

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

No. 2—Continued.

	Amount of expenditures in 1820, - - -	\$863,917 34	
	Amount paid to the Treasury same year, - - -	6,465 95	
	Balance on hand, - - -	28,710 95	\$899,094 24
January 1, 1821,	Cash on hand, - - -	-	28,710 95
	Amount of receipts in 1821, - - -	-	856,464 85
			885,175 80
	Amount of expenditures in 1821, - - -	813,680 32	
	Amount paid to the Treasury same year, - - -	516 91	
	Balance on hand, - - -	70,978 57	885,175 80
January 1, 1822,	Cash on hand, - - -	-	70,978 57
	Amount of receipts in 1822, - - -	-	812,711 92
			883,690 49
	Amount of expenditures in 1822, - - -	849,310 33	
	Amount paid to the Treasury same year, - - -	514 13	
	Balance on hand, December 31, 1822, - - -	33,866 03	883,690 49

No. 3.

A statement of the incidental expenses of the General Post Office for the year 1822.

FIRST QUARTER OF 1822.		THIRD QUARTER OF 1822.	
Paid Sellers & Pennock, for portmanteaus, &c.,	\$552 37	Paid William Morgan, for wharfage, -	\$1 35
Paid T. Rowe, for paper, twine, blanks, &c.,	825 50	Paid Jonathan Elliott, for printing, &c., -	1,321 87
Paid Wm. J. Stone, for stamps for Post Office,	43 69	Paid William J. Stone, for stamps, -	26 07
Paid Edgar Patterson, for paper, -	425 00	Paid William H. Haywood, for marshal's	
Paid Jonathan Elliott, for printing, -	1,540 00	and attorney's fees, -	128 37
Paid J. Ficklin, for paper, printing blanks, &c.,	119 95	Paid Jonah Wood, for saddlebags, -	7 00
Paid Ths. Rowe, for paper, twine, blanks, &c.,	1,505 78	Paid John Frank, for binding books, &c., -	224 00
Paid William Cooper, for paper and printing,	216 75	Paid Ingham & Longstreth, for paper, -	624 00
Paid Medat Moody, for desk for Post Office,	3 75	Paid J. Gideon, Jr. for printing and bind.	186 40
Paid A. R. Thornton, marshal, Va. fees, -	307 25	Paid Gales & Seaton, for printing, -	1,343 87
Paid John D. Boteler, for locks for port-		Paid Joseph Ficklin, for paper, &c., -	26 25
manteaus, -	25 00	Paid John D. Boteler, for locks, &c., -	43 75
Paid J. D. Boteler, for locks for portmanteaus,	62 50	Paid John D. Boteler, for locks, &c., -	25 00
Paid J. D. Boteler, for locks for portmanteaus,	125 00	Paid John D. Boteler, for locks, &c., -	32 00
Paid Thomas Henderson, for printing paper,	600 00	Paid E. Shiple, for marshal's and attorney's	
Paid Sellers & Pennock, for portmanteaus,	818 97	fees, -	34 57
Paid H. McGary, for costs of suit, vs. R.		Paid John D. Boteler, for locks, &c. -	10 00
Brumhead, -	29 03	Paid Jacob Gideon, Jun. for printing, &c., -	127 40
Paid Jacob Southerland, marshal's, &c. fees,	484 61	Paid William Cooper, for paper and print-	
Paid C. Heaps, pensioner, -	50 00	ing, -	399 35
	7,735 15		4,561 25
SECOND QUARTER OF 1822.		FOURTH QUARTER OF 1822.	
Paid Thomas Rowe, for paper, twine, blanks,	\$2,871 19	Paid Leonard H. Cowles, for mail-bags, &c.,	\$14 25
&c., -		Paid James Wilson, for printing, -	12 00
Paid William Cooper, for paper and print-	245 40	Paid T. Rowe, for paper, twine, blanks, &c.,	756 00
ing, -		Paid William Cooper, Jun. for printing, -	331 00
Paid Thomas Rowe, for paper, twine, blanks,	266 00	Paid T. Rowe, for paper, twine, and blanks,	1,094 25
&c., -		Paid T. Rowe, for paper, twine, and blanks,	1,320 30
Paid Patrick Rogers, for portmanteaus, -	37 12	Paid Joseph Ficklin, for printing, &c., -	19 12
Paid Ingham and Longstreth, for paper, -	1,011 00	Paid Sellers & Pennock, for portmanteaus,	570 50
Paid William J. Stone, for stamps, -	54 21	Paid Patrick Rogers, for portmanteaus, -	46 99
Paid William Morgan, for wharfage, -	4 12	Paid D. H. Mason, for stamps, -	14 00
Paid John D. Boteler, for locks, &c., -	125 00	Paid Way & Gideon, for printing, -	12 12
Paid Lark Fox, for arresting mail robber, -	200 00	Paid John D. Boteler, for locks, &c., -	62 50
Paid John D. Boteler, for locks, &c., -	25 00	Paid John D. Boteler, for locks, &c., -	87 50
Paid John D. Boteler, for locks, &c., -	62 50	Paid John D. Boteler, for locks, &c., -	125 00
Paid Patrick Rogers, for portmanteau, -	20 00	Paid Gales & Seaton, for printing, -	328 00
Paid Joseph Borrow, for paper, -	137 50	Paid William Brent, for clerk's fees, -	43
Paid Joseph Ficklin, for printing way-bills, -	79 32	Paid R. Walker, for marshal's, &c. fees, -	224 79
Paid William Creighton, for detecting rob-		Paid Asa Green, P. M. Brattleboro', Vt. for	
ber, -	100 00	an allowance made him for securing a	
	5,238 36	debt due from A. Manley, -	27 35
		Paid Thomas Rowe, for paper and printing,	378 00
			5,424 10
RECAPITULATION.			
Amount of first quarter, - - -		\$7,735 15	
Amount of second quarter, - - -		5,238 36	
Amount of third quarter, - - -		4,561 25	
Amount of fourth quarter, - - -		5,424 10	
		\$22,958 86	

