*60	-	-

Sec. 125.—UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN.

Great Britain and Ireland by either United States or British line..... } 24 cents, (California, Oregon, and Washington excepted,) 5 cents to be added when to or from California, Oregon, or Washington. Prepayment optional.

On either a letter or packet of any weight the whole postage or none at all should be prepaid. If anything less than the whole is prepaid, no account is taken of it, and it is entirely lost to the sender.

In respect to the British Mails, where the official postage entries on the letters received are in red ink, the letter is to be considered as paid, and is to be delivered accordingly; where in black ink, as unpaid, and the postage is to be collected. Postage in such cases is either wholly paid or wholly unpaid. The credit and debit figures on such letters show, on paid letters, the amount to be credited to the United States: on the unpaid letters, the amount charged to the United States by England; and these figures, "3 cents," "19 cents," "5 cents," "21 cents," &c., are solely for the convenience of the exchange offices in keeping the account with the British Post Office.

Newspapers two cents each, prepayment required. Pamphlets and periodical two cents each, if not weighing over two ounces, and four cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce, if they exceed two ounces, to be collected in all cases in the United States. All such printed matter is subject to like additional charges in Great Britain, each country collecting its own postage on printed matter, whether the same is sent or received. No pamphlet can be sent weighing over eight ounces, and no periodical over

sixteen ounces, without being subject to letter postage. Neither pamphlets nor periodicals are entitled to conveyance through England, except such as are addressed to France, Algeria, or cities of Turkey, Syria, and Egypt in which France has post offices.

The United States exchange offices for British Mails are New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.

SEC. 126.—UNITED STATES AND FRANCE.

France and Algeria, by either United } 15 cents the single letter of $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce or under, between any
States, British, or French packet } part of the United States and its Territories and France or
direct or through England..... } Algeria. Prepayment optional.

On either a letter or packet of any weight the *whole* postage or none at all should be prepaid. No account is taken of prepayments of fractional parts of a single rate.

In respect to French mails, where the official postage entries on the letters received are in *red* ink, with the impression P D also stamped in *red* ink, the letter is to be considered as paid, and is to be delivered accordingly; on the contrary, when the official entries are in *black* ink, the letter is to be considered as unpaid, and the postage is to be collected. The credit and debit figures on such letters show, on the paid letters, the amount to be credited to the United States; on the unpaid letters, the amount charged to the United States by France; and these figures, "3 cents," "6 cents," "9 cents," "12 cents," &c., are solely for the convenience of the exchange offices in keeping the account with the French office.

Newspapers, periodical works, books stitched or bound, pamphlets, catalogues, papers of music, prospectuses, circulars, and all other kinds of printed matter addressed to France, Algeria, or cities of Turkey, Syria, and Egypt, in which France has post offices—viz: Alexandria, Alexandretta, Beyrout, Constantinople, Dardanelles, Galipoli, Jaffa, Latakia, Messina, (Asiatic Turkey,) Mitylene, Rhodes, Salonica, Smyrna, and Tripoli in Syria—can be dispatched to France *direct*, or by way of England, on prepayment of the United States postage, viz: newspapers 2 cents each, periodical works, catalogues, or pamphlets, 1 cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce, and 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. France in like manner collects its own postage on all kinds of printed matter whether sent or received. The United States exchange offices for French mail are New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.

SEC. 127.—UNITED STATES AND BREMEN.

Postage, on printed } Newspapers sent from the United States by the Bremen line, 3 cents each, pre-
matter by the New } payment required. This pays to any part of the German Austrian Postal
York and Bremen } Union.
line, *direct*..... } Newspapers received by the Bremen line are in like manner prepaid in Germany.
On pamphlets, magazines, and other printed matter, 1 cent an ounce or fraction
of an ounce, must be prepaid at the mailing office when sent from, and col-
lected at the office of delivery, when received in the United States. This is
the United States postage only.

SEC. 128.—TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

Canada, New Brunswick, Cape Breton, } 10 cents when not over 3,000 miles from the line of crossing;
Prince Edward's Island, Nova Scotia, } 15 cents where distance exceeds 3,000 miles. Prepayment
and Newfoundland..... } optional.

Newspapers and periodicals published in the United States and sent to regular subscribers in the British North American Provinces, or published in those Provinces and sent to regular subscribers in the United States, are chargeable with the regular prepaid quarterly rates of United States postage to and from the line; which postage must be collected at the office of mailing in the United States on matter sent, and at the office of delivery in the United States on matter received. In like manner, such matter, if transient, is chargeable with the regular domestic transient printed matter rates to and from the line, to be collected at the office of mailing or delivery in the United States, as the case may be. Editors, however, may exchange free of expense.

Letters received from Canada, to which are affixed United States postage stamps of sufficient value to prepay the full postage chargeable thereon, should be delivered without charge by the United States offices.

SEC. 129.—TO THE WEST INDIA ISLANDS, &c.

West India Islands, (not British,) except Cuba...	} 34 cents where distance from the mailing office does not exceed 2,500 miles; and 44 cents where distance exceeds 2,500 miles.
Turk's Island.....	
Carthagen.....	} Prepayment required—being United States and British postage.
Honduras.....	
St. Juan, (Nicaragua).....	
Santa Martha.....	
Venezuela.....	
St. Thomas,* &c.....	

Newspapers sent, 6 cents each; prepayment required. On papers received, the rate to be collected is 2 cents only, the British postage being prepaid.

* To St. Thomas and the other Danish islands, by *United States packet to Kingston*, the single rate 18 cents under 2,500 miles, and 28 cents over 2,500 miles; prepayment required.

SEC. 130.—TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

Guayaquil, (Ecuador).....	} 34 cents on letters sent; being the United States and foreign postage. Prepayment required.
Quito do.....	
Cobija, (Bolivia).....	} 10 cents on letters received; being the United States postage only.
La Paez, do.....	
Copiap, (Chili).....	
Huasco, do.....	
Coquimbo, do.....	
Valparaiso, do.....	
St. Iago, do.....	

Newspapers sent, 6 cents; and newspapers received, 2 cents each; to be collected in the United States.

Payta, (Peru).....	} 22 cents on letters sent; being the United States and foreign postage. Prepayment required.
Lambayeque, do.....	
Huanchaco, do.....	} 10 cents on letters received; being the United States postage only.
Casma, do.....	
Huacho, do.....	
Callao, do.....	
Lima, do.....	
Pisco, do.....	
Islay, do.....	
Arica, do.....	
Iquique do.....	

Newspapers sent, 6 cents; and newspapers received, 2 cents each; to be collected in the United States.

Bogota, (New Granada).....	} 18 cents on letters sent; being the United States and foreign postage. Prepayment required.
Buenaventura, do.....	
	} 10 cents on letters received; being the United States postage only.

Newspapers sent, 6 cents; and newspapers received, 2 cents; to be collected in the United States.

SEC. 131.—TO THE SANDWICH ISLANDS, &c.

China.....	} 10 cents; being the United States postage to San Francisco. Prepayment required.
New South Wales.....	
Sandwich Islands.....	
By mail to San Francisco, thence by private ship, }	

Newspapers and periodicals must be prepaid the regular domestic rates to San Francisco. The rate payable on letters at the point of destination in the Sandwich Islands is 5 cents, and on newspapers, 2 cents each. In China and New South Wales the ship postage, it is understood, is comparatively trifling.

SEC. 132.—*ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION, &c.*

To prevent mistakes at the exchange offices, it is desirable that the particular routes by which letters are to be forwarded from the United States to Europe, should be distinctly written on the covers. Letters intended for transmission in the open mail to England, should bear the direction "Open mail via England;" if for transmission in the French mail, they should be directed "via France in French mail;" if for transmission by closed mail to Prussia, they should be directed "via Prussian closed mail;" and if for transmission by the New York and Bremen line to Bremen, they should be directed "via Bremen."

It is important, that letters addressed to Germany and other European countries via France, where the single rate per quarter ounce is 21 cents, should be plainly marked to be sent via France, otherwise they may be mis-sent in the open mail to Liverpool by the United States packet; the 21 cents rate per half ounce being also chargeable on letters thus forwarded.

SEC. 133.—*REGISTRATION OF LETTERS*

VALUABLE LETTERS addressed to Germany or any part of the German, Austrian Postal Union, by the Bremen line via New York, or by the Prussian closed mail via New York and Boston, as also letters addressed to Great Britain and Canada, will be registered, on the application of the person posting the same, in the same manner and on the same terms as those deliverable in the United States, provided that the full postage chargeable thereon to destination, together with a registration fee of five cents on each letter, is prepaid at the mailing office. Such letters should be mailed and forwarded to the respective United States exchange offices in the same manner as domestic registered letters are mailed to those offices.

SEC. 134.—*RULE OF RATING LETTERS, &c.*

All letters to and from foreign countries (France and the British North American Provinces excepted) are to be 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, 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, great care is requisite to prevent mistakes. Letters in the mail to France are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of one quarter ounce; double rate, if exceeding a quarter but not exceeding half an ounce, and so on, an additional rate being charged for each quarter ounce or fractional part of a quarter ounce. Letters addressed to the British North American Provinces are rated in the same manner as domestic letters, one rate being charged for each half ounce or fractional part of half an ounce. Postmasters should be careful, where the postage is prepaid, to collect the proper amount. They should be particular to notice the route indicated on the envelopes of letters, and to collect postage accordingly. Letters mailed at some offices, marked "via England," or "via Prussian closed mail," for a German State, are frequently taken upon the prepayment of Bremen rates, and those marked "via Bremen," at Prussian closed mail rates, &c. If letters for foreign countries marked "paid," are dropped into the post office without being paid, the postmaster will erase the word "paid," and write on the back of the letter the words, "not paid," with his name and title of postmaster.

SEC. 136.—*RULE OF RATING LETTERS GOING VIA FRANCE.*

In the case of letters to be forwarded in the British mail "via Marseilles," the French postage is rated at six cents the quarter ounce, except with reference to letters for Syria and Tunis, by French packet, when the single French rate is twelve cents. The French rate on all such letters must therefore be doubled for each quarter of an ounce in weight.

The rates by "French mail" are in full to destination except to the following places, viz: Aden, Batavia, Ceylon, China, Corfu, countries to which correspondence can be sent via Suez, countries beyond seas via France other than those enumerated, East Indies, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Ionian Islands, Java, Mauritius, Penang, Portugal, Isle of Re-Union, Shanghai, Singapore, and Spain. The limit of prepayment, to Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar, is Behobia; to Corfu and Ionian Islands, Trieste; to Aden, East Indies, Ceylon, China, and other countries via Suez, the seaports of the Indies or of the Sea of China to which the English packets ply; and to places beyond seas other than those designated, the limit is the port of arrival in the country of destination.

Letters may be forwarded in the French mails, to Moldavia, Wallachia, and Turkey in Europe, by way of France and Austria, but the postage thereon must in all cases be paid at the place of destination.

SEC. 137.—RATES ON PAMPHLETS, MAGAZINES, &c.

On pamphlets and magazines, to or from the west coast of South America, the United States postage is four cents, and to or from all other foreign countries (except Great Britain and the British North American Provinces) one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce, to be collected in all cases in the United States.

Newspapers and periodicals to foreign countries (particularly to the continent of Europe) must be sent in narrow bands, open at the sides or end; otherwise they are chargeable with letter postage.

CHAPTER X.

SHIP AND STEAMBOAT LETTERS.

SEC. 138. The terms *ship letters and packets*, embrace the letters and packets brought into the United States from foreign countries, or carried from one port in the United States to another, in any private ship or vessel, before such letters have been mailed.

SEC. 139. The masters of steamboats under contract with the Department will deliver into the post offices, (or to the local agent of the Department, if there be any,) at the places at which they arrive, all letters received by them, or by any person employed on their boats, at any point along the route.

SEC. 140. Masters or managers of all other steamboats are required by law, under a penalty of thirty dollars, to deliver all letters brought by them, or within their care or power, addressed to or destined for, the places at which they arrive, to the postmasters at such places; *except letters relating to some part of the cargo*, and left unsealed. All letters not addressed to persons to whom the cargo, or any part of it, is consigned, are therefore to be delivered into the post office, to be charged with postage.

SEC. 141. Every master of a vessel from a foreign port is bound, immediately on his arrival at a port, and before he can report, make entry, or break bulk, under a penalty not to exceed \$100, to deliver into the post office all letters brought in his vessel, directed to any person in the United States, or the Territories thereof, which are under his care or within his power, except such letters as relate to the cargo or some part thereof.

SEC. 142. All ship letters and packets are to be charged with a postage of six cents each, when delivered from the office at which they are first received; when forwarded in the mail to other offices, with two cents, in addition to the ordinary rates of postage. They should be all marked "*Ship*," at the time of receiving them. This applies to all letters and packets brought by vessels from foreign countries, as well as those conveyed from one port to another in the United States over routes not declared post roads.

SEC. 143. It is the special duty of the postmaster at a port where vessels may enter to see that this law is strictly observed and enforced.

SEC. 144. Every such postmaster will obtain from the master of the ship or vessel a certificate specifying the number of letters, with the name of the ship or vessel, and place from which she last sailed; and upon each letter which has not been before mailed, and which shall be delivered into his office for mailing, he shall pay to the said master or owner two cents, and take his receipt therefor, except at the ports on Lake Erie, where one cent will be paid.

SEC. 145. Masters of foreign packets are not to be paid any thing for letters delivered into the office; such letters are, notwithstanding, to be charged with postage when delivered from the office or forwarded by mail.

SEC. 146. Upon letters and packets received from the masters, clerks, or other employes of steamboats on waters deemed post roads, the persons addressed will be charged, when delivered to them, the same postage as if the letters and packets had been conveyed in the mail overland, although not conveyed under an arrangement with the Department.

SEC. 147. All letters placed on a mail steamboat, on which the mails are in charge of a route agent, should go into the hands of such agent; and on these letters the master of the vessel is not entitled to receive any compensation. None but prepaid letters should be received on such steamboat, and these should be duly mailed. But should any chance to be unpaid, they should be deposited by the route agent in the post office at or nearest the point at which they are received, where the postmaster will treat them in all respects as other unpaid letters.

