

Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Colonial Government of Hong Kong, China.

ARTICLES of agreement between the Post Office Department of the United States and the General Post Office at Hong Kong. August 10, 1867.

For the purpose of establishing and regulating the interchange of mails between the United States and Hong Kong and dependent Chinese ports, by means of the direct line of United States mail packets plying between San Francisco and Hong Kong, *via* Yokohama in Japan, it is agreed between the Post Office Department of the United States and the Post Office Department of Hong Kong:

Contracting parties.

ARTICLE I. The post offices of New York and San Francisco shall be the United States offices of exchange, and the General Post Office at Hong Kong the office of exchange of the colony of Hong Kong for all mails transmitted under this arrangement.

Offices of exchange established.

ARTICLE II. There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and the colony of Hong Kong, by means of United States mail packets, plying between San Francisco and Hong Kong, comprising letters, newspapers, and prices current originating and posted in the United States, and addressed to and deliverable in Hong Kong and those Chinese ports with which the Hong Kong post office has postal relations, including the ports of Canton, Amoy, Swatow, and Foo-chow, and, vice versa, of correspondence originating and posted in Hong Kong and the Chinese ports above designated, and addressed to and deliverable in the United States.

Correspondence to be exchanged.

ARTICLE III. The postage to be levied and collected at the office of mailing in the United States, upon letters, newspapers, and prices current, destined for Hong Kong and the above designated Chinese ports, with which Hong Kong has postal connections, shall be ten cents per single rate of half an ounce or under on letters, and two cents each on newspapers and prices current; and the postage to be levied and collected at Hong Kong and dependent Chinese ports, on correspondence originating in those ports and destined to the United States, shall be eight cents per single rate of half an ounce or under on letters, and two cents on each newspaper or price current. No postal accounts shall be kept between the respective postal departments upon the correspondence exchanged between them under this arrangement, but each department shall deliver the correspondence which it receives from the other free of all postage charge, that is to say, the Hong Kong post department agrees to deliver without charge all letters, newspapers, and prices current, brought by the United States mail packets, addressed to Hong Kong, and, also, to forward without charge all such letters, newspapers, &c., as are addressed to the Chinese ports above named, south of Shanghai; and the United States postal department, on its side, agrees to deliver without charge all letters, newspapers, &c., originating in Hong Kong, or the ports mentioned, and forwarded by said packets addressed to and deliverable in the United States. All letters, newspapers, &c., despatched by either office to the other, under this arrangement, shall be plainly stamped with the words "paid all," in red ink, on the right-hand upper corner of the face of the address, and shall also bear the stamp of the mailing exchange office on their face, and that of the receiving exchange office on their back.

Rates of postage upon letters, newspapers, &c.

No postal accounts to be kept.

ARTICLE IV. The postal departments of the United States and of Hong Kong shall each return to the other, monthly, or as frequently as

Letters, &c. to be stamped "paid all."

Letters, &c. not delivered to

be returned monthly.

their regulations will allow, all letters, newspapers, &c., without claim, which cannot for any cause be delivered.

Exchange of mails between Japan and Hong Kong.

ARTICLE V. An exchange of mails shall also take place between the United States postal agency at Yokohama, Japan, and the Hong Kong Post Office, by means of United States mail packets, comprising correspondence originating in Japan and addressed to Hong Kong and the Chinese ports above designated, and vice versa, correspondence originating in Hong Kong and dependent Chinese ports and addressed to Japan, subject to the same terms and conditions as those established by Article III. of this convention, with respect to the correspondence exchanged between the United States and Hong Kong and dependent Chinese ports.

Letters from Hong Kong to the United States via San Francisco.

ARTICLE VI. All letters, newspapers, and prices current intended to be forwarded from Hong Kong to the United States by the direct line of United States mail packets running between San Francisco and Hong Kong must be specially addressed to be forwarded by that route.

Regulations, and how terminable.

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

When convention to take effect.

ARTICLE VIII. This convention shall come into operation the first day of November, 1867, and shall be terminable at any time on a notice by either office of six months.

In witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand and the seal of
[L. s.] the Post Office Department this twelfth day of November, 1867.

ALEX. W. RANDALL,
Postmaster-General.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the colony of Hong Kong, at Victoria herein, this tenth day of August, 1867.

[L. s.] RICHARD GRAVES MAC DONNELL,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Approved.

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

By the President: ANDREW JOHNSON.
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

WASHINGTON, November 12, 1867.