

1st CONGRESS.]

No. 2.

[2d SESSION.

## SURVEY AND PUBLICATION OF THE POST ROADS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 27, 1790.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, NEW YORK, *April 26th, 1790.*

The Postmaster General, to whom was referred the memorial of Christopher Colles, with orders to examine and report his opinion on the same, begs leave to submit the following observations: The General Post Office is subject to many inconveniences for the want of a survey and map of the roads of the United States. The obtaining the same will be of great public as well as private utility. The objections that may be made against the plan of the memorialist will naturally arise from a supposed inaccuracy in the execution—the measurement of the roads by a perambulator not being so much to be relied on as by a chain; and that the extensiveness of the work will exceed the ability of the memorialist.

From the experiments that have been made by the memorialist, the measurement appears to be sufficiently accurate for the establishing of distances on the post roads: as, in a distance of ten miles, there was only a variation of ten feet, and in ninety miles an exact agreement with the measurement made by a chain. When the roads are very uneven and broken, the perambulator will make the distance greater, in proportion to the unevenness of the surface, than it would be by measuring with a chain. The experiments, however, that have been made, were upon roads that were as uneven as the roads are, in a general view, in the United States. The ability of the memorialist to execute the work within a reasonable time is evident from what he has already executed; and as it is the principal, if not the only dependence he has for the support of himself and his family, there is no doubt but he will be as industrious as his slender means will admit.

The assistance requested of the public, at the rate of one eighth of a dollar per mile, will amount to about three hundred and seventy-five dollars: for the extent to be surveyed cannot vary much from three thousand miles. The Postmaster General, upon a due consideration of the benefits that will result from the execution of the work undertaken by the memorialist, is of the opinion that the public interest will be promoted by granting him the aid prayed for, in proportion to the distance surveyed, and the publication, after being qualified to its having been done with proper attention.

All which is respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL OSGOOD.

The Honorable the SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

1st CONGRESS.]

No. 3.

[2d SESSION.

## LIST OF POST OFFICES, AND THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES TO JANUARY 5, 1790.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 27, 1790.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, *New York, April 26, 1790.*

SIR:

I do myself the honor to enclose, agreeably to the order of the honorable House of Representatives, of the 15th instant, a return which shows the route by which the mail is carried within the United States; the emoluments to each of the Postmasters; the incidental expenses and the nett revenue of each office; also the nett revenue of the Department, and expense of transporting the mail, for one quarter ending the 1st of January; and an estimate of the expense of supporting posts on the several cross roads. There are several ports of entry with which there is no communication by posts. The Secretary of the Treasury has mentioned Bermuda Hundred and Tappahannock as the most important. It appears by the statement that the revenue arising on the cross roads is considerably short of the expense of transporting the mail. Should others be established, it is not probable that the revenue will bear a greater proportion to the expense than it does on those already established.

SAMUEL OSGOOD.

The Hon. the SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

*Return of Post Offices in the United States, showing the amount of moneys received in each office, the emoluments of the Postmasters, incidental expenses, and net revenue, for three months, commencing October 5, 1789, and ending January 5, 1790; also the expense of transporting the mail for three months, agreeably to the contracts for the year 1790.*

STATE.	Places where Post Offices are kept.	Total received in each.	Emoluments of the Postmaster.	Incidental Expenses, including ship letters	Net Revenue for three months.	Revenue on certain parts of the road.	Contracts for the year 1790.	Expenses of transporting the mail for three months.
Massachusetts,	Wiscasset,	\$1 76	\$0 36	\$0 12	\$1 38			
	Portland,	36 00	7 22	1 40	27 47	\$28 75	Richard Kimball, post rider; 59 miles, once in two weeks, at \$150 per annum,	\$37 50
New Hampshire,	Portsmouth,	92 66	18 59	1 57	69 02	69 02	Joseph Barnard, post rider, three times per week in summer, and twice in winter, 60 miles, at \$600 per annum,	150 00
	Newburyport,	57 83	11 56	3 70	41 35			
Massachusetts,	Commissions on free letters,	6 37	1 22		5 10			
	Ipswich,	80 61	16 13	57	62 67			
Connecticut,	Salem,	664 93	1 24		507 80	616 92	Greenleaf & Stavers, contractors, three times per week in summer, and twice in winter, 61 miles, at \$733 33 per annum,	183 33½
	Boston,		132 97	13 66				
Connecticut,	Commissions on free letters,	11 47	2 29	1 50	7 68			
	Worcester,	12 50	2 50		10 00			
Connecticut,	Springfield,	74 26	14 86	67	52 15			
	Hartford,	24 37	4 87		19 50			
Connecticut,	Commissions on free letters,	46 96	9 39	10 61	25 85			
	Middletown,	3 15	1 11		2 24			
Connecticut,	New Haven,	11 14	2 22		8 92			
	Commissions on free letters,	2 91	57		2 34			
New York,	Fairfield,	3 81	76		3 05			
	Norwalk,	1,067 08	213 41	36 89	702 87	834 60	Levi Pease, contractor, three times per week in summer, and twice in winter, 249 miles, at \$3,300 per annum,	825 00
New Jersey,	Stamford,		38 91					
	New York,		75 00					
New Jersey,	Allowance for British packets,	9 48	1 90		8 58			
	Newark,	13 33	2 46		9 87			
New Jersey,	Elizabethtown,	5 00	1 00		4 00			
	Brunswick,	29 37	5 88		22 85			
Pennsylvania,	Princeton,	28 00	5 60		21 96			
	Commissions on free letters,	6 00	44		4 80			
Pennsylvania,	Trenton,	1,530 73	306 14	77 84	1,137 61	1,208 67	Inship & Cumming, contractors, five times per week, 95 miles, at \$1,333 33 per annum,	333 33½
	Bristol,		9 14					
Delaware,	Philadelphia,	2 82	56		2 26			
	Commissions on free letters,	57 67	11 53		46 14			
Maryland,	Wilmington,	18 31	3 66		14 65			
	Elkton,	2 19	44		1 75			
Maryland,	Charles town,	10 30	2 06		8 24			
	Have de Grace,							

