

Convention for the Regulation of the Postal Intercourse between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Denmark. Nov. 7 and Dec. 1, 1871.

THE Post Department of the United States of America and the Danish Post Department have agreed upon employing the steamers in regular service between their territories, as well as the steamers engaged between Hamburg and Bremen on the one side, and American ports on the other, in order to establish an immediate exchange of mails, and have, for that purpose, consented to the following articles:

Exchange of mails between the United States and Denmark.

ARTICLE I.

There shall be an immediate exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and Denmark by means of the said steamers, and this correspondence shall embrace letters, newspapers, book-packets, prints of all kinds, (comprising maps, plans, engravings, drawings, photographs, lithographs, and all other like productions of mechanical processes, sheets of music, &c.,) and patterns or samples of merchandise; and such correspondence may be exchanged, whether originating in either of the said countries, or originating in countries to which these may respectively serve as intermediaries.

Correspondence, to include what.

ARTICLE II.

The exchange of correspondence shall take place between the post-offices to be hereafter designated by the two post departments; but either of the two offices so designated may at any time be discontinued, and others established by mutual consent.

Offices of exchange.

ARTICLE III.

The United States office shall make its own arrangements for the dispatch of its mails to Denmark, and in like manner the office of Denmark shall make its own arrangements for the dispatch of its mails to the United States. The mails shall be reciprocally forwarded by the regular routes of communication hereinbefore mentioned, and each office shall, at its own cost, pay the expense of the intermediate transportation (sea and territorial) of the mails which it dispatches to the other. It is also agreed that the cost, either in whole or in part, of the international ocean and territorial transit of the closed mails exchanged in both directions between the respective frontiers shall, upon application of either office, be first defrayed by that one of the two offices which shall have obtained from the intermediaries the most favorable pecuniary terms for such conveyance, and any amount so advanced by one for and on account of the other shall be promptly reimbursed.

Each country to dispatch its mails by regular routes.

Cost of international and territorial transit of closed mails.

ARTICLE IV.

The postage on ordinary letters sent from the United States to Denmark, or from Denmark to the United States, shall be respectively twelve (12) skilling rigsmønt, or seven (7) cents for a single letter.

Letter-postage;

The weight of a single letter shall not exceed fifteen grammes.

weight and rates of letters.

Letter postage. For every letter exceeding fifteen grammes there shall be paid a single rate of postage for every additional fifteen grammes or fraction of fifteen grammes. The weight stated by the dispatching office shall always be accepted, except in cases of manifest error.

The maximum weight of letters shall be two hundred and fifty (250) grammes.

ARTICLE V.

Prepayment of postage optional. Unpaid, &c., letters. The prepayment of postage on ordinary letters shall be optional. If they shall be forwarded unpaid, or insufficiently paid, they shall, in the first case, be charged, besides the usual postage, with an additional postage of respectively four (4) cents, or six (6) skilling rigsmønt, and in the last case, besides the deficient postage, with similar additional postage.

ARTICLE VI.

Rates for other correspondence. On all other correspondence in the first article mentioned, the rates shall be, for the mails dispatched, that which the dispatching office shall adopt, adapted to the convenience and habits of its interior administration.

Notice. But each office shall give notice to the other of the rate it adopts and of any subsequent change thereof. These articles shall be forwarded under regulations of the dispatching post-office, but always including the following:

Regulations for forwarding; postage to be prepaid;

1. The postage shall be prepaid. If, however, the postage on the correspondence mentioned in this article should not be wholly prepaid, the said correspondence shall still be forwarded to the place of destination; but it shall, in that case, beside the deficient postage, be charged with an additional postage, not exceeding four (4) cents in the United States, and six (6) skilling rigsmønt in Denmark.

packets not to contain, &c.;

2. No packet shall contain any thing which shall be closed against inspection, nor any written communication whatever, except to state from whom and to whom the packet is sent, and the number and price placed upon each pattern or sample of merchandise.

dimensions of packets;

3. No packet may exceed two feet in length, or one foot in any other dimension.

prohibited articles;

4. Neither office shall be bound to deliver any article the importation of which may be prohibited by the laws or regulations of the country of destination.

customs duties.

5. The customs duties that may be chargeable in each of the two countries may be levied for the use of the customs.

ARTICLE VII.

Registered correspondence. Rates of postage; to be prepaid. Any correspondence mentioned in Article I. may be registered, and the postage chargeable on such correspondence shall always be prepaid. Registered correspondence shall, in addition to the postage, be subject to an international registration fee not exceeding ten (10) cents in the United States, and eight (8) skilling rigsmønt in Denmark, and this fee shall always be prepaid. Each office is at liberty to reduce this fee for the mails it dispatches. Each department shall use its best exertions for the safe delivery of registered correspondence, but is not responsible pecuniarily for the loss of any such correspondence.

No responsibility for loss.

ARTICLE VIII.

No other charges, &c.

It is further agreed that no charge of any kind, or on any account, otherwise than is herein expressly provided, shall be levied or collected in the country of destination on the letters or other correspondence exchanged.

ARTICLE IX.

As to the correspondence originating in one country and destined for the other, no account shall take place, and thus the post-office of the United States shall retain the whole amount of postage collected in the United States upon international paid correspondence forwarded to Denmark, and upon international unpaid or insufficiently paid correspondence received from Denmark; and in like manner the Danish post-office shall retain the whole amount of postage collected in Denmark upon international paid correspondence forwarded to the United States, and upon international unpaid or insufficiently paid correspondence received from the United States.

