

22d CONGRESS.]

No. 118.

[1st Session.]

FURTHER CREDITS CLAIMED BY A DEFAULTING DEPUTY POSTMASTER.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 11, 1832.

Mr. CHARLES C. JOHNSTON, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of William Newsom, late postmaster at Norfolk, in Virginia, reported thereon:

That the petitioner states that he was appointed postmaster at Norfolk, Virginia, in December, 1803, and entered on the duties of his office on the 1st day of January, 1804; that he continued to discharge the duties of his office from that time until the 13th of June, 1819, when he resigned his appointment; and that, during all the period of his acting as postmaster, he was subjected to large expenses, in the employment of clerks, the rent of office, fuel, candles, &c.; for none of which he ever received any compensation from the General Post Office. The petitioner asks now compensation for these necessary expenses, which, he alleges, he has never received; he also asks that an error in the settlement of his accounts with the Post Office Department, arising, as he alleges, from his being furnished with improper blanks, by which he was subjected to loss, be corrected, and the amount of the error refunded to him.

On applying to the Post Office Department for information on this subject, your committee have received two letters from the Postmaster General, dated, respectively, the 21st of March and the 4th of April instant, together with a copy of the account of the petitioner on the books of the Post Office Department, which accompany this report; from which it appears that the petitioner, during the whole time of his continuance in office, received the whole amount of the commissions accruing on postage received at his office, as well when they exceeded as when they fell short of the sum of \$2,000 per annum. He cannot possibly receive more, under any color of law.

The petitioner has offered neither explanation nor proof in relation to the alleged mistake in the settlement of his accounts, nor can your committee find any reason to suppose that such mistake was ever, in fact, made; your committee, therefore, beg leave to conclude this report with the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner is unreasonable, and that the same be rejected.
Which is respectfully submitted.

SIR:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *March 21, 1832.*

In reply to your inquiry in reference to the memorial of William Newsom, late postmaster at Norfolk, Virginia, I have the honor to state, that his annual commissions or emoluments, from 1803 to 1819, varied from \$1,470 to \$2,352; a detailed statement of which will be furnished, if desirable.

The whole amount of these commissions has been allowed to him, as well when they exceeded as when they fell short of \$2,000 per annum. As the commissions of postmasters are fixed by law, and as Mr. Newsom has received the whole amount which accrued at his office during his whole period of service, he could not possibly receive more, under any color of law. His papers are herewith returned.

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

W. T. BARRY.

HON. CHARLES C. JOHNSTON, *At Mrs. Arguelles's.*

SIR:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *April 4, 1832.*

I have the honor to enclose an abstract of the returns from the post office at Norfolk, Virginia, agreeably to your request, exhibiting a complete synopsis of every account rendered by William Newsom, from January 1, 1804, to April 1, 1819.

The column headed "balances due by postmaster" exhibits the amount due from, and charged to, Mr. Newsom at the end of every quarter, after deducting his commissions and all allowances.

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

W. T. BARRY.

HON. CHARLES C. JOHNSTON, *House of Representatives.*

Abstract of quarterly returns rendered by William Newsom, Esq., late postmaster at Norfolk, Virginia, from January 1, 1804, to April 1, 1819, inclusive.

