

Office of Instruction and of Mail Depredations.

P. S. Loughborough(8)—Communicates the decisions of the Postmaster General on questions referred to him by postmasters, and others, concerning the construction of post office laws and regulations; directs, under his orders, prosecutions for their violation, and for mail robberies; attends to all cases of mail losses and depredations, and the tracing of lost letters. Connected with this duty, is that of corresponding with the agents of the Department, making out their instructions, examining their reports, &c. Salary \$1,000.

THIRD DIVISION.

Obadiah B. Brown, *Chief Clerk*—Is charged with the duties of this division, and especially as superintendent of the "office of mail contracts."

Office of Mail Contracts.

The business done in this branch is the regulating and adjusting mail routes; the times of arrival and departure of mails, the frequency of their trips, and conduct of contractors and carriers; arranging, preparing, and advertising mail routes; recording and comparing, at the appointed times, proposals for contracts, with the testimonials of the bidders; completing the contracts; procuring and supplying mail portmanteaus, bags, locks, and keys; arranging distributing post offices, and the distribution to be made by them; and keeping a route book of all the mail routes and post offices thereon.

The division of duties among the clerks is as follows:

Arthur Nelson—To examine letters and petitions generally; to make briefs, and examine cases of difficulty; to note alterations on contracts; and to do the correspondence which relates to the North and East section. Salary \$1,000.

Thomas B. Addison—To keep the proposal books; to file proposals; to fill contracts and bonds for execution, and have them in general charge; to prepare them for the Treasury, and statements of them for Congress; and to do the correspondence which relates to the Middle section. Salary \$1,000.

George L. Douglass(9)—To do the correspondence which relates to the South and West section, and such miscellaneous business as is assigned to him. Salary \$1,000.

Walter D. Addison—To record all letters relating to the business of this division. Salary \$1,000.

*Richard Emmons—To collect the names and location of the post offices on each mail route in the Union, their distances from each other, and to arrange them for a route book; to enter in this all changes of routes and of offices. Salary \$800.

Office of the Chief Clerk.

Under the direction of the chief clerk, the following clerks are employed:

*Edmund F. Brown—To register all accounts of the Department, except for transportation, and all checks for moneys; to keep the chief clerk's bank account book and register; to examine and answer the miscellaneous letters committed to him. Salary \$800.

George Breathitt(10)—To prepare statements for Congress, and for the different departments; and to assist the chief clerk in miscellaneous duties. Salary \$1,000.

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 96.

[2d SESSION.

CONDITION OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, DECEMBER 7, 1830.

SIR:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *November 30, 1830.*

I have the honor to submit the following report of the transactions, condition, and prospects of this Department.

The expenditures of the Department, for the year commencing with the 1st of July, 1827, and extending to the 1st of July, 1828, were	-	-	-	\$1,623,893 80
The receipts, being the amount of postages returned for the same period, were	-	-	-	1,598,877 95
Showing an excess of expenditure beyond the revenue, for that year, of	-	-	-	\$25,015 85
The expenditures from the 1st of July, 1828, to the 1st of July, 1829, were	-	-	-	\$1,782,132 57
The amount of postages returned for the same period was	-	-	-	1,707,418 42
Showing an excess of expenditure, for that year, of	-	-	-	\$74,714 15
The total expenditures from the 1st of July, 1829, to the 1st of July, 1830, were	-	-	-	\$1,932,707 95
To wit: For compensation to postmasters,	-	-	-	\$595,234 93
Transportation of the mail,	-	-	-	1,274,009 98
Incidental expenses, -	-	-	-	63,463 04
The amount of postages returned for the same period, was	-	-	-	1,850,583 10
Exhibiting an excess of expenditure beyond the revenue, for this last year, of	-	-	-	\$82,124 85

This deficit of the current receipts of the last year to meet the expenditures of the Department, it will be observed, has not increased, above that of the preceding year, in so great a ratio as that of the preceding year increased

(8) Vice Blair, advanced, vice Bestor, removed.

*Extra clerks.

(9) Vice Tastet, advanced, vice Gray, removed.

(10) Vice Morgan, resigned, vice Saunders advanced, vice Tate, deceased.

beyond the deficit of the year anterior to the 1st of July, 1828. The inference deduced from this fact, as well as the increasing prosperity of the Department, will be shown more distinctly in an exhibit of the receipts and expenditures of the Department, by half-years, for the two preceding years. Thus the regular increase of the revenue of the Department will sufficiently demonstrate its ability, by its future receipts, to fulfil its extensive engagements, should no considerable changes be created, for a few years more, in addition to those incident to the present establishment.

