

This may be attributed, principally, to the improvements in mail facilities; and the increase for the current year may be safely estimated at a still greater amount. The contracts for the eastern section of the United States, comprising New York and the New England States, all expire on the 31st of December next, and have just been renewed, together with new contracts for transporting the mails on the routes established by the law of last session of Congress.

The annual amount paid for transporting the mail in that section, under the old contracts, is	-	\$328,945 92
The annual amount which will be required under the new contracts in that section, including all the old routes, with many important improvements; also, for 142 new mail routes established in that section by the law of last session, is	-	421,156 19
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Making an increase of expenditure in that section of	-	92,210 27
The contracts have also been made for the new routes established by the law of last session in the other sections, amounting to 13,111 miles of new post roads, on 298 new routes, for the annual sum of	-	71,945 75
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Requiring, together, an annual increase of expenditure of	-	\$164,156 02
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These contracts will go into operation on the 1st of January next; and within the year which will terminate on the 30th June, 1833, one-half of the above increase will be incurred, amounting to	-	\$82,078 01
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At a reasonable estimate of the progressive increase of revenue from postage, there will be more than a sufficiency to meet this sum.

The increase of postages for the year ending the 30th June, 1832, was, as above stated, \$260,758 63 above those of the preceding year; but, in an increase of postages, there is a corresponding increase of commissions for compensation to postmasters.

After deducting these commissions, the remainder, constituting the *nett* proceeds of postages, is applicable to the payments for transportation of the mails, and for the incidental expenses of the Department. The *nett* proceeds of postages for the year ending June 30, 1832, exceeded those of the preceding year \$180,305 43. If the ratio of increase in the *nett* proceeds of postages for the year which will end on the 30th June, 1833, shall only equal that of the year ending June 30, 1832, it will amount to the sum of \$196,823 06 above that of the last year, which will exceed the additional amount required for transportation by more than a hundred thousand dollars, provided no farther improvements shall be made, without estimating any thing for postages that may arise on the new routes. But a greater ratio of increase of the *nett* amount of revenue may be fairly calculated upon from the very extensive improvements which have been made; and the accounts of postmasters for the quarter ending on the 1st of October last, so far as they have been examined, exhibit an increase of *nett* proceeds of postages at the rate of \$260,000 a year above those of the year ending on the 30th of June, 1832.

There were in the United States on the 1st of July, 1831, 8,686 post offices. The number on the 30th June, 1832, was increased to 9,205. The constant supervision of that number of postmasters, correcting abuses, enforcing the strict observance of the laws and instructions, and, above all, requiring of each to account faithfully and promptly for all the postages received, are essentially necessary to all the other operations of the Department; and while the present system is strictly adhered to in the order of the transactions of the Department, it is confidently believed that its operations will be attended with harmony and success.

I have the honor to be, with high regard, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM T. BARRY,
Postmaster General.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

22d CONGRESS.]

No. 122.

[2d SESSION.]

ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION TO A DEPUTY POSTMASTER.

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

Mr. CONNOR, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, to whom was referred a resolution of the 14th instant, "instructing them to inquire into the expediency of allowing to the postmaster at Jackson, Mississippi, additional compensation," reported:

That the law gives to postmasters a per centage on newspapers and letters, deemed to be an adequate compensation for their services; yet, in the establishment of new routes and increased running of the mails, it must frequently happen that the labors of postmasters are also greatly increased. Applications, similar in character, have often been made to Congress; and in no instance are your committee aware that the prayer has been granted. Postmasters, in accepting the appointment, are aware of their prospect of compensation for the services rendered. In this case, no evidence is introduced to show why the compensation of the postmaster at Jackson should be increased, could your committee, under any circumstances, believe it would be expedient; and they have, therefore,

Resolved, That it is inexpedient to grant any additional allowance to the postmaster at Jackson, Mississippi.

22d CONGRESS.]

No. 123.

[2d SESSION.]

CREDITS CLAIMED BY A DEFAULTING DEPUTY POSTMASTER FOR LOSSES OCCASIONED BY FIRE.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 7, 1833.

Mr. CONNOR, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, to whom was referred a resolution, and a petition of William Walker asking to be released from a balance due the Post Office Department, reported:

That the petitioner sets forth that he was postmaster at Hickory, in Pennsylvania; that his house was destroyed by fire, and in it his books and accounts, on which were charged accounts for letters, pamphlets, &c.