

The distance from the city of Washington, via Athens, on the present route, according to the latest information, is one thousand one hundred and eighty-two miles. Thirty miles may probably be saved by surveying and causewaying the road. The actual travel will then be one thousand one hundred and fifty-two miles, and the distance between the same cities, via Nashville, is one thousand four hundred and seventy-two miles.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GIDEON GRANGER, *Postmaster General.*

GENERAL POST OFFICE, *March 20th, 1806.*

[9th CONGRESS.]

No. 20.

[1st SESSION.]

INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 17, 1806.

Mr. CLARK made the following report:

The committee, who were appointed on the 21st of March, 1806, to inquire into the conduct of Gideon Granger, Postmaster General of the United States, and report whether, in their opinion, the said Gideon Granger hath so acted, in his capacity as Postmaster General, as to require the interposition of the constitutional powers of this House, submit the following report:

That the committee, without loss of time, engaged in the duties assigned them, and have made some progress therein. It was the sincere desire of the committee that the inquiry should be concluded during the present session, as well as the wish of the Postmaster General; but, from the distance and dispersed situation of the witnesses, whose testimony was deemed necessary, and the approaching close of the session, it is found impracticable. While the committee regret the situation of a public officer, laboring under the suspicious appearance of a constitutional scrutiny into his conduct, yet, in a government like ours, where watchfulness of men in office is the surest guarantee of the preservation of the liberty of the people, the public functionaries must yield their feelings to the general benefit, and endure a temporary inconvenience as an honorable sacrifice to the freedom of our institutions.

That a hasty and premature result is less to be desired on the part of an officer, supported by a consciousness of the integrity of his conduct, than the suspension of an inquiry that may terminate in a satisfactory refutation of charges, which, on the part of the accused, are affirmed to be without foundation, the committee have no hesitation in believing.

Justice to the public, as well as to the individual, requires a thorough investigation, which is found to be impossible before the final adjournment. The committee, therefore, recommend a postponement of the further inquiry until the next session of Congress.

[9th CONGRESS.]

No. 21.

[2d SESSION.]

PROGRESS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT FROM MARCH 3, 1793, TO JANUARY 12, 1807.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 19, 1807.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, *January 12, 1807.*

SIR:

Herewith I transmit to you the information required by your communication of the 9th.

With the design of enabling the committee to form some estimate of the labors of the various persons employed in this office, I have likewise transmitted "A view of the progress of the Post Office Department," commencing the third of March, 1793, and ending this day.

I am, sir, with the highest esteem and respect,

G. GRANGER.

Hon. JOSEPH B. VARNUM, *Chairman of the Committee on Post Roads.*

GENERAL POST OFFICE, *January 12, 1807.*

SIR:

Yours of the 9th was duly received. The deputy post master's accounts for the last quarter of the year 1806 have not yet been received; and the examination of those for the third quarter has not yet been completed.

A statement, therefore, such as the committee request, cannot be furnished from this office, to a later period than July 1, 1806.

The following will show the expenditure and nett proceeds of the Post Office Department, for one year, from July 1, 1805, to July 1, 1806, viz:

	Amount of balances on Post masters' accounts.	Expense of transportation of the mail.	Incidental expenses of the General Post Office.	Nett proceeds of the Post Office Department.
From July 1, to October 1, 1805, - -	\$76,329 26	\$56,180 79	\$367 52	\$19,780 95
From October 1, to December 31, do. - -	73,941 89	61,596 29	3,029 07	9,316 53
From January 1, to April 1, 1806, - -	73,146 54	69,929 45	2,226 75	990 34
From April 1, to July 1, do. - -	81,978 64	60,318 69	2,478 73	19,181 22
Total,	305,396 33	\$248,025 22	\$8,102 07	\$49,269 04

The contracts for the roads, established at the last session, commenced the first of October, 1806. They are not, therefore, included in the above.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect and esteem, your obedient servant,

GIDEON GRANGER.

JOSEPH B. VARNUM, Esquire.

A view of the progress of the Post Office Department.