Periods.	Letter postage.	Newspaper postage.	Commission on letter postage.	Commission on newspaper postage.	Allowance for free letters.	Yearly compensation.	Amount paid for ship letters.	Am't paid for contingencies.	Balances due by postmaster.	
1804.										
January 1 to April 1,	\$1,864 51	\$56 58	\$397 90	\$28 29	\$9 16	-	\$58 18	\$117 10	\$1,310 46	
April 1 to July 1, -	2,094 56	61 61	443 91	30 80	7 64	-	56 06	41 63	1,576 13	
July 1 to October 1,	2,094 10	88 82	443 82	44 41	5 94	-	77 08	46 09	1,565 58	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	1,831 27	94 65	391 22	47 32	7 88	-	70 30	32 67	1,376 53	
						1,858 29				
1805.										
January 1 to April 1,	2,150 80	92 60	455 15	46 30	8 94	-	55 76	45 29	1,631 96	
April 1 to July 1, -	2,166 74	88 45	458 35	44 22	-	-	47 96	53 18	1,651 48	
July 1 to October 1,	2,111 42	87 97	447 28	43 98	5 82	-	61 24	45 49	1,595 58	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	2,015 77	80 70	428 15	40 35	7 22	-	54 70	52 11	1,513 94	
						1,985 76				
1806.										
January 1 to April 1,	2,037 23	73 54	432 44	36 77	9 80	-	41 10	53 68	1,536 98	
April 1 to July 1, -	2,126 09	69 64	450 21	34 82	8 36	-	49 72	43 36	1,609 26	
July 1 to October 1,	1,874 83	58 89	399 97	29 44	6 28	-	44 20	56 88	1,396 95	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	1,790 87	56 94	383 17	28 47	6 00	-	54 28	39 51	1,336 38	
						1,825 73				
1807.										
January 1 to April 1,	1,948 04	63 61	414 61	31 80	9 20	-	32 54	58 65	1,464 85	
April 1 to July 1, -	2,099 14	62 87	444 83	31 43	5 76	-	54 84	7 18	1,617 97	
July 1 to October 1,	1,946 50	60 26	414 30	30 13	7 56	-	19 92	42 50	1,492 35	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	1,796 29	47 93	384 26	23 96	8 46	-	47 42	83 96	1,296 16	
						1,806 30				
1808.										
January 1 to April 1,	1,766 76	56 88	378 35	28 44	12 26	-	38 42	68 13	1,298 04	
April 1 to July 1, -	1,550 72	48 63	335 14	24 31	7 32	-	26 08	45 15	1,161 35	
July 1 to October 1,	1,448 02	46 68	314 60	23 34	4 12	-	3 20	34 21	1,115 23	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	1,430 92	50 38	311 18	25 19	6 40	-	8 46	36 92	1,093 15	
						1,470 65				

ABSTRACT—Continued.

