

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. Post, p. 869.

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 regulating, by means of a new Convention, the Communications by Post between the two Countries, the Undersigned, duly authorized for that Purpose by their respective Governments, have agreed upon the following Articles :— November 7 and 24, 1868.
Contracting parties.

ARTICLE I. There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the United States of America, as well for letters, newspapers, book packets, and patterns or samples of merchandise, originating in the United Kingdom or in the United States, as for articles of the same nature originating in or destined for the countries or colonies the correspondence of which is forwarded through the United Kingdom or through the United States. Exchange of correspondence; to include what.

ARTICLE II. Each office shall make its own arrangements for the despatch of mails to the other office by well-appointed ships, sailing on stated days, and shall, at its own cost, remunerate the owners of such ships for the conveyance of the mails. Each office to despatch mails.

ARTICLE III. The postage on a single international letter shall be six pence in the United Kingdom, and shall be twelve cents in the United States; and the authorized weight of a single letter shall be half an ounce in the United Kingdom or fifteen grammes (by the metrical scale) in the United States. Rates of postage.
Weight of single letter.

For other than single letters the same charge shall be made for every additional half-ounce or fifteen grammes, or fraction thereof.

The question of the further reduction of the letter rates of postage shall be considered at the expiration of twelve months from the commencement of this convention. Further reduction.

ARTICLE IV. Every international letter insufficiently paid, or wholly unpaid, received in the United States from the United Kingdom, shall, in addition to the deficient postage, be subject to a fine of five cents, such fine to be retained by the United States Post-Office; and every international letter insufficiently paid, or wholly unpaid, received in the United Kingdom from the United States, shall, in addition to the deficient postage, be subject to a fine of two pence, to be retained by the British Post-Office. Letters insufficiently paid or wholly unpaid, subject to fine.

ARTICLE V. International newspapers, book packets, (including printed papers of all kinds, maps, plans, prints, engravings, drawings, photographs, lithographs, sheets of music, and so forth,) and patterns and samples of merchandise (including seeds and grain) shall be transmissible by either office, under such regulations as the despatching office may from time to time lay down, and at the following charges, viz. :— Fines how disposed of.
Postage on newspapers, &c.

For every newspaper, not exceeding four ounces in weight, one penny in the United Kingdom, and two cents in the United States.

For book packets and patterns.

Book packets and patterns.

When not exceeding an ounce in weight, one penny in the United Kingdom and two cents in the United States.

When exceeding one ounce and not exceeding two ounces in weight, two pence in the United Kingdom and four cents in the United States.

When exceeding two ounces and not exceeding four ounces in weight, three pence in the United Kingdom and six cents in the United States.

For packets exceeding four ounces in weight, an additional rate of three pence, or six cents, for every four ounces or fraction of four ounces.

These regulations, however, shall include the following : —

Postage to be prepaid.
Book packets.

1st. The postage shall be fully prepaid.

2d. No book packet may contain anything which is sealed or otherwise closed against inspection, nor must there be any letter, nor any communication of the nature of a letter, whether separate or otherwise, unless the whole of such letter or communication be printed. But entries merely stating from whom or to whom the packet is sent shall not be regarded as a letter.

3d. No book packet must exceed two feet in length, or one foot in width or depth.

Prohibited papers.

4th. Neither office shall be bound to deliver printed papers the importation of which may be prohibited by the laws or regulations of the country to which they are transmitted.

Customs duties in the United States.

5th. So long as any customs duty is chargeable in the United States on the importation from the United Kingdom of any of the articles enumerated above, such customs duty shall be leviable in the United States, and the proceeds shall accrue to the United States Treasury.

No other charges.

6th. Except as above, no charge whatever shall be levied in the country in which international newspapers, book packets, and patterns or samples of merchandise are delivered.

Postage to be equally divided.

ARTICLE VI. The postage collected in the two countries on international letters, newspapers, book packets, and patterns or samples of merchandise, together with the fees for registration, (but exclusive of fines for unpaid or insufficiently paid letters,) shall be equally divided between the two offices. And in making said division the two offices shall account to each other for the following rates per ounce or per pound, according to the weight in bulk of each class of international correspondence.

Rates.

British Post-Office.

1. The British Post-Office shall account to the United States Post-Office for twenty cents an ounce on all paid international letters sent to the United States; for twenty cents an ounce on all unpaid international letters received from the United States; for seven and a quarter cents per pound on international newspapers sent to the United States; and for sixteen cents per pound on international book packets and patterns sent to the United States.

United States Office.

