

Convention between the General Post-Office of the United States of America and the General Post-Office of the Netherlands.

THE undersigned, being thereunto duly authorized by their respective Governments, have agreed upon the following Articles for the amelioration of the postal service between the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands:

ARTICLE I. There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands by means of their respective Post Departments, and this correspondence shall embrace:

1. Letters, ordinary and registered.
2. Newspapers, Book-packets, prints of all kinds (comprising maps, plans, engravings, drawings, photographs, lithographs, and all other like productions of mechanical processes, sheets of music, etc.,) and patterns or samples of merchandize, including grains and seeds.

And such correspondence may be exchanged, whether originating in either of said countries and destined for the other, or originating in or destined for foreign countries to which these may respectively serve as intermediaries.

ARTICLE II. The offices for the exchange of mails shall be on the part of the United States:

1. New York.
2. Boston.

On the part of the Netherlands:
The travelling office Moerdijk.

Each Post Department may at any time, after notice to the other, discontinue either of the offices of exchange on its side, always leaving one office; and the two offices by agreement may at any time establish additional offices of exchange.

ARTICLE III. Each office shall make its own arrangements for the despatch of its mails to the other office by regular lines of communication; and shall at its own cost pay the expense of such intermediate transportation. It is also agreed that the cost of international ocean and territorial transit of the closed mails between the respective frontiers shall be first defrayed by that one of the two Departments which shall have obtained from the intermediaries the most favorable pecuniary terms for such conveyance; and any amount so advanced by one for account of the other shall be promptly reimbursed.

ARTICLE IV. The standard weight for the single rate of international postage and rule of progression shall be:

1. For letters, 15 grammes.

2. For all other correspondence, mentioned in the second paragraph of the first article, that which the despatching office shall adopt for the mails which it despatches to the other, adapted to the convenience and habits of its interior administration. But each office shall give notice to the other of the standard weight it adopts, and of any subsequent change thereof. The rule of progression shall always be an additional single rate for each additional standard weight or fraction thereof. The weight stated by the despatching office shall always be accepted, except in case of manifest mistake.

ARTICLE V. The single rate of postage on the direct correspondence exchanged between the two administrations, subject to the reserve mentioned in article VIII., shall be as follows:

1. On letters from the United States, 15 cents (U. S.)

Sept. 26, 1867.
Contracting parties.

Correspondence to be exchanged;

to embrace what.

Offices for exchange of mails.

Arrangements for despatch of mails.

Cost of transportation.

Weight for single rate of postage.

Rate of postage.

Rates of postage.

2. On letters from the Netherlands, 40 cents (Dutch.)

3. On all other correspondence mentioned in the second paragraph of the first article, the rate shall be, for the mails despatched, that which the despatching office shall adopt, adapted to the convenience and habits of its interior administration. But each office shall give notice to the other of the rate it adopts, and of any subsequent change thereof.

Rates when direct steam lines shall be established.

ARTICLE VI. Whenever a regular line of steam communication, acceptable to the two offices, may be employed directly between any port of the United States and any port of the North of Europe at such rates that the entire cost of transportation between the two frontiers shall not exceed for each single letter rate 5 cents (U. S.) and for each kilogram of other correspondence 10 cents (U. S.); in that case it is agreed that the international single letter rate of postage by such line shall be reduced to 10 cents (U. S.) from the United States and 25 cents (Dutch) from the Netherlands. And the two offices shall by common accord fix the time when this reduction shall take effect.

Prepayment optional.

ARTICLE VII. The prepayment of postage on ordinary letters shall be optional, subject to the conditions in article VIII. mentioned; but on registered letters, and on all other correspondence mentioned in paragraph the second of the first article, it shall be obligatory.

Proceedings when postages are unpaid, or not sufficiently paid.

ARTICLE VIII. If, however, the postage on any correspondence shall be prepaid insufficiently, it shall nevertheless be forwarded to its destination, charged with the deficient postage, adding full amounts instead of fractions of 1 cent (U. S.) or 5 cents (Dutch.) Upon the delivery of any unpaid or insufficiently paid letter, or of any other insufficiently paid correspondence, there shall be levied a fine in the United States not exceeding 5 cents (U. S.), in the Netherlands not exceeding 15 cents (Dutch.) This fine and also the deficient postage on all other correspondence than letters, shall not enter into the accounts between the two offices, but shall be retained to the use of the collecting office.

Registered correspondence.

ARTICLE IX. Registered correspondence shall, in addition to the postage, be subject to a register fee, not exceeding 10 cents (U. S.) in the United States, and not exceeding 25 cents (Dutch) in the Netherlands; and this fee shall be always prepaid.

What correspondence may be registered.

ARTICLE X. Any correspondence may be registered, as well international correspondence as that originating in or destined for other countries to which these two administrations may respectively serve as intermediaries in either direction for the transmission of such registered articles. Each Department shall notify the other of the countries to which it may thus serve as intermediary.

Basis for regulation of accounts.

ARTICLE XI. Accounts between the two offices shall be regulated on the following basis: From the total amount of postages and register fees collected by each office on letters, added to the total amount of prepaid postages and register fees on other correspondence which it despatches, the despatching office shall deduct the amount required, at the agreed rate, for the cost of the intermediate transit thereof between the two frontiers; and the amount of the two net sums shall be divided between the two offices, in the proportion of three-fifths to the United States office and two-fifths to the office of the Netherlands.

