

DR. *Gerrit L. Doz, late postmaster at Albany, New York, in account with the General Post Office.* CR.

To balances due on his post office accounts from Jan. 1 to April 1, 1815,	\$2,808 90	1816. May 14,	By balance from account of Peter P. Doz, - - -	\$100 15
April 1 to July 1, 1815,	1,848 45		By draft in favor of Jeremiah Smith, -	37 50
	\$4,657 35		By balance, - - -	4,519 70
To balance, - - -	\$4,519 70			\$4,657 35

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 31.

[1st SESSION.]

ADDITIONAL CLERKS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 26, 1830.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Kentucky, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred so much of the President's message as relates to the General Post Office Department, reported:

That the number of clerks employed in the General Post Office, and for whom the law makes appropriation, is thirty-seven; but by reference to the letter of the late Postmaster General, and also of the present Postmaster General, (which letters are appended as a part of this report,) it appears that it has been a standing custom with the Department to employ extra clerks, from time to time, as the progress of its business required, confiding in Congress to sanction the measure. That, in conformity with this custom, the late Postmaster General employed not less than five additional clerks during the last winter, and deferred the application to Congress to make the appropriation, under the conviction that a still greater increase would be required in the course of the year. That the present Postmaster General has, accordingly, found it necessary to increase the number to ten, whose duties are now essential to the correct transaction of the business of the Department. The committee have, moreover, carefully investigated this subject, and find the whole number asked for already engaged in the service of the Department. Strict inquiry has been made into the nature of the duties which require this force, the result of which the committee deem it proper to incorporate in this report.

The business of the Department is divided into three general and distinct branches, viz: That of finance; of appointments of postmasters, and their duties; and of mail contracts, and the superintendence of the transportation of the mail.

In the first of these are employed, under the junior assistant, as follows:

Three book-keepers, among whom are divided the day-book, journal, and ledger entries, requisite for a clear and distinct account with each, of about eight thousand postmasters, and about two thousand contractors, besides miscellaneous accounts, each of which is required to be so far settled as to ascertain the balance every quarter.

Solicitor's Office.

Four clerks: a solicitor, and three assistants, to settle the accounts of persons whose official functions have ceased; collect the balances due from them, respectively; prosecute delinquents, and also to state the accounts of persons for settlement who are still in office, so as to prevent, as far as practicable, future delinquencies.

Pay Office.

Four clerks: a principal pay clerk, and three assistants, whose duty it is to ascertain, quarterly, the state of each contractor's account, the amount due him on his contract, to make drafts on the different postmasters for their payment, and to keep books of the post offices on each route; each exhibiting a distinct view of the amount of each particular contract.

Examiner's Office.

Eleven clerks are employed in this branch: a chief examiner, and one who assists him in opening, recording, and examining all postmasters' accounts; receiving and depositing in bank their remittances; notifying and reporting delinquents; besides one who examines and corrects all errors of balances brought forward, of letters on hand; and eight others, who examine all additions, calculations of commissions and charges in every postmaster's account, and correct all errors that appear. These, together, settle thirty-two thousand accounts in a year, with interest, mostly in cents, making, in their additions, nearly \$2,000,000.

Register's Office.

Eight clerks are employed in this business: a chief register, with seven assistants, whose business it is to prepare all the accounts of the Department for the Treasury, with their proper vouchers, besides registering, in quarterly accounts current, all postmasters' accounts, designating the different items of charge in each particular account. In this, three are employed in registering the accounts for the book-keepers, two in copying postmasters' accounts for the Treasury, and in copying the accounts of contractors, and adjusting them for the Treasury, and one in collecting, comparing, numbering, and filing receipts and other vouchers; besides the chief register, who carries on the correspondence of this branch, and makes the general statements.

One clerk is employed in keeping the assistant's bank ledger, the cash-book of the Department, and the book of depositing post offices.

One clerk is employed to record all the letters of this branch, and of the Postmaster General.

One clerk is employed to register, endorse, and file, alphabetically, letters received by the Department.

Office of Appointments.

In the second division, under the other assistant, three clerks are employed, each to a distinct section, comprising together the whole Union, in the perusal of letters and memorials, and endorsing on them their titles and summaries; collecting and filing, in their appropriate places, the requisite information in each case; drawing up abstracts of cases for the Postmaster General; examining postmasters' bonds and oaths of office.

