

Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Provinces of Vancouver's Island and British Columbia. Signed at Washington on the 9th of June, 1870, and at Victoria the 25th of July, 1870; Approved by the President of the United States on the 5th of October, 1870.

June 9
and
July 25, 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 provinces of Vancouver's Island and British Columbia.

ARTICLE I. There shall be an exchange of mails between the United States and the provinces of Vancouver's Island and British Columbia, at the following points, viz.: On the side of the United States, at Boston, New York, San Francisco, Portland, (Oregon.) Olympia; on the side of Vancouver's Island and British Columbia, Victoria. The two Post Departments may at any time discontinue either of said offices of exchange, or establish others, by mutual consent.

Exchange of mails and offices of exchange.

ARTICLE II. The mails exchanged between the offices of Boston, New York, San Francisco, and Portland on the one side, and Victoria on the other, are to pass each way as through mails, not to be opened at any intermediate office.

Through mails.

ARTICLE III. The authorized weight of a single international letter shall be fifteen grammes (by the metrical scale) in the United States, and half an ounce in Vancouver's Island and British Columbia. The postage on a single international letter shall be six cents if prepaid at the mailing office in either country, and ten cents if posted unpaid; and for other than single letters the same charges shall be made for each additional fifteen grammes, (or half ounce,) or fraction thereof. Letters insufficiently paid shall be transmitted as wholly unpaid. But, if one or more full rates shall be prepaid, the number of rates fully prepaid shall be always allowed, and the deficient postage only rated up for collection on delivery.

Weight of single letter, and rates of postage.

Letters insufficiently paid.

ARTICLE IV. No accounts shall be kept between the Post Departments of the United States and of Vancouver's Island and British Columbia, on the international letters exchanged between them, but each shall retain to its own use the postages which it collects.

No accounts to be kept between the departments; each to retain postages.

ARTICLE V. Newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and all other printed matter posted in the United States and sent to the provinces of Vancouver's Island or British Columbia, or posted in those provinces and sent to the United States, shall be chargeable with the regular domestic rates of postage, both to and from the frontier line in each country; which postage shall be collected at the office of mailing, on matter sent, and at the office of delivery, on matter received; and each country shall retain to its own use the postages which it thus collects.

Postage on newspapers, pamphlets, &c.

ARTICLE VI. Each mail dispatched from one country to the other shall be accompanied by a letter or post bill, showing the number of each of the articles comprising the mail, and distinguishing the paid letters from the unpaid and insufficiently paid letters, with their postage in separate columns.

Post bill to accompany each mail.

ARTICLE VII. Prepaid letters dispatched from one country to the other shall be plainly stamped with the words "Paid all," in red ink, in the right-hand upper corner of the address, in addition to the date stamp of the office of origin; and in like manner and place, the letters insufficiently paid shall be stamped in black ink with the words "short paid,"

Prepaid, &c. letters, how to be stamped.

in addition to the date stamp of the office of origin; and the number of rates unpaid shall also be expressed in black figures on the face of the same.

Dead letters to be returned. ARTICLE VIII. 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 countries will permit. **Printed matter to be retained.** But newspapers and all other articles of printed matter, which from any cause cannot be delivered, shall be retained at the disposition of the receiving country.

Registered letters; ARTICLE IX. Letters alleged to be valuable, posted at any office in the United States or their Territories, and addressed to Vancouver's Island or British Columbia, or posted in Vancouver's Island or British Columbia, and addressed to the United States or their Territories, and deliverable at any of the respective offices of exchange, to be thence conveyed to their destination, shall be registered at the office of mailing on the application of the person posting the same; provided that the full postage chargeable thereon to destination, together with a registration fee of five cents on each letter, be prepaid at such mailing office; and provided also that such registration shall not be compulsory, and shall not render the respective Post-Office Departments, or their revenues, either jointly or separately, liable for the loss of such letters or packets, or the contents thereof.

to be prepaid with registration fee.
Registration not compulsory, and no liability for loss.

Registered letters mailed in the interior of either country. ARTICLE X. All such letters mailed in the interior of the United States or Vancouver's Island or British Columbia, respectively, shall be received, registered, and receipted for as directed in the general regulations issued in each country in regard to the registration of valuable letters, and shall be sent to the respective exchange offices for the purpose of being forwarded thence by the first mail.

Separate letter-bills for registered letters. ARTICLE XI. The respective exchange offices shall make a separate letter-bill for each registered letter or parcel of registered letters originally mailed at said exchange offices, or sent to them, to be forwarded, as prescribed by the regulations referred to in the preceding article, and shall enter therein the name of the person addressed, and the post-office to which it is to be mailed for delivery. The postmaster of said exchange office will then inclose each such letter, or parcel of letters, in a separate package, which shall be conspicuously marked and plainly inscribed with the word "Registered." The letter-bills of such registered letters shall not be inclosed in the packages containing them, but shall be forwarded in a separate wrapper or envelope, sealed, and addressed to the postmaster of the office to which such registered letters were sent.

Duty of postmaster of receiving office as to registered letters. ARTICLE XII. On receipt of registered letters for delivery or distribution at either of the respective exchange offices, the postmaster of such receiving office will compare the letters with the bill, and indorse it "Correct," if found so; or will note the error, if there be one, in the manner prescribed with regard to registered letters received from an inland post-office. He will then fill up the corresponding return bill, noting upon it whether correct or otherwise, and will see that it is returned by the first mail thereafter to the exchange office of mailing.

Registered letters destined for an inland post-office. ARTICLE XIII. Registered letters received at either of the exchange offices and destined for an inland post-office shall be forwarded in the same manner as other registered letters originally mailed at such office.

Registration fees, how accounted for. ARTICLE XIV. The registration fee of five cents shall accrue to the United States Post-Office Department upon all registered letters sent from the United States to Vancouver's Island or British Columbia, and in like manner the registration fee of five cents shall accrue to the Post-Office Department of Vancouver's Island and British Columbia upon all registered letters sent from Vancouver's Island or British Columbia to the United States.

Detailed regulations. ARTICLE XV. The two departments may, by mutual consent, make

such detailed regulations as shall be found necessary to carry out the objects of this convention, and may modify the same from time to time, as the exigencies of the service may require ; such regulations to terminate at any time on a reasonable notice by either department.

ARTICLE XVI. This convention shall go into operation on the 1st of July, 1870, and it may be annulled at the desire of either department upon six months' previous notice. When convention to go into effect.

Done in duplicate, and executed in Washington the 9th day of June, 1870, and in Victoria the 25th day of July, 1870. Execution.

[SEAL.]

JNO. A. J. CRESWELL,

Postmaster-General of the United States.

[SEAL.]

ARTHUR T. BUSHBY,

Postmaster-General of British Columbia.

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

U. S. GRANT.

By the President:

HAMILTON FISH,

Secretary of State.

[SEAL.]

WASHINGTON, October 5, 1870.

