

April 23, 1874. *Postal convention between the United States of America and the Republic of France.*

Contracting parties. The undersigned, John A. J. Creswell, Postmaster-General of the United States of America, in virtue of the powers vested in him by law, and M. Amédée Bartholdi, officer of the national order of the Legion of Honor, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from France at Washington, &c., in the name of his government and by virtue of the powers which he has formally presented to this effect, have agreed upon the following articles, viz :

ARTICLE I.

Matter to be exchanged. There shall be between the postal administration of France and the postal administration of the United States an exchange, in closed mails, of letters, samples of merchandise, photographs, and printed matter of all kinds, by the following means of communication and transportation, viz :

Lines of exchange. 1st. By the French mail-packets.

2d. By the packets of the Hamburg line.

3d. By the way of England and the packets employed in transporting the mails between Great Britain and the United States.

Expenses of exchange. The expenses arising from the transportation of the mails by any one of the above-mentioned routes shall be defrayed by the dispatching office; but it is understood that these expenses shall be defrayed in both directions by that of the two administrations which is able to secure the transportation upon the most favorable terms, the other administration to reimburse to it its share of the said expenses.

Sea-rates by French packets. The United States postal administration, however, shall pay to the postal administration of France, for the conveyance of the mails sent from the United States to France by means of the French packets, the same sea-rates as those which the said United States postal administration would pay, according to American legislation, for the maritime conveyance of the same mails by steamers of commerce. It is also understood that these rates are not to be lower than those which the postal administration of France shall have to pay for the conveyance by the Hamburg packets of the mails which it shall send by these packets to the United States.

ARTICLE II.

Postage on ordinary letters prepaid or postpaid. Persons who desire to send ordinary, that is to say not registered, letters, either from France and Algeria, for the United States and its territories, or from the United States and its territories for France and Algeria, may, at their option, leave the postage on said letters to be paid by the addressees, or they can prepay said postage to destination.

ARTICLE III.

Rates of charges on letters. The charge to be levied in France upon letters originating in or addressed to the United States shall be 50 centimes per 10 grammes or fraction of 10 grammes, under the reservation for the French government of the power of hereafter applying the progression of 15 grammes. The charge to be levied in the United States upon letters originating in or addressed to France shall be 9 cents per 15 grammes or fraction of 15 grammes. Independently of the charges mentioned above, a fixed fee of 25 centimes, or 5 cents, as the case may be, shall be levied upon the unpaid letters.

In regard to the letters insufficiently paid by means of postage-stamps, they shall be treated as unpaid letters, saving deduction of the amount of the postage-stamps; but when the charge resulting from this deduction shall give a fraction of half *décime* French, or of a cent American, an entire half *décime* or cent, as the case may be, shall be levied for the fraction.

Letters insufficiently paid.

ARTICLE IV.

The public of the two countries may send letters, registered, from one country to the other.

Registered letters.

The postage on such registered letters must always be prepaid to destination.

Every registered letter sent from France and Algeria to the United States and its territories shall bear, on departure, in addition to the postage applicable to an ordinary paid letter of the same weight, a fixed fee of 50 centimes; and, reciprocally, every registered letter sent from the United States and its territories to France and Algeria shall bear, on departure, in addition to the postage applicable to a paid letter of the same weight, a fixed fee of 10 cents.

ARTICLE V.

Samples of merchandise or of grains, photographs, engravings, and lithographs, newspapers, periodicals, sewed or bound books, pamphlets, sheets of music, catalogues, prospectuses, announcements, and various circulars, printed, engraved, lithographed, or autographed, which shall be sent either from France and Algeria to the United States and its territories, or from the United States and its territories to France and Algeria, must be prepaid, on both sides, to destination.

Samples of merchandise, engravings, books, &c.

The rates of prepayment shall be fixed by the government of the country of origin.

ARTICLE VI.

Each administration shall retain the whole amount of the sums which it shall have collected by authority of Articles III, IV, and V preceding.

Retention of prepaid charges.

It is formally agreed, between the two contracting parties, that such objects as are designated in the said article, which shall have been prepaid to destination, cannot, under any pretext or title whatever, be subjected, in the country of destination, to any postage or fee to the charge of the addressees.

No further charge on prepaid articles.

ARTICLE VII.