Regulations for despatch of correspondence.

ARTICLE XII. The correspondence mentioned in the second paragraph of the first article shall be despatched under regulations to be established by the despatching office; but always including the following:

1. No packet shall contain anything which shall be closed against inspection, nor any written communication whatever, except to state from whom and to whom the packet is sent, the numbers and the prices placed upon patterns or samples of merchandize.

2. No packet may exceed two feet in length or one foot in any other dimension, or the equivalent in Dutch measurement.

3. Neither office shall be bound to deliver any article the importations

of which may be prohibited by the laws or regulations of the country of destination.

4. So long as any customs or stamp duty may be chargeable on any articles exchanged in the mails such duty may be levied for the use of the customs or stamp revenue.

5. Except as above no charge whatever otherwise than is herein expressly provided, shall be levied or collected on the correspondence exchanged.

ARTICLE XIII. The two Post Departments shall establish by agreement and in conformity with the arrangements in force at the time, the conditions upon which the two offices may respectively exchange in open mails the correspondence originating in or destined to other foreign countries to which they may reciprocally serve as intermediaries. It is always understood, however, that such correspondence shall only be charged with the rate applicable to direct international correspondence augmented by the postage due to foreign countries, and by any other tax for exterior service.

Exchange of
correspondence
by open mails

ARTICLE XIV. Each office accords to the other the privilege of transit of closed mails exchanged in either direction, between the latter and any country to which the other may serve as an intermediary, by its usual means of mail transportation, whether on sea or land.

Transit of
closed mails
through either
country.

Such territorial transit shall be reciprocally free of expense.

For such transit by sea the United States office shall receive as follows:

1. For transit across the waters of the Atlantic ocean, or between the two frontiers by sea: (a) For letters, 8 cents (U. S.) per single letter rate; (b) for other correspondence, 12 cents (U. S.) per kilogramme, net.

2. For transit across the waters of the Pacific ocean: (a) For letters, 10 cents (U. S.) per single letter rate; (b) for other correspondence, 20 cents (U. S.) per kilogramme, net.

For such transit by sea, the Netherland Office shall receive as follows: For transit across the waters of the Atlantic ocean or between the two frontiers: (a) For letters, 8 cents (U. S.) per single letter rate; (b) for other correspondence, 12 cents (U. S.) per kilogramme, net.

ARTICLE XV. The postal accounts between the two offices shall be stated quarterly, and transmitted and verified as speedily as practicable, and the balance found due shall be paid to the creditor office, either by exchange on London or at the debtor office, as the creditor office may desire. The rate for the conversion of the money of the two countries shall be fixed by common agreement between the two offices.

Postal ac-
counts, when
to be stated, &c.

ARTICLE XVI. When in any port of either country a closed mail is transferred from one vessel to another without any expense to the office of the country where the transfer is made, such transfer shall not be subject to any postal charge by one office against the other.

Transfer of
closed mails
without expense.

ARTICLE XVII. Official communications between the two offices shall not be the occasion of any accounts on either side.

Official com-
munications.

ARTICLE XVIII. Letters wrongly sent or wrongly addressed, or not deliverable for whatever cause, shall be returned to the originating office at its expense, if any expense is incurred. Registered correspondence of all kinds not deliverable for any cause shall also be returned in like manner. All other correspondence which cannot be delivered shall remain at the disposition of the Receiving office. Any postages upon correspondence returned, which shall have been charged against the office of destination, shall be discharged from the account.

Missent letters.

ARTICLE XIX. The two offices shall by mutual consent establish detailed regulations for carrying these Articles into execution, and they may modify such regulations in like manner from time to time, as the exigencies of the service may require.

Detailed regu-
lations

When convention takes effect, and how long to continue.

ARTICLE XX. This Convention shall take effect on the first day of January next, and shall continue in force until terminated by mutual agreement; or otherwise until one year from the date when one office shall have notified the other of its desire to terminate it. But the two offices may by common accord modify it at any time, as the exigencies of the service may require.

Subject to approval.

It is subject to approval on the one part by the Postmaster-General of the United States, on the other by the Minister of Finance of the Netherlands.

Execution.

Executed in duplicate at the Hague, the twenty-sixth day of September, in the year 1867.

[L. s.]

JOHN A. KASSON,
Sp. Com'r, &c., &c., U. S.
J. P. HOFSTEDÉ, [L. s.]

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, }
October 18, 1867.

Approval by the Postmaster-General;

Having examined and considered the foregoing Articles of a Postal Convention for the amelioration of the Postal Service between the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which were agreed upon and signed in duplicate at the Hague, the twenty-sixth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, by the Hon. John A. Kasson, Special Commissioner, &c., on behalf of this Department, and by Mr. J. P. Hofstede, Chief Director of the General Post Office of the Netherlands, on behalf of his Department; the same are by me hereby ratified and approved by and with the advice and consent of the President of the United States.

In witness whereof, I have caused the seal of the Post-Office Department to be hereto affixed, with my signature, the day and year first above written.

[L. s.]

ALEX. W. RANDALL,
Postmaster-General, U. S.

by the President of the United States.

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

[L. s.]

ANDREW JOHNSON.

By the President:

F. W. SEWARD, *Acting Secretary of State.*
WASHINGTON, October 18, 1867.