

## Statement of the number of Post Offices in each State, produce of postages, &amp;c. for six months.

STATES, &c.	Number of Post Offices.	Mile Post Road.	Nett amount of postages.	Transportation of the mail.	Balance in favor of United States.	Balance against the U. States.
Columbia, District,	3	44	\$3,673 55	\$902 00	\$2,771 55	
Connecticut,	116	1,091	9,526 73	3,170 50	6,356 23	
Delaware,	23	254	2,171 06	1,984 00	187 06	
Georgia,	66	1,784	7,875 28	6,523 50	1,351 78	
Indiana territory,	16	609	542 63	987 50	-	\$444 87
Illinois territory,	9	388	142 91	1,002 50	-	859 59
Kentucky,	85	2,158	7,626 75	8,642 00	-	1,615 25
Louisiana,	20	1,206	4,480 12	6,268 00	-	1,787 88
Maine,	127	1,080	4,768 72	4,900 00	-	131 28
Maryland,	103	1,422	21,024 43	10,922 00	10,102 43	
Massachusetts,	189	1,934	23,752 57	9,291 00	14,461 57	
Michigan territory,	1	66	436 92	525 00	-	88 08
Mississippi territory,	26	1,571	2,012 39	9,241 00	-	7,228 61
Missouri territory,	8	219	515 28	282 50	232 78	
New Hampshire,	100	1,187	3,397 55	2,684 50	713 05	
New Jersey,	101	919	5,689 15	5,412 00	277 15	
New York,	405	3,873	53,182 84	18,674 00	34,508 84	
North Carolina,	165	3,883	6,387 25	16,582 00	-	10,194 75
Ohio,	134	2,778	7,950 63	12,476 00	-	4,525 37
Pennsylvania,	265	4,012	38,736 74	24,185 50	14,551 24	
Rhode Island,	21	269	4,722 57	1,476 50	3,246 07	
South Carolina,	124	2,521	11,497 18	16,558 00	-	5,060 82
Tennessee,	66	2,255	3,212 82	8,736 50	-	5,523 68
Vermont,	118	1,200	3,702 06	3,436 00	266 00	
Virginia,	379	6,002	28,754 40	38,372 50	-	9,618 10

14th CONGRESS.]

No. 32.

[1st SESSION.]

## REDUCTION OF POSTAGE.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS, JANUARY 2, 1816.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, December 21, 1815.

SIR:

I have the honor to state, in reply to your letter of the 18th instant, that the amount of postages vary materially from one quarter to another, when no change has been made in the rate.

The effect which the late addition of fifty per centum on the former rate has had cannot, therefore, be stated with precision. It appears by the statement No. 1, which is annexed, that there is an average increase of postage of 6 15-100 per cent. a year; and, by the statement No. 2, that, for six months, ending June 30, 1814, the gross produce of postages was \$365,443 79, and, therefore, that the gross produce for six months, ending June 30, 1815, without addition to the rate, should be \$387,919, and, by the same statement, that it actually produced \$513,003; then, taking \$331,995 as the principal of five months, it will have produced 37 6-100 nearly per cent. since the addition of fifty per cent. has been in operation. It is believed, however, that the return of peace, which has taken place during the period, the discharge of the army, and the extra impulse which has been given to commerce, would have produced a materially greater postage under the old rates than is estimated; and that the real increase, in consequence of the fifty per centum advance, cannot be more than thirty per cent.

The rates are considered too high, generally; and, from the information which I have received, much pains are taken to avoid postage, by seeking private conveyances.

It appears to me that a new table of rates might be devised, making, on the average, an increase of twenty per cent. on the former rates, which would not appear too high for the object, and would be as productive as the present rates.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. J. MEIGS, JUN.

Hon. Mr. LOWNDES, Chairman Committee of Way and Means.

## Statement.—No. 1.

		Increase.
Amount of postages collected in 1805,	\$421,373 23	\$31,923 59
Amount of postages collected in 1806,	446,105 79	24,732 56
Amount of postages collected in 1807,	478,762 71	32,656 92
Amount of postages collected in 1808,	460,564 18	18,198 53 diminution.
Amount of postages collected in 1809,	506,633 85	46,069 67
Amount of postages collected in 1810,	552,366 86	45,733 01
Amount of postages collected in 1811,	587,246 85	34,879 99
Amount of postages collected in 1812,	649,551 99	62,305 14
Amount of postages collected in 1813,	703,154 52	53,602 63
Amount of postages collected in 1814,	730,370 13	27,217 61
	<u>\$5,536,130 11</u>	<u>\$359,121 12</u>
		<u>18,198 53</u>
		<u>\$340,922 59</u>

As 553,613 : 340,923 :: 100 : 6 15-100.