RETURN, &c.—Continued.

STATES.	Places where Post Offices are kept.	Total received in each.	Emoluments of the Postmasters.	Incidental Expenses, including ship letters.	Nett Revenue for three months.	Revenue on certain parts of the road.	Contracts for the year 1790.	Expenses of transporting the mail for three months.
Maryland,	Hartford, . . . . .	4 00	80	. 61 64	3 20			
	Baltimore, . . . . .	846 01	169 21		615 16			
Virginia, . . . . .	Bladensburg, . . . . .	16 27	3 25	20	12 82	691 40	Van Horne & Kevlin, contractors, three times per week, 102 miles, at \$1,100 per annum,	275 00
	Georgetown, . . . . .	78 81	15 76		63 05			
	Alexandria, . . . . .	289 90	57 98	5 28	226 64	302 51	Gab'l P. Van Horn, contractor, three times per week, 54 miles, at \$397 33 per annum,	149 33½
	Colchester, . . . . .	7 07	1 42		5 65			
	Dumfries, . . . . .	86 09	17 30		68 79			
	Fredericksburg, . . . . .	237 35	47 46	58	189 31			
	Bowling Green, . . . . .	7 53	1 51		6 02			
	Hanover Court House, no accounts.							
	Richmond, . . . . .	482 78	96 56	46 67	335 39			
	Commissions on free letters,		4 16					
Petersburg, . . . . .	322 26	64 45	36 84	220 97				
Cabin Point, . . . . .	11 17	2 23		8 94				
Smithfield, . . . . .	13 29	3 66		10 63				
Suffolk, . . . . .	32 90	6 58		26 32				
Edenton, . . . . .	55 75	11 15		44 60				
North Carolina,	Washington, . . . . .	29 18	5 83		23 35	916 62	John Hoomes, contractor, three times per week, 286 miles, at \$3,456 per annum,	864 00
	Newbern, . . . . .	43 13	8 90	9 10	25 13	23 35	Bryan McCabe, contractor, twice a week in summer, and once in winter, 56 miles, at \$760 50 per annum.	190 12
South Carolina,	Wilmington, . . . . .	71 12	14 22		56 90	25 13	John G. Blount, contractor, twice a week in summer, and once in winter, 38 miles, at \$456 per annum,	114 00
	Georgetown, . . . . .	18 00	3 60		14 40	14 40	Alexander McKinzie, contractor, twice in summer, and once in winter, 93 miles, at \$500 per annum,	200 00
Georgia, . . . . .	Charleston, . . . . .	181 73	36 34	3 09	142 30	142 30	John Anderson, poststrider, twice a week in summer, and once in winter, 127 miles, at \$980 per annum,	245 00
	Savannah, . . . . .	62 50	12 50		50 00	50 00	Robert Henderson, poststrider, twice in summer, and once in winter, 62 miles, at \$1,028 56 per annum,	257 14
Rhode Island,	CROSS ROADS, VIZ.							
	From Boston to New Haven.	\$43 53	\$8 37	\$1 68	\$33 48			
Newport, . . . . .		48 53	9 71	2 26	36 56			442 05

RETURN, &c.—Continued.