The two administrations may reciprocally deliver in open mails ordinary letters and printed matter of all kinds coming from or addressed to the countries to which they serve respectively as intermediaries; and also registered letters coming from or addressed to such of those countries to which the payment of ordinary letters can be effected to destination.

Open mails to and from other countries.

Intermediary service.

This delivery shall take place according to the following arrangements:

The correspondence exchanged between France or Algeria and the countries to which the United States serve as intermediaries shall be made subject to the following settlements:

1st. To the payment by the French administration, to the American administration, when the postage shall be collected in France or Algeria, of a rate of postage equal to that which is paid by the inhabitants of the United States for the correspondence which they exchange with the same countries.

2d. To the payment by the American administration to the French administration, when the postage shall be collected in the countries to which the United States serve as intermediaries, of a rate of French postage of 4 cents per 10 grammes or fraction of 10 grammes for ordinary letters, of 8 cents per 10 grammes or fraction of 10 grammes for reg-

istered letters, and of 1 cent per 40 grammes or fraction of 40 grammes for printed matter of all kinds.

Reciprocally the correspondence exchanged between the United States and the countries to which France serves as intermediary, shall be made subject to the following settlements:

1st. To the payment by the American administration to the French administration, when the postage shall be collected in the United States, of a rate of postage equal to that which is paid by the inhabitants of France and Algeria for correspondence which they exchange with the same countries.

2d. To the payment by the French administration to the American administration, when the postage shall be collected in the countries to which France serves as intermediary, of an American rate of postage of 20 centimes per 15 grammes or fraction of 15 grammes for ordinary letters; and of 40 centimes per 15 grammes or fraction of 15 grammes for registered letters, and of 5 centimes per 40 grammes or fraction of 40 grammes for printed matter of all kinds.

The correspondence exchanged between the countries to which France serves as intermediary and the countries to which the United States serve as intermediaries, shall be made subject to the following settlements:

1st. To the payment by the French administration to the American administration, if the postage on the correspondence is collected in the countries to which France serves as intermediary, of a rate of postage equal to the postage paid by the inhabitants of the United States for the correspondence which they exchange with the countries to which the United States serve as intermediaries.

2d. To the payment by the American administration to the French administration, if the postage on the correspondence is collected in the countries to which the United States serve as intermediaries, of a rate of postage equal to that paid by the inhabitants of France and Algeria for the correspondence which they exchange with the countries to which France serves as intermediary.

The expenses of intermediate transportation between France and the United States of the correspondence to which apply the provisions of the present article shall be defrayed by that of the two postal administrations of France or of the United States by which, or on the side of which, the postage shall be collected.

Samples of merchandise, conditions as to.

ARTICLE VIII.

Samples of merchandise shall not be admitted to the benefits of a reduced rate, unless they are in themselves of no commercial value, unless they are placed under band, or in such a manner as to leave no doubt of their nature, and unless they bear no other writing by the hand than the address, a mark of fabric or of the merchant, numbers of order, and price.

Photographs and printed matter.

In order to benefit by a reduced rate, the photographs and printed matter mentioned in Articles V and VII should also be placed under band, and bear no writing, figure, or sign whatever, made by hand, except the address, the signature of the sender, or a date.

The samples of merchandise, photographs, and printed matter which do not fulfill the conditions mentioned above, or which have not been prepaid to the fixed limit, shall be considered as letters, and charged accordingly.

It is understood that the provisions contained in the present article, and in Articles V and VII preceding, do not impair in any manner the right of the postal administrations of the two countries not to permit upon their respective territories the transportation and distribution of photographs, lithographs, engravings, and printed matter, which are not in accordance with the laws, ordinances, or decrees which regulate the conditions of their publication and circulation both in France and in the United States.

ARTICLE IX.

The postal administrations of France and of the United States shall not admit to destination in either of the two countries, or in the countries using their intermediary, any package or letter containing gold or silver money, jewels, or articles of intrinsic value, or any object subject to customs-duty. Packages containing articles of intrinsic value, or dutiable articles.

Liquids and articles which may injure the correspondence, and which are prohibited in the country of destination, shall not be admitted under any form to be dispatched through the post-office. Liquids.

No package of more than 60 centimetres or 2 feet, American, in length, and of more than 30 centimetres or 1 foot, American, in the other dimensions, can be sent from one of the two countries to the other through the post-office. Size of packages.

ARTICLE X.

