

Convention between the General Post-Office of the United States of America and the General Post-Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. July 28, 1868.

THE general post-office of the United States of America and the general post-office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, being desirous of establishing and maintaining an exchange of mails between the United States on the one side and the Straits Settlements and the British East Indies on the other, by means conjointly of the line of United States mail packets plying between San Francisco and Hong Kong and of the line of British mail packets plying between Hong Kong and Singapore, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, and Aden, the undersigned duly authorized for that purpose have agreed upon the following articles:

ARTICLE I. There shall be a direct exchange of mails between the offices of New York and San Francisco on the one part, and the offices of Singapore, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, and Aden, on the other, comprising letters, newspapers, prices current, book packets, and packets of patterns or samples originating in the United States and addressed respectively to the Straits Settlements, or to the British East Indies, or originating in the British East Indies or the Straits Settlements, respectively, and addressed to the United States.

These mails shall be conveyed by United States mail packets between San Francisco and Hong Kong via Yokohama, and by British mail packets between Hong Kong and Singapore or the Indian ports.

ARTICLE II. The postage to be collected in the United States, upon paid correspondence addressed to the Straits Settlements or the British East Indies, shall be ten cents per single letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, heavier letters being charged in proportion, two cents each on newspapers or prices current, and eight cents per four ounces on book packets, or packets of patterns or samples; and the postage to be collected in the Straits Settlements or the British East Indies, upon paid correspondence addressed to the United States, shall be ten pence per single letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, heavier letters being charged in proportion, and four pence per four ounces for newspapers, prices current, book packets or packets of patterns or samples.

The correspondence thus paid shall be delivered at the place of destination, whether in the United States or in the British Possessions, free from all charge whatsoever.

Letters posted in either country unpaid or insufficiently paid shall, nevertheless, be forwarded and shall be charged at the place of destination with a rate of postage of the same amount that would be chargeable on a letter of like weight, posted for despatch in the opposite direction, together with a fine of six pence in the Straits Settlements or the British East Indies, or of twelve cents in the United States.

ARTICLE III. The exchange of the correspondence referred to in Article II., preceding, shall not give rise to any accounts between the British and the United States post-offices. Each office shall keep the postage which it collects.

ARTICLE IV. Every letter, newspaper, price current, book packet or packet of patterns or samples, despatched from one office to the other, shall be plainly stamped in red ink with a stamp bearing the words "paid all" on the right-hand upper corner of the address, and shall also bear the dated stamp of the office at which it was posted.

Preamble.

Exchange of mails; to include what;

how conveyed.

Rates of postage, and weight of letters.

Delivery of correspondence.

Unpaid letters.

Each office to keep postago.

Letters, &c. how paid.

Dead letters, &c. ARTICLE V. Dead letters, newspapers, &c. which cannot be delivered from whatever cause shall be mutually returned, without charge, monthly, or as frequently as the regulations of the respective offices will permit.

Detailed regulations. ARTICLE VI. The two offices may, by mutual consent, make such detailed regulations as shall be found necessary to carry out the objects of this arrangement, such regulations to terminate at any time on a reasonable notice by either office.

Convention, when to commence, and how to terminate. ARTICLE VII. This convention shall come into operation on the first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, and shall be terminable at any time on a notice by either office of six months.

Signature. Done in duplicate and signed in Washington on the twenty-eighth day of July, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, and in London on the fourteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

[SEAL.] ALEX. W. RANDALL,
Postmaster-General.

[SEAL.] MONTROSE,
Postmaster-General of the United Kingdom.

Approval.

I hereby approve the foregoing convention, and in testimony thereof I have caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

[SEAL.] ANDREW JOHNSON.

By the President :

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

WASHINGTON, July 28, 1868.