

Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Mexico. Concluded at Mexico, December 11, 1861. Ratifications exchanged at Mexico, May 20, 1862. Proclaimed by the President of the United States, June 20, 1862.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: December 11,
1861.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS a Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Mexico was concluded and signed at the city of Mexico on the eleventh day of December, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, which Convention, being in the English and Spanish languages, is, word for word, as follows:

Preamble

Postal Convention between the United States of America and the United Mexican States.

Convencion Postal entre los Estados Unidos Mexicanos y los Estados Unidos de América.

The United States of America and the United Mexican States, being desirous of drawing more closely the friendly relations existing between the two countries and of facilitating the prompt and regular transmission of correspondence between their respective territories, have resolved to conclude a Postal Convention, and have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say: the President of the United States of America has appointed Thomas Corwin, a citizen of the United States and their Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary near the Mexican Government, and the President of the United Mexican States has appointed Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada, a citizen of the said States and a deputy of the Congress of the Union, who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following articles:

Los Estados Unidos Mexicanos y los Estados Unidos de América, deseando estrechar las relaciones amistosas que existen entre los dos países y facilitar la transmisión pronta y regular de la correspondencia entre sus respectivos territorios, han determinado celebrar una Convención Postal, y han nombrado como sus Plenipotenciarios, á saber:

El Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos á Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada, ciudadano de los mismos Estados y Diputado al Congreso de la Union; y El Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América á Tomas Corwin, ciudadano de los Estados Unidos y su Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario cerca del Gobierno Mexicano;

Plenipotenciarios.

Quienes, despues de haberse comunicado reciprocamente sus respectivos plenos poderes, hallándolos en buena y debida forma, han convenido en los artículos siguientes:

ARTICLE I.

ARTICULO I.

There shall be charged upon all letters, newspapers, reviews, or other periodical publications, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter,

Se cobrará por todas las cartas, gacetas, revistas ú otras publicaciones periódicas, folletos impresos ú otros impresos, ya sean conducidos Sea rates of Postage,

conveyed either by United States or by Mexican vessels, between a port in the United States of America and a port in Mexico, the following sea rates of postage, that is to say :

on letters,

1. Upon all letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, the rate of seven cents ; and upon all letters weighing more than half an ounce, an additional rate of seven cents for each additional half ounce or fraction thereof.

on newspapers,

2. Upon every newspaper, daily or other, the rate of one cent.

periodicals and pamphlets.

3. Upon reviews or other periodical publications, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter, the rate of one cent for every ounce or fraction of an ounce weight.

Newspapers, &c. to be sent in narrow bands.

The said newspapers, reviews, or other periodical publications, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter, shall be sent in narrow bands or covers, open at the sides or ends, so that they may be easily examined, subject to the laws and regulations of each country, respectively.

ARTICLE II.

United States inland postage on mail matter to Mexico.

There shall be charged by the post office of the United States of America upon all letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter mailed in the United States and forwarded to Mexico by sea, whether by United States or by Mexican vessels, such rates of inland postage as are now or may hereafter be established by the laws of the United States, and the rate of sea postage prescribed in article first, which inland and sea postage shall be combined into one rate and paid always in advance.

Inland and sea postage to be prepaid

by stamps,

Such prepayment shall be certified by the appropriate stamps of the United States post office, and the postage so paid shall belong exclusively to the United States of America.

to belong to the United States.

Mexican inland postage on mail matter for the United States.

There shall be charged by the post office of the United Mexican States upon all letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter mailed in Mexico and for-

por buques de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos ó de los Estados Unidos de América, entre un puerto de México y un puerto de los Estados Unidos de América, los siguientes portes de mar, à saber :

1°. Por todas las cartas que no escedan de media onza de peso, el porte de siete centavos ; y por todas las cartas que pesen mas de media onza, el porte adicional de siete centavos por cada media onza adicional ó fraccion de ella.

2°. Por cada gaceta, diaria ó no diaria, el porte de un centavo.

3°. Por las revistas ú otras publicaciones periódicas, folletos impresos ú otros impresos, el porte de un centavo por cada onza ó fraccion de una onza de peso.

Dichas gacetas, revistas ú otras publicaciones periódicas, folletos impresos ú otros impresos, deberán enviarse con fajas ó cubiertas, angostas, abiertas, por los lados ó extremos, para que puedan fácilmente ecsaminarse, sujetándose á las leyes y reglamentos de cada pais, respectivamente.

ARTICULO II.

