

16th CONGRESS.]

No. 40.

[1st SESSION.

## ACCOUNTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 12, 1820.

SIR:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *February 11, 1820.*

In obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 28th ultimo, directing the Secretary of the Treasury "to inform this House when the accounts of the Post Office Department were last audited, and the amount of the balance, if any, then due; also a statement of the quarterly amount of receipts and expenditures of that Department, from the first appointment of the present Postmaster General to the last day of December, 1819, inclusive," I have the honor to submit the enclosed report and statements from the office of the Fifth Auditor of the Treasury.

It appears from the documents which have been furnished by that officer, that, when the present Postmaster General came into office, during the first quarter of 1814, there was due a balance of \$313,086 88, which, on the 31st day of December, 1816, the latest period to which the accounts have been audited, was increased to \$470,875 64, of which sum \$50,760 25 was in the possession of that Department. It also appears that, on the 31st March, 1818, from the accounts which have been rendered, but not audited, there was due by that Department the sum of \$539,844 72, of which there was \$46,337 89 in cash.

The receipts and expenditures of the Department, subsequent to that period, cannot be ascertained at the Treasury, as the accounts have not been rendered for settlement.

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD.

The Hon. the SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

SIR:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, FIFTH AUDITOR'S OFFICE, *February 9, 1820.*

In answer to the inquiries contained in your note of the 31st of January last, transmitting a resolution of the House of Representatives of the United States, of the 28th of that month, relative to the accounts of the Post Office Department, I have the honor to state that, when the present Postmaster General came into office, the accounts of the General Post Office had been rendered to the Treasury for settlement to the 31st of March, 1808; that they had been audited, when the Fifth Auditor was charged by law with their settlement, to the 30th September, 1810; that they had been rendered at that period to the 31st of March, 1812; that they were last rendered to the 31st of March, 1818, on or about the 20th of December last; that they have been audited to the 31st of December, 1816, and that all those of the year 1817 are in a course of examination, and will, in a short time, be audited; that the balance due by the Postmaster General on the 31st of December, 1816, the period at which the accounts were last audited, was \$470,875 64, stated to consist of

Cash on hand,	-	-	-	-	\$ 50,760 25
Debts due by Deputy Postmasters and others,	-	-	-	-	420,115 39
					<u>\$470,875 64</u>

Of the cash above stated to be in hand, there was paid in the succeeding quarter the sum of \$19,999 50, for which the Postmaster General will receive a credit when the accounts for that quarter shall be audited.

For the receipts and expenditures of the Post Office Department, I respectfully refer to the enclosed abstract, (A) exhibiting them (as well as other particulars which were thought to be acceptable) quarter-yearly, from the commencement of the year 1814, when the present Postmaster General appears to have entered upon his official duties, to the 31st of December, 1816; and to another abstract, (B) also enclosed, for a view of them, as derived from accounts between the date last mentioned and the 31st of March, 1818, which have been received, but not audited.

It is proper to observe, that the balance stated to be due at the commencement of the year 1814, of \$313,086 88, was transferred to his debit from that of G. Granger, his predecessor, and is merged in the balances stated to be subsequently due.

As the law has confided to the Postmaster General the collection, by suit or otherwise, of all debts due to the General Post Office, he has never transmitted, with his accounts to the Treasury, a statement showing by whom the aggregate sum, stated to be due from Deputy Postmasters and others, from quarter to quarter, is due and payable. That information can be obtained only from the General Post Office.

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

S. PLEASANTON, *Fifth Auditor of the Treasury.*

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

A.—A statement exhibiting the quarterly receipts and expenditures of the General Post Office, from the 1st of January 1814, when R. J. Meigs, Esq. was charged with the office, to the 31st of Dec. 1816.