2. The United States Post-Office shall account to the British Post-Office for twenty cents an ounce on all paid international letters sent to the United Kingdom; for twenty cents an ounce on all unpaid international letters received from the United Kingdom; for eight and three quarter cents per pound on international newspapers sent to the United Kingdom; for sixteen cents per pound on international book packets sent to the United Kingdom; and for nineteen cents per pound on patterns sent to the United Kingdom.

Postage on transit letters, &c.

ARTICLE VII. That portion of the postage of transit letters, transit newspapers, book packets, and patterns or samples of merchandise which represents the charge for the sea conveyance between the United Kingdom and the United States, shall belong wholly to the despatching office.

Charge for sea conveyance of letters, newspapers, &c.

For the purposes of this article the charge for the sea conveyance of letters in closed mails across the Atlantic shall be computed at twenty cents per ounce or per thirty grammes, and the charge for the sea conveyance across the Atlantic of newspapers, book packets, and patterns or samples of merchandise shall be computed at three pence per pound or twelve cents per kilogramme.

ARTICLE VIII. The United States Post-Office may deliver to the British Post-Office letters or other postal packets, which have been registered, addressed to the United Kingdom. Reciprocally, the British Post-Office may deliver to the United States Post-Office registered letters, or other postal packets which have been registered, addressed to the United States.

Registered letters or packets.

The postage of registered letters and so forth shall always be paid in advance.

Postage of registered letters.

In addition to this postage, there shall also be charged a registration fee, the amount of which shall be fixed by the despatching office.

Registration fee.

ARTICLE IX. The United States Post-Office may further deliver to the British Post-Office registered letters and so forth, addressed to those countries or colonies to which registered letters can be sent from the United Kingdom.

Same subject.

The United States Post-Office shall account to the British Post-Office (in addition to the postage due to the British Post-Office) for such sum as shall be chargeable to the inhabitants of the United Kingdom for the registration from the United Kingdom of every registered letter and so forth addressed to the countries or colonies above mentioned. On its side, the British Post-Office may deliver to the United States Post-Office registered letters and so forth addressed to those countries to which registered letters can be sent from the United States.

Postages to be accounted for.

The British Post-Office shall account to the United States Post-Office (in addition to the postage due to the United States Post-Office) for such sum as shall be chargeable to the inhabitants of the United States for the registration from the United States of every registered letter and so forth addressed to the countries above mentioned.

ARTICLE X. The British Post-Office engages to grant the transit through the United Kingdom, as well as the conveyance by British mail packets, of the closed mails which the United States Post-Office may exchange, in either direction, with the post-offices of United States possessions or of foreign countries; and the United States Post-Office engages to grant the transit through the United States, as well as the conveyance by United States mail packets, of the closed mails which the British Post-Office may exchange, in either direction, with the post-offices of British possessions or of foreign countries.

Transit of closed mails through each country.

The country which sends or receives closed mails through the other shall render an account of the letters, newspapers, book packets, and patterns contained in such closed mails.

Account rendered to be of contents.

ARTICLE XI. The rates of postage to be mutually paid for the territorial transit (including the passage of the English Channel) of all letters sent from one country to the other for transmission to places beyond, in closed mails, shall be as follows:—

Rates of postage for territorial transit of letters.

The British Post-Office shall account to the Post-Office of the United States for three and three quarter cents an ounce for the conveyance of such letters through the United States; and the Post-Office of the United States shall account to the British Post-Office for 1½d. (one penny one farthing) per ounce for the conveyance of such letters through the United Kingdom.

The transit rates of postage to be mutually paid for newspapers, book packets, and patterns or samples of merchandise sent in closed mails shall be four pence per kilogramme for transit through the United Kingdom, and six cents per pound for transit through the United States.

Of newspapers, &c.

ARTICLE XII. When, in any British or United States port, a closed mail is transferred from one ship to another, without any expense devolving on the office of the country owning such port, such transfer shall not be deemed a territorial transit, and shall not give rise to any charge for territorial transit.

Certain transfers of closed mails not to be deemed territorial transit.

Rates of postage for sea conveyance of closed mails.

ARTICLE XIII. The rates of postage to be paid by the British Post-Office to the United States Post-Office for the sea conveyance, other than across the Atlantic, of correspondence sent from the United Kingdom to the United States, in closed mails, for transmission to places beyond, or brought to the United States from places beyond, in closed mails, for transmission to the United Kingdom, shall be the same that are paid by the inhabitants of the United States; reciprocally, the rates of postage to be paid by the United States Post-Office to the British Post-Office for the sea conveyance, other than across the Atlantic, of correspondence sent from the United States to the United Kingdom, in closed mails, for transmission to places beyond, or brought to the United Kingdom from places beyond, in closed mails, for transmission to the United States, shall be the same that are paid by the inhabitants of the United Kingdom.

Combined territorial and sea rates.

