

11th CONGRESS.]

No. 23.

[2d SESSION.]

CLAIM OF A MAIL CARRIER FOR A DISABILITY CONTRACTED IN THE DISCHARGE OF HIS DUTY.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MARCH 23, 1810.

The Postmaster General, to whom was referred, by order of the House of Representatives, on the 22d day of December last, the petition of Samuel Gordon, of Schenectady, in the State of New York, respectfully reports:

The petitioner was employed in conveying the mail as a driver of the mail stage, on the 2d of March, 1804, between Albany and Schenectady, when he was overtaken by a violent snow storm, which prevented the passage of the stage, and he took the mail on his back and conveyed it to the Post Office. From the violence of the storm and a cold which it produced, he wholly lost his eye sight, and has become dependent upon public charity.

The petitioner is highly commendable for his exertions, and the unfortunate result is to be regretted. But it does not appear to the Postmaster General that this case is to be distinguished from that of other citizens who have been disabled while engaged in their ordinary pursuits.

The circumstance occurred in a settled country, where there is already provision for the unfortunate poor, and where there is no occasion to encourage persons to enter into the public service with the hope of pensions, in case of disability. The case of Webb, which probably gave rise to this petition, is materially different; by passing through the Indian nations he was exposed to extraordinary hazard from the savageness of their habits, and his wound and disability proceeded from that extraordinary source of injury; his disability also occurred where there was no provision for the poor, and not within any State jurisdiction, and Congress were, of course, the only regular authority to whom he could apply for relief.

The Postmaster General is, therefore, of opinion that Samuel Gordon ought not to be provided for by Congress. All which is respectfully submitted.

GIDEON GRANGER, *Postmaster General.*

GENERAL POST OFFICE, *March 23d, 1810.*

11th CONGRESS.]

No. 24.

[2d SESSION.]

VIEW OF THE POST OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT FROM 1789 TO 1809.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 30, 1810.

The Postmaster General, in obedience to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 25th instant, respectfully reports the following table, exhibiting a view of this establishment from the commencement of the year 1789, to the 1st of October, 1809, which is substantially correct:

Years.	Number of Post Offices.	Amount of Postage.	Compensation of Postmasters.	Incidental expenses.	Expense of transporting the mail.	Nett revenue of G. P. O. without deducting losses.	Extent in miles of post r'ds.
1789,	75	*	*	*	*	*	
1790,	75	37,934 92	8,197 80	1,861 19	22,081 08	5,794 95	
1791,	89	46,294 43	10,312 28	3,091 79	23,293 10	9,637 29	
1792,	195	67,443 86	16,517 98½	5,281 50	32,731 32	12,913 06	
1793,	209	104,746 67	21,645 96	5,659 73	44,733 88	32,707 10	5,642
1794,	450	123,947 19	27,155 65	9,812 48	53,004 88	38,974 28	11,984
1795,	453	160,629 97	30,272 01	12,261 96	75,359 22	42,726 78	13,207
1796,	468	195,066 88	35,729 59	14,353 21	81,488 66	63,495 42	13,207
1797,	554	213,998 50	47,109 39	13,622 68	89,382 27	63,884 16	16,180
1798,	639	232,977 45	56,035 06	16,035 00	107,014 45	63,892 94	16,180
1799,	677	264,846 17	63,957 75	14,605 22	109,474 76	76,808 44	16,180
1800,	903	280,804 31	69,242 52	16,106 76	128,644 32	66,810 81	20,817
1801,	1025	320,442 40	79,337 74	23,362 81	152,450 01	65,291 84	22,309
1802,	1114	327,044 58	85,586 94	21,657 78	174,670 61	45,129 25	25,315
1803,	1253	351,822 66	93,169 51	24,084 08	205,110 33	29,458 74	25,315
1804,	1405	389,449 64	107,715 71	24,231 29	205,555 24	51,917 40	29,556
1805,	1558	421,373 23	111,551 97	26,179 88	239,635 52	44,005 92	31,076
1806,	1710	446,105 79	119,784 39	23,416 11	269,033 12	33,872 17	33,431
1807,	1848	478,762 71	129,041 16	32,092 64	292,751 29	24,877 62	33,755
1808,	1944	460,564 18	128,653 12	28,676 18	305,499 49		34,035
1809, to Oct. 1.	2012	375,837 46	106,762 41	18,665 35	254,851 42		34,035
Dollars		5,305,093 00	1,347,778 94½	335,057 64	2,866,764 97	772,228 17	
A reduction of revenue took place in consequence of the depression and suspension of commerce; and the expenses of this office for the year 1808, and the three first quarters of 1809, exceeded the amount of postage due the United States, the sum of \$6,706 33, which was defrayed out of the funds arising from previous years,						6,706 33	
Nett revenue of the Post Office Establishment, from which the losses sustained are to be deducted,						\$765,521 84	

* These blanks are in consequence of the imperfect state of the books, arising from the infancy of the establishment; if the facts are capable of being ascertained, they cannot be filled without great research and labor.