SEC. 148. In like manner, when practicable, all letters should be prepaid which are received by steamboats or other vessels not in the mail service, or carrying the mail with no route agent on board. When prepaid, the master of the vessel, if under contract to carry the mail, may receive one cent "way," and if not under contract with the Department, two cents each from the postmaster in whose office he deposits them; and they should be delivered to their address without any charge beyond the amount prepaid. But if unpaid, they should be treated as ship letters, and are chargeable as such with a postage of six cents, if delivered at the office at which the vessel shall arrive, and with two cents in addition to the ordinary rate of postage if destined to be conveyed by post to another place. In the latter case, the master of the vessel is entitled to receive two cents, a letter.

SEC. 149. Persons desirous to send their letters by steamboats can most readily accomplish their object by inclosing such letters in the stamped envelopes issued by the Department, inasmuch as letters so inclosed may be conveyed out of the mail without a violation of law, and need not be delivered to the postmaster on the arrival of the vessel.

SEC. 150. The account of steamboat letters received, stating the sums paid for them and the postage chargeable thereon, is to be kept in the account of *Ship and Steamboat Letters Received*.

CHAPTER XI.

ADVERTISING LETTERS.

SEC. 151. When the gross receipts of the post office for the then next preceding quarter shall not have exceeded \$500, the postmaster shall advertise such uncalled-for letters once in six weeks only; when such gross receipts shall have exceeded \$500, and have not exceeded \$1,000, the postmaster shall advertise once a month only; when such gross receipts shall have exceeded \$1,000, and shall not have exceeded \$7,500, the postmaster shall advertise twice a month; and when such gross receipts shall have exceeded \$7,500, the postmaster shall advertise *once a week*. The following additional instructions on the subject will be observed:

1. Such advertisements are to be inserted in one newspaper only, which must be printed in the city, town, or village, in which the post office is situated, and must have the largest circulation within the range of delivery of said office of any paper issued weekly or oftener, printed in such city, town, or village. Should the publisher of such paper refuse to give such list of letters one insertion, at one cent for each letter, the postmaster will designate for this service some other paper published in the same place. He is also required to post in a conspicuous place in his office a copy of such list on the day or the day after the publication thereof.

2. If there is no newspaper printed in the city, town, or village, where the post office is kept, or if the publishers of all the papers printed shall refuse to advertise the letters for the sum above mentioned, then manuscript lists of them are to be made out and posted in such public places in the town and neighborhood as shall appear best adapted for the information of the parties concerned.

3. In case of question or dispute, as to the circulation of any paper claiming the advertisement of the uncalled-for letters, it shall be the duty of the postmaster, on the first Monday of January, in each year hereafter, to receive evidence and decide upon the fact; such decision shall remain for one year, unless, for good cause, the Postmaster General shall otherwise order; and the evidence upon which the postmaster decides to give the printing to a particular paper shall always be open to inspection. In all such cases the postmaster shall, at least one week prior to the day of receiving such evidence, fix and define the limits and boundaries of the territory deemed by him to be embraced within the range of the delivery of his office, by a plain and intelligible written statement, to be signed by him and filed in his office; and of which every person claiming the advertisement shall be entitled to take a copy. Such postmaster shall require, as a part of the evidence on which he is to make his decision, an affidavit of the proprietor or printer of such newspaper for which the advertisement is claimed, or of the clerk or foreman in the office of such paper, showing his means of knowledge in respect to the circulation of such newspaper within the limits of the district so embraced in the range of the delivery of such office, and stating the average, actual, ordinary, and *bona fide* circulation of each regular issue of such paper within such district for the four weeks ending on the Saturday next prior to the day on which such evidence is received; and that such circulation has not, during said four weeks, been increased by any gratuitous circulation, by a reduction in price below the ordinary and usual price of such paper, or by any other extraordinary means, for the purpose, in whole or in part, of obtaining any list or lists of uncalled-for letters for publication; and such average, actual, ordinary, and *bona fide* circulation of each regular issue of such paper for such four weeks, as established by such affidavit and the other evidence submitted to such postmaster, shall be deemed the circulation on which the question of the

greater circulation shall be determined. Other evidence, in addition to such affidavit, in corroboration thereof, or in contradiction of the same, may be submitted by any party interested in the decision.

4. Refused letters are not to be advertised, nor those which the postmaster expects will be immediately taken from the office.

5. Drop and box letters, circulars, free packets containing printed documents, speeches or other printed matter, are not to be advertised.

6. When authority for the publication of lists of foreign letters in a newspaper printed in a foreign language is deemed advisable, the postmaster must make a special application for the necessary order to publish in such paper.

7. All orders for publication of these lists of uncalled-for letters in more than one newspaper are vacated and annulled. The present law authorizes a single publication in one paper only.

8. When daily, semi-weekly, tri-weekly, or weekly papers are issued from the same office, the proprietor must not be allowed to aggregate the circulation of such papers, but the single circulation of each issue of the particular paper for which he claims the publication. Whether the paper is issued daily, tri-weekly, semi-weekly, or weekly, must be shown, and the advertisement inserted in the particular paper which has the largest circulation.

CHAPTER XII.

DEAD LETTERS.

Sec. 152. Dead letters are such as have been advertised and have remained on hand three months or longer.

Sec. 153. But letters refused, or which cannot be delivered, are also to be considered dead letters, and forwarded to the Department at the end of each month, without being advertised. Also those held up for the payment of the postage, and not attended to, and those attempted to be sent with stamps previously used.

Sec. 154. All letters from foreign countries, including those from the British North American Provinces, should be returned at the expiration of one month after having been duly advertised.

Sec. 155. Letters for foreign countries which cannot be forwarded without prepayment of postage; letters not addressed, or so badly directed that their destination cannot be ascertained, and letters addressed to places where there are no post offices, must be returned to the Department monthly with the "refused" and "foreign dead letters."

Sec. 156. At the end of each quarter, all dead letters then on hand, including such as are mentioned in the four preceding sections, and were not returned in the first two months of the quarter, must be forwarded to the Department in the regular quarterly return, with a dead letter bill, showing the whole number then sent, as well as those sent in the two previous months.

Sec. 157. When refused letters, or letters which cannot be delivered, or letters from foreign countries, or any such as are mentioned in Sec. 155, are returned to the Department monthly, the postmaster should not omit to note on the dead letter bill for the last month of the quarter the amount of the bills returned for each of the two preceding months, so as to give a complete dead letter bill for the whole quarter, corresponding in amount with the credit claimed for dead letters in his quarterly account current. All dead letter bills are to be made in duplicate, and one of each retained by the postmaster.

Sec. 158. The dead letter bill should be so made up as to show the number of *unpaid* letters of each rate, the number of *paid* letters of each rate, the number of drop letters, the number of *unpaid foreign* letters and their rates, the number of *paid foreign* letters and their rates; and each description of dead letters here mentioned should be carefully put in separate parcels, and the whole tied in one bundle.

Sec. 159. If the dead letters at any office be so numerous as to make it necessary to put them in several bundles, the bundles should be numbered consecutively, beginning with number 1, and the dead letter bills should always be put in the last number, which should be marked "*Bill*."

Sec. 160. No allowance will be made for dead letters returned, unless they are accompanied by a dead letter bill.

Sec. 161. When a letter is refused, the word "refused" should be at once plainly written upon it, and the letter put with those to be returned at the end of the month.

Sec. 162. If, previous to its return, the seal of a dead letter be broken by accident, or by having been delivered to the wrong person, the fact and circumstances must be noted upon it.

SEC. 163. Every dead letter must bear on the sealed side *the stamp or post mark* of the post office by which it is returned, and *the date of its return* to the Department.

SEC. 164. When any dead letter from this Department, or from any other Department or public office at the seat of Government, is not called for within one month from the time of its receipt, or when the person addressed is known to be dead, or to have moved away, such letter must be returned *direct* to the Department or public office in which it originated, and should never be sent to the Post Office Department as a dead letter.

SEC. 165. *All unpaid newspapers, pamphlets, and other printed matter* mailed in any foreign country, and received at any post office in the United States, which may be refused, or cannot be delivered as addressed, must be returned to the Department *as dead matter*—in the same manner, and under the same general regulations as apply to the return of dead letters, and should be addressed to the *Third Assistant Postmaster General*.

CHAPTER XIII.

LETTER CARRIERS.

SEC. 166. Postmasters are authorized to employ letter carriers. They are to be nominated to, and appointed by the Postmaster General, and are required to give bonds to the United States, to be approved by him.

SEC. 167. When so appointed and qualified, the postmaster may, at his risk and responsibility, place in the hands of the carriers for delivery, all letters received, except such as are for persons who may have lodged with him a written request to retain their letters in the office.

SEC. 168. Such carriers may charge and receive two cents for every letter, and a half cent for every newspaper, delivered by them, unless otherwise directed by the Postmaster General.

CHAPTER XIV.

LOST LETTERS AND MAIL DEPREDATIONS.

SEC. 169. Money and other valuable things, sent in the mail, are at the risk of the owner. But, if they be lost, the Department will make every effort in its power to discover the cause, and if there has been a theft, to punish the offender.

SEC. 170. In every case of loss by mail, whether supposed to be the result of casualty or of depredation, the Department should be informed without delay, of all the circumstances connected with it. Particular care should be taken to state the name of the office in which the letter was placed, the day on which it was so placed, and whether by the writer himself, or by another person, the day on which, if at all, it was actually mailed, the names of the writer and the person addressed, the amount, and if practicable, a particular description of the valuable inclosure, the amount of postage marked on the letter, and if paid, whether by money, or by stamp, the office to which addressed, and whether mailed direct thereto, or to what office for distribution, and the route by which it was sent, with any further particulars that may aid the Department in its investigation respecting the cause of loss.

SEC. 171. No reported loss will be investigated by an agent, unless satisfactory evidence is produced, either by the certificate of the postmaster, or some other disinterested individual that the money or other valuable thing was deposited in the post office.

SEC. 172. All necessary expenses that may be incurred in recovering the mail, and in apprehending the robber, will be reimbursed by the Department.

SEC. 173. In some cases it may be proper to offer a reward, not to exceed fifty dollars, payable on conviction, for the apprehension of the criminal.

SEC. 174. In every case when the criminal is apprehended, the attorney of the United States for the district in which the offense was committed, should be promptly informed of the facts, and his advice obtained.

SEC. 175. If the prosecution be had before the Federal court for the district, as it should be in all cases, and must be when State officers refuse to act, the attorney of the United States will conduct it.

SEC. 176. Persons arrested for mail depredations should in all cases when it is practicable, be taken before a district, or a circuit judge, or a commissioner of the United States, for examination and commitment.

SEC. 177. In every case it is expected that postmasters will spare no exertions to have justice done, and the guilty punished, by procuring testimony, and giving the prosecution every other aid in their power.

SEC. 178. Cases of mail robbery should be at once reported to the Department, and information given from time to time, of what further transpires respecting them.

SEC. 179. At all large offices at which daily mails from other large offices are received, care should be taken to note the fact, if the usual mail from any of those offices fail for any given day to arrive, and if subsequent mails arrive, leaving that for a preceding day still due, the mailing office should immediately be written to for information whether such mail as that supposed to be missing was actually sent; and if the answer be in the affirmative, a report of the loss should, without further delay, be made to the Department.

SEC. 180. If a postmaster has reason to believe that a mail has been robbed or stolen, in the vicinity of his office, he should at once examine into the evidence of the fact; and if satisfied that such robbery or theft has actually occurred, should take immediate and energetic measures for recovering the mail, and for apprehending and prosecuting the offender.

SEC. 181. The postmaster, or one of his assistants; in all cases, *immediately* before the office is swept or otherwise cleared of rubbish, is to collect and examine the waste paper which has accumulated therein, in order to guard against the possibility of loss of letters or other mail matter, which may have fallen on the floor, or have been intermingled with such waste paper during the transaction of business. The observance of this rule is strictly enjoined upon all postmasters, and its violation will constitute a grave offense. Postmasters should be careful to use, in mailing letters or packets, all wrapping paper fit to be used again; and the sale of any such paper is strictly forbidden.

CHAPTER XV.

MAIL CARRIERS, ROUTE AGENTS, AND LOCAL AGENTS.

SEC. 182. It is the duty of a mail carrier to receive and convey a letter, (and the money or a stamp of suitable denomination for its postage when tendered,) if delivered to him more than a mile from a post office, and to hand it, with the money or stamp, into the first post office at which he arrives. A penalty of fifty dollars attaches on failure to do so. But a mail carrier has no right, within a mile and within the delivery of one office, to receive and convey a letter to be mailed at the next office on a route; nor, unless it be in a proper stamped envelope, has he any right to mail such letter, at any other office than the first one he reaches on his route after having received it.

SEC. 183. On the letters brought by a mail carrier to be mailed called way letters, one cent is to be charged, in addition to the usual postage, which is to be rated from the place where the carrier received the letter. It is to be marked "*Way*," and one cent paid to the carrier.

SEC. 184. On railroad and steamboat routes it is the duty of route agents—1st. To receive letters written after the mail has closed, and way letters prepaid by stamps; to mail and post-bill said letters, and direct them to the proper office for delivery or distribution, and to report a list of all such letters to the Contract Office. 2d. To assort the mails for the several offices, being intrusted with the key to the iron lock for that purpose. 3d. To attend to the delivery and reception of mail bags. 4th. To report to the Inspection Office all irregularities of service on the route, especially every instance in which they fail to receive or deliver a mail where one is due, with the causes of such failure—which, if not known, must be ascertained by inquiry.

SEC. 185. In connection with the same class of routes, mail messengers, in certain cases, are appointed to carry the mail to and from post offices, when such offices are more than eighty rods from the steamboat landing or railroad station.

SEC. 186. Route agents, mail messengers, and local agents, must take the usual oaths of office, and transmit them to the Inspection Office. They are thereupon exempt, as mail carriers, from militia and jury duty.

