

[7th CONGRESS.]

No. 10.

[2d SESSION.]

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES, AND THE LENGTH OF THE POST ROADS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 25, 1803.

SIR: As the establishment of post roads is annually a subject for the consideration of Congress, the Postmaster General has transmitted, herewith, a statement exhibiting the number of Post Offices, the length of the post roads, and the transportation of the mails, at the several times therein mentioned.

GIDEON GRANGER.

The Honorable the SPEAKER of the House of Representatives of the United States.

A Statement exhibiting the number of Post Offices, the length of the Post Roads, the weekly and yearly transportation of the Mails, and the mode of transporting the same, at the several periods herein set forth, January 24, 1803.

The several periods referred to.	Number of offices.	Length of the post roads.	Weekly transportation of mails in carriages, furnished for the accommodation of travellers.	Weekly transportation of the mail in sulkies, or on horseback.	Amount of weekly transportation of the mails.	Amount of yearly transportation of the mails.
		<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
March 3, 1793, -	195	5,642	8,567	7,762	16,229	845,468
March 3, 1797, -	529	14,226	14,902	19,708	34,610	1,799,720
March 3, 1801,*	957	21,840	24,490	34,380	58,870	3,057,964
Jan. 24, 1803,† -	1,283	24,458	30,172	37,228	67,400	3,504,800

* The principal increase of the post roads from March, 1797, to this period, was by virtue of an act passed at the first session of the sixth Congress. The increase, labor, and expenditure, commenced on the 1st October, 1800.

† In this estimate, the establishments of a weekly mail between Nashville and Natchez, and of three mails in a week in stages from Petersburg to Charleston, are included. The first goes into operation on the first day of February, 1803, the other on the 20th of the same month.

[8th CONGRESS.]

No. 11.

[1st SESSION.]

MAIL FROM WASHINGTON TO NEW ORLEANS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE 13TH OF DECEMBER, 1803.

Mr. THOMAS made the following report:

The Committee on the subject of Post Offices and Post Roads, to whom was referred a resolution of the second ultimo, directing them to inquire by what means the mail may be conveyed with greater security and despatch than at present, between the city of Washington and Natchez and New Orleans, made the following report:

That the late cession of Louisiana by France to the United States renders it an object of primary importance to have the nearest and most expeditious mode of communication established between the city of Washington and the city of New Orleans, the capital of that province; not only for the convenience of Government, but to accommodate the citizens of the several commercial towns in the Union.

That, at present, the mail is conveyed on a circuitous route from this place to Knoxville and Nashville, in Tennessee, and from thence, through the wilderness, by Natchez, to New Orleans—a distance of more than fifteen hundred miles.

That, by establishing a post route, as nigh, on a direct line between those two cities, as the Blue Ridge and Alleghany mountains will admit of, will not only lessen the distance about five hundred miles, but, as this route will pass almost the whole way through a country inhabited either by citizens of the United States, or friendly Indians, the mail will be more secure, and the persons employed in transporting it better furnished with the means of subsistence.

The committee flatter themselves that the views of the General Government, in effecting this important object, will be seconded by the Governments and citizens of those States through which this road will pass, by laying out, straightening, and improving the same, as soon as the most proper course shall be sufficiently ascertained; but as this has not heretofore been used for conveying the mail between those places, they presume that the best route will be better known after it has been used for this purpose, than it can be at present; and with this view of the subject, they deem it improper, at this time, to designate intermediate points: They are, therefore, of opinion—

That a post road ought to be established from the city of Washington, on the most direct and convenient route, to pass through or near the Tuckaubatchee settlement, to the Tombigbee settlement, in the Mississippi territory, and from thence to New Orleans.

And further, that a post road ought also to be established from the said Tombigbee settlement to Natchez. This road will not only afford the inhabitants of that place a direct mode of communication with that territorial government, who at present are destitute of any, but will shorten the distance between this city and Natchez nearly three hundred miles. And for the consideration of the House, the committee submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That a post road ought to be established from the city of Washington, on the most direct and convenient route, to pass through or near the Tuckaubatchee settlement, to the Tombigbee settlement, in the Mississippi territory, and from thence to New Orleans; and also from the said Tombigbee settlement to Natchez.

For further report, see No. 13.