Las oficinas de correos de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos cobrarán por todas las cartas, gacetas, folletos impresos ú otros impresos, puestos en el correo en México y enviados por mar á los Estados Unidos de América, ya sea por buques Mexicanos ó de los Estados Unidos, los portes de tierra que están establecidos ahora ó que puedan establecerse en lo sucesivo por las leyes de México, y el porte de mar prescrito en el artículo primero, cuyos portes de tierra y de mar se combinarán en un solo porte, que se pagará siempre adelantado.

Este pago adelantado se certificará por medio de los sellos correspondientes de las oficinas de correos de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, y pertenecerá esclusivamente á México.

Las oficinas de correos de los Estados Unidos de América cobrarán por todas las cartas, gacetas, folletos impresos ú otros impresos, puestos en el correo en los Estados Unidos

warded to the United States of America by sea, whether by Mexican or by United States vessels, such rates of inland postage as are now or may hereafter be established by the laws of Mexico, and the rate of sea postage prescribed in article first, which inland and sea postage shall be combined into one rate and paid always in advance.

Such prepayment shall be certified by the appropriate stamps of the post office of the United Mexican States, and the postage so paid shall belong exclusively to Mexico.

ARTICLE III.

Upon all letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter received in the United States of America from Mexico by sea, there will be charged by the United States such rates of inland postage as are now, or may hereafter be, established by the laws of the United States, which shall be collected at the place of destination, and shall belong exclusively to the United States of America, and vice versa, upon all letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter received in Mexico from the United States of America by sea, there will be charged by Mexico such rates of inland postage as are now, or may hereafter be, established by the laws of Mexico, which shall be collected at the place of destination, and shall belong exclusively to Mexico.

ARTICLE IV.

All letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter mailed in the United States of America, and addressed to any place in the United Mexican States, or vice versa, when not conveyed by sea, shall be charged with the rate of inland postage of the country from which such mail matter is sent, which shall be prepaid, and with the inland postage of the country receiving, which shall be collected at the place of destination.

y enviados por mar á México, ya sea por buques de los Estados Unidos ó de México, los portes de tierra que están establecidos ahora ó que puedan establecerse en lo sucesivo por las leyes de los Estados Unidos, y el porte de mar prescrito en el artículo primero, cuyos portes de tierra y de mar se combinarán en un solo porte, que se pagará siempre adelantado.

Este pago adelantado se certificará por medio de los sellos correspondientes de las oficinas de correos de los Estados Unidos, y pertenecerá esclusivamente á los Estados Unidos de América.

ARTICULO III.

Por todas las cartas, gacetas, folletos impresos ú otros impresos que se reciban en México de los Estados Unidos de América por mar, cobrará México los portes de tierra que están establecidos ahora ó que puedan establecerse en lo sucesivo por las leyes de México, cuyos portes se escigirán en el lugar del destino, y pertenecerán esclusivamente á México; y vice versa, por todas las cartas, gacetas, folletos impresos ú otros impresos que se reciban en los Estados Unidos de América de México por mar, cobrarán los Estados Unidos los portes de tierra que están establecidos ahora ó que puedan establecerse en lo sucesivo por las leyes de los Estados Unidos, cuyos portes se escigirán en el lugar del destino, y pertenecerán exclusivamente á los Estados Unidos de América.

ARTICULO IV.

Por todas las cartas, gacetas, folletos impresos ú otros impresos, puestos en el correo en los Estados Unidos Mexicanos y dirigidos á algun lugar de los Estados Unidos de América, ó vice versa, cuando no sean enviados por mar, se cobrará el porte de tierra del país de que procedan, cuyo porte se pagará adelantado, y se cobrará el porte de tierra del país que los reciba, cuyo porte se pagará en el lugar de su destino.

Inland and sea postage to be prepaid

by stamps,

to belong to Mexico.

United States inland postage on mail matter from Mexico,

where to be collected and to whom to belong.

Postage in Mexico on mail matter from the United States,

where collected and to whom to belong.

Postage on mail matter not conveyed by sea.

Such postage shall belong respectively to the country collecting the same.

ARTICLE V.

Mail matter not to be detained;

to be forwarded speedily and delivered promptly.

All letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter mailed in the one country for the other, or received in the one country from the other, whether by land or sea conveyance, shall be free from any detention or inspection whatever, and shall in the one case be forwarded by the most speedy means to their destination, and in the other be promptly delivered to the respective persons to whom they are addressed, being subject in their transmission to the laws and regulations of each country, respectively.

ARTICLE VI.

Provision in case of steam or other mail packets.

So soon as steam or other mail packets, under the flag of either of the contracting parties, shall have commenced running between their respective ports of entry, whether under subvention from the United States or from Mexico, the contracting parties agree to receive at those ports all mailable matter, and to forward it as directed, the destination being to some regular post office of either country, charging thereupon only the rates established by the present convention.