No. 4.

A statement of the contingent expenses of the General Post Office for the year 1822.

1822.			1822.		
Jan'y 1,	To balance on account rendered,	\$142 53 $\frac{1}{2}$	Aug. 30,	To cash paid Thomas Quarles, -	\$32 50
Jan'y 1,	To cash paid Gales & Seaton, -	10 00	Aug. 30,	To cash paid William Paine, -	18 00
Jan'y 22,	To cash paid William Brown, -	4 00	Aug. 31,	To cash paid John Long, -	25 50
Jan'y 22,	To cash paid John Remington, -	1 50	Sept. 3,	To cash paid David Butler & Co.	7 12
Jan'y 23,	To cash paid William Cooper, -	24 00	Sept. 5,	To cash paid Thomas Stanley, -	19 26
Feb'y 20,	To cash paid William Brown, -	4 00	Sept. 9,	To cash paid Oliver Everett, -	5 00
Feb'y 21,	To cash paid Ab'm Bradley, 3d,	41 95	Sept. 10,	To cash paid Peter Devereux, -	5 00
March 19,	To cash paid Charles Durden, -	15 00	Sept. 11,	To cash paid William Paine, -	22 00
March 20,	To cash paid Joseph Borrowes, -	26 09	Sept. 12,	To cash paid William Brown, -	4 00
March 22,	To cash paid Charles Durden, -	5 75	Sept. 19,	To cash paid Thomas Beard, -	9 50
March 22,	To cash paid William Brown, -	4 00	Oct. 1,	To cash paid Samuel Holtzman,	38 50
March 29,	To cash paid James Thomas, -	11 25	Oct. 1,	To cash paid Charles Bell, -	51 00
April 2,	To cash paid Charles Bell, -	51 00	Oct. 7,	To cash paid William Brown, -	4 00
April 4,	To cash paid Arch'd Cheshire, -	120 00	Oct. 17,	To cash paid Davis & Force, -	17 75
April 18,	To cash paid William Brown, -	4 00	Oct. 26,	To cash paid Jonathan Elliott, -	20 00
April 20,	To cash paid William Salter, -	3 44	Oct. 26,	To cash paid John Frank, -	44 50
April 20,	To cash paid Thomas Rowe, -	248 62 $\frac{1}{2}$	Oct. 31,	To cash paid Alexander Kerr, -	37 62
April 22,	To cash paid Aaron Sims, -	1 00	Oct. 31,	To cash paid Charles Durden, -	70 31
April 26,	To cash paid Edward Holland, -	75 00	Oct. 31,	To cash paid Joseph Borrowes, -	35 15
May 16,	To cash paid Isaac Randolph, -	96 00	Nov. 16,	To cash paid William Brown, -	4 00
May 16,	To cash paid John W. Moore, -	22 30	Dec. 3,	To cash paid Benj. French, -	2 75
May 17,	To cash paid John Frank, -	160 25	Dec. 6,	To cash paid Rachel Herbert, -	5 50
May 22,	To cash paid William Brown, -	4 00	Dec. 14,	To cash paid William Brown, -	4 00
May 25,	To cash paid Davis & Force, -	27 62 $\frac{1}{2}$	Dec. 28,	To cash paid Matthias Jeffers, -	2 00
May 28,	To cash paid J. Eschback, (wood,)	549 43	Dec. 31,	To cash paid Charles Bell, -	51 00
May 29,	To cash paid Edward De Krafft, -	62 50	Dec. 31,	To cash paid Joseph Borrowes, -	400 00
June 3,	To cash paid John Rowlett, -	19 25	Dec. 31,	To cash paid William Ward, -	11 50
June 18,	To cash paid William Brown, -	4 00	Dec. 31,	To cash paid T. W. Pairo, -	14 75
June 17,	To cash paid J. A. Burch, -	211 62 $\frac{1}{2}$	Dec. 31,	To cash paid Way & Gideon, -	105 50
July 1,	To cash paid Charles Bell, -	51 00	Dec. 31,	To cash paid R. W. Pomeroy, -	5 00
July 2,	To cash paid C. T. Coote, -	4 31	Dec. 31,	To cash paid T. S. McLeod, -	25 50
July 5,	To cash paid Andrew Way, -	116 00	Dec. 31,	To cash paid Davis & Force, -	37 25
July 12,	To cash paid Joseph Borrowes, -	23 75	Dec. 31,	To cash paid Thomas Rowe, -	142 75
July 15,	To cash paid T. Clark, -	41 50	Dec. 31,	To cash paid Abm. Bradley, 3d,	47 85 $\frac{1}{2}$
July 16,	To cash paid William Cooper, -	18 75	Dec. 31,	To cash paid John Frank, -	124 50
July 19,	To cash paid Thomas Beard, -	42 50	Dec. 31,	To cash paid James Thomas, -	5 00
July 19,	To cash paid Thomas Beard, -	41 00	Dec. 31,	To cash paid Joseph Borrowes, -	11 50
July 19,	To cash paid William Brown, -	4 00			
July 22,	To cash paid John Frank, -	23 50			3,800 71
August 2,	To cash paid Thomas Beard, -	49 00			
August 6,	To cash paid William Hunt, -	24 00			
August 8,	To cash paid W. H. Stewart, -	6 00			
August 9,	To cash paid William Allen, -	6 00			
Aug. 14,	To cash paid W. W. Beard, -	42 50			
Aug. 14,	To cash paid Robert Speak, -	22 00			
Aug. 14,	To cash paid Thomas Beard, -	33 00			
Aug. 23,	To cash paid William Brown, -	4 00			
					\$199 29