SEC. 187. Mail carriers, contractors, or stage drivers cannot lawfully carry out of the mail any letter or packet, unless the same has been prepaid by a stamped envelope of suitable denomination; but are permitted so to carry newspapers for sale or distribution to subscribers, and also pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals, when not marked or directed, nor intended for immediate distribution to subscribers of others, but intended for sale as merchandise, and sent to some *bona fide* dealer, or agent for the sale thereof.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

SEC. 188. The right to send and receive letters and packets through the mail free of postage is held either as a personal privilege or as an official trust for the maintenance of official correspondence. In both its forms the right varies in respect to different classes of officers and individuals, in the kind as well as weight of matters which may be so sent or received. An interchange between publishers of pamphlets, periodicals, magazines, and newspapers, of their respective publications, is allowed for the purpose of promoting the dissemination of that kind of information of which they are the vehicles.

SEC. 189. The following officers and persons enjoy the right as a personal privilege, subject in the case of some of them to the several restrictions stated and annexed:

1. The President and Vice President of the United States; the individuals who at former periods have filled the office of President and Vice President; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Polk, relicts of former Presidents. Restricted in the case of the Vice President or ex-Vice Presidents to letters and packets not weighing over two ounces and to public documents.

2. Members of Congress and Delegates from Territories, during their term of office, and until the first Monday of December after its expiration. Restricted to letters and packets not exceeding two ounces in weight, and public documents. Public documents are those printed by the order of either House of Congress, and publications and books procured or purchased by Congress or either House for the use of the members.

3. The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, during their official terms. Restricted as members of Congress and Delegates.

4. Every postmaster whose commissions for the previous fiscal year, ending 30th June, did not exceed \$200. Restricted to sending letters written by himself on his private business, and receiving written communications addressed to himself on his private business; such letters or written communications not to exceed half an ounce in weight. He cannot, therefore, receive or send free any description of printed matter. He cannot frank or receive free letters written by or addressed to his wife or any other member of his family, or by or to a firm of which he is a member. Neither is he authorized to frank letters containing money or other things, nor letters written by himself on the business of others whether they be letters of subscription to editors, or publishers, or other description. The penalty for a violation of this law is \$300.

SEC. 190. By the following officers the privilege is held in trust for the maintenance of correspondence required in the performance of official duty:

1. The Secretaries of the Departments, Postmaster General and Attorney General of the United States; the 1st and 2d Comptrollers of the Treasury; the Solicitor of the Treasury; the Auditors of the Treasury; the Treasurer of the United States; the Register of the Treasury; the Assistant Secretary of State; the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; the Commissioner of the General Land Office; the Commissioner of Customs; the Commissioner of Patents; the Commissioner of Indian Affairs; the Commissioner of Pensions; the Assistant Postmasters General; the Adjutant General of the Army; the Quartermaster General; the Inspector General; the Commissary General of Subsistence; the Paymaster General; the Chief Engineer; the Surgeon General; the Colonel of Ordnance; the Chiefs of Bureaus of the Navy Department; and the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the Coast Survey—restricted to letters and packets relating to their official duties, those sent to be marked or stamped "official business," and this declaration to be subscribed by the officer with a designation of his office. In the case of the heads of Departments *alone*, this declaration may be subscribed under their direction by their respective Chief Clerks.

2. The Governors of States to the Governors of other States—restricted to laws and reports, bound or unbound, records and documents of the State, which the Legislature thereof may direct to be sent to the Executive of other States.

3. All postmasters, whether their commissions exceed or fall short of \$200 per annum—restricted to letters and packets relating exclusively to the business of their offices or the Post Office Department.

NOTE.—They must be marked "Post Office Business," and this declaration subscribed by the postmaster himself, with a designation of his office.

SEC. 191. Publishers of pamphlets, periodicals, magazines and newspapers, not exceeding sixteen ounces in weight, may exchange their publications reciprocally free, and may send their bills for subscriptions to their publications inclosed in them without additional postage—restricted to one copy each of each publication.

SEC. 192. It is the practice of many to address their hand bills and newspapers in the nature of circulars or hand bills to postmasters, by which means they give them an extensive circulation free of postage. This is an abuse which must be corrected. In every instance where a postmaster receives

a communication, addressed to him as postmaster, which is of a private character, and designed to promote private interests, with an evident intention of giving circulation to it, without paying postage, he will return the same to the person who sent it, under a new envelope, with the charge of letter postage indorsed.

SEC. 193. If the name of the individual franking a letter be known as the handwriting of a person entitled to frank, the letter may be regarded as free, although the style of his office be omitted.

SEC. 194. No postmaster or other privileged person can authorize his assistant, clerk, or any other person to write his name for the purpose of franking any letter, public or private.

SEC. 195. The personal privilege of franking travels with the person possessing it, and can be exercised in but one place at the same time.

SEC. 196. No postmaster or privileged person can leave his frank behind him upon envelopes to cover his correspondence in his absence.

SEC. 197. If letters or papers be put into a post office bearing the frank of a privileged person who notoriously has not been in that vicinity for several days; or if letters or papers marked free, be received at an office, directed to a privileged person, but notoriously intended to be received by some person not privileged, whether acting as the agent of the privileged person or not, it is the duty of the postmasters to treat them as unpaid.

SEC. 198. If any letter to or from a privileged person, be put into or received at a post office, of greater weight than such person has a right by law to frank, the postmaster will charge the excess with letter postage.

SEC. 199. It being impracticable in all cases to determine what postmasters are entitled to receive their private communications free, a *manuscript* letter addressed to a postmaster should not be detained in the mailing office, for the reason that the postage on it is not prepaid, except in cases where it is known that the postmaster addressed is not entitled to receive his private letters free. And if letters to any postmaster are known to relate exclusively to "*post office business*," being so superscribed, they should be mailed free.

SEC. 200. Any postmaster receiving a letter free, which should have been charged with postage, is bound by his oath of office to charge himself with such postage in his account with the Department.

SEC. 201. Postmasters are required to report to the Department all violations of the franking privilege.

SEC. 202. The law, fixing the penalty for violation at fifty dollars, provides "that no postmaster or assistant postmaster shall act as *agent* for lottery offices, or, under any color of purchase, or otherwise, vend lottery tickets," and that "no postmaster shall receive free of postage, or *frank* lottery schemes, circulars or tickets." Therefore, all such lottery schemes, circulars, or tickets, addressed either to a postmaster or assistant postmaster, must hereafter be excluded from the mail, together with all other transient matter of this kind, addressed simply to an office and not to any individual.

SEC. 203. If any person shall counterfeit the handwriting or frank of a person entitled to the franking privilege, or cause the same to be done, in order to avoid the payment of postage, each person so offending is liable to a fine of \$500.

SEC. 204. Properly franked mail matter, or mail matter addressed to a person enjoying the franking privilege, is entitled to be carried free in the mail when "forwarded" to the person elsewhere, as well as in its transportation simply to the office to which originally addressed.

SEC. 205. If a postmaster, having the franking privilege, franks matter which exceeds half an ounce in weight, and which does not relate exclusively to the business of his office, or of the Post Office Department, the excess is chargeable with postage: and if not so charged at the mailing office, the charge should be made at the office of delivery. Postmasters' *assistants* are forbidden by law to exercise the franking privilege under any circumstances.

CHAPTER XVII.

ACCOUNT OF NEWSPAPERS.

SEC. 206a. Every postmaster will keep—

1. An account in which he will enter at the beginning of the quarter, or on first receiving any particular paper, all newspapers by name that are to come regularly to his office, except such weekly papers as are free, and in the proper column opposite each paper, the amount of postage thereon for the quarter. This postage is to be collected in advance. In the same account, and in the same manner, he will enter all periodicals regularly received, and which have not been prepaid at the mailing office.

At the end of the quarter he will correct this account, 1st, by adding to it all the extras, supplements, and duplicates of said papers which have been received; and 2d, by deducting the amount he may have refunded for papers which failed to arrive.

2. An account, in the form prescribed by the Department, of all printed matter other than that embraced in the above account, and on which the postage was payable at his office. This account will, therefore, include the amount of postage (required to be prepaid) on each and every transient newspaper, unsealed circular, handbill, engraving, pamphlet, periodical, magazine, book, and every other description of printed matter mailed at his office, except newspapers for actual and *bona fide* subscribers, and periodicals published at intervals of not more than three months. It will also include the postage on any such matter deliverable at his office, which through inattention of the postmaster, or otherwise, may not have been prepaid at the mailing office, and the postage on every description of printed matter mailed or received at his office to or from foreign countries.

CHAPTER XVIII.

ACCOUNTS AND RETURNS OF POSTMASTERS.

SEC. 207. At the end of every quarter, which is on the last day of March, June, September, and December, every postmaster must make up his accounts, and forward *transcripts* of them to the Third Assistant Postmaster General. The originals must be filed by the postmaster with his general account, and will, like it, be held subject to inspection.

SEC. 208. In case of death, resignation, or removal of a postmaster, or discontinuance of an office; or in case of the giving of a new official bond in consequence of a change in the name of an office, the expiration of the term for which the postmaster may have been appointed, or otherwise, the accounts must be made up to the day (though it be not the end of a quarter) in which the office ceases to operate, or the new appointment, or the new bond, as the case may be, takes effect.

SEC. 209. Many postmasters have been in the habit of forwarding to the Department, contrary to regulation, their *original accounts*, keeping no duplicate or copy. This violation of rule cannot be permitted or overlooked. *Transcripts or copies only* must be sent, and the original accounts must be carefully preserved for inspection by any agent of the Department who may require it.

SEC. 210. The quarterly account current and all other official papers must be signed by the postmaster himself, unless necessarily absent or sick, in which case it may be signed as follows:

A ——— B ———, P. M.
by C ——— D ———, Assistant P. M.

The blank heading of the account current is to be filled up with the name of the office, its county, district or parish, and State.

SEC. 211. The accounts of all postmasters are examined and adjusted by the auditor as they are received, and the errors, if there be any, are carefully corrected, and the postmaster notified of such as increase by as much as fifty cents, the balance due to the United States.

SEC. 212. Postmasters, therefore, will understand that any alteration in the balances of their accounts is occasioned either by the correction of some numerical error, or by some deviation on their part from a strict conformity to the law and these instructions.

SEC. 213. If any postmaster shall neglect to render his accounts for one month after the time, and in the form and manner prescribed by law, and by the Postmaster General's instructions, he shall forfeit double the value of postages which shall have arisen at his office.

SEC. 214. The postmaster, though he may have mailed his accounts, will not be considered as discharged from the penalty mentioned in the foregoing section, unless within one month after being notified that they have not been received at the Department, he transmits duplicate transcripts from the original accounts retained in his possession.

CHAPTER XIX.

PAPERS AND ACCOUNTS TO BE RETURNED TO THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT BY POSTMASTERS.

SEC. 215. The Quarterly Return is composed of the following accounts and papers, viz:

1. A transcript of the *Account of mails sent* from the office for the quarter. The entries in this

account must, of course, be made every post day, before the mail is sent from the office, and at all large offices it should be transcribed daily.

2. A transcript of the *Account of mails received* at the office for the quarter. At all large offices the entries in this account should be made daily, and it should be transcribed daily, so as to prevent any delay in making it out at the close of the quarter.

3. A transcript of the *Account of regular Newspapers and Pamphlets received* at the office during the quarter, to which is to be added the amount of the *Miscellaneous Account*.

4. From the post offices where such accounts should be kept, a transcript of the *Account of Ship and Steamboat letters received* in the quarter, and the moneys paid for them.

5. A transcript of the *Account of Letters sent by sea* from the offices at sea-ports.

6. All the *post bills* received from other offices during the quarter.

7. *Accounts and receipts for contingent expenses.*

8. The *Dead letters*, and a bill or bills of them.

9. From distributing offices; a transcript of the *Account of mails received for Distribution.*

10. The *Account current.*

11. The transcripts of registered letters received and sent, and the registered letter bills, must be put in the return in a separate package.

SEC. 216. Postmasters are *strictly required* to fill the blanks in the account current at the head of *each page* of their accounts of mails received and sent, and carefully to add each and every column of said accounts. They will then recapitulate the amount of each column on a blank page, so as to enable the Auditor to report quarterly the aggregate amount of such columns.

SEC. 217. The commission account and the emolument account, with the vouchers belonging to them, must also accompany the quarterly account of all postmasters whose duty it is to render such accounts.

SEC. 218. To insure a correct and expeditious settlement of the quarterly accounts of postmasters, it is indispensable that each return should arrive at the Department in one perfect, unbroken bundle or packet. Each postmaster, therefore, should observe the following directions in packing up his return for transmission in the mail, viz:

SEC. 219. Put up each part of the return, if large, in a separate parcel, with strong paper, tying it with twine, and writing on each parcel its proper contents, and the name of the office, county, and State. Then pack up all the parcels, constituting the entire quarterly return, in one compact bundle or packet, *and having postmarked it*, direct it plainly to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Post Office Department.

SEC. 220. No letter, receipt, paper, or other thing whatever, not strictly belonging to the quarterly return; as enumerated and described in this chapter, should be put up in it.

CHAPTER XX.

THE QUARTERLY ACCOUNT CURRENT.

SEC. 221. The *Quarterly Account Current* is numbered to consist of 30 articles:

In article 1 every postmaster will make himself debtor for the whole amount of postage on the unpaid letters, if any, which remained on hand at the close of the preceding quarter.

In article 2 every postmaster will make himself debtor for the whole amount of the postage on all unpaid letters. This article he will find in the first column of *mails received* from other offices.

In article 3 every postmaster will make himself a debtor for the amount of postage on the way-letters received at his office for delivery; this he will find in the second column of his *Account of mails received.*

In article 4 every postmaster will next debit himself with the amount of postage undercharged. This article he will find in the third column of his *Account of mails received.*

In articles 5 and 6 every postmaster will next debit himself with the number and amount of ship and steamboat letters received for delivery. This article he will find in the first column of his *Account of Ship and Steamboat letters.*

In article 7 every postmaster will debit himself with the amount of postage *paid in money*, on letters sent from his office. This amount he will find in the third column of *mails sent.*

Every postmaster will next debit himself with the amount of registered letters sent from his office in the quarter.

In article 9 every postmaster will debit himself with the amount of unpaid postage on drop letters.

This amount he will find in the eighth column of mails received. Where drop letters are prepaid by stamps, note thereof should be made on the transcripts, and the amount added (under No. 25) to the postage on letters prepaid by stamps sent from his office.

