

advanced out of the funds of the Department, beyond the compensation provided by law, to different officers and clerks who had been employed, but who have left the service, the greater part of which will probably never be collected. A considerable number of accounts stand open against other individuals for moneys advanced, some of whom are now unknown to the Department. An act of Congress of April 21, 1806, appropriated \$6,400 for repairing the road from Athens, on the route to New Orleans, and \$6,000 for the road between Nashville and Natchez, to be expended under the direction of the President, who designated the Postmaster General to carry the law into effect. The moneys appropriated were mingled with the general funds of the Department, out of which the expenses of the road were defrayed; and there are now standing on the books of the office a balance of \$1,405 67 against the first, and against the other of these roads a balance of \$1,946 65, making, together, the sum of \$3,352 32, on account of moneys advanced by the Department, and for which it is still accountable as so much money in hand, though these accounts originated twenty-three years since. These facts evinced a radical defect in the system of financial operations of the Department.

It appeared that all the funds of the Department were received and disbursed by one of the assistants, while the Postmaster General was held responsible in law for their proper application. The assistant had it in his power at all times to withdraw, or furnish for the use of others, the funds of the Department, to a large amount, without the knowledge of its head, or of any other person attached to it. There was no check upon any such transactions, nor any thing connected with the system calculated to bring them to light. The assistant made deposits of part of the funds in different banks, subject to his individual checks; and retained a part in his own hands, but to what amount is not shown by any document or record in the Department. On the change of the system, there was found in an iron coffer, in his possession, the sum of \$19,876 89, consisting of \$19 09½ in specie, and \$19,857 79½ in bank notes, certificates, and checks. Of this sum, \$2,633 76 were found to be counterfeit, and \$1,672 62 were in notes of broken banks, and of no value. A part of the remainder is of very doubtful character. Such as was not ascertained to be good, has been sent to the different States from which it issued, for the purpose of determining its value, and rendering it available; but what proportion of it will be found worthless or depreciated is not yet learned.

The necessity of an entire change in the mode of conducting this business was most obvious.

Directions have been given that the money appropriated by law for the payment of salaries shall never be united with the funds of the Department, but that it shall be drawn by an agent appointed for that purpose, and applied directly to the object for which it is appropriated; so that the persons receiving it shall have no accounts opened on the books of the Department. This will effectually prevent advances and over-payments on that head in future.

It was important to devise a system by which no moneys should be received or disbursed, or in any manner come within the control of any one individual; but that all moneys should be paid into the Department by certificates of deposit in banks, and that nothing could be drawn from such deposits, not even by the head of the Department, without the signature of two distinct officers of the Department, each acting independently of the other, and both certifying to the correctness of the act. Also, that the transfer of moneys from postmasters to contractors should be subject to the same guard, and require, in like manner, the investigation and signature of two distinct officers of the Department. It was likewise necessary that this system should embrace a rule which would require postmasters to account promptly for the proceeds of their offices, and prevent an accumulation of postage in their hands. This has been done; and it is believed that the moneys of this Department are now as effectually protected as those of any other Department in the Government.

The observance of the system which has been adopted will require additional labor, but it is deemed essential to the security and prosperity of this Department.

I have the honor to be, with great regard, your obedient servant,

W. T. BARRY.

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 77.

[1st SESSION.]

## APPLICATION OF INDIANA FOR NEW MAIL ROUTES.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, DECEMBER 10, 1829.

A joint resolution concerning the mail route through the seats of Government of Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri.

Whereas a direct mail stage route upon the located line of the national road, through Indiana and Illinois, to Missouri, would not only enable the General Government to save a large amount of the sum now expended in having the great western mail carried, but would also greatly subserve the convenience of the people of Indiana, by shortening the routes and facilitating the reception of nearly all her mails: and whereas the necessity of prompt means of correspondence with the General Government and commercial cities is daily becoming more important by the almost unparalleled increase of population and business of the State: therefore,

*Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,* That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to procure an appropriation from the surplus funds of the General Post Office, or from any other fund, to open a practicable stage route through Indiana, upon the line of the national road as located, and a practicable mail route through that part of Illinois and Missouri, to effect so desirable an object.

*Resolved,* That his excellency the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolution to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

ISAAC HOWK,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*  
M. STAPP,  
*President of the Senate.*

Approved December 23, A. D. 1828.

J. BROWN RAY.