ARTICLE XIV. The combined territorial and sea rates upon transit correspondence sent in ordinary mails to be accounted for by one office to the other, shall be the same that are paid by the inhabitants of the country through which the correspondence is forwarded.

Accounts between the post-offices.

ARTICLE XV. The British Post-Office shall account to the United States Post-Office for the sum of two cents upon every single paid letter sent through the United Kingdom in ordinary mails addressed to the United States, and the United States Post-Office shall account to the British Post-Office for the sum of one penny upon every single paid letter sent through the United States in ordinary mails addressed to the United Kingdom.

Exchange of correspondence between the United States and St. Thomas, Panama, Colon, and San Juan.

ARTICLE XVI. There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and the British Post-Office agencies established in the Danish colony of St. Thomas, in Panama, in Colon, and in San Juan, (Porto Rico.) The postage to be accounted for on such correspondence shall be fixed from time to time by the mutual consent of the two offices.

British Post-Office to prepare quarterly separate accounts.

ARTICLE XVII. The British Post-Office shall prepare, at the expiration of every quarter, separate accounts, exhibiting the results of the exchange of correspondence, whether in ordinary mails or in closed mails, between the respective offices.

Such accounts shall be founded upon the acknowledgments of receipt of the respective offices during the quarter.

Accounts to be incorporated in general accounts.

The separate accounts shall be incorporated in general accounts which shall be compared and settled by the two offices, and the balance shall forthwith be paid, in the money of the country to which the payment is to be made, by that office which is found to be indebted to the other.

Equivalent of the United States dollar.

In converting United States currency into sterling, or sterling into United States currency, four shillings and two pence shall be considered as the equivalent of a dollar.

Official communications not to be accounted.

ARTICLE XVIII. Official communications addressed by the United States Post-Office to the British Post-Office, or by the British Post-Office to the United States Post-Office, shall not give rise to any account between the two post-offices.

Regulations to be made, and how terminable.

ARTICLE XIX. The two offices shall, by mutual consent, make detailed regulations in accordance with the foregoing articles, such regulations to be terminable on a reasonable notice by either office.

Former convention to cease when this takes effect.

ARTICLE XX. The convention for regulating the communication by post between the two countries signed in London on the 18th June, 1867, shall cease to have effect on and from the date on which the convention, now to be concluded, shall be put in operation.

Ante, p. 833.

When this convention takes effect;

ARTICLE XXI. This convention shall come into operation on the 1st January, 1869.

when terminable.

ARTICLE XXII. This convention shall be terminable at any time, on a notice by either office of one year.

Done in duplicate and signed in London the seventh day of November, and at Washington the twenty-fourth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

[L. s.]

MONTROSE,
Postmaster-General of the United Kingdom.

[L. s.]

ALEX. W. RANDALL,
Postmaster-General 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.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

By the President:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, November 24, 1868.

DETAILED REGULATIONS

Arranged 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, for the Execution of the Convention of the twenty-fourth Day of November, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight. Nov. 7 & 24, 1868.

ARTICLE I. Each office shall send mails by well-appointed steamships of approved speed, sailing on stated days between Liverpool and New York, or Boston and New York, or Boston and Liverpool *via* Queens-town; and also between Southampton and New York, and New York and Southampton, as often as such steamships shall be despatched; *Provided* that the mails so sent shall not be delayed by such mode of despatch, and *provided* that the cost of transit can be arranged by each office in accordance with the rates which that office may think it right to pay for the conveyance of mail matter. Each office to send mails, on stated days, by steamships, &c. Proviso.

If it be shown by either office that the sending of any portion of the international letters to any designated port causes a delay to such letters, it is agreed that the other office shall cease to send such letters to said port unless when letters are specially addressed to be so sent.

ARTICLE II. Accommodation for the sortation of letters on board shall be provided by the despatching office when desired by the office to which the mails are sent; the two offices to determine, by mutual consent, whether sorting officers, if employed, shall belong to the British or to the United States Post-Offices, or partly to the one and partly to the other; the salaries of the sorting officers to be paid by that office to which the officers shall belong. Sorting of letters and sorting officers.

ARTICLE III. The following shall be the regulations for the exchange of mails between the British and the United States Post-Offices: — Regulations for exchange of mails.

1. The office of London shall exchange mails with the offices of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Portland, Detroit, Chicago, and San Francisco. London.

2. The office of Liverpool shall exchange mails with the offices of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Portland, Detroit, Chicago, and San Francisco. Liverpool.

3. The office of Southampton shall exchange mails with the offices of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. Southampton.

4. The office of Dublin shall exchange mails with the offices of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Portland, Detroit, Chicago, and San Francisco. Dublin.