In article 10 every postmaster will debit himself with the whole amount he has paid during the quarter for advertising letters, and credited as contingent expenses. He will mark the cost of advertising on each letter advertised. Upon every letter delivered, he will collect this cost in addition to the postage, and upon those remaining, sent as dead letters to the Department, he will charge it.

In article 11 every postmaster will next credit himself with the amount of postage on letters which have been mis-sent to and forwarded from his office, and the amount overcharged on letters received at his office. This amount he will find in the fourth column of his amount of mails received.

In article 12 every postmaster will credit himself with the amount of postage on unpaid dead letters, if any, remaining in his office at the end of the quarter, and on letters refused, or which could not be delivered, and sent to the Department as dead. This credit will include the cost of advertising any letters returned, and its amount will be the aggregate amount of the bill then to be made out, and of bills sent at the end of each of the two previous months of the quarter, of which he has retained duplicates.

In article 13 the amount of postage of unpaid letters, if any on hand at the close of the quarter, is now to be entered to his credit. This is a temporary credit, given because the postmaster is already charged with the amount in the debit part of this account. The exact sum of this temporary credit must be entered to his debit in the first article of his next account, whether any of the letters be delivered out or be returned as dead letters or otherwise.

Having added together the sums of the first ten mentioned articles, and placed the amount at the foot of the column, and at the foot of the column in the same line opposite, he will then deduct the sum of the articles 10, 11, and 12 from this amount, and the balance will be the amount of letter postage collected by him this quarter.

The balance which has been placed on the credit side of the account as article 14, is now to be entered to his debit as article 15.

In article 16 every postmaster will next debit himself with the whole amount of postage on the regular newspapers and periodicals, and other printed matter which he has received from other offices during the quarter, and the amount of postages on transient and miscellaneous newspapers.

In article 17 every postmaster will deduct, if entered in the account, the amount of postage on such newspapers as have continued during the quarter to come to the office, after he has given the publishers three months' notice that they are not taken out. He will sell such newspapers, and in article 18 he will charge himself with the amount received therefor.

In article 19 postmasters will enter the amount of fees received for registry of letters. Postmasters will next add the amount of postages collected on letters and newspapers, represented by articles 15 and 18, and place the amount in the column in the same line opposite.

If the postmaster has received stamps or stamped envelopes direct from the Department, or from his predecessor, he will include the balances resulting from articles 20, 21, and 22 in this addition.

In article 24 each postmaster will credit himself with the amount of mail registers returned by him during the quarter.

In article 25, comprehending five different rates, every postmaster will next cast his commission on the amount of postage collected on letters during the quarter, including the amount prepaid by stamps and stamped envelopes, to be found in the second column of mails sent.

In articles 26 and 27 every postmaster will next cast his commission on the amount of postage collected on newspapers and other printed matter, including the postage on such printed matter prepaid at his office by stamps or stamped envelopes, at 50 per cent., and enter it in this place.

In article 28 postmasters will enter the amount of fees received for registry of letters, casting their commissions at 80 per cent. thereof. Also the number of weekly newspapers delivered to subscribers not chargeable with postage.

In article 30, if the commission on letters, newspapers, and other printed matter does not exceed \$500 in one quarter, the postmaster will then set down the number of free letters received by mail for delivery at the office, and carry the amount at one cent each to his credit. This number he will find in the ninth column of his *Account of mails received*.

In article 31 the postmaster will next set down the number of ship and steamboat letters which he has paid for this quarter, and enter the amount of such payment. These sums he will find in the second and third columns of his *Account of Ship and Steamboat letters received*.

In article 32 the postmaster will next state the number, and credit himself with the amount paid the mail carrier for way letters. No form is prescribed for keeping this account.

SEC. 223. In article 33 it now remains for the postmaster to enter the amount of contingent expenses, which consist of wrapping paper and twine, advertising of letters, repair of mail bags, and a desk, or case, for the safe-keeping of letters. But, at offices where the commissions amount to \$50 per annum, wrapping paper and twine must be procured of the contractors for furnishing the same.

SEC. 223. The postmaster will now strike the balance of the account which should show how much he is indebted to the Department for postages for the given quarter.

SEC. 224. As this Account Current is intended to show the net proceeds of the office for the quarter, no balance due on a former quarter, nor any payment to, or collection for, the Department is to be inserted in it. All vouchers for expenses charged in the quarterly account, or in the Commission or Emolument account, must be transmitted with the said accounts; and if for advertising letters, must state the number of letters. Unreasonable delay not only implies neglect of the public business, but is calculated to bring suspicion upon the claims withheld; and the Department, therefore, reserves to itself the right to reject all such claims made after the quarterly accounts have been adjusted.

SEC. 225. Postmasters whose commissions amount to \$500 per quarter, are allowed to charge, among the contingent expenses, advertisements of the arrivals and departures of the mails, and will limit such charge to an advertisement of three weeks only—once each week.

SEC. 226. Besides the printer's account, and receipt for advertising letters, the newspaper containing the advertisement must be transmitted therewith.

CHAPTER XXI.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

SEC. 227. Every postmaster will keep in his office a *General or Ledger account with the United States for the service of the Post Office Department*, subject to the inspection of the Postmaster General, or of any general or special agent of the Department, and a copy of which is to be furnished to the Auditor, from time to time, when required.

SEC. 228. In the general account, every postmaster will credit the United States with the balances due on his quarterly returns as acknowledged, and when notified by the Auditor of any corrections made on examination thereof, he will make the corresponding corrections in the general account, or enter the proper credit therefor.

SEC. 229. The postmaster will likewise credit all sums collected by, or deposited with him, on account of the Department, and will debit the account with all sums paid over for the general service of the Department, whether by deposit, upon draft, or upon collection order. A draft office may be required to deposit, or to pay on a collection order, or a collection office to deposit or to pay on a draft.

SEC. 230. The duplicate quarterly accounts, the duplicate certificates of deposit, the duplicate collection orders and the drafts paid, and also all instructions, are to be filed as vouchers with this account, and be subject to inspection.

SEC. 231. The postmaster, upon being furnished with a statement of his general account as kept by the Auditor, will immediately compare it with his account as kept by himself, and at once acknowledge to the Auditor the balance appearing on such statement, or point out the particulars wherein the accounts disagree.

CHAPTER XXII.

COLLECTION OF DEBTS.

SEC. 232. The collection of debts due to the Post Office Department, whether by postmasters, contractors, or other persons, is assigned by the act of July, 1836, to the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department.

SEC. 233. When such debts, if collected, would overpay the contractor for the route, on or near which the debtor resides, or when, for other reasons, the Auditor finds it more convenient to employ a postmaster in the vicinity, the latter will consider himself as a special agent of the Department for this purpose, and will obey such orders as he may receive from the Auditor in respect to such collection. If the debt is collected, the postmaster will give notice to the Auditor by transmitting his receipt for its amount, and will credit the same to his general account with the United States, for the service of the Post Office Department.

SEC. 234. If the exertions of the postmaster to collect prove unavailing, he will communicate to the Auditor the causes of the failure, and also the pecuniary circumstances of the parties, if alive, or of their estates, and the names of their administrators, if dead.

SEC. 235. If due diligence be not used in making the collection, or, if being unsuccessful, any postmaster fail to return the draft or demand to the Auditor, or otherwise to give notice of such failure, or fail to give any information required in relation to the same, such neglect and want of fidelity will amount to a breach of the condition of his bond, for which the damages will be recoverable, and will moreover be considered just ground of removal from office.

CHAPTER XXIII.

PAYING OVER MONEY TO THE USE, OR FOR THE SERVICE OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

SEC. 236. No moneys are to be paid directly into the Department, neither are any paid out directly by it. The proceeds of postage, or moneys received for postage stamps, or stamped envelopes sold, will, therefore, never be remitted by postmasters to the Department, nor be paid to any of its officers or agents, without due authority from the Postmaster General.

SEC. 237. For the purpose of paying over the funds of the Department, all the post offices, except special offices, are classed either as deposit offices, draft offices, or collection offices. Offices are transferred, from time to time, from one to another of these classes, to suit the convenience of the service, and when such changes are necessary, they are notified to the postmasters, respectively, by a circular letter.

SEC. 238. Deposit offices are such as are ordered to place, quarterly or oftener, their funds in deposit in some depository.

SEC. 239. Draft offices are those which are ordered to retain their funds in hand to meet drafts drawn by the Postmaster General, and countersigned by the Auditor of the Post Office Department.

SEC. 240. Collection offices are those which are required to pay over their net proceeds quarterly to the mail contractor named in their special instructions, upon the production by him, from time to time, of the proper orders and receipts sent to him by the Department. *In these quarterly payments must be included all moneys received for postage stamps and stamped envelopes sold.*

SEC. 241. Certain postmasters are designated as depositaries of the funds of the offices in their vicinity, and the postmasters at such offices are ordered to deposit quarterly with them.

SEC. 242. A failure, either to deposit according to instructions, or to pay a draft when presented, or to pay over to a contractor, upon the production of the proper collection orders and receipts, will be followed by the removal of the delinquent postmaster from office, unless satisfactorily explained to the Postmaster General.

SEC. 243. Want of funds can never be an excuse for failing to pay, or to deposit; as the postmaster is not authorized to give credit for postages, which are regarded as cash in his hands. In like manner he is prohibited from using, loaning, investing, depositing in bank, or exchanging moneys received for postages, on pain of criminal prosecution.

SEC. 244. A postmaster cannot refuse to pay a draft or collection order because the contractor is indebted to him, nor because there is an unsettled private account between them, nor upon any other pretext; but such refusal is made, by the law, *prima facie* evidence of embezzlement, subjecting him to punishment.

SEC. 245. Every postmaster under orders to place his funds in a depository, will take duplicate certificates of each deposit, signed by the proper officer, one of which should be transmitted to the Third Assistant Postmaster General by the first mail thereafter, as the postmaster will not be entitled to a credit until the reception of the certificate at the Department.

SEC. 246. The deposit should include the whole amount due, whether for postage at the office; for postage stamps and stamped envelopes; or for collections or deposits made with the postmaster on account of the Department or otherwise.

SEC. 247. Postmasters at collection offices must be ready to pay over at the end of each quarter, and will transmit the contractor's receipt by the very first mail after payment is made. Such payments must include the whole amount on hand, whether arising from the postages of the quarter, or any preceding quarters, from sales of postage stamps or stamped envelopes, or from moneys collected by,

or deposited with the postmaster. The receipts must never be put up with the quarterly return, but should be sent under a separate envelope, addressed to the Auditor for the Post Office Department.

Sec. 248. Every postmaster of a "special office" will report to the Postmaster General, at the end of each quarter, the balance in his hands, over and above the sums due the contractor for supplying his office with the mail, in order that the Department may make a proper disposition of such balance.

Sec. 249. Postmasters at "special offices" when under orders to pay their respective contractors, will not only pay promptly, but lose no time in transmitting to the Auditor for the Post Office Department the receipts taken for their quarterly payments.

Sec. 250. All payments to the Department, whether upon drafts, or otherwise, must be in specie; and postmasters, in receiving payment of postages, or other dues to the Department, should always bear in mind that they are bound to pay them over in the legal currency of the United States.

Sec. 251. No allowance can be made to a postmaster for deficiency in weight of money received for postage. Neither can any allowance or remuneration be made for losses by fire, robbery, or theft, nor can compensation be made for collecting or paying over moneys to the Department, not arising from postages at his office.

Sec. 252. Postmasters may receive for postage the small Spanish and Mexican silver coins at the following rates, viz: The fourth of a dollar, or piece of two reals, at twenty cents; the eighth of a dollar, or piece of one real, at ten cents; and the sixteenth of a dollar, or piece of half a real, at five cents. But they are not allowed to pay out such coin except to the United States depositaries.

CHAPTER XXIV.

APPLICATIONS FOR PAYMENT AND RENEWAL OF LOST DRAFTS OR WARRANTS.

Sec. 253. In all cases where application is made for the issue of a duplicate draft or warrant, upon the allegation that the original is lost, every such application must be addressed to the Auditor for the Post Office Department, and must be accompanied by a statement, on oath or affirmation, by the applicant, or the person who is the legal holder thereof, showing the time, place, and all the circumstances attending the loss or destruction of the draft or warrant, with its number, date, and amount; in whose favor it was issued; and if assigned, to whom made payable; together with any other particulars relating to it within the knowledge of the applicant.

Sec. 254. The applicant must also produce a letter or certificate from the officer or person on whom the draft or warrant may have been drawn, showing that it has not been paid—also that payment of the same will not thereafter be made to the owner, or any other person whatever.

Sec. 255. The duplicate, when issued, shall have the same tenor, force, and effect as the original, unless in case of assignment, the assignee of the lost draft produce due authority from the drawee for the issue of the duplicate in his own favor.

CHAPTER XXV.

COMMISSIONS OF POSTMASTERS.

Sec. 256. Postmasters are entitled, by law, since July 1, 1854, to the following commissions on the amount of postages received by them in each quarter of the year, AND IN DUE PROPORTION FOR ANY FRACTIONAL PART OF A QUARTER; but no postmaster can receive a larger compensation from commissions than \$500 per quarter:

"On a sum not exceeding \$100, sixty per cent.; on a sum over the first, and not exceeding \$400, fifty per cent.; on a sum over and above the first \$400, and not exceeding \$2,400, forty per cent.; on all sums over \$2,400, fifteen per cent.;" consequently these rates of commission are—

60 per cent.	on the first	\$100
50	" " next	300
40	" " "	2,000
15	" on all over	2,400

Sec. 257. The rate of commission upon letter postages prepaid by stamps is the same as if the whole letter postages were collected in money; that is, in summing up the amounts on which commissions are calculated, the amount of letter postages on those prepaid by stamps sent will be included in the general amount the same as though the whole letter postages were collected in money; but they should be entered in the proper line in the account current.

Sec. 258. The rate of commission on newspaper postages is fifty per cent., in all cases, whether the amount be large or small.

Sec. 259. One cent is allowed for the delivery of each free manuscript letter, (those addressed to the postmaster excepted,) to offices where the commission does not amount to \$500 per quarter.

Sec. 260. On the postages of letters received for distribution at the General Distribution Offices, a commission of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is allowed.

