

I also repaired to the General Post Office to communicate to Lord Clanricarde the paper from Mr Johnson. The Marquis was absent, but the paper was passed from one to another, till it reached Colonel Maberly, the Chief Executive Assistant. I took care to accompany the delivery of the paper with the remarks,

That in determining and annulling on that day, the 16th of August 1847, the postal arrangements between the United States and Great Britain, the object of the United States was not to withhold any liberal accommodation from the British Government, but only to frame a new arrangement on a basis more suited to present relations, and equal in its terms towards both nations.

It is hardly worth the while to relate the conversation that followed; it is due to Col. Hobbie to say, the interview proved to me that the failure to make a satisfactory arrangement between the Post Office Departments was most certainly no fault of Col. Hobbie's.

Having a fit opportunity I did not fail to call the particular attention of Lord John Russell to this subject of postal arrangements, and obtained from him the promise of giving it his personal consideration. The unfriendly discriminating tax was laid without his having been consulted.

I have also spoken on the subject repeatedly and very fully at the Foreign Office. My confidence in a good issue is unabated. If this Ministry which professes to be liberal, should act otherwise, it is my strong desire to leave the liberality of the American Government evident to the world, that it may be seen that the failure of a good postal arrangement between the two countries is due to the British Government alone.

THE POSTAL CONVENTION OF 1845

The postal convention with Great Britain of February 14, 1845, was of limited scope, dealing only with the "closed mails" between Boston and Canada; it was signed in interchanged examples, one by the Postmaster General of the United States (Charles A. Wickliffe) on December 28, 1844, and the other by the Postmaster General of Great Britain (the Earl of Lonsdale) on February 14, 1845; it appears that the text of that convention was not published in either country; no original or copy has been found in the archives of the Post Office Department; the text which follows is from the signed original in the archives of the British Post Office (copy enclosed with despatch No. 512 from London of November 26, 1932, D.S., file 811.71241/33); it will be observed that on the part of the United States the convention was made under special statutory authority (joint resolution of June 15, 1844; 5 Statutes at Large, 718-19), that it was not formally approved or ratified by the President, and that it bore the seal of the Post Office Department:

AN AGREEMENT made, between CHARLES A. WICKLIFFE Post Master General of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, under authority conferred by a joint resolution of the Congress of the United States, of the one part; and the Post Master General of her BRITANIC MAJESTY, duly authorized thereunto, of the other part, relative to the transmission of the British mails in their unbroken state or condition between Boston and Canada; by which the following arrangements are entered into and established, to wit:

1. The Post Office Department of the United States is to transport the British mails conveyed to the port of Boston by the British mail steamers plying between Liverpool and Boston and delivered into the Boston post office, from said Boston post office to St. John's in Canada during the season of steam boat navigation on Lake Champlain, and to Highgate, Vt. during the residue of the year; also the British mails from St. John's during the season of navigation aforesaid, and from Highgate the residue of the year, to Boston for dispatch thence to Liverpool by the British mail steamers, to wit: twice per month in the months of April, May,

June, July, August, September, October and November, and once per month in the months of January, February, March and December in each year.

2. Said mails are to be transported in bulk, in closed bags under the lock or seal of the British Post Office, and with them a mail agent or courier if one be provided by the British Post Office to accompany and take charge of said mails.

3. Said mails are to be conveyed over the most expeditious post route of the United States in operation between the points named, and where there are different routes arranged to the same speed the choice of route for this purpose is to be made by the United States Post Office Department. The contemplated time for this dispatch will be, ordinarily, thirtysix hours between Boston and Burlington, and twelve hours thence when the residue of the trip is performed by steam boat; when by land to Highgate the time required may be five hours longer: Every effort will be made to give the greatest possible speed at all times by dispatching from Boston, on the arrival of the steamer, an extra train, if necessary to connect with the mail steam boat at Burlington, on the evening of the second day after the arrival of the steamer at Boston.

4. The Post Master General of her Britannic Majesty is to pay to the Post Master General of the United States for this service at the following rates, namely: the equivalent of one franc, to wit: 18% cents per net ounce for all letters or written mails; and the equivalent of five centimes, to wit: 9% mills for each newspaper, price current, or other sheet of printed matter. Should the rates of postage in the United States be reduced by law, it is agreed that the amount to be paid by the Post Office Department of Great Britain shall be hereafter adjusted so as not to exceed the rates of postage which would be charged on said letters if mailed in the United States, Provided, said reduction shall not bring the aggregate amount below the expense of the transportation.

5. The weight of the letter mails and the number of papers, prices current, and sheets of printed matter is to be certified in each instance by the Postmaster of Liverpool in regard to the mails *for* Canada; and by the Postmaster at Montreal in regard to the mails *from* Canada, to the Postmaster of Boston. In case such report, from accident or other cause, be not made, the Postmaster of Boston will compute the amount of the mails from the gross weight according to the charge per ounce, distinguishing between the newspapers and letters, if practicable: each instance of which will be reported to the British Post Office at London, subject to be corrected by their official returns.

6. The Post Office Department of the United States will transmit to the British Post Office at London, quarterly accounts in the months of April, July, October and January for the services rendered in the quarters preceeding those months respectively. And the Post Master General of the British Post Office will cause said accounts to be paid to the Post Master General of the United States in the succeeding months of May, August, November and February.

7. This Agreement is to go into operation with the first trip to Boston made by the British mail steamers after the execution of these articles by her Britannic Majesty's Post Master General. And it may be determined and annulled at any time by either party, by his written declaration to that effect, made under his seal of office, and transmitted to the other party, — to take effect on the expiration of three calendar months after receipt thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, these articles are interchanged between the consenting parties, the seal of the Post Office Department of the United States being affixed hereto, and these articles being signed this twenty-eighth day of December, A.D. 1844, by

C. A. WICKLIFFE.

Post Master General of the United States.

PROPOSALS OF THE UNITED STATES

No arrangement having been effected between the postal authorities of the two Governments, Bancroft at once decided, as he wrote in his despatch of August 16, 1847 (quoted above), to "refer the questions involved, directly to the Ministry"; and on the same day, after