

To exhibit "the balance due to the Department on the 1st October, 1829, distinguishing as above," I have the honor to report:

The amount of postages received from 1789 to the 1st October, 1829, was	-	-	-	\$26,889,005 40
The sums paid during that period were—				
As compensation to postmasters,	-	-	-	\$7,974,072 49
For incidental expenses,	-	-	-	902,662 93
For transporting the mail,	-	-	-	16,369,665 07
				25,246,400 49
Leaving an aggregate amount of revenue of	-	-	-	\$1,642,604 91
From which deducting—				
Amount of the several payments into the Treasury from 1789 to 1st October, 1829,	-	-	-	\$1,103,063 42
Amount of losses in the transmission of moneys during the same period,	-	-	-	17,348 00
				1,120,411 42
Leaves the balance due to the Department, 1st October, 1829,	-	-	-	522,193 49
Which balance consisted of—				
Cash deposited in banks (prior to 1st October, 1826,) estimated to be lost,	-	-	-	\$2,445 33
Uncurrent and counterfeit money on hand,	-	-	-	4,728 12
Amount passed to account of bad debts,	-	-	-	51,910 77
Amount due by late postmasters and others, estimated to be bad,	-	-	-	254,613 73
Amount due by postmasters, &c., estimated to be available,	-	-	-	92,856 70
And of cash on hand,	-	-	-	115,638 84
				\$522,193 49

The "ascertained amount of bad debts" is stated above; but not, as the resolution purports, "carried to the account of profit and loss," there being no authority in the Department to pass the debts of postmasters or others to such an account, unless provision be made by the National Legislature.

Respectfully submitted.

W. T. BARRY.

HON. JOHN C. CALHOUN, *Vice President, and President of the Senate U. S.*

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 107.

[2d Session.]

CLAIM FOR MAKING THE POST ROAD FROM MOBILE TO PASCAGOULA.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MARCH 1, 1831.

Mr. CONNER, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of Jeremiah Austill, reported:

That the said Jeremiah Austill sets forth in his petition that, some time in the month of ———, 1828, himself and one Thomas Rhodes proposed to the honorable John McLean, then Postmaster General, to convey, by stages and steamboat, the mail from Mobile, Alabama, to New Orleans, three times a week, by way of Pascagoula, for the sum of \$14,000, on condition that the Government would construct a road from Mobile to Pascagoula, or that they (Austill and Rhodes) would make it for \$4,000, or \$100 per mile, it being about 40 miles distance; and that the proposition was accepted, and they were ordered to get it in readiness with all possible despatch: that in April, 1829, the petitioner, whilst at Pittsburg, for the purpose of contracting for a steamboat, saw advertised proposals for his route, the contract having been taken from them by the Postmaster General, without, as he conceives, just cause; and asks that he be paid for the construction of the road, and that justice be done him.

The first notice taken of this route by Pascagoula, by the Department, is under a resolution of Congress, at the session of 1827-'28, authorizing the Postmaster General to cause to be examined the route from Mobile to Pascagoula, and if, in his opinion, it should be the most expedient route to the city of New Orleans, he shall be, and hereby is, vested with full power and authority to adopt that route in lieu of the present: accordingly the Postmaster General requests of the postmaster at New Orleans and the postmaster at Mobile to examine the route, and report to him. They did so; the report was satisfactory to the Department. On the 7th October, 1828, in fifth letter of the correspondence, the Postmaster General accepts the contract at \$14,000, from Mobile to New Orleans, by Pascagoula, but does not mention the road or its construction, and says "a contract will be made out and sent for you to execute;" this letter was addressed to Thomas Rhodes. In the seventh letter, 12th January, 1829, the Postmaster General writes Rhodes that he is informed by the postmaster at New Orleans that the mail due on Sunday did not arrive until Monday, and that a correspondent failure would occur in returning to Mobile. The Postmaster General here notifies Rhodes, if he does not come up to his engagements payment need not be expected; and that, if he cannot keep it sound, it must be committed to other hands.

Letter ninth, February 9, 1829.—The Postmaster General says to Rhodes "that the mail due at New Orleans on Friday, 16th ultimo, did not arrive until the next day, causing a total failure; your pay must be suspended to cover penalties." Letter twelfth, dated February 18, 1829.—Having reference, I presume, to pay for the road, the Postmaster General says to the postmaster at New Orleans: "no such condition as that alleged by Austill has been attached to the contract, nor can be, as the Postmaster General has no authority by law to make such conditions as a part of the contract. The contractors have no claims on the Department but for transportation services; they will be paid accordingly." Letter eighteenth, dated March 20, 1829, shows that the bond and contract were sent on the 12th instant to be executed by Rhodes. Letter twenty-second, April 14, 1829.—The Postmaster General notifies Mr. Rhodes that, as he has not carried into effect his engagements with the Department, he considers it his duty to invite other proposals for the same service. Letter thirtieth, 17th July, 1829.—Postmaster General says to Mr. Rhodes, "that the mail which was confided to you was not carried agreeably to contract, it is believed, in a single instance." It appears by letter forty, Austill to the Postmaster General, dated October 8th, 1828, that he was informed by Mr. Owen, the representative in Congress from Alabama, that the Postmaster General had no authority to contract for the cutting of the road. Mr. Rhodes, the partner, had also been informed that the Department had no such authority. So anxious were they for this contract, that it seems they commenced the opening, and did open, (in what manner is not known,) this road unauthorized. They continued as contractors up to the 30th May, 1829, when they were dismissed, having failed to comply with their contract entirely. The Department expresses a willingness to pay them for the time they did carry the mail.