Sec. 261. On the postage of letters received at a frontier office and sent to Canada, a commission of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and on those received from Canada for distribution, a commission of 7 per cent. is allowed. The amounts should be made up of postages received from and sent to Canada offices, and not United States offices.

Sec. 262. An allowance of two mills will be made for each weekly newspaper, not chargeable with postage, delivered to an actual subscriber living within the county where such paper is published: *Provided*, Such papers are properly entered upon the transcript; that is, the transcript should show the number of subscribers, how often and where published, and also the total number of papers. This does not include "exchanges" between editors and publishers. Whenever the allowance is claimed by a postmaster out of the county for papers delivered to subscribers living within the county where the paper is published, the postmaster must state this fact, in writing, on the transcript, or the allowance will not be made.

Sec. 263. Ten cents is allowed for each monthly register of the arrival and departure of the mails, when required by and returned to the Department.

Sec. 264. At offices where the mail is, *by contract*, to arrive regularly between the hours of nine o'clock in the evening and 5 o'clock in the morning, 70 instead of 60 per cent. is allowed on the first hundred dollars of letter postage: *Provided*, Such postmaster transmit, with his quarterly return, his certificate to the following effect, viz:

"POST OFFICE, _____, 185—.

"I certify that the regular time for the arrival of the mail at my office, for the quarter ending _____, was between the hours of nine o'clock in the evening and five o'clock in the morning.

"_____, P. M."

NOTE.—Unless the certificate is in due form, and is made a part of the return in which the allowance is claimed, it will not be made.

Sec. 265. Letter postages prepaid by stamps should not be included in the "postage of paid letters sent," on No. 7 of the account current; but the amount prepaid by stamps must be stated on the credit side of the account, on No 25, for the purpose of calculating commissions thereon; and the same regulation applies to newspapers prepaid by stamps.

Sec. 266. Postmasters are not allowed any commission on printed matter made free by the frank of a member of Congress.

Sec. 267. The postmaster who collects the postage on newspapers, periodicals, magazines, &c., quarterly or yearly in advance, is entitled to the commissions on the same, although he may go out of office immediately thereafter, and the paper or periodical be delivered by his successor. He should, however, leave in the office a record of all such payments.

Sec. 268. The annual compensation to which postmasters are limited will be computed for the fiscal year commencing the first of July and ending the 30th of June, and in due proportion for any period less than a year.

CHAPTER XXVI.

MAIL CONTRACTS AND BIDS.

Sec. 269. The Union is divided into four contract sections; a letting for one of these sections occurs every year, and contracts are made at such lettings for four consecutive years, commencing on the first day of July.

Sec. 270. The sections and their current contract terms are—

1. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York—current term to end 30th June, 1861.

2. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Ohio—current term to end 30th June, 1860.

3. Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida—current term to end 30th June, 1859.

4. Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, California, Minnesota, Oregon, New Mexico, Utah, Washington, Nebraska, and Kansas—current term to end 30th June, 1858.

SEC. 271. Each contractor will execute with sureties, contracts in duplicate, both to be returned to the Contract Office. One of these duplicates will be preserved in the Contract Office, and one reported to the Auditor. A copy will be furnished to the contractor by the Contract Office, if requested.

SEC. 272. If a post office depend for its supply of the mail upon the postages it collects, and the net proceeds thereof fall short of the amount which the contractor or carrier may be authorized to receive, he will have no claim on the Department for the deficiency. If, however, the proceeds of the office supplied, for a portion of the term of a special contract, fall short of the sum allowable to the contractor, and during another portion of that term exceed it, the excess, or so much thereof as may be necessary for that purpose, is to be applied to the payment of the deficiency.

SEC. 273. During the existence of a contract for supplying an office, the postmaster can only pay according to instructions, or in conformity with the contract, and he must forward to the Auditor the receipt of the contractor for each payment, immediately upon the close of the quarter.

SEC. 274. When any contractor fails to commence or abandons the service stipulated in his contract, it becomes the duty of the postmasters at the ends of the route to report the fact to the Contract Office, and to furnish the name of the person who will enter into contract at the lowest price, for the residue of the term.

SEC. 275. After the expiration of a contract, and until the Postmaster General has decided upon a new contract, or upon the expediency of discontinuing the office, postmasters cannot make any payment unless expressly authorized to do so by the Postmaster General.

SEC. 276. Contractors are required, in all cases, to carry the entire mail, and are not permitted to leave bags of newspapers and pamphlets on their routes; they must give due attention to the preservation of mail bags, and must not allow them to be dragged about upon the pavement, or otherwise injured.

SEC. 277. The Postmaster General may annul a contract for failures on the part of the contractor; for violating the Post Office laws; disobeying the instructions of the Department; for refusing to discharge a carrier when required by the Department, or for assigning the contract without the consent of the Postmaster General.

SEC. 278. The Postmaster General is prohibited by law from knowingly making a contract for the transportation of the mail with any person who shall have entered into any combination, or proposed to enter into any combination, to prevent the making of any bid for a mail contract by any other person or persons, or who shall have made any agreement, or shall have given or performed, or promised to give or perform, any consideration to do or not to do, anything whatever in order to induce any other person or persons not to bid for a mail contract.

SEC. 279. The Postmaster General may annul the contract for repeated failures; for violating the Post Office laws; for disobeying the instructions of the Department; for refusing to discharge a carrier when required by the Department; for assigning the contract without the consent of the Postmaster General, or for setting up or running an express as aforesaid, or for transporting persons conveying mail matter out of the mail.

SEC. 280. The Postmaster General may alter the contract, and alter the schedule, he allowing a *pro rata* increase of compensation, within the restrictions imposed by law, for the additional service required or for increased speed, if the employment of additional stock or carriers is rendered necessary; but the contractor may, in case of increased expedition, relinquish the contract, on timely notice, if he prefer it to the change.

SEC. 281. The Postmaster General may annul the contract, or discontinue, or curtail the service and pay, when he wishes to dispense with the service, in whole or in part, or to place a higher or different grade of service on the route, or whenever the public interests require such discontinuance or curtailment for any other cause, he allowing one month's extra pay on the amount of service dispensed with.

SEC. 282. Bidders for mail contracts should first propose for service strictly according to the advertisements, and then, if they desire, *separately* for different service; and if the *regular* bid be the lowest offered for the advertised service, the other propositions may be considered.

SEC. 283. The route, the service, the yearly pay, the name and residence of the bidder, (that is, his usual post office address,) and those of each member of a firm, where a company offers, should be distinctly stated; also the mode of conveyance, if a higher mode than horseback be intended.

SEC. 284. In the advertisements of the Department distances are given according to the best information; but no increased pay will be allowed should they be greater than advertised, if the points to be supplied be correctly stated. *Bidders must inform themselves on this point*; and also in reference to the weight of the mail, the condition of roads, hills, streams, &c., and all toll bridges, ferries or obstructions of any kind by which expense may be incurred. No claim for additional pay, based on such grounds, can be considered; nor for alleged mistakes or misapprehension as to the degree of service; nor for bridges destroyed or other obstructions, increasing distance, occurring during the contract term. Offices established after this advertisement is issued, and also during the contract term, are to be visited without extra pay, if the distance be not increased.

SEC. 285. The words "with due celerity, certainty, and security," inserted to indicate the mode of conveyance, will constitute a "star bid." When a "star bid" is intended, no specific conveyance must be named.

SEC. 286. Bidders are requested to use, as far as practicable, the printed form of proposals furnished by the Department, to write out in full the sum of their bids, and to retain copies of them.

SEC. 287. Altered bids should not be submitted; nor should bids once submitted be withdrawn.

SEC. 288. Each bid must be guaranteed by two responsible persons. General guarantees cannot be admitted. The bid and guarantee should be signed plainly with the full name of each person.

SEC. 289. A bid received after the time designated in the advertisement, or without the guarantee required by law, or that combines several routes in one sum of compensation, cannot be considered in competition with a regular proposal not adjudged to be extravagant.

SEC. 290. A modification of a bid in any of its essential terms is tantamount to a new bid, and cannot be received, so as to interfere with a regular competition, after the last hour set for receiving bids.

SEC. 291. Postmasters are to be careful not to certify the sufficiency of guarantors or sureties without knowing that they are persons of sufficient responsibility; and all bidders, guarantors, and sureties are distinctly notified that on a failure to enter into or perform the contracts for the service proposed for in the accepted bids, their legal liabilities will be enforced against them.

CHAPTER XXVII.

OF SCHEDULE CHANGES, TRANSFERS, AND MAIL MESSENGERS.

SEC. 292. An application for schedule change cannot be granted—

1. Without the assent of the Postmasters at the ends of the route, excepting in ease of manifest necessity.
2. Or, unless agreed to by the contractor, except in cases where the propriety of the change is clearly shown.
3. It cannot be granted if more running time is asked than is given in the contract schedules;
4. Or, if it breaks connection with any other route.
5. Or, if it puts the mail on a wrong day for the newspapers circulated over the route.
6. Or, if it prevents or lessens any other special accommodation to the public.
7. Or, if it fails to show a good reason for the change.

SEC. 293. Application for transfer of contracts should be in the following form, viz:

ROUTE No. _____, from _____ miles, _____, to _____ times per week.

I request that the contract for the above route and service be duly transferred to and made with _____, of _____, in lieu of myself, to take effect from _____

(to be signed by the contractor.)

I agree to take the contract for the above named route and service, as proposed by Mr. _____ and will engage to perform the service required thereon.

(to be signed by the proposed transferee.)

I am well acquainted with Mr. _____, and recommend him as a responsible and suitable person to convey the mail on the above named route.

(to be signed by a postmaster.)

SEC. 294. The following regulations apply to mail messenger service:

1. Mail messengers are not required to execute a contract, and are not appointed for a definite period.

2. Such service is not to be employed without express authority from the Contract Office.
 3. The railroad and steamboat contractors are to have it performed at all offices within a quarter of a mile of their depots, stations, or landings, as well as at the terminal offices of their routes.
 4. The compensation of messengers engaged by the Department is always limited to the net yield of the offices supplied.
 5. Postmasters cannot draw pay for the performance of such duty.
- SEC. 295. Applications for schedule change, or for leave to transfer contract made by persons who have not executed contract, are inadmissible.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

ATTENTION TO THE MANNER OF CARRYING THE MAILS.

SEC. 296. Every postmaster will consider himself the agent of the Department in regard to its affairs in his immediate vicinity, so far as to carefully observe, and promptly report to it, everything tending to affect its interests, efficiency, and utility.

SEC. 297. It is especially expected that he will keep a vigilant eye upon the manner in which the mails are carried to and from his office. This is amongst the most important of his duties.

SEC. 298. Postmasters will report every instance in which the mail is brought to his office by a person under the age of sixteen years, or who has not been duly sworn.

SEC. 299. If a mail-carrier, having the mail in charge, become intoxicated, he will instantly dismiss him, employ another at the expense of the contractor, and report the facts to the Department.

SEC. 300. He will report promptly all irregularities of mail-carriers, in charge of the mail, and the causes, when known.

SEC. 301. If the mail arrive without a lock, he will ascertain where the fault is, and report it to the Department.

SEC. 302. If the mail be carried on horseback, he will see that it be covered with an oil-cloth or bear-skin: If in a stage, that it be carried in a secure dry boot under the driver's feet, or in the box which constitutes the driver's seat: If in a sulky or other vehicle, he will see that it be well protected from the weather.

SEC. 303. He will also carefully observe how mails are carried by any steamers landing near his office, and will report to the Inspection Office every case in which he finds them exposed on deck, or not secured in some proper place under lock and key.

SEC. 304. When the newspaper mail, on a stage route, is large, and separate from the letter mail, it may be carried in the boot behind the stage, but it must not be exposed to the weather.

SEC. 305. Postmasters will report all instances in which the mails are carried without being secured from the weather, as above directed.

SEC. 306. When the mail stops over night where there is a post office, it must be kept in the office.

CHAPTER XXIX.

REPORT OF ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF THE MAILS TO BE MADE BY POSTMASTERS.

SEC. 307. Postmasters at the ends of every mail route, and such others as the Postmaster General may direct, will keep registers of the arrival and departure of mails which are opened at their offices, respectively, setting forth the exact time of each arrival and departure, and the manner of the conveyance when it varies from the contract, and giving the reasons for every delinquency or failure to arrive at the time prescribed in the schedules, if known to them, or can be ascertained by them on proper inquiry.

SEC. 308. Postmasters at the ends of routes on which the mails are carried less than six times a week will forward the register to the Department at the close of every month.

SEC. 309. Postmasters at the ends of all routes on which the mails are carried six times a week or more, will return these registers at the close of each week, unless otherwise specially directed.

SEC. 310. Whenever the mail is carried by any other person than the contractor or his authorized agent or carrier, the fact is to be noted on the register.

SEC. 311. Besides these stated tabular reports, postmasters at the ends of routes and also at intermediate points will promptly report by letter all extraordinary failures, interruptions, or abandonment of routes; and, in fact, give from time to time all such information as may aid the Department in enforcing the strictest performance of duty on the part of contractors and securing for the community the greatest possible regularity, safety, and efficiency in the mail service.

SEC. 312. Special reports, and all complaints of mail failures, should state *the number*, or, if the number is not known, the *termini* of the route.

SEC. 313. Particular care must be exercised in the making out of all registers of arrivals and departures of the mails. The blanks at the head of each should all be properly filled—giving the name, county and State of the office, the number of the route, and the names of the places where it terminates, with the contract days and hours of arrival and departure. All registers should be *fully dated*—showing the day of the *week*, the *month*, and the *year*. When there is a failure to arrive or depart, write opposite to its date "*Failure*;" when a failure to connect, write "*Failed to connect*;" and when a complaint for failure to arrive in time, write "*Complaint*."

CHAPTER XXX.

FAILURES OF MAILS AND FINES.

SEC. 314. Failures of mails to arrive at the ends of routes and other points within contract time cannot but be known in all cases to contractors or their agents.

SEC. 315. No notice, therefore, is necessary to be given to contractors of failures to arrive in any post office in contract time, as reported by postmasters to the Department; but when the failure is caused by the neglect of a carrier employed by the contractor, the postmaster will notify the contractor of the failure, and require him to take measures to prevent its recurrence.

