

*Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Colonial Government of New Zealand. Signed at Washington the 5th of October, 1870, and at Wellington, New Zealand, the 3d of August, 1870, and approved by the President of the United States, October 5, 1870.*

August 3  
and  
October 5, 1870.

THE undersigned, being thereunto duly authorized by their respective governments, have agreed upon the following articles establishing and regulating the exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and the colony of New Zealand:—

ARTICLE I. There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and New Zealand, by means of the direct line of colonial mail packets plying between San Francisco and said colony, as well as by such other means of direct mail steamship transportation between the United States and New Zealand as shall hereafter be established, with the approval of the respective Post Departments of the two countries, comprising letters, newspapers, and printed matter of every kind, originating in either country, and addressed to and deliverable in the other country, as well as correspondence in closed mails originating in New Zealand and destined for foreign countries by way of the United States.

Correspondence to be exchanged.

ARTICLE II. The post-offices of New York, Boston, and San Francisco shall be the United States offices of exchange, and Auckland and Wellington the offices of exchange of the colony of New Zealand, for all mails transmitted under this arrangement.

Offices of exchange.

ARTICLE III. No accounts shall be kept between the Post Departments of the two countries upon the international correspondence, written or printed, exchanged between them, but each country shall retain to its own use the postages which it collects.

No accounts to be kept; each country to retain what it collects.

The single rate of international letter postage shall be twelve cents in the United States, and sixpence in New Zealand, on each letter weighing half an ounce or less, and an additional rate of twelve cents (sixpence) for each additional weight of half an ounce or fraction thereof, which shall, in all cases, be prepaid at least one single rate, by means of postage stamps, at the office of the mailing in either country. Letters unpaid or prepaid less than one full rate of postage shall not be forwarded, but insufficiently paid letters on which a single rate or more has been prepaid shall be forwarded, charged with the deficient postage, to be collected and retained by the Post Department of the country of destination. Letters fully prepaid, received in either country from the other, shall be delivered free of all charge whatsoever.

Rates of letter postage.

Letters unpaid or, &c., not to be forwarded.

The United States post-office shall levy and collect to its own use, on newspapers addressed to or received from New Zealand, a postage charge of two cents; and on all other articles of printed matter addressed to or received from New Zealand, a postage charge of four cents per each weight of four ounces or fraction of four ounces.

Postage on newspapers.

The post-office of New Zealand shall levy and collect to its own use, on newspapers and other articles of printed matter, addressed to or received from the United States, the regular rates of domestic postage chargeable thereon by the laws and regulations of the colony of New Zealand.

Newspapers and all other kinds of printed matter are to be subject to the laws and regulations of each country respectively, in regard to their liability to be rated with letter-postage, when containing written matter,

Provisions as to newspapers.

or for any other cause specified in said laws and regulations, as well as in regard to their liability to customs duty under the revenue laws.

Transit in  
closed mails.

ARTICLE IV. The United States office engages to grant the transit through the United States, as well as the conveyance by United States mail packets, of the correspondence in closed mails which the New Zealand post-office may desire to transmit via the United States to British Columbia, the British North American provinces, the West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America, and at the following rates of United States transit-postage, viz.:—

Rates of tran-  
sit postage.

For the United States territorial transit of closed mails from New Zealand for Mexico, British Columbia, Canada, or other British North American provinces, when transmitted entirely by land routes, six cents per ounce for letter mails and sixteen cents per pound for all kinds of printed matter.

For the United States territorial and sea transit of closed mails from New Zealand for British Columbia or other British North American provinces, Mexico, Central and South America, or the West India Islands, when transmitted from the United States by sea, twenty-five cents per ounce for letter mails and twenty cents per pound for all kinds of printed matter.

New Zealand  
post-office to  
render accounts;

The New Zealand post-office shall render an account to the United States post-office, upon letter-bills to accompany each mail, of the weight of the letters, and also of the printed matter contained in such closed mails forwarded to the United States for transmission to either of the above-named countries and colonies; and the accounts arising between the two offices on this class of correspondence shall be stated, adjusted, and settled quarterly, and the amounts of the United States transit charges found due on such closed mails shall be promptly paid over by the New Zealand post-office to the United States post-office, in such manner as the Postmaster-General of the United States shall prescribe.

accounts to be  
settled quarter-  
ly.

Prepaid letters  
to be delivered  
without charge.

ARTICLE V. Prepaid letters from foreign countries received in and forwarded from the United States to New Zealand, shall be delivered in said colony free of all charges whatsoever, and letters received in New Zealand from the United States addressed to New South Wales, or Australia, will be forwarded to destination, subject to the same conditions as are applicable to correspondence originating in New Zealand and addressed to those countries.

If any Austra-  
lian colony does  
not contribute to  
maintain the line  
of mail packets.

ARTICLE VI. In the event of any of the Australian colonies not agreeing with New Zealand to contribute to the maintenance of any line of mail packets plying between New Zealand and the United States of America, and subsidized by New Zealand, the New Zealand post-office may require the United States post-office not to forward by such subsidized packets any mails, letters, newspapers, or other articles addressed to such colony, and the New Zealand post-office may refuse to transmit to their destination all mails, letters, newspapers, or other printed matter addressed to such colony, and received in New Zealand from the United States by such subsidized packets, and may refuse to forward to their destination by such subsidized packets, all mails, letters, newspapers, or other printed matter received in New Zealand from such colony, and addressed to the United States of America; or elsewhere.

Registered ar-  
ticles.

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

Fee.

The register fee for each article shall be ten cents in the United States, and \_\_\_\_\_ in New Zealand.

Detailed regu-  
lations to be  
made.

ARTICLE VIII. 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.

ARTICLE IX. Every fully prepaid letter dispatched from one country to the other shall be plainly stamped with the words "Paid all" in red ink, on the right-hand upper corner of the address, in addition to the date stamp of the office at which it was posted; and on insufficiently paid letters the amount of the deficient postage shall be inscribed in black ink. Letters, how to be stamped.

ARTICLE X. Dead letters, 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. Dead letters to be returned.

ARTICLE XI. This convention shall come into operation on the first day of December, 1870, and shall be terminable at any time, on a notice by either office of six months. Convention when to take effect, and when terminable.

Done in duplicate and signed in Washington the fifth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, and in Wellington, New Zealand, on the third day of August, in the same year.

[SEAL.]

JNO. A. J. CRESWELL,  
*Postmaster-General of the United States.*

[SEAL.]

JULIUS LOYD,  
*Postmaster-General of New Zealand.*

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

U. S. GRANT.

By the President:

[SEAL.] HAMILTON FISH,  
*Secretary of State.*

WASHINGTON, October 5, 1870.