Mails to be made up at regular intervals.

Mails for the United States of America shall be made up at regular intervals by the Mexican post office, and dispatched to ports of the United States; and, in the same manner, mails for Mexico shall be made up at regular intervals by the United States post office, and dispatched to ports in Mexico.

ARTICLE VII.

Closed mails through Mexico.

The United Mexican States engage to grant to the United States of America the transit, in closed mails, free from any postage, duties,

Tales portes pertenecerán respectivamente al país que los cobre

ARTICULO V.

Todas las cartas, gacetas, folletos impresos ú otros impresos, puestas en el correo de uno de los dos países para el otro, ó recibidos en un país del otro, ya sean enviados por tierra ó por mar, estarán libres de cualquiera detencion ó inspeccion, y en el primer caso, serán enviados por los medios mas violentos á su destino, y en el otro caso, entregados prontamente á las personas á quienes sean dirigidos, estando sujetos en su trasmision á las leyes y reglamentos de cada país, respectivamente.

ARTICULO VI.

Tan pronto como los vapores ú otros paquetes correos, con bandera de cualquiera de las dos partes contratantes, hayan comenzado á correr entre sus respectivos puertos de entrada, bien sea con subvencion de México ó de los Estados Unidos, las partes contratantes recibirán en dichos puertos toda la correspondencia y la remitirán segun vaya dirigida, siempre que su destino sea para alguna oficina regular de correos de cualquiera de los dos países, cobrando solamente los portes establecidos por la presente convention.

Las balijas para México se cerrarán á intervalos regulares en las oficinas de correos de los Estados Unidos de América, despachándolas para los puertos de México; y del mismo modo, las balijas para los Estados Unidos se cerrarán á intervalos regulares en las oficinas de correos de México, despachándolas para los puertos de los Estados Unidos.

ARTICULO VII.

Los Estados Unidos de América convienen en conceder á los Estados Unidos Mexicanos el tránsito en balijas cerradas, libres de cualquiera

imposts, detention, or examination whatever, through the United Mexican States, or any of their possessions or territories, of letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter, forwarded from the United States of America, or any of their possessions or territories, to any other possession or territory of the United States of America, or to any foreign country, or from any foreign country, or possession or territory of the United States of America, to the United States of America, their possessions or territories.

A mail agent of the United States of America shall be permitted to accompany the closed mails in their transit.

The United States of America, on their part, engage to grant to the United Mexican States the transit, in closed mails, free from any postage, duties, imposts, detention, or examination whatever, through the United States of America, or any of their possessions or territories, of letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter, forwarded from the United Mexican States, or any of their possessions or territories, to any other Mexican possession or territory, or to any foreign country, or from any foreign country, or Mexican possession or territory, to the United Mexican States, their possessions or territories.

A mail agent of Mexico shall be permitted to accompany the closed mails in their transit.

ARTICLE VIII.

The means of making the transit of closed mails, under the stipulations of article seventh of the present Convention, shall be arranged between the general post office department of the two countries, subject to the approbation of each Government, respectively.

ARTICLE IX.

In case of the misfortune of war between the two nations, the mail

porte, derechos, impuestos, detencion ó exámen, por medio de los Estados Unidos de América ó de alguna de sus posesiones ó territorios, de las cartas, gacetas, folletos impresos ú otros impresos, enviados de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, ó de alguna de sus posesiones ó territorios, para alguna otra posesion ó territorio Mexicano, ó para algun pais extranjero, ó de algun pais extranjero, ó posesion ó territorio Mexicano, para los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, sus posesiones ó territorios.

Un empleado de correo de México podrá acompañar las balijas cerradas en su tránsito.

Mail agent.

Los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, por su parte, convienen en conceder á los Estados Unidos de América el tránsito el balijas cerradas, libres de cual quiera porte, derechos, impuestos, detencion ó exámen, por medio de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos ó alguna de sus posesiones ó territorios, de las cartas, gacetas, folletos impresos ú otros impresos, enviados de los Estados Unidos de América, ó de alguna de sus posesiones ó territorios, para alguna otra posesion ó territorio de los Estados Unidos de América, ó para algun pais extranjero, ó de algun pais extranjero, ó posesion ó territorio de los Estados Unidos de América, para los Estados Unidos de América, sus posesiones ó territorios.

Un empleado de correos de los Estados Unidos de América podrá acompañar las balijas cerradas en su tránsito.

Closed mails through the United States

Mail agent.

ARTICULO VIII.