One clerk is employed in entering all appointments in a book of appointments; making out letters of appointment, bonds, and affidavits; and registering the postmasters' names and their bonds, with their sureties.

One clerk is employed in recording the letters, the transmission of letters and blanks, making out and forwarding commissions and letters of supersedeas.

Dead Letter Office.

One clerk is employed in examining, registering, and sending to the proper offices, dead letters containing money or articles of value, receiving the receipts for their proper delivery, and ascertaining their destiny.

Office of Instruction.

One clerk is employed in communicating the decision of the Postmaster General upon all legal questions, and in giving special instructions to postmasters, in tracing lost letters, and detecting depredators.

Office of Mail Contracts.

In the third division, under the superintendent of this branch, there are employed:

One clerk, whose business it is to examine all mail routes; their connexions and relations; the times of arrival and departure of mails; the manner of transporting the mails; frequency of trips; conduct of contractors and carriers; advertising for proposals; procuring of mail bags, locks, and keys; ascertaining the proper location of distributing post offices; and the business of the Department, generally, connected with the transportation of the mail.

One clerk is employed in examining letters and petitions on the subject of mail routes and the transportation of the mail, and endorsing on them briefs of their contents, and in such correspondence as relates to the northeastern section of the Union.

One clerk is employed in filling contracts and contractors' bonds; in receiving and filing them; in preparing duplicates of them, and transmitting them to the Treasury with the proposals; in preparing copies of contracts and proposals for Congress; and in such correspondence as relates to the middle section of the Union.

One clerk is wanted to be employed in such correspondence as relates to the transportation of the mail in the south, and in the western sections of the Union.

One clerk is employed in collecting information relative to the length of each post route; the names, relative position, and respective distances, one from another, of each office on every route; and to prepare and keep a regular route book.

One clerk is employed in recording all letters relating to the business of this branch.

Office of the Chief Clerk.

Besides the general duties of supervision belonging to the chief clerk, there are employed:

One clerk to audit and register all accounts; to register all checks for moneys; to keep an account with the several banks, and a registry of all money transactions; and to assist him in his general correspondence.

One clerk is employed in preparing all statements for the Executive Departments and for Congress, and to assist in such other investigations and duties as are required.

Thus, it appears that the whole number of clerks asked for are already employed, and that the proposition of the Postmaster General, as stated in his letter, is only a request that Congress will do what has never yet been refused—to give its sanction to their continuance. The labor which is necessary, especially during the session of Congress, requires the greatest industry with those who are employed, and it is believed that the public interest calls for the measure.

The committee, also, from a full investigation of the vigilance and responsibility required in the superintendence of each of the three branches into which the business of the Department is divided, are fully satisfied that another Assistant Postmaster General is required, and entirely concur with the Postmaster General in the opinion that the measure will be promotive of the interest and prosperity of the Department. The committee, therefore, ask leave to report a bill.

A.

SIR:

GENERAL POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *January 13, 1830.*

Your letter of the 24th ultimo is received, inquiring "the additional number of clerks necessary to transact the business of the Department; the compensation which should be allowed to each; and to furnish the committee with any other information relative to this Department which may require the authority of Congress."

My predecessor apprized me, at an early day, of the necessity of an increased number of clerks, and of an annual progress of increase, as will appear from his letter of the 10th March, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. By this it will also be perceived that he had found it necessary to employ some additional clerks, trusting to Congress to authorize the measure by a future appropriation. My experience has demonstrated his correctness. The number has, of necessity, been further increased; and to keep the business of the office in that state which the public good demands will require ten, in addition to the number heretofore provided for by law.

The business of this Department being properly systematized, naturally divides itself into three distinct branches—that of *finance, of mail contracts and transportation, and of appointments and superintending the conduct of postmasters.* At the head of each of these three branches there is required to be a person of the responsibility of an assistant. The law at present authorizes but two assistants; and I would recommend the authorizing of the appointment of another *Assistant Postmaster General*, with the same compensation, and in all respects upon the same footing, with the two already authorized.

In regard to the compensation of the additional clerks, I will here take the liberty to remark, that this Department does not stand upon an equality in that respect with the other Departments; the average compensation of the clerks being considerably lower, while their labor is quite as great, and their industry, it is believed, is unsurpassed by any.