SEC. 316. Should a mail at any time fail to arrive at the end of a route, or at any intermediate post office, where the time of arrival is fixed within the time specified in the contract or schedule, it will be expected of every contractor immediately, by himself or agent, to send his excuse to the Inspection Office, setting forth, *particularly*, the cause of the failure; and if, after waiting a reasonable time, no specific and satisfactory excuse be received, the Chief Clerk is directed to present the case thus reported to the Postmaster General for fine.

SEC. 317. A specific excuse is required for each specific delinquency of any contractor, so that general allegations will not be admitted. If bad roads be alleged, a specific report must be made of what portion of the road was so bad as to obstruct the mails, and what was its peculiar condition; if high waters, it must be shown what water courses were impassable; and so of all other excuses.

SEC. 318. In all cases there is to be a forfeiture of the pay of the trip when the trip is not run; and of not more than three times the pay of the trip when the trip is not run, and no sufficient excuse for the failure is furnished; a forfeiture of at least one fourth part of it when the running or arrival is so far behind time as to lose the connection with a depending mail; and forfeiture of a due proportion of it when a grade of service is rendered inferior to that in the contract. These forfeitures may be increased into penalties of higher amount, according to the nature or frequency of the failures and the importance of the mail.

SEC. 319. Whenever it be satisfactorily shown that the contractors, their carriers, or agents, have left or put aside the mail, or any portion of it, for the accommodation of passengers, they shall forfeit not exceeding a quarter's pay.

SEC. 320. Fines will be imposed unless the delinquency be satisfactorily explained in due time, for failing to take from, or deliver at, a post office, the mail or any part of it: for suffering it to be wet, injured, lost, or destroyed; for conveying it in a place or manner that exposes it to depredation, loss, or injury; for refusing after demand to convey a mail by any coach, railroad car, or steamboat, which the contractor regularly runs, or is concerned in running, on the route, beyond the specified number of trips in the contract, and for not arriving at the time set: and for setting up or running an *express* to transmit commercial intelligence in advance of the mail, a penalty will be exacted equal to a quarter's pay.

CHAPTER XXXI.

POSTAGE STAMPS AND STAMPED ENVELOPES.

SEC. 321. To facilitate the prepayment of postages upon letters and packages, postage stamps and stamped envelopes, of suitable denominations, are provided and furnished by the Postmaster General, pursuant to the acts of Congress on the subject.

SEC. 322. These stamps and envelopes are furnished only to postmasters for sale. Postmasters who fail to supply themselves from the Department must purchase temporary supplies from the nearest offices, for cash.

SEC. 323. Postmasters who purchase stamps or stamped envelopes from other postmasters, under the preceding regulation, are not required to render to the Department any account of such purchases and sales.

SEC. 324. Every postmaster receiving stamps or stamped envelopes for sale, directly from the Department, will, at the end of each quarter, charge himself in his quarterly account current, with any amount of such articles he may have received from his predecessor, or which remained on hand at the close of the preceding quarter, adding thereto the amounts received from the Department during the quarter just ended, and crediting himself with the amount of stamps and envelopes then remaining on hand. The balance of the account thus stated will represent the amount of stamps and stamped envelopes sold, which must be added on the debit side of his quarterly account current to the amount due on the regular return of postages for the quarter.

SEC. 325. Upon surrendering a post office to his successor, the late postmaster, or his representative, will turn over to such successor all the stamps and stamped envelopes then on hand, taking duplicate receipts for the same and transmitting one of them forthwith to the Auditor, that the account of the late postmaster may be credited accordingly.

SEC. 326. If a post office be discontinued, the postmaster will deliver all the stamps and stamped envelopes to the postmaster to whom he is directed to deliver the other post office property, and he will take and transmit duplicate receipts to the Auditor as above required.

SEC. 327. If any parcel of postage stamps or stamped envelopes be damaged, the postmaster will sign the receipt for the whole amount of the parcel, and, having written across the face of the receipt the number and amount of stamps or envelopes unfit for use, he will return such, together with the receipt, to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, who will give credit for the amount returned. But if the damage be total, the entire parcel should be returned, with the receipt not signed, that a parcel in order may be sent in place of them. If the damaged stamps or envelopes be not returned, no credit therefor will be given.

SEC. 328. Postmasters are expected, in each case, to order such quantity as, upon a careful estimate, may be deemed a sufficient supply of the various kinds of stamps and envelopes for three months; and they are required, in every instance, to write the name of the post office, county, and State plainly at the head of their orders, which should be signed by the postmasters themselves, and relate to no other subject whatever.

SEC. 329. The envelopes are to be sold FOR CASH to postmasters and all other persons, at the prices stated in the receipt which is sent with them to each office. In making sale of them, postmasters are expected to evince a due spirit of accommodation, but they are not required to lose the fractions of a cent in selling small quantities; and if a postmaster cannot readily make change, the purchaser must tender the exact amount for the number he wants.

SEC. 330. The law makes no compensation to postmasters for the sale of postage stamps or stamped envelopes, except by the allowance of commissions on such as are used in prepayment of postage on letters and packages sent from their offices; neither does it allow any discount to those who purchase.

SEC. 331. The second section of the act of 3d march, 1855, provides 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 that 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. Postage stamps will therefore be sold for no more than their face; and stamped envelopes for no more than postmasters are charged for them by the Department.

SEC. 332. Postage stamps and stamped envelopes may be used in prepayment of postage on letters to foreign countries, in all cases where such prepayment can be made in money.

SEC. 333. When letters to foreign countries are prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, the mailing postmaster should cancel the stamps, and be careful to rate and mark the letters with red ink as if prepaid in money.

SEC. 334. A postmaster may not refuse to mail and forward a letter as prepaid because the postage stamp or stamps affixed to it or envelopes containing it were not purchased at his office.

SEC. 335. A letter bearing a stamp cut or separated from a stamped envelope, cannot be sent through the mail as a prepaid letter. Stamps so cut or separated from stamped envelopes lose their legal value.

SEC. 336. All postage stamps affixed to letters, packets, or parcels of any description, and all stamped envelopes, must be *immediately and effectually canceled* in the office in which the letters, packets, or parcels may be deposited for transmission or delivery. The cancellation should be effected *by the use of black printer's ink wherever that material can be obtained*; and where it cannot, the operation should be performed by making several heavy crosses or parallel lines upon each stamp with a pen dipped in good black writing ink.

SEC. 337. If the canceling have been omitted on the mailing of the letter, packet, or parcel, or if the cancellation be incomplete, the postmaster at the office of delivery will cancel the stamp in the manner directed, and forthwith report the delinquent postmaster to the Postmaster General, as the law requires.

SEC. 338. The use of the office dating or postmarking stamp as a canceling instrument is prohibited, *unless it be used with black printer's ink, and in such manner as thoroughly to effect the object.*

SEC. 339. Letters and packets, and parcels chargeable with letter postage, and prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, will be entered on the post-bills, and also on the transcripts of mails sent and mails received, in the appropriate columns, headed "prepaid by stamps."

SEC. 340. The postage on newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets, prepaid by stamps, will, in like manner, be entered in the proper transcript or account of newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, and other prepaid printed matter in the column headed "prepaid by stamps."

SEC. 341. In making up his quarterly account, the postmaster *will not charge himself* in his quarterly account current with the amount of mailable matter prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, which may have been received at or sent from his office; but he may take his commissions *on the amount of such matter originally sent from his office*, in the same manner as if the prepayment had been made in money, and without regard to where the stamps or envelopes may have been purchased.

SEC. 342. All postage stamps or envelopes, whether attached to letters, packets, or parcels chargeable with letter postage, or to newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, or other printed matter, must be entered in the appropriate columns of the transcripts belonging to the quarterly returns, and the columns carefully footed up, that the Department may readily ascertain the quantity of stamps and envelopes used in the mails and canceled.

SEC. 343. Postmasters receiving postage stamps or envelopes from the Department for sale will pay over the money by them received for stamps and envelopes sold, at the same time and in the same manner as their special instructions require them to pay over the quarterly balances due for postage. Enclosing money to the Department to pay for stamps or envelopes is prohibited.

SEC. 344. The law provides, 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 stamp, or 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.

SEC. 345. When unpaid letters, or letters bearing postage stamps that have evidently been used before, are left at any post office by persons unknown to the postmaster, he will retain such letters until the end of the quarter, and will then forward them with his quarterly returns—calling the attention of the Department to those bearing canceled stamps, that the writer may then be dealt with according to law. If, however, such letters should be reclaimed before the end of the quarter, those *unpaid* may be restored to the writers, but those bearing canceled stamps will not be so restored, unless upon satisfactory proof that such stamps were used ignorantly, or without fraudulent intent.

SEC. 346. When a letter bearing a canceled stamp is posted by a person known to the postmaster, or whenever he shall ascertain the name of the person who has posted such letter with *fraudulent intent*, he will immediately present the case, by a written statement thereof, to the attorney for the United States in the district where his office is situated.

SEC. 347. Postmasters of "special offices" can obtain such postage stamps and stamped envelopes as the business of their respective offices may require by addressing the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Post Office Department, and stating in each case the gross amount of postage which accrued at the office in the preceding quarter.

SEC. 348. The net proceeds of a "special office" for any quarter are to be ascertained *from the account current*, by adding together the balance due to the United States and the postage prepaid by

stamps and stamped envelopes sent from the office, and subtracting from the joint sum the amount of stamps and stamped envelopes sold at the office, as follows:

To balance due to the United States on the quarterly account current.....	\$
Add postage prepaid by stamps and stamped envelopes on letters, papers, &c., sent from the office during the quarter.....	
Joint sum.....	\$
Deduct amount of stamps and stamped envelopes sold at the office.....	
Net proceeds for the quarter.....	\$

SEC. 349. Orders for postage stamps and stamped envelopes should be directed to the "Third Assistant Postmaster General," and no order should embrace any other subject whatever.

CHAPTER XXXII.

OFFICE BLANKS, RATING STAMPS, ETC.

SEC. 350. Post office blanks will be furnished to postmasters, on their written requisitions, from the following agencies:

DISTRICT No. 1.

AGENCY AT WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.

Postmasters in the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida will apply to the "First Assistant Postmaster General, Washington, D. C."

DISTRICT No. 2.

AGENCY AT NEW YORK CITY.

Postmasters in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California, Oregon, and Washington, will apply to the "Blank Agent at New York, N. Y."

DISTRICT NO. 3.

AGENCY AT CINCINNATI, OHIO.

Postmasters in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas, will apply to the "Blank Agent at Cincinnati, Ohio."

SEC. 351. When the postages collected at an office amount to \$100 a year, the name of the postmaster and of his office will be printed on the post-bills. When the gross receipts of an office amount to \$50 a year, the postmaster is entitled to wrapping paper, sealing wax, and twine, at the above agencies.

SEC. 352. Post offices, the gross receipts of which are over \$1,000 per annum, will be furnished with circular marking and rating stamps of steel; less than \$1,000 and over \$500, with stamps of iron; less than \$500 and over \$100, with stamps of wood. Application for these stamps should be made to the Appointment Office.

SEC. 353. Letter balances, upon the like application, are furnished to offices which collect in postages \$75 a year.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

MAIL LOCKS AND KEYS.

SEC. 354. Locks and keys are furnished, when wanted, upon application to the Inspection Office, addressed to the "CHIEF CLERK." These applications, and all other official statements addressed to the Inspection Office, should be signed by the postmaster only, except in case of sickness or unavoidable absence, when they may be signed by an assistant.

Sec. 355. Postmasters at the principal offices are supplied with several locks in order that they may be used when extra mail bags are forwarded.

Sec. 356. The mail key should be kept with great care. It should never be carried out of the office, but be secured therein, under lock, and accessible only to the postmaster and his assistant. It will be deemed highly reprehensible in any postmaster to lose the mail key.

Sec. 357. Application for mail keys should be made directly to the Inspection Office, and should state the reason why a new key is wanted. If one be lost or broken, its place may be supplied by borrowing from an adjacent office, until another is furnished by the Inspection Office, when the borrowed key must be returned.

Sec. 358. In case a key is lost or broken the chain or strap of the mail bag ought not to be cut, but the fact should be notified to the next postmaster, who should be requested to take out the packets addressed to his office, and send them out of the mail, until a new key be obtained.

Sec. 359. Every postmaster, in cases where the mail arrives at his office without a lock upon the bag, should procure a common pad lock, if he has not a spare mail lock, and lock up the mail therewith, the key of which to be sealed up, and delivered to the carrier, and addressed to the next postmaster on the route.

Sec. 360. Whenever a lock or key shall be broken, or otherwise become unfit for use, it should not be repaired, but be sent to the Inspection Office with a statement of the reasons for such return thereof.

Sec. 361. When an application for a new key is made to supply the place of a broken key, all the parts of the broken key should be returned to the Inspection Office.

Sec. 362. The law having made it felony to steal or to counterfeit any key suited to any lock which has been or shall be adopted for use upon the mails of the United States; or to steal, embezzle, unlawfully use or dispose of any such lock, or any mail bags in use by or belonging to the United States; it becomes the duty of postmasters, and all other agents of this Department, to see that the penalties of these provisions of law are enforced in every case of their violation.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

MAIL POUCHES AND MAIL BAGS.

Sec. 363. All communications relating to portmanteaus, mail pouches, and mail bags, should be addressed to the "CHIEF CLERK, POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT."

Sec. 364. The term "Mail Bag" embraces mail pouches (for coach, railroad, and steamboat service) of five sizes, the largest being No. 1 horse mail bags (for horseback service only) of three sizes, the largest being No. 1; and canvas mail sacks (for printed matter alone, except when the same is sealed and inclosed in locked pouches) of three sizes, the largest being No. 1.

Sec. 365. When a new mail bag is wanted application is to be made to the Chief Clerk, describing the kind and size, and stating the number of the route on which it is to be used, as well as the mode of service thereon. No allowance will be made to postmasters or contractors for mail bags procured by them.