The expenditures for the latter half of the year 1828 were	-	-	-	-	\$851,190 96
The receipts for the same period,	-	-	-	-	826,255 36
Excess of expenditure,	-	-	-	-	<u>\$24,935 60</u>
The expenditures of the first half-year of 1829 were	-	-	-	-	\$930,941 61
The receipts,	-	-	-	-	881,163 06
Excess of expenditure,	-	-	-	-	<u>\$49,778 55</u>
The expenditures of the second half-year of 1829 were	-	-	-	-	\$949,366 74
The receipts,	-	-	-	-	892,827 60
Excess of expenditure for that half-year,	-	-	-	-	<u>\$55,539 14</u>
The expenditures of the first half-year of 1830 were	-	-	-	-	\$984,341 21
The receipts,	-	-	-	-	957,755 50
Excess for the last half-year,	-	-	-	-	<u>\$26,585 71</u>

(It should be noted that the excess of this last half-year would have appeared, as it actually was, but \$17,019 16, had not a portion of the current expenditures that were made in the preceding year been entered in the accounts of the first half of the present year.)

The whole amount of postages from the 1st of July, 1829, to the 1st of July of the present year, as presented in the foregoing statement, is	-	-	-	-	\$1,850,583 10
The amount of postages from the 1st of July, 1828, to the 1st of July, 1829, was	-	-	-	-	1,707,418 42
Giving an increase in this one year of	-	-	-	-	<u>\$143,164 68</u>
The amount of available funds at the disposal of the Department on the 1st of July, 1829, was reported to be	-	-	-	-	\$230,849 07
Deduct the excess of expenditure for the last year,	-	-	-	-	82,124 85
Leaves this amount of surplus,	-	-	-	-	<u>\$148,724 22</u>

The system of financial operations, as mentioned in my report of the last year, has fulfilled all the anticipations of its efficiency. The promptitude evinced by the "depositing postmasters" in general, and the entire certainty of the accounts, both with the banks and those postmasters, exclusive of the security in all these transactions derived to the public from this system, have, in no small degree, contributed to the ability of the Department to meet its extensive demands.

In the several States, improvements in mail facilities have been loudly called for; and, in many instances, the growing population and extending settlements of the country have absolutely required them. In making such improvements, care has been taken so to extend them as to give the greatest possible accommodation at the least expense, and in such a manner as would be most likely to increase the revenue. It is in part owing to these improvements that the amount of revenue is so much augmented, though they have, at the same time, considerably increased the expenditures of the Department.

Between the 1st of July, 1829, and the 1st of July, 1830, the transportation of the mail was increased, in stages, equal to

-	-	-	-	745,767 miles a year.
On horseback and in sulkeys,	-	-	-	67,104 miles a year.

Making an annual increase of transportation equal to 812,871 miles a year, beyond the amount of any former period.

The annual transportation of the mail, on the 1st of July last, was about 9,531,577 miles in stages; and the whole yearly transportation in coaches, steamboats, sulkeys, and on horseback, amounted, at that period, to about 14,500,000 miles.

The existing contracts for transporting the mail in the southern division, embracing the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and the Territory of Florida, will expire with the current year. In the renewal of those contracts, provision has been made for extending stage accommodations over 1,502 miles of post roads, on which the mail has hitherto been carried on horses only, or in sulkeys, and on which the annual transportation in stages will, from the 1st of January next, amount to 278,656 miles. The frequency of trips will also be increased on 894 miles of existing stage routes, to the annual increase of 138,358 miles; making, together, an increase of *stage transportation* of the mail, from the 1st of January next, of 417,014 miles a year.

Provision is also made for the more frequent transportation of the mail on different routes, as follows:

Increase of trips on horse routes,	-	-	-	31,824 miles a year.
Increase of trips on existing routes, changed from horse to stage routes,	-	-	-	118,456 miles a year.
Increase of trips on stage routes,	-	-	-	138,358 miles a year.

Making, together, a total increase of 288,638 m. of transportation of mails in a year, beyond the amount of present transportation in that division, besides the improvement of substituting stages for horse transportation.

Among these improvements are included a line of stages from Edenton to Washington, N. C.; from Newbern to Wilmington, N. C.; a steamboat line from Wilmington to Smithville; and a line of stages from Smithville, N. C., to Georgetown, S. C.; all of which are to run twice a week each way. These arrangements will complete the regular communication, by steamboats and stages, between Baltimore, Md., and Charleston, S. C., along the seaboard, by way of Norfolk, Va., Elizabeth City, Edenton, Washington, Newbern, Wilmington, and Smithville, N. C., and Georgetown, S. C.—an accommodation desired alike by the public and the Department.

Provision is also made for expediting the mail on many important routes; among which is the whole route between this place and Fort Mitchell, *via* Richmond, Va., Raleigh, N. C., Columbia, S. C., and Milledgeville, Geo., which line will be traversed in two days less time than at present; so that the mail will run from this city to New Orleans in thirteen days, after the 1st of January next.