The chief clerk in each of the other Departments receives a salary of \$2,000. I would recommend that the chief clerk in this Department be allowed the same salary. His duties are as weighty and as responsible.

I would also propose that the compensation to the additional number to be allowed be as follows:

Two at sixteen hundred dollars per annum,
Two at fourteen hundred dollars per annum, and
Six at twelve hundred dollars per annum.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be your obedient, humble servant,

W. T. BARRY.

HON. RICHARD M. JOHNSON,

Chairman of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

B.

SIR:

GENERAL POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *March 10, 1829.*

During the last year I have expended for clerk hire, beyond the amount appropriated, \$3,653 11, for which an appropriation was not asked at the late session. It was deemed better to defer any application on this subject until the ensuing session of Congress, when the increasing business of the office will require a more permanent provision, by authorizing an additional number of clerks. The increase of business is such, in this Department, that any number of clerks which is sufficient at this time will not be able to perform the labor six months hence. I have, therefore, been constantly in the practice of employing the necessary force, and trusting to Congress for the necessary

appropriation. This has met with the approbation of the Legislature, and I have no doubt that such a course will be approved by it, if no doubt is entertained as to the necessity of the expenditure.

There are now several individuals employed temporarily in the office, and their services cannot be dispensed with, without great loss to the public. I would, therefore, recommend to you the continuance of the persons thus employed, under the full belief that an appropriation will be made to cover the expense at the next session of Congress.

Mr. Bradley, the senior Assistant Postmaster General, will fully explain to you the necessity which exists for the services referred to, and will inform you of the names of the persons employed, and the sums paid to each.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN McLEAN.

Hon. Wm. T. BARRY, *Postmaster General*.

[21st CONGRESS.]

No. 32.

[1st SESSION.]

REWARD FOR APPREHENDING THE ROBBER OF THE POST OFFICE AT FLORENCE, IN ALABAMA.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 1, 1830.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Kentucky, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the claim of Fielding L. White, of Madison county, Alabama, reported:

That it appears that said Fielding L. White was jailer of the said county of Madison, in January, 1828, when David H. Dyer, who had been previously committed on a charge of robbing the post office at Florence, Alabama, escaped from said jail; that said White offered a reward of fifty dollars for the apprehension of said Dyer; that said Dyer was subsequently arrested, and recommitted, tried, and convicted of said offence, and upon that conviction is now under sentence of the court. It also sufficiently appears that said White paid the said reward of fifty dollars, and has applied to the Postmaster General to be refunded, and been refused, "because it does not come within the legal power of that Department;" although the Postmaster General says "the reward ought to be paid." It further appears, to the satisfaction of the committee, that the claimant is "an honest man, and has always been a vigilant, faithful, and efficient officer." The committee, therefore, beg leave to report a bill for his relief.

[21st CONGRESS.]

No. 83.

[1st SESSION.]

SURETY OF A DEFAULTING DEPUTY POSTMASTER.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 5, 1830.

Mr. CONNER, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of Joseph Young, reported:

That the petition and papers of Mr. Young were referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads at the first session of the last Congress, and a report favorably made; which report the committee beg leave to adopt: That the petitioner became surety for John Garretson, postmaster in Concord, North Carolina, in the year 1815; that said Garretson died in September of the same year, and, shortly after, a successor was appointed. In the fall of the year 1821, suit was instituted by the Postmaster General against the petitioner for the sum of \$53 55, due to the Department at the decease of Garretson, which, together with the cost incurred by the suit, amounts to \$100 21, and was paid over to the clerk of the circuit court of the United States in 1822; which sum the petitioner asks to be refunded to him. The committee are persuaded that it would be inexpedient, in ordinary cases, and within a reasonable time after the death or resignation of a postmaster, to absolve the security from the responsibility which he, himself, in the first instance, voluntarily assumed. But, in this case, six years had been, by the Department, permitted to elapse before the institution of a suit; a new appointment of a postmaster made; a bond, and other and new security taken; the administrator, widow, and heirs had, three years after the decease of Garretson, removed out of the State where (if any balance of the estate of Garretson remained) he is advised he could not sustain a suit, from the fact of his having paid the money before final judgment was taken against him. The committee therefore believe that, in equity and justice, the above sum should be refunded; and, for that purpose, report a bill.