Year.	Balance due at the beginning of the quarter.	Gross amount of postage.	PAYMENTS FOR						Nett amount of postage.	Excess of expenditure.	Paym'ts made into the Treasury by warrants, &c.	Balance due at the end of the quarter, stated to consist of
			Transportation of the mails.	Incidental expenses of the General Post Office.	Compensation to deputy postmasters, including incidental expenses.	Way and ship letters.	Total am't of expenditures.					
1814.	First quarter,	\$313,086 88	\$176,405 26	\$121,492 07	\$2,947 97	\$56,923 64	\$359 61	\$181,723 29	-	5,318 03	15,000 00	Cash on hand, \$45,799 90 Debts due from Deputy Postmasters and others, 246,968 95 292,768 85
	Second quarter,	292,768 85	189,293 29	116,413 77	5,465 98	57,840 05	642 83	180,362 63	\$8,930 66	-	-	Cash on hand, \$46,690 88 Debts due &c. 255,008 63 301,699 51
	Third quarter,	301,699 51	184,096 33	128,819 73	4,724 85	60,102 29	517 82	194,164 69	-	10,068 36	-	Cash on hand, \$92,518 55 Debts due, &c. 199,112 60 291,631 15
	Fourth quarter,	291,631 15	180,639 39	108,882 56	1,099 45	59,700 45	422 93	169,605 39	11,034 00	-	-	Cash on hand, \$29,812 77 Debts due, &c. 272,852 38 302,665 15
1815,	First quarter,	302,665 15	223,611 79	127,125 13	2,966 12	70,080 80	425 86	200,597 91	28,013 88	-	-	Cash on hand, \$44,028 31 Debts due, &c. 281,650 72 325,679 03
	Second quarter,	325,679 03	273,537 31	107,538 55	3,160 16	58,980 58	1,539 95	171,219 24	102,318 07	-	60,000 00	Cash on hand, \$44,028 31 Debts due, &c. 323,968 79 367,997 10
	Third quarter,	367,997 10	270,642 22	119,650 42	2,915 67	56,640 34	1,794 15	181,000 58	89,641 64	-	75,000 10	Cash on hand, \$18,747 52 Debts due, &c. 363,891 12 382,638 64
	Fourth quarter,	382,638 64	273,657 53	129,607 96	1,388 45	56,160 31	2,208 27	189,364 99	84,292 54	-	66,198 43	Cash on hand, \$3,201 00 Debts due, &c. 397,531 75 400,732 75
1816,	First quarter,	400,732 75	290,479 54	128,881 87	3,032 40	59,287 57	1,777 48	192,979 32	97,500 22	-	67,000 00	Cash on hand, \$31,658 94 Debts due, &c. 399,574 03 431,232 97
	Second quarter,	431,232 97	215,789 03	133,551 36	4,819 56	63,646 72	2,306 09	204,323 73	11,465 30	-	-	Cash on hand, \$50,386 73 Debts due, &c. 392,311 54 442,698 27
	Third quarter,	442,698 27	218,056 61	128,447 95	5,562 75	64,534 32	2,103 14	200,648 16	17,408 45	-	16,700 00	Cash on hand, \$27,262 28 Debts due, &c. 416,144 44 443,406 72
	Fourth quarter,	443,406 72	236,402 79	134,507 45	2,435 53	69,946 53	2,044 36	208,933 87	27,468 92	-	-	Cash on hand,* \$50,760 25 Debts due, &c. 420,115 39 470,875 64

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, FIFTH AUDITOR'S OFFICE, February 9, 1820.

S. PLEASANTON, Auditor.

\*Part of this sum was paid in the succeeding quarter by warrant No. 2,820, for \$19,999 50

B.

Abstract of receipts and expenditures of the General Post Office, from the 31st December, 1816, (the period to which the accounts have been audited,) to the 31st March, 1818, the period to which they have been rendered to the Treasury.

Year.		Balance due the United States, at the end of the quarter.	Gross amount of postage.	PAYMENTS FOR					Net amount of postage.	Excess of expenditure	Paym'ts made into the Treasury, by warrants, &c.	Balance due the United States at the end of the quarter, consisting of
				Transportation of the mail.	Incidental expenses of the General Post Office.	Compensation to Deputy Postmasters, including contingent expenses, &c.	Way and ship letters.	Total am't of expenditures.				
1817,	First quarter,	\$470,875 64	\$240,244 88	\$128,434 39	\$4,674 59	\$70,693 62	\$1,660 45	\$205,463 05	\$34,781 83	-	\$19,999 50	{ Cash on hand, \$24,594 34 Debts due by Deputy Postmasters and others, 461,063 63 ----- 485,657 97 { Cash on hand, \$34,274 81 Debts due, &c. 471,451 25 ----- 505,726 06 { Cash on hand, \$50,626 31 Debts due, &c. 454,067 24 ----- 504,693 55 { Cash on hand, \$42,188 51 Debts due, &c. 471,318 88 ----- 513,507 39 { Cash on hand, \$46,337 89 Debts due, &c. 493,506 83 ----- 539,844 72
	Second quarter,	485,657 97	258,592 36	144,162 70	7,606 95	75,146 55	2,335 66	229,251 86	29,340 50	-	9,272 41	
	Third quarter,	505,726 06	254,983 23	169,306 02	7,586 10	76,729 90	2,293 72	255,915 74	-	\$932 51	100 00	
	Fourth quarter,	504,693 55	248,133 78	147,846 04	2,389 16	72,806 57	2,208 17	225,249 94	22,883 84	-	14,070 00	
1818,	First quarter, only, rendered.	513,507 39	282,365 92	161,001 16	9,080 79	83,642 24	2,304 40	256,028 59	26,337 33	-	-	

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S. PLEASANTON, Auditor.