Los medios de hacer el tránsito de las balijas cerradas, con arreglo á las estipulaciones del artículo sétimo de la presente Convencion se arreglarán entre las administraciones generales de correos de los dos paises, sujetándose á la aprobacion de cada gobierno, respectivamente.

Transit of closed mails to be arranged.

ARTICULO IX.

En el caso desgraciado de guerra entre las dos Naciones, el servicio

Provision in case of war between the two nations.

service of the two post offices shall continue without impediment or molestation until six weeks after a notification shall have been made on the part of either of the two Governments and delivered to the other, that the service is to be discontinued; and in such case the mail packets of the two countries shall be permitted to return freely, and under special protection, to their respective ports.

ARTICLE X.

Regulations,
&c., to be settled,
&c.

The respective post office regulations and rates of postage of each of the contracting parties shall be communicated to, and all matters of detail arising out of the stipulations of this convention shall be settled between the General Post Office Departments of the two republics as soon as possible after the exchange of the ratifications of the present convention.

Details may be
modified.

It is also agreed that the measures of detail referred to in this article may be modified by the two General Post Office Departments whenever, by mutual consent, those Departments shall have decided that such modifications would be beneficial to the post office service of the two countries; and Mexico proposes, so soon as her means of internal transportation will permit, to reduce her present rates of inland postage.

Inland postage
in Mexico to be
reduced.

ARTICLE XI.

Convention
how long to con-
tinue.

The present convention shall continue in force until it shall be abrogated by the mutual consent of the two contracting parties, or until one of them shall have given twelve months' previous notice to the other of a desire to abrogate it.

ARTICLE XII.

Ratifications,
when to be ex-
changed.

This convention shall be ratified in conformity with the Constitutions of the two countries, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at the city of Mexico within six months from the date hereof, or earlier if possible.

de las dos administraciones de correos continuará sin impedimento ni molestia, hasta seis semanas despues de que se haga por parte de uno de los dos gobiernos, y se entregue al otro, la notificacion de que se suspende el servicio, y en tal caso, se permitirá que los paquetes correos de los dos países retornen libremente y bajo especial proteccion á sus puertos respectivos.

ARTICULO X.

Se comunicarán los respectivos reglamentos de correos, asi como las tarifas de los portes de cada una de las partes contratantes, y todos los puntos de pormenores que se originen de las estipulaciones de esta convencion se determinarán entre las administraciones generales de correos de las dos Repúblicas, tan pronto como fuere posible despues del cange de las ratificaciones de la presente convencion.

Igualmente, se conviene en que todas las medidas de los pormenores indicados en este artículo podrán modificarse por las dos administraciones generales de correos, siempre que dichas administraciones resuelvan por mútuo consentimiento que tales modificaciones sean benéficas al servicio de correos de los dos países; y México se propone rebajar sus tarifas actuales de portes de tierra, tan pronto como lo permitan sus medios de trasporte interior.

ARTICULO XI.

La presente convencion continuará en vigor hasta que sea abrogada por mútuo consentimiento de las dos partes contratantes, ó hasta que una de ellas haya dado aviso á la otra de su deseo de abrogarla con doce meses de anticipacion.

ARTICULO XII.

Esta convencion será ratificada con arreglo á las Constituciones de los dos países, y las ratificaciones se cangerán en la ciudad de México, dentro de seis meses de esta fecha, ó antes si fuere posible.

In witness whereof, we, the Plenipotentiaries of the United States of America and of the United Mexican States, have signed and sealed these presents.

Done in the city of Mexico on the eleventh day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, in the eighty-sixth year of the independence of the United States of America, and in the forty-first of that of the United Mexican States.

THOMAS CORWIN, [L. s.]
 SEB'N LERDO DE TEJADA, [L. s.]

En testimonio de lo cual, nosotros, los Plenipotenciarios de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos y de los Estados Unidos de América, firmamos y sellamos la presente.

Hecha en la ciudad de México, el día once de Diciembre del año de Nuestro Señor mil ochocientos sesenta y uno; el cuadragésimo primero de la Independencia de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, y el octogésimo sexto de la de los Estados Unidos de América.

SEB'N LERDO DE TEJADA, [L. s.]
 THOMAS CORWIN, [L. s.]

Signature.

And whereas the said convention has been duly ratified on both parts, and the respective ratifications of the same were exchanged in the city of Mexico on the twentieth ultimo :

Ratification.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States of America, have caused the said convention to be made public, to the end that the same, and every clause and article thereof, may be observed and fulfilled by the United States and the citizens thereof.

Proclamation.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

[L. s.] Done at the city of Washington, this twentieth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the independence of the United States of America the eighty-sixth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*