Sec. 366. Every mail route should be provided with mail bags and locks, in good order. Postmasters, especially those at the head of the routes, should see to this, and make application to the Inspection Office for such as may be needed. When a postmaster at the end of a route discovers a mail bag to be out of order, he will immediately have it repaired, and charge the amount in his account of contingent expenses, and send a receipt therefor. But if it be so unsound as that the mail will not be secure in it until it gets to the end of the route, the postmaster who first discovers its condition will have it repaired, even though it should detain the mail. *No allowance will be made to postmasters or contractors for bags purchased by them.*

Sec. 367. Mails of letters and newspapers, before being put into the mail bag, are to be placed in separate linen or light canvas bags, where such bags are used; and whenever these bags are worn out or lost, the postmasters at the ends of routes will apply to the Inspection Office for such bags as may be necessary for the transportation of the mail.

Sec. 368. All mail bags not in use should be immediately returned to the office from which they were sent; and if received from points unknown or where not needed, they should be forwarded to the nearest mail bag depot mentioned below. Postmasters who send extra bags should see that they are returned; this they can do by writing to the postmasters who retain them. If they be not returned, the facts should be reported to the Inspection Office.

UNLAWFUL CARRYING OF MAILABLE MATTER, ETC. 87

SEC. 369. A sufficient number of mail bags should be retained at distributing offices, and at offices where the parts of a large mail are separated for several routes, to send the mail matter for all such routes.

SEC. 370. Postmasters whose offices are mail bag depots, may furnish mail bags in cases of great emergency, in which cases they will make a report to the Department, stating the kind of bag and the number of the route upon which it is placed.

SEC. 371. Bags designed for newspaper mails, and without locks, have been illegally withdrawn from the service of the Department, and applied to the uses of contractors or their drivers, for the conveyance of grain or for other private purposes; and many of them have been sold or otherwise disposed of. Wherever this abuse is known to have been practiced, postmasters should notify every person implicated in it, that if he shall hereafter steal, purloin, embezzle, or convert to his own use any mail bags or other property belonging to the Post Office Department, he will thereby render himself liable to imprisonment for a period extending from one to three years, according to the amount of the embezzlement, and to a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars.

SEC. 372. Postmasters should not permit mail bags or locks belonging to their offices to be withheld, and thereby exhaust the supply of those articles. In every case they will give notice on their *post bills* to postmasters who retain bags or locks due their offices to return the same forthwith, and will report to the Department all who may disregard the notices so given.

SEC. 373. The following post offices are constituted depositories for mail bags and locks, viz: Portland and Bangor, Me.; Concord, N. H.; Montpelier and Rutland, Vt.; Boston, Mass.; Providence, R. I.; Hartford and New Haven, Conn.; New York, Albany, Rochester, and Buffalo, N. Y.; Trenton, N. J.; Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburg, Pa.; Baltimore, Md.; Washington, D. C.; Richmond, Wheeling, and Abingdon, Va.; Raleigh and Ashville, N. C.; Charleston and Columbia, S. C.; Augusta, Savannah, and Columbus, Ga.; Tallahassee, Fla.; Mobile, Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, and Huntsville, Ala.; Jackson and Natchez, Miss.; New Orleans, La.; Little Rock, Ark.; Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis, Tenn.; Louisville, Ky.; Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; Indianapolis and Vincennes, Ind.; Springfield, Galena, and Chicago, Ill.; Saint Louis, Jefferson City, and Independence, Mo.; Madison, Wis.; Keokuk and Iowa City, Iowa; Galveston, Clarksville, and Nacogdoches, Texas; San Francisco, Cal.; and Astoria, Oregon.

SEC. 374. Postmasters at the mail bag depositories are required to render an account, at the *end of each month*, to the Inspection Office, of the number, kinds, and sizes of mail bags and locks received; of those in use; of those furnished other offices; and of those remaining on hand, out of use, and ready for distribution. Blanks for this purpose are furnished on application to the Chief Clerk.

CHAPTER XXXV.

UNLAWFUL CARRYING OF MAILABLE MATTER BY PRIVATE EXPRESSES OR OTHERWISE.

SEC. 375. No person can lawfully carry or transport any letter, packet, newspaper, or printed circular or price current, on board any packet in which the United States mail is regularly carried to or from foreign countries, with the exception of letters sealed and addressed and prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, of the proper denomination, and *newspapers* in use, and not intended for circulation in the country to which the vessel may be bound, or done up in packages as merchandise, and directed to some *bona fide* dealer.

SEC. 376. Stage coaches, railroad cars, steamboats, packetboats, and all other vehicles or vessels performing regular trips at stated periods, on a post route between two or more cities, towns, or places, from one to the other, on which the United States mail is regularly conveyed under the authority of the Post Office Department, are prohibited from transporting or conveying, otherwise than in the mail, any letter, packet, or packets of letters, (except those sealed and addressed and prepaid by stamped envelopes, of suitable denominations,) or other mailable matter whatsoever, except such as may have relation to some part of the cargo of such steamboat, packetboat, or other vessel, or to some article at the same time conveyed by such stage, railroad car, or some vehicle, and excepting also, newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals. Letters prepaid by *stamps* cannot be lawfully carried out of the mails.

SEC. 377. The act of 1845 imposes a fine of \$150 for each offense upon the person who may *establish* an express for the transmission of mailable matter out of the mails, and upon each person *acting as* such express, or *aiding and assisting* therein. It imposes the same fine upon the owner of any stage

coach, railroad car, steamboat, or other vehicle or vessel, making regular trips at stated periods, and carrying—with the knowledge or consent of such owner, or of the captain, conductor, or other person in charge of such vehicle or vessel—any person acting or employed as such express. It prohibits the conveyance of mailable matter otherwise than in the mails, by the owners, managers, conductors, crews, or servants of any vehicle or vessel, making stated trips as aforesaid, under a penalty of \$100 to be paid by the owner, and \$50 to be paid by the captain, conductor, driver, or other person having charge of such vehicle or vessel, for each offense.

SEC. 378. Congress having by the 5th section of the act of August, 1852, authorized the *seizure and detention* of all letters, or packages containing letters, which shall have been sent or conveyed contrary to law on board any ship or vessel, or on or over any post route of the United States, it is the duty of postmasters and other agents of this Department to cause this provision of the law to be enforced.

SEC. 379. Whenever a postmaster receives information, or has good reason to believe that letters are illegally brought to, or sent from any city, town, landing, station, or place near his office, whether by steamboat, railroad, or any other mode of conveyance, he will give immediate notice of such violation of law to the collector of the district, or some other officer of the customs, if such letters are on board a ship or other vessel, or to a special agent of this Department, or a marshal, or deputy marshal of the United States, if the same have been sent or conveyed *either by sea or land*; and it will be the duty of such collector, custom-house officer, special agent, marshal, or deputy marshal, to *search for and seize* all such letters and convey them to the nearest Post Office, or detain them until after the trial of any suit which may grow out of such seizure, as the Postmaster General, and the Secretary of the Treasury may direct, and *one half of any penalties that may be recovered for illegal sending, carrying, or transporting any such letters shall be paid to the officer so seizing.*

SEC. 380. In every case where a postmaster has reason to believe that the law in relation to the conveying mail matter out of the mails, is violated near his office, and no officer authorized to seize letters illegally carried resides in the vicinity, he will apply to the Postmaster General for an appointment as special agent for the purpose—stating fully the facts which in his judgment render such appointment necessary.

SEC. 381. Contractors and mail carriers may carry newspapers out of the mails, for sale or distribution among regular subscribers; but when such papers are placed in a post office for delivery, postage must be charged and collected. Contractors and other persons may also convey books, pamphlets, magazines, and newspapers, (not intended for immediate distribution,) done up in packages as merchandise, and addressed to some *bona fide* agent or dealer.

SEC. 382. No part of the penalty accrues to the prosecutor, except in cases where the act prescribing the penalty so provides.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

REGISTRATION OF VALUABLE LETTERS

SEC. 383. Letters, alleged to be valuable, posted at one post office in the United States, and deliverable at another such office, shall be registered at the office of mailing, on the application of the person posting the same, and the payment of a registration fee of five cents.

SEC. 384. Postmasters are instructed to enter all such letters in a book to be prepared and kept for the purpose, to be called the *Receipt Book*, (which in small offices will be prepared by stitching together the several sheets of blank receipts furnished by this Department,) containing blank receipts, with a wide margin for a brief duplicate of each, as in bank check books. The postmaster will enter in this margin the number of the receipt, the date of filling it, the name of the person to whom the letter is addressed, and of the place to which it is to be mailed. He will then fill up the receipt to correspond with this marginal entry, separate it from the margin and deliver it to the person who deposited the letter.

SEC. 385. *Registered letters* will not be entered in the ordinary accounts of mails received and sent, but separate accounts of such letters will be kept at each post office, to be called *account of registered letters received, and account of registered letters sent*, blanks for which will be furnished by the Department.

SEC. 386. Where a letter has been received, registered, and receipted for, as directed in section 2, it is to be marked on its upper left-hand corner with the number corresponding to it on the receipt book.

The postmaster will then enter its number, the date of mailing, the rate of postage, registration fee, the name of the person to whom it is addressed, and the office (whether of distribution or delivery) to which it is to be sent, in his account of registered letters sent. He will make duplicate letter bills of each registered letter, or parcel of registered letters, for the same office of distribution or delivery, (*both blanks furnished by the Department being filled up alike,*) entering therein the number, address, (*and, if for distribution, the name of the office of delivery to which the letter is to be finally sent,*) the registration fee, and the rate of postage of each letter. He will then separate the left-hand letter bill from its duplicate, and place it with the letter, or parcel of letters, to which it relates, and mail it with them in a separate wrapper, *WITHOUT SEAL*, but in the same package with the unregistered letters sent from his office by the same mail to the same destination. The duplicate (or right hand) letter bill he will retain in his office until the departure of the *next mail* for the same destination, and will then forward it, as heretofore directed, in a sealed envelope addressed to the postmaster at the office to which the corresponding package of letters had been sent by the previous mail.

SEC. 387. In all large offices where letters are received, entered, and mailed by different persons, it shall be the duty of the postmaster either to keep the receipt-book provided for in section 1, or to designate some one specially for that service; and to see that it is made the duty of the clerk receiving a letter for registry to pass it to the clerk who keeps the account of registered letters sent, who will receipt for it by writing his name or initials across its marginal entry in the receipt book, enter it in his account of registered letters sent, *and keep it in a secure place of deposit until the hour of mailing.* He will then make duplicate bills, and otherwise prepare each parcel of registered letters for mailing in the same manner as required in Sec. 4—retaining the duplicate bill in each case to be forwarded by the next succeeding mail—but forwarding the original (or left hand) bill, with the letters to which it relates, which are to be placed in separate wrappers, *inclosed in the same package with the unregistered letters sent by the same mail.* It shall also be his duty to see that such package is placed in its appropriate mail bag at the moment when the bag is to be finally locked and sent from the office.

SEC. 388. On the receipt at a distributing office of registered letters for distribution, the clerk who opens and distributes the mail will compare such letters with the accompanying bill, and will indorse it correct if he find so, or will note the error if there be one, and will pass it, with the letters, to the clerk who keeps the account of registered letters received for distribution, who will enter its contents in his account, and pass the letters into the charge of the clerk who keeps the account of registered letters sent, (if two are employed in these duties,) who will receipt for them by indorsing the original letter bill, and will afterwards dispose of them in the same manner as provided in Sec. 4, for letters originally mailed at the office.

SEC. 389. On receipt of registered letters at the office of delivery, the postmaster or clerk who opens the mail will proceed, in the manner prescribed in Sec. 6, to compare and check the letter bill with its contents. If two or more clerks are employed in opening and entering the mails, the opening clerk will pass the bill and letters to the clerk who keeps the account of registered letters received, who will check and enter the bill, indorse it with his initials, and pass the letter into a secure place of deposit to be provided for the purpose.

SEC. 390. When a duplicate letter bill is received, the postmaster to whom it is addressed will immediately ascertain whether the package to which it relates has been duly received, *with the original bill*, at his office. If he find it correct, he will so mark it, or if incorrect, will note upon it the error or discrepancy, and will then inclose it in a sealed envelope, to be returned by the first mail thereafter to the office from which it was received.

SEC. 391. When the duplicate letter bill of any registered letter or letters is returned from the office of distribution or delivery to the office where it was originally mailed, that fact shall in each case be noted by a check mark on the margin of the account of registered letters sent, or upon the blank margin or the receipt book, opposite the original entry; and if it be not duly returned, the failure shall, in like manner, be noted by a different check mark, and such failure shall, in all large offices, be duly reported by the clerk who keeps the account of registered letters sent to the postmaster or his principal assistant, and each postmaster will give notice to the Chief Clerk of this Department of every such failure noted in his office.

SEC. 392. If, upon the receipt of any duplicate or return letter bill, it be found, on examination, that a letter originally mailed with it is missing, or that any important error or discrepancy is indorsed on it, the fact will be duly noted on the account of registered letters sent, and immediately reported to the Chief Clerk of this Department. Such report will be made by mail, except in cases where it is evident that a mail robbery has been committed, when it *will be made by telegraph, if possible.* It will also be the duty of the postmaster to report by telegraph any mail robbery of which he may otherwise receive early information.

SEC. 393. On the delivery of a registered letter at the office of its destination, a receipt therefor will be taken from the person authorized to receive it, and such receipt will be carefully filed and preserved

at that office. The blank receipts furnished by this Department can be used for this purpose, but postmasters may adopt any other certain method of verifying the delivery of registered letters.

Sec. 394. Letters for Germany by the Bremen line, via New York, and by the Prussian closed mails via New York and Boston, will be registered in the same manner and on the same terms as those deliverable in the United States, but the postage on such letters must be prepaid to the place of their destination.

Sec. 395. Prepaid letters from Bremen, and those received by the Prussian closed mails, (if accompanied with letter bills similar to those prescribed for the use of this Department,) will be duly registered at the American office of distribution or delivery at which they are first received, and will thereafter be treated in all respects in the same manner as letters originally mailed in the United States.

Sec. 396. Each postmaster will see that his accounts of registered letters are legibly and accurately kept; and at the end of each quarter he will forward with his quarterly returns full and perfect transcripts of such accounts, with the letter bills pertaining to them, retaining the original accounts in his office, for reference. *He will also retain for the same purpose, in his office, all duplicate letter bills returned to it.*

CHAPTER XXXVII.

