

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.