

Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Empire of Brazil: Signed at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on the 14th day of March, 1870; Approved by the President of the United States on the 9th day of May, 1870. March 14, 1870.

THE United States of America and his Majesty the Emperor of Brazil being desirous to promote the friendly relations existing between their respective citizens and subjects, by placing the communications by post between the two countries upon an advantageous footing, have resolved to conclude a convention for this purpose, and have named as their plenipotentiaries, — that is to say :

Preamble.

The President of the United States, Henry T. Blow, a citizen of the United States, their Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary near the court of his Imperial Majesty ;

Contracting parties.

His Majesty the Emperor of Brazil, the most illustrious and most excellent João Mauricio Wanderley, Baron de Cotegipe, Senator and Grandee of the Empire, member of his council, commander of his Order of the Rose, Minister and Secretary of State for the Marine Department in charge of the foreign affairs, &c. ; who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles :—

ARTICLE I. An exchange of correspondence shall hereafter take place between the United States of America and the Empire of Brazil by means of the line of mail packets, subsidized by the respective governments, plying monthly between the port of New York and the ports of St. Thomas, in the West Indies, and Pará, Pernambuco, Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil, as well as by such other means of transportation between the seaports of the two countries as shall hereafter be established with the approval of the respective Post Departments of the United States and Brazil ; and this correspondence shall embrace —

Correspondence to be exchanged;

1st. Letters and manuscripts subject by the laws of either country to letter rate of postage.

to include what.

2d. Newspapers and prints of all kinds, in sheets, in pamphlets, and in books, sheets of music, engravings, lithographs, photographs, drawings, maps, and plans ; 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 they may respectively serve as intermediaries.

ARTICLE II. New York shall be the office of exchange on the side of the United States, and Pará, Bahia, Pernambuco, and Rio de Janeiro shall be the offices of exchange on the side of Brazil for all mails transmitted between the two countries under this arrangement, and all mail matter transmitted in either direction between the respective offices of exchange shall be forwarded in closed bags or pouches under seal, addressed to the corresponding exchange office.

Offices of exchange.

The two Post Departments may at any time discontinue either of said offices of exchange or establish others.

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

Rates of postage, &c.

1st. For letters or manuscript subject by law to letter rate of postage, 15 grammes.

2d. For all other correspondence mentioned in the second paragraph of the first article, that which each department shall adopt for the mails which

Rates of postage, &c.

it dispatches 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 weight stated by the dispatching office shall always be accepted, except in cases of manifest error.

No accounts to be kept between the departments.

ARTICLE IV. No accounts shall be kept between the Post-Office Departments of the two countries on the international correspondence, written or printed, exchanged between them; but each country shall levy, collect, and retain to its own use the following postage charges, viz.:—

Collection of postage on letters, &c.;

1st. The postage to be charged and collected in the United States on each letter or manuscript subject to letter postage, mailed in the United States, and addressed to any place in the Empire of Brazil, shall be fifteen (15) cents, United States currency, per each weight of fifteen grammes or fraction of fifteen grammes; and the postage to be charged and collected in Brazil on each letter or manuscript subject to letter postage, mailed in Brazil, and addressed to any place in the United States, shall be three hundred reis, Brazilian currency; the same to be in each case in full of all charges whatever to the place of destination in either country.

2d. On all other correspondence mentioned in the second paragraph of the first article, there shall be charged and collected by the dispatching country such rates of inland postage as are now, or may hereafter be, established by its laws for domestic correspondence of the same class; and in addition thereto a sea rate of one cent, United States currency, (or its equivalent in the currency of Brazil,) on each newspaper, and for each weight of thirty grammes or fraction of thirty grammes of other printed matter, sheets of music, engravings, lithographs, photographs, drawings, maps, and plans, which inland and sea postage shall be combined into one rate, and the prepayment thereof certified by the stamp of the dispatching office.

on newspapers, &c.

In like manner, on newspapers, prints of all kinds, and other articles of mailable matter (except letters) received in either country from the other, there shall be charged and collected at the office of delivery in the receiving country such rates of inland postage as are now, or may hereafter be, established for domestic correspondence of the same class by the laws of each country respectively.

Except as above, no charge whatever shall be levied in the country in which international letters, newspapers, &c. are delivered.

Newspapers, how to be sent.

Newspapers and other correspondence mentioned in the second paragraph of the first article shall be sent in narrow bands or covers, open at the sides or ends, so that they may be easily examined, and shall be subject to the laws and regulations of the dispatching country in regard to their liability to be rated with letter postage when containing written matter, or for any other cause specified in said laws and regulations.

Certain letters to be returned, but newspapers not.

ARTICLE V. Letters and other communications in manuscript, which from any cause cannot be delivered to their address, after the expiration of a proper period to effect their delivery, shall be reciprocally returned every month, unopened and without charge, to the Post-Office Department of the dispatching country; but newspapers and all other articles of printed matter shall not be returned, but remain at the disposal of the receiving office.

Letters erroneously transmitted, or wrongly addressed, shall be promptly returned to the dispatching office.

Free transfer of closed mails.

