

20th Congress.]

No. 71.

[1st Session.

POSTAGE ON PAMPHLETS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, ON THE 3D OF APRIL, 1828.

SIR:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *April 1, 1828.*

I do not know what was the object of the committee of the House of Representatives in reporting the enclosed bill, which provides "that all pamphlets transmitted by mail, under the direction of the State authorities, for the use of schools, shall be charged with the same rates of postage that are now charged upon periodical pamphlets," except what its language imports. The superintendent of public schools for Maryland distributed a large number of circulars through the mail last year, for which letter postage was charged. These circulars were not published in pamphlet form; and if the object of the bill be to exempt such papers from letter postage, the provision will be found inadequate. By the construction which has been given by the Department to the law regulating the postage on periodical pamphlets, they are called periodical if published annually or more frequently. If the committee be desirous of exempting from letter postage all communications by a public agent on the subject of public schools, the provisions of the bill should specify that object; but it is presumed they did not intend to make this exemption.

I know of no objection to the bill, though it will introduce no new principle, from the construction now given to the law, as regulating the postage on pamphlets published annually.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN McLEAN.

Hon. RICHARD M. JOHNSON, *Chairman, &c.*

20th Congress.]

No. 72.

[2d Session.

CONDITION OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS, BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, DECEMBER 2, 1828.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *November 17, 1828.*

The Postmaster General has the honor to submit to the President of the United States the following statement, showing the gradual increase and present condition of the Post Office Department:

In 1792 there were	195	post offices,	a revenue of	\$67,444,	and	5,642	miles of post roads.
In 1797 do.	554	do.	do.	213,998,	and	16,180	do.
In 1802 do.	1,114	do.	do.	327,045,	and	25,315	do.
In 1807 do.	1,848	do.	do.	478,763,	and	33,755	do.
In 1812 do.	2,610	do.	do.	649,208,	and	39,378	do.
In 1817 do.	3,459	do.	do.	1,002,973,	and	52,089	do.
In 1823, ending 1st July,	4,498	do.	do.	1,114,344,	and	82,763	do.
In 1828 do.	7,651	do.	do.	1,598,134,	and	114,536	do.

The above exhibit shows an augmentation of annual revenue within five years, ending 1st July, 1823, of \$483,790; a sum exceeding by \$18,655 a similar increase for eleven years preceding 1823, and falling short only \$165,418 of being equal to the total revenue of the Department in 1812.

Within the same time there have been established 3,153 additional post offices, being a greater number than was in operation in the United States in the year 1815.

From the most accurate calculation that can be made for the year ending 1st July, 1823, the mail was transported in stages four million four hundred and eighty-nine thousand seven hundred and forty-four miles, and on horseback five million five hundred and eleven thousand four hundred and ninety-six miles, making a total transportation of ten million one hundred thousand two hundred and forty miles annually. Since that period, there has been added a transportation of one million nine hundred and forty-nine thousand eight hundred and fifty miles annually in stages, and on horseback one million six hundred and fifty-eight thousand nine hundred and forty-nine miles; making an increase of three million six hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred and forty-nine miles, which adds two hundred and seventy-five thousand and fifty-three miles (more than one-third) to the mail establishment of the country in 1823. And the augmented stage conveyance falls short only two hundred and ninety-five thousand and twenty-two miles of being equal to one-half the entire stage transportation in the Union at that time.

This extension of the mail has been accompanied by great increase of expedition on almost all the important routes. On many of them it is now conveyed at the rate of one hundred miles a day.

As Congress at their last session declined making any appropriation of the surplus funds of the Department, with the expectation, as was believed, that they should be applied in diffusing mail facilities throughout the Union, and increasing them where required by the public interest, an augmentation to the conveyance of the mail of five hundred and thirty-seven thousand two hundred and sixty-four miles in stages, and two hundred and sixty-one thousand seven hundred and four miles on horseback, making a total of seven hundred and ninety-eight thousand nine hundred and sixty miles, has been made the past year. This, with the additional compensation to postmasters, arising from increased receipts, the accumulation of free letters, for which two cents each are paid, and incidental expenses, has added to the expenditures of the Department, within the year, the sum of \$250,094 46. The augmented revenue of the Department since 1st July, 1823, has been sufficient to meet the annual expense incurred by the increase of mail facilities, and leaves the sum of \$187,302 52 unexpended.

It is believed to be good policy to keep the funds of the Department actively employed in extending its operations until the reasonable wants of every community shall be supplied. By withdrawing mail accommodations from all unproductive routes, and substituting a horse for a stage transportation on many others, a very large surplus of funds would annually accumulate; but the public convenience would be greatly lessened, and the means of information withheld from districts of country but sparsely inhabited. There is no branch of the Government in whose operations the people feel a more lively interest than in those of this Department; its facilities being felt in the various transactions of business, in the pleasures of correspondence, and the general diffusion of information. In the course of every year no inconsiderable amount of the active capital of the country, in some form or other, passes through the

mail. To connect important places by frequent lines of intercourse, combine speed with all the security possible, and extend the mail wherever it may be wanted, constitute the objects which have influenced the policy of the Department.

