

Postal Convention between the United States of America and Venezuela.

July 19, 1865;
June 26, 1866.

ARTICLE I. An exchange of mails shall hereafter take place between the United States of America and Venezuela by the ordinary routes of sea transportation, as well by private ships as by American or Venezuelan steam or other mail packets plying between the seaports of the two countries.

Mails to be exchanged.

ARTICLE II. Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and New Orleans shall be the exchange offices on the side of the United States, and Cdad Bolivar, Laguaira, Porto Cabello, and Maracaibo shall be the offices of exchange on the side of Venezuela 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.

Mail matter, how to be transmitted.

ARTICLE III. No accounts shall be kept between the Post-Office Departments of the two countries upon the correspondence, written or printed, exchanged between them; but the country which despatches mails to the other shall levy, collect, and retain, exclusively to its own use, such rates of inland postage as are now or may hereafter be established by its laws for domestic correspondence, together with the sea rates of postage hereinafter prescribed; which inland and sea postage shall be combined into one rate and collected by the despatching country in advance; the prepayment thereof to be certified by the appropriate official stamp of the despatching office.

No accounts between the two offices.

Each to collect its own postage.

Prepayment.

There shall be charged for sea postage upon letters, newspapers, and prints of all kinds, in sheets, in pamphlets, and in books, sheets of music, engravings, lithographs, photographs, drawings, maps and plans, conveyed by vessels of the United States or of Venezuela between the ports of the two countries, the following rates, that is to say:—

Sea postage.

Upon all letters or other communications in manuscript which are subject by the laws of either country to letter rate of postage, the rate of seven cents United States currency, or its equivalent in the currency of Venezuela, for each weight of half an ounce American or fraction of half an ounce.

On letters;

2d. Upon each newspaper, daily or other, the rate of one cent United States currency, or its equivalent in the currency of Venezuela.

newspapers;

3d. Upon prints of all kinds, in sheets, in pamphlets, or in books, sheets of music, engravings, lithographs, photographs, drawings, maps and plans, the rate of one cent United States currency, or its equivalent in the currency of Venezuela, for each ounce or fraction of an ounce in weight.

prints.

The said newspapers and other printed matter shall be enclosed in narrow bands or covers open at the sides or ends, so that they may be easily examined, subject to the laws and regulations of each country respectively.

Printed matter, how to be enclosed.

ARTICLE IV. Upon all letters and articles of printed matter enumerated in Article III. received in the United States of America from Venezuela by sea, there will be charged by the United States such rates of inland postage as are now or may hereafter be established by the laws of the United States, which shall be collected at the place of destination, and shall belong exclusively to the United States of America; and *vice versa* upon all letters and like articles of printed matter received in Venezuela from the United States of America by sea, there

Inland postage in the United States.

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will be charged by Venezuela such rates of inland postage as are now or may hereafter be established by the laws of Venezuela, which shall be collected at the place of destination, and shall belong exclusively to Venezuela.

Expense of sea transportation.

Each country shall defray the entire expense of sea transportation of the mails which it shall despatch to the other country.

Mailable articles exempt from other rates.

ARTICLE V. It is distinctly agreed that all mailable articles despatched from one country to the other shall be exempt in the country of destination from any rate or fee whatever beyond the charges prescribed by this convention, and shall be free from any detention or inspection, and promptly delivered to the persons addressed, being subject in their transmission to the laws and regulations of each country respectively.

Letters, not delivered, to be returned.

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

Newspapers.

Free transit for closed mails.

ARTICLE VII. The Post Departments of the United States and of Venezuela reciprocally engage to grant each to the other the gratuitous conveyance across their respective territories of all correspondence which shall be exchanged in closed mails with any countries to which they may respectively serve as intermediaries, provided always that such conveyance shall be effected by the ordinary means of mail conveyance in use, and that the countries taking the benefits of such gratuitous service shall reciprocally accord the like privilege of free transit across their respective territories. The privilege is also accorded to each administration of sending an agent, at its own expense, in charge of the mails in transit. The further privilege is accorded 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 final destination.

Agent.

Rates for correspondence despatched to be forwarded.

ARTICLE VIII. Correspondence of all kinds which either department shall despatch to the other for the purpose of being thence forwarded in its mails to another country of destination to which prepayment is optional, shall be subject to the rates established by Article III. of this convention, added to the interior rate in force beyond the frontier of the forwarding country, so that only one interior rate shall be received by the forwarding department.

Correspondence between each government and its legation to be free.

ARTICLE IX. The 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 both governments may find necessary for its inviolability and security.

Amendments hereto may be made.

ARTICLE X. In case any change or amendment in the provisions of this convention shall be desired by either party, the same may be proposed by such party; and when the details thereof shall be agreed to and approved by both parties, this convention shall be considered as changed or amended accordingly.

This convention when to take effect, and how long to continue.

ARTICLE XI. 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 of the two Post Departments shall have given to the other a previous notice of one year of its intention to abrogate the same.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington on the 19th day of July, A. D. 1865, and at Caracas on the 26th day of June, A. D. 1866.

[L. s.]

W. DENNISON,

Postmaster-General.

[L. s.]

J. M. ALVAREZ LUGO,
Minister of Internal Improvements.