The little time allowed for furnishing this report precludes the idea of perfect accuracy, particularly as it relates to mileage and the number of post offices in operation in the several years. Neither the offices discontinued by order of the Postmaster General, or from other causes, nor the reductions of mileage effected by the arrangements of this office, have been attended to in this report. The increased expenditure beyond the mileage has arisen from the increased number and speed of the mails.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GIDEON GRANGER, *Postmaster General.*

GENERAL POST OFFICE, *April 29th, 1810.*

11th CONGRESS.]

No. 25.

[3d SESSION.]

THE PURCHASE AND FITTING UP A BUILDING FOR THE ACCOMMODATION OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT AND PATENT OFFICE.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE 25TH OF JANUARY, 1811.

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

I transmit to the House of Representatives a report from the superintendent of the city, stating the expenditures, under the act of April 28, 1810, for the better accommodation of the General Post Office, and Patent Office, and for other purposes.

JAMES MADISON.

January 25, 1811.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, *Washington, January 19, 1811.*

SIR:

In obedience to your direction to lay before you an account of the purchase of the building, and of the expenditure of the moneys, authorized by the act of Congress, passed the 28th of April, 1810, entitled "An act providing for the better accommodation of the General Post Office and Patent Office, and for other purposes," I have the honor to state, that, on the 21st of May, 1810, the building commonly called the Hotel, standing on the square numbered four hundred and thirty, in this city, together with the lots numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 14, in said square, containing 26,791½ square feet of ground, were purchased, for and in behalf of the United States, for the sum of ten thousand dollars; and that a deed of conveyance for the same, drawn by the Attorney of the United States for the District of Columbia, (who investigated the title of the grantors) has been duly executed and recorded, and is now filed in this office.

That, since the purchase of said building, there has been expended thereon the sum of three thousand two hundred and sixty-eight dollars and twenty-six cents; and, on the public office west of the President's house, the further sum of one thousand three hundred and sixty dollars and eighty-two cents; leaving unexpended, of the twenty thousand dollars appropriated by the above recited act of Congress, the sum of five thousand three hundred and seventy dollars and ninety-two cents.

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

THOMAS MUNROE.

The PRESIDENT of the United States.

11th CONGRESS.]

No. 26.

[3d SESSION.]

REMONSTRANCE AGAINST THE DELIVERY OF LETTERS, PAPERS, AND PACKETS, AT THE POST OFFICES, ON THE SABBATH.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 31, 1811.

The Postmaster General, in obedience to the resolutions* of the House of Representatives of the United States, passed on the 4th and 18th of the present month, respectfully reports:

That, to keep the Government and its agents informed of such events as might be interesting to the nation, with as little delay as possible; to equalize, among the merchants of the several capitals, the chances of receiving commercial information; and to cause the great lines of communication to and from the centre to the various parts of the nation to be kept up with regularity and despatch, and the routes to be performed within the least time practicable; he has caused the mail on many of the most important routes to be transported on the Sabbath, under a belief that it was "a work of necessity."

To guard against any annoyance to the good citizens of the United States, he carefully instructed and directed the agents of this office to pass quietly, without announcing their arrival or departure by the sounding of horns or trumpets, or any other act calculated to call off the attention of the citizens from their devotions; but, until after the passage of the act of the 30th April, 1810, this office never demanded of the Postmasters, on the Sabbath day, the performance of any duties, other than those of taking from the mail portmanteaus the letters destined for delivery at the particular office, and duly forwarding the mail according to the usual course of business. In all previous instances where letters were delivered to the citizens, it had been by the courtesy of the Postmasters, though often with the knowledge, and sometimes on the recommendation, of the Postmaster General. That, under and by virtue

* Referring to him two memorials, from sundry citizens of Philadelphia and New York, substantially similar, the first of which follows this report.