Each post-office to retain postage collected on, &c

However, each of the two departments shall be at liberty to claim accounts to be settled when it appears that in one country for one year there is levied twenty per cent more than in the other. If an account is claimed, it shall be regulated on the following basis:

Either country may claim an account.

From the total amount of postages and register fees collected by each office on letters, added to the total amount of prepaid postages and register fees on other correspondence which it dispatches, the dispatching office shall deduct the amount required for the conveyance of the mails between the two countries, and the amount of the two net sums shall be equally divided between the two offices.

Basis of account.

The deficient and additional postages mentioned in Article VI. shall not be included in the account between the two offices, but, unshared, shall belong to the office by which they are collected.

ARTICLE X.

The two post departments shall establish, by agreement, and in conformity with the arrangements in force at the time, the conditions upon which the two offices may respectively exchange in open mails the correspondence originating in or destined to other foreign countries to which they may reciprocally serve as intermediaries. It is always understood, however, that such correspondence shall only be charged with the American-Danish rate, augmented by the postage due to foreign countries, or for other exterior service.

Exchange of correspondence in open mails.

Rates.

It is agreed that the account of this correspondence shall, as to the international postages chargeable on the same, be regulated on the basis mentioned in the preceding article; but that the amount of the extra national postage, or other tax for exterior service, shall be reciprocally accounted for at full rates. Such charges for paid correspondence to, and for unpaid correspondence from, foreign countries, shall therefore be summarily entered on the respective letter-bills to the credit of the country through which the same is forwarded.

Basis of accounts.

ARTICLE XI.

The Post-office of the United States shall be granted the privilege of transit of closed mails through the Danish territory, exchanged in either direction, to and from Sweden and Norway, for a payment of four skilling rigsmønt per thirty (30) grammes net weight of letters, and two-thirds skilling rigsmønt per forty (40) grammes net weight of prints, patterns, and samples of merchandise. Correspondence exempt from postage, letters which cannot be delivered, as well as money-orders, shall not be charged with any transit rate.

Transit of closed mails through either country.

Reciprocally, the United States office grants to the office of Denmark the privilege of transit of the closed mails exchanged in either direction between the latter and any country to which the former may serve as intermediary, by its usual means of mail transportation, whether on sea

or land, and the terms of transit shall be agreed upon when the exercise of the privilege is required.

ARTICLE XII.

Postal accounts to be transmitted quarterly. The postal accounts between the two offices shall be stated and transmitted quarterly, and verified as speedily as possible, and the balance found due shall be paid in the coin of the creditor country.

Rate for conversion of money. The rate for the conversion of the money of the two countries shall be one dollar for one rigsdaler, eighty-five skilling rigsmont. The two offices shall, however, always be at liberty to agree upon another rate for the conversion.

ARTICLE XIII.

Missent correspondence, &c., to be returned. Any ordinary correspondence wrongly addressed, or wrongly sent, shall without delay, and registered correspondence of all kinds, as well as ordinary letters not deliverable for any other cause than the aforesaid, within the issue of every month, be mutually returned at the expense of the originating office. All other correspondence which cannot be delivered shall remain at the disposition of the receiving office.

If any returned correspondence shall be charged with postage debited the office of destination, the said correspondence shall be returned for the amount of postage which was originally charged by the dispatching office.

ARTICLE XIV.

Transfer of closed mails from vessel to vessel. When, in any port of either country, a closed mail is transferred from one vessel to another, without any expense to the office of the country where the transfer is made, such transfer shall not be subject to any postal charge by one office against the other.

ARTICLE XV.

Official communications. Official communications between the two offices shall not be the occasion of any accounts on either side.

ARTICLE XVI.

Detailed regulations. See pp. 908, 911. The two offices shall, by mutual consent, establish the detailed regulations which the carrying into execution of the articles included in this convention may require.

ARTICLE XVII.

When convention takes effect, and how long to continue; The present convention shall be carried into effect on the day on which the two offices shall agree, and shall continue in force until one of the two contracting parties shall have announced to the other, within the issue of a calendar year, its intention to terminate it.

ARTICLE XVIII.

when to be ratified. The present convention is to be ratified, and the ratifications are to be exchanged as soon as possible.

Done at Copenhagen, in duplicate original, this 7th day of November, 1871, and at Washington this 1st day of December, 1871.

[SEAL.]

JNO. A. J. CRESWELL,

Postmaster-General.

[SEAL.]

DANNESKJOLD SAMSOE.

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

[SEAL.]

U. S. GRANT.

By the President:

HAMILTON FISH, *Secretary of State.*

WASHINGTON, December 1, 1871.

TRANSLATION.

We, Christian the Ninth, by the grace of God King of Denmark, the Vandals and Goths, Duke of Slesvig, Holstein, Stormarn, Ditmarsh, Lauenborg, and Oldenborg, have most graciously deigned, on our part, to ratify the foregoing convention by our signature.

Done at our capital and residence, Copenhagen, on the 20th of March, 1872.

Under our hand and royal seal, in his Majesty's name.

[SEAL.]

FREDERIK,
Prince Royal.

Countersigned:

O. D. ROSSENÖRN-LEHN.