Credit.

By two warrants, viz: One in January, and one in July, each \$2,000, -

4,000 00

\$199 29

17th CONGRESS.]

No. 49.

[2d SESSION.]

## POSTAGE ON BOOKS—EXPENSE OF CARRYING CERTAIN MAILS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE POST OFFICE AND POST ROADS,  
MARCH 1, 1823.

SIR: GENERAL POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, January 27, 1823.

In reply to the inquiries of the committee, I have the honor to state, in relation to the first proposition of the resolution, that the transportation of the public mails between Nashville and New Orleans, the emporium of the West, is opposed by many natural obstacles, and supported but by few artificial facilities and conveniences. A great portion of the intervening country is intersected by bayous, rivers, and streams, which are frequently impassable, for the want of bridges and ferries, and the banks of which are often overflowed. These the mail carriers are sometimes compelled to swim; and sometimes the rider and his horse overthrown by the rapidity of the currents. By these causes of impediment the mails become wet; and, by the friction of carriage on horseback, the contents of the mail become seriously injured.

It would be of great importance, as regards the transportation of the mail, if Congress should make an appropriation for improving that road, and grant small tracts of land on the banks of those bayous, rivers, and streams, upon the express and perpetual condition that the grantees, and their successors, should erect bridges, and keep them in repair; or establish ferries, and forever keep them in suitable order; and over which the United States' mail should always pass free of toll or ferriage.

To the second proposition, contained in the resolution, I have to state, that the military road (so called) extends from Florence, in the Tennessee river, in the State of Alabama, to Madisonville, in Louisiana, and is about four hundred miles in length. On that road thirty-five bridges were erected, measuring three thousand two hundred and thirteen feet. Three hundred and ninety-two causeways were made, measuring altogether nearly twenty-six thousand feet; and mile-posts were erected throughout the whole road. All which labor was performed by the troops of the United States. This road was well opened, and of ample breadth. This road is now somewhat dilapidated; some of the bridges are swept away; others want repair; and the road is greatly incumbered by the falling of timber.

This road is some hundred miles shorter than the present mail's route to New Orleans; and, if put in a state of repair, the mails might be transported to New Orleans in light covered carriages, with a greater celerity, more safety, more certainty, and more to the benefit of the United States.