STATES,	Places where Post Offices are kept.	Total received in each.	Emoluments of the Postmaster.	Incidental expenses, including ship letters.	Nett revenue for three months.	Revenue on certain parts of the road.	Contracts for the year 1790.	Expenses of transporting the mail for three months.
	<b>CROSS ROADS—Continued.</b>							
Rhode Island,	East Greenwich, . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	{ The Postmasters were appointed by the late Postmaster General, and have not rendered accounts.	\$180 00
Connecticut,	South Kingston, . . . . .	. . . . .	4 40	1 51	16 10	. . . . .	Peter and B. Mumford, from Boston to New London, 113 miles, at \$720 per annum.	83 33½
	New London, . . . . .	22 01				\$86 14	And John Thompson, from New London to New Haven, 53 miles at \$333½ per annum.	29 17
	<i>From Hartford to New London,</i>						John Knight rides by way of Middletown, (no Post Offices but those mentioned on other roads) at \$116 65 per annum.	
	<i>From Hartford to New London and Providence.</i>							
	Norwich, . . . . .	38 46	6 64	41	21 41	21 41	John Ormsby rides from Hartford to Windham, and Providence, and from Windham to Norwich and New London, 103 miles, at \$216 68 per annum.	54 17
Pennsylvania,	<i>From Philadelphia to Pittsburg.</i>							
	Lancaster, . . . . .	10 65	2 13	3 33	5 19			
	Yorktown, . . . . .	11 52	2 30	1 00	8 22			
	Carlisle, . . . . .	15 00	3 00	. . . . .	12 00			
	Shippensburg, . . . . .	4 00	80	. . . . .	3 20			
	Chambersburg, . . . . .	12 50	2 50	. . . . .	10 00			
	Bedford, . . . . .	1 41	28	. . . . .	1 13			
	Pittsburg, . . . . .	20 37	4 08	. . . . .	16 29			
	Agreed to go as often as the Postmaster General thinks fit.							
Maryland,	<i>From Wilmington to Easton, in Maryland.</i>							
	Warwick—no accounts.							
	Georgetown X Roads, . . . . .	8 70	1 73	. . . . .	6 97			
	Chestertown, . . . . .	50 53	10 10	. . . . .	40 43			
	Chester Mills, . . . . .	9 34	1 87	. . . . .	7 47			
	Easton, . . . . .	27 30	5 46	. . . . .	21 84			
	<i>From Wilmington to Dover.</i>							
Delaware,	Duck creek, no accounts, } must be small, Dover, no accounts, }							
Maryland,	<i>From Baltimore to Annapolis,</i>							
		99 31	19 85	. . . . .	79 46	79 46	Henry Stouffer, contractor, 3 miles, \$320 per annum,	80 00
							Robert Hodgson, contractor, 87 miles, at \$500 per annum,	125 00
							{ The Postmaster at Wilmington employs a rider at \$160 per annum,	40 00
								300 00
							Ichabod Grummon, contractor, once in two weeks, 310 miles, \$1,200 per annum,	

RETURN, &c.—Continued.

STATES.	Places where Post Offices are kept.	Total received in each.	Emoluments of the Postmaster.	Incidental Expenses, including ship letters.	Nett revenue for three months.	Revenue on certain parts of the road.	Contracts for the year 1790.	Expenses of transporting the mail for three months.
Virginia,	CROSS ROADS—Continued.							
		<i>From Richmond to Norfolk.</i>						
		\$42 40	\$8 47	\$1 33	\$32 60			
		13 00	2 60		10 40			
		8 35	1 67	1 99	4 69			
		186 00	39 00	9 00	138 00	\$185 69	John Hoomes, contractor, 116 miles, three times a week, at \$1,186 per annum, And \$120 for ferrage from Hampton to Norfolk, .	\$296 25 30 00
Virginia,	<i>From Suffolk to Portsmouth,</i>	40 80	8 16		32 64	32 64	John Hoomes, 28 miles, three times per week, at \$339 per annum, De Hart & Kenny receive the postage for carrying the mail.	84 75
New York,	<i>From New York to Albany,</i>							
New Hampshire,	<i>From Portsmouth to Exeter and Concord.*</i>	\$7,510 65	\$1,657 56	\$334 44		\$5,518 64		\$5,568 48
						.15 00		5,533 64
								34 84

\* The offices left blank may produce about

The transportation of the mail exceeds the income of the Department this quarter,

By this statement it appears that the Department falls in debt thirty-four dollars and eighty-four cents, exclusive of the expense of the General Post Office, in the quarter ending the 1st January, 1790. The accounts from the principal offices for the quarter ending the 1st instant are received, by which it appears that the money collected this quarter will exceed the last about five hundred dollars. It may be observed that the money collected in the offices on the cross roads, is not all that is produced from those roads; the postage of such letters as return back to the main road is received in the offices on the main road, and cannot be exactly ascertained. The following estimate is as accurate as the nature of the business will admit:

From Boston to Providence, New London, and New Haven, Philadelphia to Pittsburg, ditto, ditto, eight hundred dollars per annum.  
 Wilmington to Duck creek and Dover, ditto, ditto, one hundred and twenty dollars ditto.  
 Richmond to Williamsburg and Norfolk, and Suffolk to Portsmouth, ditto, ditto, three hundred dollars ditto.  
 Hartford to New London, by Middletown, ditto, ditto, ditto.  
 Hartford to Windham, Norwich, New London, and Providence, probably pay the expense.  
 Wilmington to Chestertown and Easton, Eastern Shore of Maryland, ditto.  
 Baltimore to Annapolis, clears about

New York to Albany, the contractor receives the postage for carrying the mail. one hundred and fifty dollars per annum.  
 The main road from Edenton, in North Carolina, to Savannah, in Georgia, is an expense to the Department of about four thousand dollars per annum.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, *New York, April 24th, 1790.* SAMUEL OSGOOD.