PENALTIES.

(The sectional references in the following Chapter refer to the Laws.)

Sec. 397. Every postmaster will give his particular attention to the following enumeration of crimes and offenses against the Post Office Department. He will diligently inquire, within his delivery, into the commission of any of the acts or doings therein prohibited, and for proof sufficient to sustain a prosecution for any such offenses. In most cases these penalties may be sued for by actions *qui tam*, in which cases one half the penalty will accrue to the United States and one half to the person who prosecutes. In all cases in which expense may be incurred by the United States, unless there be occasion for immediate proceedings, he will first report the facts to the Department.

1. Members of Congress for entering into contract with the United States, \$3,000.—Sec. 197.
2. Officer of Government for making such contract, \$3,000.—Sec. 200.
3. Master of steamboat failing to deliver letters into post office, \$100.—Secs. 177, 178.
4. Any person on board failing to deliver letters to the captain, \$10.—Sec. 177.
5. Contractors employing any other than a free white person to carry the mail, \$20.—Sec. 35.
6. For obstructing or retarding the mail, \$100.—Sec. 37.
7. Ferryman delaying the mail for ten minutes, \$10.—Sec. 37.
8. Postmaster fraudulently demanding illegal postage, gratuity, or reward, \$100.—Sec. 171.
9. Master of ship failing to deliver letters into post office before breaking bulk, \$100.—Sec. 178.
10. Agent of the Department unlawfully detaining or opening any letter or bag, or secreting, embezzling, or destroying letter, \$300 and imprisonment.—Sec. 120.
11. If containing articles of value, or stealing therefrom, imprisonment.—Sec. 120.
12. Quitting or deserting the mails, \$500.—Sec. 120.
13. Any person carrying the mail to carry letters out of the mail, \$50.—Sec. 120.
14. To rob carrier, imprisonment.—Sec. 121.
15. Second conviction, death.—Sec. 121.
16. In effecting robbery, to put carrier's life in jeopardy, death.—Sec. 121.
17. Attempting to rob with dangerous weapons, imprisonment.—Sec. 121.
18. Stealing or taking mail containing articles of value, imprisonment.—Sec. 121.
19. Obtaining such mail by fraud or deception, imprisonment.—Sec. 121.
20. Obtaining any other letters to obstruct correspondence or pry into it, \$500.—Sec. 121.
21. To rip, cut, or burn any mail bag, draw any lock or loose any staple, from \$100 to \$500, imprisonment.—Sec. 122.
22. Aiders and abettors subject to the same penalties.—Sec. 124.
23. To frank a letter not written by the party or by his order on the business of his office, \$10.—Sec. 88.
24. To counterfeit the handwriting of a frank, \$500.—Sec. 88.
25. Any officer of Department to delay newspapers or open any packet not addressed to his office, \$50.—Sec. 123.
26. Opening newspapers by a person not addressed or authorized, \$20.—Sec. 123.
27. Stealing newspapers, imprisonment.—Sec. 123.
28. Inclosing letter or memorandum in newspaper or writing thereon, \$5.—Sec. 123.

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29. Postmaster failing to render return, double of postages.—*Sec. 185.*
30. Postmaster or assistant acting as agent in respect to lotteries or lottery tickets, or franking schemes, &c., \$50.—*Sec. 90.*
31. Persons employed in the Department, or postmasters, being interested in a contract, to pay so much as would have been realized from the contract.—*Sec. 45.*
32. Accepted bidders, failing to execute contract, to pay the difference between that and the new contract.—*Sec. 46.*
33. Postmaster detaining any letter or newspaper or giving a preference on their transmission, \$500.—*Sec. 128.*
34. Accessory after the fact of stealing or taking the mail, \$1,000 and imprisonment.—*Sec. 129.*
35. For carrying letters, newspapers, or price current on board mail packets running to or from foreign countries, \$500.—*Sec. 151.*
36. To counterfeit postage stamps of the United States or any other Government, imprisonment.—*Sec. 144, 146.*
37. Assistant Postmaster General for false indorsement of official letters, \$300.—*Sec. 95.*
38. Postmasters for the same, \$300.—*Sec. 195.*
39. Private express conveying any letter or packet of letters, \$150.—*Sec. 152.*
40. Owner of stage, railroad car, steamboat, or other vehicle, carrying letters or packets out of the mail, \$100.—*Sec. 153, 155.*
41. Driver, captain, or conductor for same, \$50.—*Sec. 153, 155.*
42. Carrying persons employed as private express, \$150.—*Sec. 154.*
43. Sending letters and packets by express, or other unlawful means, \$50.—*Sec. 155.*
44. Officer using, loaning, investing, exchanging, or depositing in bank, or presenting voucher or receipt not properly paid. Fine equal to the amount embezzled and imprisonment.—*Sec. 221.*
45. Disbursing officer make payment in other than gold and silver or treasury notes, to be reported to the President, or to Congress, if in session.—*Sec. 223.*
46. Disbursing officer exchanging funds, to be suspended from duty, and reported to the President.—*Sec. 224.*
47. Officer selling draft for premium, and not crediting the United States, to be dismissed.—*Sec. 225.*
48. Making or uttering postage stamps, same penalty as in the twenty-first section of act of 3d March, 1825.—*Sec. 141.*
49. Inclosing two or more letters directed to different persons in the same envelope, \$10.—*Sec. 139.*
50. To counterfeit, or forge, and circulate any postage stamps, issued under this or any former act, fine \$500, and imprisonment of five years.—*Sec. 142.*
51. To use or attempt to use any postage stamps or stamped envelopes which have been before used, \$50.—*Sec. 147.*
52. For making, forging, counterfeiting, stealing, or embezzling any mail key, or aiding therein, or having in possession a key suited to any mail lock, with intent to use the same or dispose of it unlawfully, imprisonment not exceeding ten years.—*Sec. 131.*
53. For stealing or embezzling any mail bags, or other property of the Department, or appropriating the same to individual use, imprisonment not exceeding three years, if the property exceeds in value twenty-five dollars; or, imprisonment not over one year, and a fine of not less than ten dollars, if the value be less than twenty-five dollars.—*Sec. 132.*
54. Selling postage stamps at higher price than indicated on their face, \$10 to \$500.—*Sec. 148.*

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

FORWARDING AND RECEIVING FOREIGN MAILS.

Sec. 398. For the mails to and from Europe and countries beyond the proper offices of dispatch and receipt of mails are *New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.*

Sec. 399. The United States exchange offices for *British mails* are *New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco*; and the British exchange offices are *London, Liverpool, and Southampton.*

The mails are conveyed by United States or British packets, as follows, viz: between *Liverpool and Boston, Liverpool and New York, and Southampton and New York.*

When the steamers arrive at *New York*, the mail for that office comprises all the correspondence for the United States, except the cities of *Boston and Philadelphia*; and in like manner when the steamers arrive at *Boston*, the mails for that office comprise all the correspondence for the United States, except the cities of *New York and Philadelphia.*

Sec. 400. Under the *United States and French postal arrangement*, the United States offices of

exchange are the same as under the British arrangement, and the French offices of exchange are Havre and the traveling office from Calais to Paris. The correspondence is conveyed as follows:

1. By packets and other steam vessels performing regular service between the ports of France and those of the United States;

2. By United States mail packets plying between the ports of the United States and those of Great Britain; and

3. By British packets and other steam vessels performing regular service between the ports of Great Britain and those of the United States.

SEC. 401. Under the *United States and Prussian closed mail arrangement* the United States offices of exchange are New York and Boston, and the French office of exchange is Aix La Chapelle, (Aachen.) The mails are conveyed closed, *via* England, by United States and British mail packets.

SEC. 402. Under the *United States and Bremen postal arrangement* New York is the United States office of exchange, and Bremen the exchange office on the part of that Republic. The mails exchanged are conveyed by United States or Bremen mail steamers running direct between New York and Bremen.

SEC. 403. Under the *United States and Hamburg arrangement* New York is the United States exchange office, and Hamburg the exchange office of that Republic. The mails are exchanged by United States or Hamburg mail steamers running direct between New York and Hamburg.

SEC. 404. For the mails to and from the West Indies, Mexico, foreign ports or points in the Gulf of Mexico, and places on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of South America, *New York, Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans, San Francisco, Monterey, and San Diego*, are the offices of dispatch and receipt. The mails for the South Pacific are sent by the offices last named, in sealed bags to the British Packet Agent, at Panama; and those for the other foreign places named in this section, are sent by the same offices in sealed bags to the United States Consul at Kingston, Jamaica, through the agency of the United States Consul at Havana.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

SEC. 405.—UNDER THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS, THE FOLLOWING ARE THE EXCHANGE OFFICES.

<i>On the Side of the United States, at</i>		<i>On the Side of Canada, at</i>	
Sault St. Mary.....	Michigan.	Sault St. Mary.	
Port Huron.....	do.	Port Sarnia.	
Detroit.....	do.	Windsor.	
Detroit.....	do.	Chatham.	
Algonac.....	do.	Baby's Point.	
Buffalo.....	New York.	Toronto,	} By through bags.
		Hamilton,	
		Queenston,	
		London,	
		Fort Erie.	
Buffalo.....	do.	Port Dover.	
		Port Simcoe.	
		Port Rowan.	
		Port Burwell.	
		Port Vienna.	
		Port Stanley.	
Black Rock.....	do.	Waterloo.	
Suspension Bridge.....	do.	Suspension Bridge.	
Suspension Bridge.....	do.	{ With route agents on the Great Western	
		Railway.	
Plattsburg.....	do.	Montreal.	
Moers.....	do.	Henningford.	
Troy.....	do.	Montreal, by through bag.	
Lewiston.....	do.	Queenston.	
Youngstown.....	do.	Niagara.	
Rochester.....	do.	Cobourg, by steamer in summer.	
Cape Vincent.....	do.	Kingston.	
Sackett's Harbor.....	do.	{ Kingston, by steamer in summer.	
Oswego.....	do.	Brockville.	
Morristown.....	do.	Prescott.	
Ogdensburg.....	do.	Dundee.	
Fort Covington.....	do.		
White Hall.....	do.		
Plattsburg.....	do.		
Rouse's Point.....	do.		
Burlington.....	Vermont.	St. Johns.	
Rutland.....	do.	{ St. John's.	
		Montreal.	

<i>On the Side of the United States, at</i>		<i>On the Side of Canada, at</i>	
Richford.....	Vermont.	Abercorn.	
Franklin.....	do.	Frelighsburg.	
Derby Line.....	do.	Stanstead.	
North Troy.....	do.	South Patton.	
Swanton.....	do.	Phillipsburg.	
Canaan.....	do.	Hereford.	
Portland.....	Maine.	{ Montreal.	} By through bags.
Cleveland.....	Ohio.	{ Sherbrooke.	
Buffalo.....	New York.	{ Port Stanley.	
New York.....	do.	{ Toronto,	
Albany.....	do.	{ Kingston,	} By through bags.
Boston.....	Massachusetts	{ Montreal,	
Boston.....	do.	{ Hamilton,	} Sherbrooke.
Island Pond.....	Vermont.	{ Montreal,	
Portland.....	Maine.	{ Sherbrooke,	} and Route Agents.
Route Agents on Portland and Canada line..		{ With Canada Route Agents.	
		{ With Canada Route Agents, and with Mon-	} treat.
		{	

SEC. 406. Under the postal arrangement between the United States and New Brunswick, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, the following are the offices of exchange, viz:

<i>On the side of the United States, at</i>		<i>On the side of New Brunswick, &c., at</i>	
Fort Fairfield.....	Maine.	Andover.....	N. B.
Robbinston.....	do.	St. Andrews.....	do.
Calais.....	do.	St. Stephens.....	do.
Houlton.....	do.	Woodstock.....	do.
Portland.....	do.	} St. Johns.....	do.
Eastport.....	do.		
Boston.....	Mass.		

Under these arrangements with Canada and New Brunswick, the respective United States exchange offices are required to stamp "U. States" on all letters sent into any of the British North American Provinces, as above; and to mark all *paid letters* received from the said provinces with the word "PAID," and the full amount of the United States and provincial postage paid thereon, both in *red ink*, and to mark all the *unpaid letters* from said provinces in *black ink*, with the full amount of the United States and provincial postages due thereon. They are also to postbill in due form (blanks being specially prepared for the purpose) and to keep an account of these mails *separately* from their ordinary returns, which accounts they are to transmit monthly to the Auditor for the Post Office Department.

CHAPTER XL.

DISTRIBUTING OFFICES.

SEC. 407.—List of Distributing Offices on the 1st of July, 1857.

OFFICE.	STATE.	OFFICE.	STATE.
Portland.....	Maine.	Columbus.....	Ohio.
Boston.....	Massachusetts.	Cleveland.....	do.
Providence.....	Rhode Island.	Toledo.....	do.
Hartford.....	Connecticut.	Detroit.....	Michigan.
New York.....	New York.	Indianapolis.....	Indiana.
Troy.....	do.	Cairo.....	Illinois.
Albany.....	do.	Chicago.....	do.
Buffalo.....	do.	Independence.....	Missouri.
Philadelphia.....	Pennsylvania	St. Louis.....	do.
Erie.....	do.	Louisville.....	Kentucky.
Pittsburg.....	do.	Maysville.....	do.
Baltimore.....	Maryland.	Nashville.....	Tennessee.
Washington.....	Dist. of Colum.	Memphis.....	do.
Richmond.....	Virginia.	Montgomery.....	Alabama.
Norfolk.....	do.	Tuscumbia.....	do.
Abingdon.....	do.	Natchez.....	Mississippi.
Wheeling.....	do.	Vicksburg.....	do.
Kanawha C. H.....	do.	New Orleans.....	Louisiana.
Raleigh.....	North Carolina.	Alexandria.....	do.
Ashville.....	do.	Little Rock.....	Arkansas.
Charleston.....	South Carolina.	Napoleon.....	do.
Augusta.....	Georgia.	Dubuque.....	Iowa.
Savannah.....	do.	Keokuk.....	do.
Columbus.....	do.	Galveston.....	Texas.
Cincinnati.....	Ohio.	San Francisco.....	California.

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