The several periods referred to.	Number of Post Offices.	Length of the Post Roads.	Weekly transportation of the mail in carriages, furnished for the accommodation of travellers.	Weekly transportation of the mail in sulkies and on horseback.	Amount of the weekly transportation of the mails.	Amount of the yearly transportation of the mails.
		<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
March 3, 1793,*	195	5,624	8,567	7,662	16,229	845,468
March 3, 1797, -	539	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
January 24, 1803, -	1,283	24,458	30,172	37,228	67,400	3,504,800
January, 1807, ‡	1,848	31,616	41,528	45,000	86,528	4,499,456

GIDEON GRANGER, *Postmaster General.*GENERAL POST OFFICE, *January 12, 1807.*

*Since the 24th January, 1803, the convenience, utility, and security of mail coaches have been extended in different parts of the United States, over post roads to the distance of three thousand and eighty-five miles, where they never had been contemplated previous to that period.

†Since the 3d of March, 1801, the post roads have increased 44½ per cent. The establishment of mail coaches has been increased 69½ per cent. The daily transportation of the mail by stages has increased two thousand four hundred and twenty-seven miles, and the whole daily transportation of the mail has increased three thousand nine hundred and fifty miles.

‡Of which distance it is carried in stages, 2,159,456 miles,
and on horseback, or in sulkies, - 2,340,000 do.

4,499,456 do.

Which proves that the daily progress of the mail exceeds twelve thousand three hundred and twenty-seven miles each day in the year.

NOTE.—For a view of the Post Office Department, for preceding and subsequent years, see Nos. 10 and 24.

11th CONGRESS.]

No. 22.

[2d SESSION.]

REVISION OF THE POST OFFICE LAWS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 22, 1810.

To the Honorable the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, the Postmaster General reports:

That, in obedience to the resolution of the 28th of June last, he herewith transmits a bill for an act, entitled "An act regulating the Post Office establishment," which he has caused to be printed with marginal notes, referring to the various statutes from which he has compiled the same; and, to render more clear what he proposes as additions and amendments to the existing laws, the former are printed in smaller type, and the latter in italics; but the 39th section of the bill ought not to have been in small type, and the italics in the 25th section were unnecessary.

The following contrast will still further lessen the labor of investigation, and give a clear view of the differences between the existing laws and the provisions of the bill. The law authorizes the appointment of one assistant Postmaster General: the bill authorizes the appointment of two, and invests the power of the Postmaster General, in case of a vacancy in that office, in the senior assistant. The law vests no power in the Postmaster General to appoint agents with the right to frank: the bill gives him this power. The law inflicts a fine, not exceeding ten dollars, on any ferryman who shall wilfully detain the mail half an hour: the bill inflicts the same for a wilful detention of ten minutes. The law directs the Postmaster General to publish for contracts in the States where the routes are: the bill extends the direction to the territories.

By the law of the land, a Postmaster is liable to refund what he may receive over legal postage on a letter, although he receives only what was charged thereon, and in the post bill; by the bill, he is exonerated from this demand, unless the letter be opened in his or his clerk's presence. This will be a safeguard to this office and to the officer; and the rights of the citizen are sufficiently secured, as it is made criminal, knowingly, to demand more than legal postage.

The law compels masters of vessels, on arrival at any port, to deliver to the Postmaster of that port all letters directed to any person in the United States, except, &c.: the bill extends this provision to letters addressed to citizens of the territories. It also inflicts a fine, not exceeding one hundred dollars, on any master who shall neglect to comply with this regulation; thereby securing an obedience to the law in cases where the master is not bound to make entry at the custom house.

The law does not prohibit the setting up and maintaining a stage sleigh, and conveying letters, &c. on or near a post route: the bill cures this defect.

The law inflicts a penalty on any person who shall carry letters in a regular packet boat, or other vessel, from one place to another, between which a regular communication *by water* shall be established: in the bill, the words "by water" are omitted, and the prohibition is extended to and from all places between which there is, or may be, a regular communication established by law. Should water mails become necessary, this office has power to create and establish them.

The agents of this office are not by statute liable to any punishment for stealing or embezzling any contract, covenant, or agreement, for the payment of money, or the delivery of any article or thing, &c. &c.: the bill makes