It may be advantageous to the public and the Department, at some future time, for it to become the insurer of moneys transmitted in the mail, being authorized to charge a higher rate of postage in such cases, to indemnify for the risk incurred. To guard against frauds, this responsibility must necessarily be limited to packets mailed at the principal offices, under such regulations as shall afford the greatest possible security.

Some pains have been taken to ascertain the exact number of persons employed by the Department, including postmasters, assistant postmasters, clerks, contractors, and persons engaged in transporting the mail, and, although only partial returns have been received, it is believed the total number is about twenty-six thousand nine hundred and fifty-six. There are about seventeen thousand five hundred and eighty-four horses employed, and two thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine carriages, including two hundred and forty-three sulkeys and wagons.

The receipts of the year ending 1st July, 1828, as above stated, amounted to the sum of - \$1,598,134 40
Those of the preceding year were - - - - - 1,473,551 00

Making an increase of this sum above the receipts of 1827, - - - - - 124,583 40

The expenditures of the year ending 1st July last amounted to the sum of - - - - - 1,623,333 43

Leaving an excess of expenditure beyond the receipts of - - - - - 25,199 03

In this excess there is not included the sum of \$12,729 24, which was paid by the Department under a special act of Congress.

By the last annual report there was a surplus sum of money in deposit and due from postmasters, including judgments obtained on old accounts, amounting to - - - - - 370,033 37

From this sum deduct the above excess of expenditure, - - - - - \$25,199 03

And the amount paid into the treasury under the above law, - - - - - 12,729 24

37,928 27

Leaving this amount of surplus, - - - - - \$332,105 10

20th CONGRESS.]

No. 73.

[2d SESSION.]

NETT AMOUNT OF POSTAGE ACCRUING AT EACH POST OFFICE, FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1828.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 14, 1829.

SIR:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *January 14, 1829.*

In obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives passed March 1, 1825, I have the honor to transmit you, herewith, a statement of the nett amount of postage accruing at each post office in each State and Territory of the United States, for one year ending March 31, 1828; and showing the nett amount accruing in each State and Territory.

With great respect, I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JOHN McLEAN.

The Hon. ANDREW STEVENSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A statement of the nett amount of postages accruing at each post office in each State and Territory of the United States, for one year ending March 31, 1828; and showing the nett amount accruing in each State and Territory; made in obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives, passed March 1, 1825.

NEW YORK.

Acasto, - - - - -	\$9 52	Andes, - - - - -	\$38 03	Baldwinsville, - - - - -	\$113 16
Accord, - - - - -	33 33	Andover, - - - - -	4 46	Ballston, - - - - -	87 91
Acra, - - - - -	4 00	Angelica, - - - - -	198 34	Ballston Spa, - - - - -	526 16
Adams, - - - - -	129 01	Angel's Corner, - - - - -	20	Bangor, - - - - -	26 39
Adamsville, - - - - -	21 52	Angola, - - - - -	2 32	Barre, - - - - -	103 12
Addison, - - - - -	9 81	Antwerp, - - - - -	77 67	Barrington, - - - - -	33 56
Albany, - - - - -	10,971 79	Appling, - - - - -	4 73	Barton, - - - - -	1 31
Albion, - - - - -	231 35	Apulia, - - - - -	17 92	Bason Clove, - - - - -	13
Alden, - - - - -	41 11	Argyle, - - - - -	136 87	Batavia, - - - - -	1,148 20
Alexander, - - - - -	90 39	Arkport, - - - - -	12 54	Bates, - - - - -	67
Alexandria, - - - - -	29 10	Arthursburg, - - - - -	13 12	Bath, - - - - -	335 12
Alfred, - - - - -	27 96	Arquebogue, - - - - -	67	Bedford, - - - - -	129 85
Allen, - - - - -	8 89	Athens, - - - - -	147 74	Beekman, - - - - -	68 31
Allenville, - - - - -	4 76	Athol, - - - - -	8 70	Beekmantown, - - - - -	13 54
Alloway, - - - - -	37 66	Attica, - - - - -	117 82	Belfast, - - - - -	11 81
Almond, - - - - -	29 16	Attlebury, - - - - -	24 75	Belle Isle, - - - - -	26 11
Alps, - - - - -	19 39	Auburn, - - - - -	2,189 89	Belleville, - - - - -	23 58
Amber, - - - - -	39 67	Augusta, - - - - -	46 15	Bemus, - - - - -	1 79
Amenia, - - - - -	58 45	Aurelius, - - - - -	38 24	Bennington, - - - - -	35 13
Amenia Union Society, - - - - -	69 82	Auriesville, - - - - -	26 19	Benton, - - - - -	69 14
Amity, - - - - -	20 71	Aurora, - - - - -	285 43	Bergen, - - - - -	71 69
Amsterdam, - - - - -	164 48	Austerlitz, - - - - -	45 06	Berkshire, - - - - -	59 44
Anaquascook, - - - - -	5 01	Avon, - - - - -	160 38	Berlin, - - - - -	57 65
Ancram, - - - - -	25 05	Bainbridge, - - - - -	116 38	Bern, - - - - -	14 49