ARTICLE VI. The governments of the United States and of Brazil reciprocally grant to each other the privilege of a free transfer of closed mails in the ports and harbors of the respective countries, from one vessel to another, in continuance of their conveyance to destination.

ARTICLE VII. The Post Departments of the United States and of

Brazil shall establish by agreement, and in conformity with the arrangements in force at the time, the conditions upon which the two offices may exchange, in open mails, the correspondence originating in or destined to other countries to which they may respectively serve as intermediaries; but such correspondence shall only be charged with the international postage established by this convention, augmented by the postage rates in force between the forwarding country and the country of destination, and any other tax for exterior service.

Exchange of correspondence originating in, or destined to foreign countries.

The two Post Departments are mutually to furnish each other with lists stating the foreign countries to which the foreign postage, and the amounts thereof, must be absolutely prepaid, or can be left unpaid; and until such lists are furnished, neither country is to mail to the other any correspondence for foreign countries beyond the country to which the mail is sent.

Correspondence of this class must be accompanied by a letter-bill from the dispatching exchange office, specifying the amount due thereon to each office, and the receiving exchange office shall return by next post to the dispatching exchange office an acknowledgment of receipt and verification thereof, which letter-bills and acknowledgments of receipt shall serve as vouchers in the settlement of the accounts. The accounts to be kept between the two departments upon this class of correspondence shall be stated quarterly, transmitted and verified as speedily as practicable, and the balance found due shall be paid promptly to the creditor office under such regulations as the respective Post Departments may from time to time prescribe.

ARTICLE VIII. Letters and other correspondence originating in foreign countries, and addressed to the United States or to Brazil, respectively, on which the foreign and international postage charges are fully prepaid, shall, when forwarded through the mails of either country to the other, be delivered in the country of destination free of charge.

Certain correspondence to be delivered free of charge.

ARTICLE IX. The official correspondence between each government and its legation near the other, and that of the latter with the former, shall be conveyed to its destination free of postage, and with all the precautions which the two governments may find necessary for its inviolability and security.

Official correspondence to be free of charge.

ARTICLE X. Neither Post Department shall be required to deliver any article received in the mails, the circulation of which shall be prohibited by the laws in force in the country of destination.

Prohibited articles.

ARTICLE XI. The two Post Departments may by mutual agreement provide for the transmission of registered articles in the mails exchanged between the two countries.

Registered articles.

The register fee for each article shall be ten cents in the United States, and two hundred (200) reis in Brazil.

ARTICLE XII. The two Post Departments shall settle, by agreement between them, all measures of detail and arrangement required to carry this convention into execution, and may modify the same in like manner, from time to time, as the exigencies of the service may require.

Measures of detail.

ARTICLE XIII. This convention shall take effect from a day to be fixed by the two Post Departments, and shall continue in force until annulled by mutual consent, or until one year from date of notice given by one of the departments to the other of its desire to terminate the same.

Convention when to take effect;

ARTICLE XIV. The present convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Rio de Janeiro, as soon as possible.

when to be ratified.

In witness whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed and sealed the same.

Done in the city of Rio de Janeiro, this fourteenth day of the month of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy.

HENRY T. BLOW. [SEAL.]

BARÃO DE COTEGIPE. [SEAL.]

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 9, 1870.

Approved.

Having examined and considered the foregoing articles of a postal convention between the United States of America and the Empire of Brazil, which were agreed upon and signed in the city of Rio de Janeiro, on the fourteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, by Hon. Henry T. Blow, U. S. Minister to Brazil, acting in behalf of, and under instructions from, this department, and by His Excellency Baron de Cotegipe, Minister and Secretary of State for the Marine Department of Brazil, in charge of the foreign affairs, &c., 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
[SEAL.] Department to be hereto affixed, with my signature, the day and year first above written.

JNO. A. J. CRESWELL,
Postmaster-General U. S.

I hereby approve the foregoing convention, and in testimony
[SEAL.] thereof I have caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.
U. S. GRANT.

By the President:

HAMILTON FISH,
Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, May 9, 1870.

TRANSLATION.

We, Don Pedro II., Constitutional Emperor and Perpetual Defender of Brazil, &c., make known to all those who shall see the present letter of confirmation, approval, and ratification, that on the fourteenth day of the month of March, of the current year of one thousand eight hundred and seventy, there was concluded and signed at this court, between Us and His Excellency the President of the United States of America, by the respective plenipotentiaries, endowed with full powers, a postal convention.

The same convention being presented to us, and all therein contained being seen, considered, and examined by us, we approve, ratify, and confirm the same, in the whole, as in each of its articles and stipulations, and by the present we pronounce it firm and valid and of full effect, promising by the imperial faith and word to fulfill it, and to have it fulfilled and observed in every possible manner.

In testimony of which we have caused to be prepared the present letter, signed by us, sealed with the great seal of the arms of the Empire, and attested by our Minister and Secretary of State, undersigned.

Given at the palace of Rio de Janeiro, on the twenty-eighth
[SEAL.] day of the month of June, of the year of our Lord Jesus Christ one thousand eight hundred and seventy.

PEDRO, *Emperor.*
VISCOUNT DE HOBORALY.