The committee are unable to perceive that any injustice has been done the petitioner by the Government; they required only a compliance with his engagement and contract: this they failed to do. They opened this road knowing that the Department had not authority to contract or pay for it, and on their own responsibility; on the contrary, they were expressly told the Department had not; and the strong probability seems, that, in taking the contract at \$14,000, they believed it would cover the expense of the road, as well as other expenses.

Resolved, therefore, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 103.

[2d SESSION.]

EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 1, 1830.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MARCH 3, 1831.

Mr. YANCEY, from the Committee on Expenditures in the Post Office Department, made the following report:

There are two kinds of expenditures of this Department: the one embraces the whole Department, in all its branches, and in all their operations, throughout the Union, such as the expenses of post offices, of compensation to postmasters, of transporting the mail, and procuring apparatus and all other articles incident to the operations of the Department; the other has reference to the General Post Office proper, such as the expenses of fuel, stationary, office furniture, &c. The first of these classes is provided for by the law which establishes the Department, and is defrayed by the collections of postage at the several post offices, which constitutes the revenue of the Department; the second is provided for by the annual appropriation of Congress.

The expenditures of the *first* class are comprehended under three heads: 1. Compensation to postmasters, including the contingent expenses of their offices; 2. Transportation of the mail; and 3. Incidental expenses of the Department.

The expenditures of the Department, under these three heads, for the year ending 1st July, 1830, were—

1. Compensation to postmasters, including the contingent expenses of their offices, (the items under this head are specified and defined by law,)	-	-	-	\$595,234 93
2. Transportation of the mail,	-	-	-	1,274,009 98
3. Incidental expenses of the Department, for the purchase of mail portmanteaus, locks and keys for the mails, advertising mail routes, wrapping paper and twine for all the post offices in the United States, to use in making up mails, printed blanks for accounts of mails sent and received, accounts current, newspaper accounts and post bills, prosecutions of offences against the post office laws, and agencies for detecting depredators, and ascertaining and reporting faults in contractors and postmasters,	-	-	-	63,463 04
Making, together, the sum of	-	-	-	\$1,932,707 95

The expenditures of the *second* class, in the General Post Office proper, are exhibited in the following statement received from the Postmaster General:

SIR:

GENERAL POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *February 25, 1831.*

In obedience to the call of the committee, I have the honor to transmit a statement exhibiting the amount paid, and specifying the several items of expenditure, and the names of the persons to whom the payments have been made, for the contingent expenses of this Department, from October 1, 1829, to December 31, 1830.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. BARRY.

Hon. JOEL YANCEY, *Chairman of the Committee on Expenditures of Post Office Department.*

Statement of contingent expenses of the General Post Office, showing the sum paid for each particular bill, from October 1, 1829, to December 31, 1830.

1829.					
October 1	James Miles, for stationary,	-	-	-	\$75 75
2	Charles Durden, laborer,	-	-	-	20 00
3	William Young, for covering a desk with leather,	-	-	-	6 00
3	Walter Humphries, for sawing and piling wood,	-	-	-	12 40
3	R. Burch, watchman,	-	-	-	51 00
3	Charles Bell, watchman,	-	-	-	51 00
3	William Johnson, for scavenger's work,	-	-	-	12 00
7	Charles Polkinhorn, for saddlery,	-	-	-	21 75
9	William Jackson, for keeping the horse,	-	-	-	10 00
10	W. A. Bartow & Co., for stationary,	-	-	-	220 25
14	John Sergeant, for book-binding,	-	-	-	48 00
19	Waller & Spencer, for pitchers, tumblers, &c.	-	-	-	7 14
20	Thomas Blagden, balance for fire-wood,	-	-	-	392 21
21	E. M. P. Darby, for maps,	-	-	-	33 50
22	Ballard & Co., for Boston Patriot,	-	-	-	16 00
27	Charles Bell, for sundry small bills paid by him for the office,	-	-	-	13 83
27	Walter Humphries, for sawing and piling wood,	-	-	-	18 22
27	William Jackson, for dinners and suppers furnished clerks employed extra hours while opening and deciding on proposals, by order of the Postmaster General,	-	-	-	76 12
28	Thomas Stanley, for painting and glazing,	-	-	-	118 08½
29	John Wilkinson, for carpenter's work, tables, cases, repairs, &c.	-	-	-	123 95½
30	William A. Davis, for stationary,	-	-	-	58 00
31	George Hicks, for carting,	-	-	-	25
31	Henry Sengstack, for glazing,	-	-	-	3 75