

17th CONGRESS.]

No. 47.

[2d SESSION.

PROPOSITION TO EXEMPT STATE LAWS FROM POSTAGE.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, FEBRUARY 28, 1823.

Mr. VAN DYKE, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, having under consideration a resolution of the Senate of the 8th of January, directing them to "inquire into the expediency of authorizing an interchange of the laws of the several States, by mail, free of postage," reported:

That, owing to the many settlements lately made in the new States and Territories, the number of mail routes has been greatly increased in the course of a few years past, and the expense of the Post Office Department has been so much augmented as to exceed the income; and that many new post routes are established at every session of Congress, whilst very few of the old routes are discontinued. In consequence of which, the expense of transporting the mails is likely to become a serious charge to the Government; and that, authorizing the interchange of the laws of the States, free of postage, would greatly encumber those concerned in carrying the mails, without any adequate benefit. The committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution, to wit:

Resolved, That it is inexpedient, at this time, to authorize the interchange of the laws of the several States, by mail, free of postage.

17th CONGRESS.]

No. 48.

[2d SESSION.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEARS 1821 AND 1822.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXPENDITURES OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, FEBRUARY 28, 1823.

GENERAL POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *February 4, 1823.*

SIR:

I have the honor to enclose the several statements which you have requested, viz:

No. 1. A table of the Post Office establishment, showing the number of Post Offices, the amount of postages collected by the several Postmasters, the amount of their several compensations, the amount of incidental expenses, the expense of transporting the mail, the balance against the Department, and the extent in miles on the post roads, in the years 1821 and 1822.

No. 2. A statement of the actual receipts and expenditures of the General Post Office, for the years 1820, 1821, and 1822.

No. 3 Contains a statement of the incidental expenses of the Department for the year 1822.

No. 4 Contains the contingent expenses of the General Post Office for the year 1822.

It will be seen, by statement No. 1, that the produce of the Post Office Department fell short of the expenses in the year 1821, by the sum of \$126,265, and that of 1822 fell short \$28,843. These deficiencies were made up by pressing the collection of old balances. Further collections will be made this year, but it is difficult to conjecture whether they will more than balance those which arise from new delinquencies; but having communicated with the Committee on the Post Office Department on this subject, it will be unnecessary for me to extend my remarks.

I am, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

R. J. MEIGS, JUN.

Honorable GEORGE DENNISON,
Chairman of the Committee on Post Office Expenditures.

No. 1.

Table of the Post Office Establishment, showing its produce and expenditure for the years 1821 and 1822.

YEARS.	Number of Post Offices.	Gross amount of postages.	Compensation to Postmasters.	Incidental expenses.	Transportation of the mail.	Balances in favor of G. Post Office.	Balances against Gen'l Post Office.	Extent in miles of post roads.
1821,*	4,976	\$1,056,658	\$336,239	\$31,003	\$815,681	-	\$126,265	79,308
1822,†	5,252	1,128,023	356,155	22,958	777,753	-	28,843	85,554

* The difference between this and the report of last year is in consequence of the 4th quarter being *then estimated*, and now brought in as it actually stands on the books.

† The product for the 4th quarter *is estimated*, as also the expense for the transportation of the mail for the same quarter.

No. 2.

Statement of the amount of the annual receipts and expenditures of the General Post Office from 1820 to 1822, inclusive, with the amount paid into the Treasury in each year.

January 1, 1820,	Cash on hand,	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$57,381 74
	Amount of receipts in 1820,	-	-	-	-	-	-	841,712 50
								899,094 24