

469,889 miles of stage transportation, at 9 cents per mile,	-	-	-	-	\$42,290 01
Deduct 62,365 miles of horse transportation superseded by stages, at 4 cents per mile,	-	-	-	-	2,494 60
Nett value of the improvements,	-	-	-	-	39,795 41
The acceptances for the new contracts, besides the securing of these improvements, are not so great as the amount now paid for the transportation on that division by \$51,787 18.					
The renewal of the contracts, therefore, saves in money to the Department the sum of	-	-	-	-	51,787 18
Which, added to the value of the improvements, effects a saving of	-	-	-	-	\$91,582 59

Other improvements, highly important in their character, are proposed; the decisions on which have been deferred for further consideration. It is, however, anticipated, from the saving which has been effected in renewing the contracts, that the Department will possess the ability to make some further improvements in this division of mail routes.

There were, on the 1st of July last, 8,686 post offices. To the plan adopted for their supervision, and the vigilance with which it is observed, together with the system of finance which is strictly adhered to, may be attributed, in no small degree, the increasing prosperity of the Department.

I have the honor to be, with high regard, your obedient servant,

W. T. BARRY.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

22d CONGRESS.]

No. 112.

[1st SESSION.]

INCREASE OF THE PENSION OF A MAIL CARRIER WHO WAS SHOT IN THE CREEK NATION IN 1805.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DECEMBER 28, 1831.

Mr. PEARCE, from the Committee on the Post Offices and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of Jonah H. Webb for an increase of his pension, reported:

That, from the evidence which has been submitted, the committee are satisfied the petitioner is aged and poor; that the wounds he received while employed to carry the mail of the United States from Athens, in Georgia, to New Orleans, rendered him unable to labor, and made him a cripple for life; that he is now in a suffering condition, the present allowance of fifty dollars per annum being insufficient to procure him the necessaries of life. The committee, therefore, ask leave to report a bill to give to said Webb eight dollars per month, the pension of a common soldier when totally disabled by wounds received in the service of his country.

22d CONGRESS.]

No. 113.

[1st SESSION.]

POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 13, 1832.

SIR:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *January 10, 1832.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, enclosing the resolution of the House of Representatives relative to "the expediency of abolishing the postage on newspapers and periodicals;" in which you inquire the amount of "nett revenue arising from this source, and the amount of each, separately;" also, my opinion upon the "propriety of adopting this measure, having a due regard to the prosperity of the Department; with any other information which may be useful to the committee in forming a correct opinion on the subject."

To the first inquiry, I will observe, that the accounts of postages on newspapers and pamphlets are kept together, without distinguishing one from the other. The commission to postmasters is the same on both; and no occasion has ever arisen for separating them on the books of the Department. The postage on pamphlets which are not periodical is very inconsiderable. The intention of the law appears to have been to discourage their transmission by mail, except in cases where it might be regarded as a matter of considerable interest; and the object is accomplished. The postages on newspapers and pamphlets arise principally on the former, probably more than four-fifths of the whole: the remainder is almost entirely on periodical pamphlets.

The gross amount of postage on newspapers and pamphlets for the year ending June 30, 1830, was	-	-	-	-	\$196,606 34
That for the year ending June 30, 1831, was	-	-	-	-	223,485 01
The increase in one year was	-	-	-	-	\$26,878 67

The commission allowed to postmasters on newspapers and pamphlets is 50 per cent. on the gross amount; but, by reserving to the Department the fractions of cents, the nett proceeds are a little more than one-half of the gross amount.

The nett proceeds of postage on newspapers and pamphlets for the year ending June 30, 1830, amounted to	-	-	-	-	\$98,513 44
For the year ending June 30, 1831, to	-	-	-	-	112,111 22
Increase of nett proceeds in one year,	-	-	-	-	\$13,597 78