*Statement.—No. 2.*

Amount of postages collected, from 1st January to March 31, 1814,	-	\$176,576 71	
Amount of postages collected, from 1st April to June 30, 1814,	-	188,867 08	
			\$365,443 79
Amount of postages collected, from 1st January to March 31, 1815,	-	223,696 42	
Amount of postages collected, from 1st April to June 30, 1815,*	-	289,307 00	
			<u>513,003 42</u>
Amount of six months, from 1st January to June 30, 1814,	-	\$365,443 79	
Addition of 6 15-100 per cent.,	-	22,474 80	
Amount which should have arisen from 1st Jan. to June 30, 1815, without additional rate,	-	\$387,918 59	
Actual produce,	-	513,003 42	
Increase in consequence of additional rates,	-	<u>\$125,084 83</u>	

Amount from 1st January to March 31, 1815, was \$223,696; which, divided by 4, as 50 per cent. was charged only on two months, gives 55,924; which, taken from 387,919, equal 331,995. Then, as 331,995 : 125,085 :: 100 : 37 6-100.

The Postmasters' accounts are not yet so arranged, that a statement can be exhibited to a later period than the above.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, *January 1, 1816.*

SIR: I have the honor to state, in reply to your letter of the 5th, that my concluding observation may, perhaps, be considered as too hypothetical. The result of the comparison which was made of the produce, under the old rates and those of the new, showed that the latter produced only one hundred and thirty-seven instead of one hundred and fifty; or, that there were only ten letters now sent, where there should be eleven in ordinary circumstances. But, considering the return of peace, the extraordinary number of letters which must arise from the discharge of the army, the settlement of accounts, and the new occupations of those connected with the army; also the restoration of commerce, and the great increase of commercial enterprises, many more being engaged in it than in ordinary times, or than can be supported by trade in ordinary times, it appeared to me that the postages, instead of the regular increase of fifty per cent., ought to have gone much further, probably to seventy per cent., (say of a tenth, in consequence of disbanding the army, and the like quantity for the increase of commerce.) On this ground it was inferred that, where those causes ceased, there would be a great falling off in postages, and that a rate which should be but a moderate advance on the former, would be as productive.

In this respect, the committee will perceive that there is more of inference and conjecture than of precise data. The rates contemplated for letter postage were,

For any distance, not exceeding five miles,	-	-	-	4	cents.
Over five, and not exceeding forty miles,	-	-	-	10	"
Over forty, and not exceeding ninety miles,	-	-	-	12	"
Over ninety, and not exceeding one hundred and fifty miles,	-	-	-	15	"
Over one hundred and fifty, and not exceeding four hundred miles,	-	-	-	20	"
Over four hundred, and not exceeding six hundred miles,	-	-	-	25	"
Over six hundred miles,	-	-	-	30	"

For newspapers—

For any distance, not exceeding two hundred miles,	-	-	-	2	cents.
Over two hundred, and not exceeding five hundred miles,	-	-	-	3	"
Over five hundred miles,	-	-	-	4	"

Monthly and weekly magazines to be rated as newspapers; every eight pages of octavo paper to be rated as one, and also any surplus less than eight pages.

A comparative table of the old, new, and proposed rates, is annexed. The first rate is calculated for places very near each other; the old rate, for such a short distance, was eight cents, and the present is twelve cents; but both rates are so disproportioned to the service, that very few letters have been sent in the mail for the distance; and the present rate, it is believed, will produce many; or, in other words, this rate will afford considerable accommodations, and whatever it produces may be considered as a gain. This affects the communication between Georgetown and Washington city; Philadelphia, Germantown, and Frankfort; Boston, Charlestown, and Cambridge; New York and Brooklyn; with sundry other places contiguous to each other.

It will be observed, that an increase is proposed in the postage of newspapers; this is on the ground, that the old rate is inadequate to the expense of conveyance, and that the proposed rate is still inconsiderable. A weekly paper, carried two hundred miles, will cost only one dollar and four cents a year, and few persons take newspapers from a greater distance. The amount of newspaper postage in 1814 was \$59,149 36; and this increase would produce nearly \$50,000 a year clear revenue, supposing the commission allowed to Postmasters to remain at its present rate.

Very respectfully, your most obedient,

R. J. MEIGS, JUN.

Hon. the CHAIRMAN of the *Committee of Ways and Means.*

\* This account is not complete, but the sum is believed to be nearly correct.

## COMPENSATION OF POSTMASTERS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE POST OFFICE AND POST ROADS, FEBRUARY 2, 1816.

SIR: GENERAL POST OFFICE, *February 1, 1816.*

I have the honor to enclose a bill for regulating the compensation of Postmasters, agreeable to your request. In this I have proposed an increase of commission on the first hundred dollars collected by each Postmaster, from