Periods.	Letter postage.	Newspaper postage.	Commission on letter postage.	Commission on newspaper postage.	Allowance for free letters.	Yearly compensation.	Amount paid for ship letters.	Am't paid for contingencies.	Balances due by postmaster.	
1809.										
January 1 to April 1,	\$1,536 81	\$41 20	\$332 36	\$20 60	\$9 68	-	\$9 02	\$27 19	\$1,179 16	
April 1 to July 1, -	1,665 50	48 03	358 10	24 02	7 72	-	44 48	28 24	1,250 97	
July 1 to October 1,	1,799 00	48 44	384 80	24 22	7 20	-	33 68	31 60	1,365 94	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	1,946 22	49 47	414 24	24 73	8 96	-	57 88	13 52	1,476 36	
						1,616 63				
1810.										
January 1 to April 1,	2,015 31	52 54	428 06	26 27	11 42	-	24 64	18 54	1,558 92	
April 1 to July 1, -	2,074 11	52 80	439 82	26 40	7 42	-	21 60	46 62	1,585 05	
July 1 to October 1,	2,126 19	45 24	450 23	22 62	6 72	-	21 40	23 45	1,647 01	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	2,193 56	46 48	463 71	23 24	6 88	-	60 62	44 25	1,641 34	
						1,912 79				
1811.										
January 1 to April 1,	2,236 23	47 98	472 25	23 99	10 22	-	80 66	38 71	1,658 38	
April 1 to July 1, -	2,153 64	47 21	453 73	23 60	6 98	-	68 04	22 66	1,623 84	
July 1 to October 1,	2,196 97	51 59	464 39	25 79	6 70	-	22 08	41 25	1,688 35	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	1,997 37	48 86	424 48	24 43	8 68	-	49 18	23 83	1,515 63	
						1,947 24				
1812.										
January 1 to April 1,	2,286 45	53 40	482 29	26 70	-	-	59 84	73 14	1,697 88	
April 1 to July 1, -	2,091 37	54 72	443 27	27 36	9 84	-	41 02	32 16	1,592 44	
July 1 to October 1,	1,928 24	47 04	410 65	23 52	7 06	-	11 56	43 74	1,478 75	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	1,983 24	49 34	421 65	24 67	8 64	-	32 92	20 50	1,524 20	
						1,885 65				
1813.										
January 1 to April 1,	2,495 21	47 90	512 62	23 95	-	-	32 00	44 28	1,930 26	
April 1 to July 1, -	2,619 43	40 84	522 55	20 42	-	-	-	44 62	2,072 68	
July 1 to October 1,	2,950 19	30 73	549 02	15 36	-	-	-	49 40	2,367 14	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	2,481 84	30 62	511 54	15 31	-	-	-	53 57	1,932 04	
						2,170 77				
1814.										
January 1 to April 1,	2,964 39	24 48	550 15	12 24	-	-	-	38 77	2,387 71	
April 1 to July 1, -	2,997 46	39 43	572 79	19 71	-	-	-	53 37	2,391 02	
July 1 to October 1,	3,205 44	30 22	589 43	15 11	-	-	-	54 31	2,576 81	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	3,086 19	26 56	579 89	13 28	-	-	-	80 50	2,439 08	
						2,352 60				
1815.										
January 1 to April 1,	2,847 94	29 86	540 83	14 93	15 92	-	86 76	56 83	2,162 53	
April 1 to July 1, -	3,382 37	21 03	468 20	7 01	20 81	-	21 26	39 06	2,847 06	
July 1 to October 1,	2,961 78	26 27	418 09	8 76	10 66	-	36 26	27 30	2,486 89	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	3,446 75	34 70	481 22	11 57	9 17	-	49 00	38 05	2,892 44	
						2,007 17				
1816.										
January 1 to April 1,	3,578 27	32 91	499 07	10 97	13 04	-	43 26	31 41	3,013 43	
April 1 to July 1, -	2,343 02	7 16	498 06	3 58	11 40	-	47 74	17 62	1,771 78	
July 1 to October 1,	2,303 56	13 86	490 02	6 93	10 18	-	29 94	36 37	1,743 98	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	2,148 40	8 11	459 28	4 06	8 92	-	58 36	37 96	1,587 93	
						2,015 51				
1817.										
January 1 to April 1,	2,441 73	12 87	512 71	6 43	-	-	77 26	38 94	1,819 26	
April 1 to July 1, -	2,608 44	15 92	546 20	7 96	10 00	-	40 50	59 64	1,959 76	
July 1 to October 1,	2,415 27	13 36	511 11	6 68	-	-	31 64	39 25	1,839 95	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	2,680 83	6 30	531 78	3 15	-	-	71 92	39 78	2,040 50	
						2,136 22				
1818.										
January 1 to April 1,	2,588 10	2 89	525 66	1 44	-	-	55 74	53 23	1,954 92	
April 1 to July 1, -	2,786 99	16 96	541 27	8 48	-	-	51 94	33 01	2,169 25	
July 1 to October 1,	2,827 09	11 29	544 68	5 64	-	-	66 88	42 16	2,179 02	
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, -	2,811 83	8 46	543 06	4 23	-	-	64 98	32 93	2,175 09	
						2,174 46				
January 1 to April 1,	2,943 95	13 48	555 79	6 74	-	-	62 48	44 23	2,288 19	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 20, 1832.

Mr. CONNOR, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, to whom was referred the resolution instructing them to inquire into the expediency of providing, by law, for some more effectual accountability of the Post Office Department, reported:

From an examination of the regulations adopted by the Postmaster General, and as acted on now by that Department, they appear to your committee to be, in every way, calculated to insure a faithful application of its funds, efficiency in their collection, and entire safety in their preservation.

By this system, the head of the Department has excluded himself from the receipt or payment of any of its funds; and the senior Assistant Postmaster General, who acts as the treasurer of the Department, is excluded from the payment directly to him, or by him, of any of its moneys. The whole revenue of the Department is received in one of two modes: first, either by deposits in the banks, which are designated, and which (exclusive of the branches of the United States Bank) are considered perfectly safe; or, secondly, by the payments of postmasters to contractors on the drafts of the Department. Certificates of deposits are made to the Department, and signed by the proper officer of each bank, respectively; which certificates are endorsed and registered in the chief clerk's office; and the drafts on postmasters are countersigned by the principal pay clerk; no payment being required but on the signature of two officers. The postmasters, who are directed to deposit the proceeds of postage in bank, when the proceeds of their offices do not amount to six hundred dollars in one quarter, are required to deposit the whole quarterly balance within fifteen days after the close of each quarter; when the quarterly balances exceed the rate of six hundred dollars per quarter, they are to make their deposits monthly; and when their quarterly balances exceed the rate of three thousand dollars per quarter, they are to make their deposits weekly; the proceeds of each month