Allowing the average expense of transportation by horse or sulkey to be five cents per mile, and by stages to be thirteen cents per mile, which is about the mean rate paid in the southern division, the value of these improvements exclusive of the value of increased expedition, will be as follows:

Annual amount of transportation changed from horses to stages, 278,656 miles, at 8 cents per mile, (the mean difference,) - - - - -	\$22,292 48
To be added for increased number of trips on the same, amounting, annually, to 118,456 miles, at 5 cents per mile, - - - - -	5,922 80
Increased number of trips on former stage routes, amounting, annually, to 138,358 miles, at 13 cents per mile, - - - - -	17,986 54
Increased number of trips on horse and sulkey routes, amounting, annually, to 31,824 miles, at 5 cents per mile, - - - - -	1,591 20
Making the total annual value of the improvements - - - - -	\$47,793 02

The contracts have been made for the ensuing four years from the 1st of January next, including all these improvements, at a sum less than the amount now paid for transporting the mails in that division by - \$25,047 87
To this sum add the estimated value of the improvements, as before stated, - 47,793 02

And the actual saving to the Department in the renewing of the contracts will amount, annually, to - 72,840 89

besides the very considerable amount gained in the increased expedition of the mails on many routes of great interest to the community, the value of which cannot be well estimated.

In this saving in the expense of the contracts, and the additional revenue which may be anticipated from the improvements they secure, together with the general increase of postages, which is still progressive, will be seen a foundation for the belief which has been expressed, that the current revenue of the Department for the succeeding year will be sufficient for its disbursements.

The rules that have been adopted in relation to the conduct of postmasters, placing the investigation of all official delinquencies under the immediate superintendence of an assistant, and subjecting them to the strict scrutiny of an able and vigilant officer, have been productive of the happiest results. There are, at the present time, in the United States, 8,401 post offices; and, among that number, scattered over the whole Union, it is not possible to prevent disorders, to the great loss of individuals, and sometimes of the Department, without the unremitting and undivided attention of a competent officer. The duties of this branch of the Department, under its present organization, have, however, been so discharged as to secure as great a degree of confidence in the fidelity of its officers, generally, as could have existed in any former period, when the number was comparatively small.

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

W. T. BARRY.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

[21st CONGRESS.]

No. 97.

[2d Session.]

DEFALCATION OF A DEPUTY POSTMASTER, OCCASIONED BY THE BURNING OF HIS OFFICE.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DECEMBER 17, 1830.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Kentucky, made the following report:

The Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of Barnard Kelley, of Elbert county, in the State of Georgia, have had the subject under consideration, and report:

That the petitioner, in the year 1805, was postmaster in the town of Washington, Wilkes county, in the State of Georgia; that, during that year, the house of the petitioner, in which the post office was kept, together with the vouchers of payments made to the Post Office Department, money belonging to the office, all the records belonging to the office, and *all* of the property which the petitioner possessed, was, with a trifling exception, consumed by fire; that, at the time of that conflagration, there was a balance standing charged against the petitioner in the Post Office Department of \$173 82; that the vouchers of payments made to the Department, for which the petitioner did not receive credit, added to the money belonging to the office, and which was so destroyed, were more than equal to the balance then standing against him in the Post Office Department; that judgment was recovered in the district court for the district of Georgia, in favor of the Postmaster General of the United States, against the petitioner, for the said balance of \$173 82 principal, \$218 20 interest, and \$43 80 costs, making, in the aggregate, the sum of \$435 82, all of which was paid by the petitioner. Satisfied, by the evidence submitted, that the material facts set forth by the petitioner are substantially true, your committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to relief: they, therefore, report a bill.

To the Congress of the United States: The petition of Barnard Kelley sheweth:

That he was many years, previous to 1805, postmaster at Washington, in Wilkes county, State of Georgia, and conducted himself with fidelity, always accounting regularly for his receipts of postage; that, in the aforesaid year, his house, which constituted the principal part of his property, and in which the post office was kept, was destroyed by fire, whereby he lost every thing appertaining to his office, what money he had then on hand, and all his own effects—he and family having saved only their clothes and some trifling effects; that, being reduced to very indigent circumstances by this accident, the Government did not press the judgment which they recovered against him for \$173 82 for a number of years, but left him to struggle for the support of his family, without the additional pressure of their claim; that, a few years since, by the death of his wife's father, he acquired one negro man, who, with a small piece of poor land, constitutes his whole property; that your petitioner is infirm and unable to work, and his family consists of a wife and seven daughters, (one of whom is insane,) and he is entirely dependant for subsistence on the labor of these, who are unable to work in the field; that the execution of the Government has been levied on his property, and your petitioner will be reduced to absolute want if it is pressed; that he considers himself entitled to relief, because, by the destruction of his office, he was unable to settle his accounts with the Government, having been thereby deprived of his vouchers, and lost the amount of money which he had then on hand; and that, by the loss of vouchers, he was charged with an amount greater than he was really liable for: wherefore, he prays Congress will afford him such relief as they may deem proper.

BARNARD KELLEY.

AUGUST 15, 1828.