The French government agrees to cause to be transported, in closed mails, either across France or by means of the French maritime postal service, the correspondence which the postal administration of the United States may desire to exchange with other countries by the intermediary of the French post-office; and reciprocally the Government of the United States agrees to cause to be transported, in closed mails, either across the United States or by means of American maritime postal services, the correspondence which the postal administration of France may desire to exchange with other countries by the intermediary of the United States post-office. Closed mails by intermediary service.

The postal administration of France shall pay to the postal administration of the United States, viz:

1st. The sum of 6 francs per kilogramme on letters, and 1 franc per kilogramme on samples and prints, for the transportation across the territory of the United States of the closed mails which shall be exchanged between France and other countries via San Francisco.

2d. The sum of 10 francs per kilogramme on letters, and 1 franc per kilogramme on samples and printed matter, for the transportation across the territory of the United States of the closed mails which shall be exchanged by any other route than that of San Francisco between France and its colonies, or all other places where it shall have postal establishments, or the countries with which it is at present bound by postal conventions.

Reciprocally the postal administration of the United States shall pay to the postal administration of France, viz:

1st. The sum of \$1.20 per kilogramme on letters, and 20 cents per kilogramme on patterns and printed matter, for the transportation across French territory of the closed mails which shall be exchanged between the United States and other States by the Franco-Belgian or Franco-German frontier.

2d. The sum of \$2 per kilogramme on letters, and 20 cents per kilogramme on samples and prints, for the transportation across French territory of the closed mails which shall be exchanged by all other points of the French frontier than those contiguous to Germany or to Belgium between the United States and the countries with which the Government of the United States is at present bound by postal conventions.

When the closed mails coming from or addressed to France shall be transported between the French frontier and the American frontier by the packets of the Hamburg line, the postal administration of France shall pay to the postal administration of the United States, in addition to the American territorial transit-rates above mentioned, the sum of 10 francs per kilogramme on letters, and the sum of 50 centimes per kilogramme on samples and printed matter, which may be contained in these mails.

Reciprocally, when the closed mails coming from or addressed to the United States shall be transported between the American frontier and

the French frontier by the French mail-packets, the United States postal administration shall pay to the postal administration of France, in addition to the French territorial transit-rates above mentioned, the sum of \$2 per kilogramme on letters, and 10 cents per kilogramme on samples and printed matter, which may be contained in these mails.

The maritime postage for which the two postal administrations of France and of the United States will have to reciprocally account for upon the correspondence of all kinds transported in closed mails, by packets other than those navigating between France and the United States, will be the same as those applicable to correspondence of the same nature coming from or addressed to the countries which assure the maritime transportation of the said closed mails.

It is understood that the weight of the correspondence of all kinds which is found undeliverable, as also that of the letter-bills and other documents of account arising from the exchange of the correspondence transported in closed mails by either of the two administrations for the account of the other, shall not be included in the weight of the letters, samples, or printed matter, upon which should be levied the territorial and maritime transit-rates required in virtue of the present article.

ARTICLE XI.

Quarterly accounts and settlements.

There shall be prepared every three months, by the postal administration of France, particular accounts, recapitulating the proceedings of the transmission of the correspondence between the respective exchange-offices.

These accounts, which shall have for basis and vouchers the acknowledgments of receipt for the mails during the quarterly period, shall be summed up in a general account, designed to present the definitive results of the transmission of the correspondence exchanged between the two administrations.

After having been reciprocally examined and approved, the general account above mentioned shall be paid, by the administration recognized as debtor towards the other, in the course of the second quarter following that to which the account refers.

The balances of the accounts shall be paid as follows, viz :

1st. In drafts upon Washington, and in American money, when the balance is in favor of the United States office.

2d. In drafts upon Paris, and in French money, when the balance is in favor of the French office.

In the establishment of the accounts, and in all matters relative to the execution of the convention, the dollar shall be considered the equivalent of 5 francs 20 centimes.

ARTICLE XII.

Letters and packages wrongly addressed, &c.

Ordinary or registered letters, samples of merchandise, photographs, and printed matter, wrongly addressed or wrongly sent, shall be, without delay, reciprocally returned through the intermediary of the respective exchange-offices for the weight and rate at which the sending office shall have delivered these objects in account to the other office.

Return of letters, &c.

Articles of the same nature, which may have been sent to addressees who have left for the country of origin of these letters, shall be respectively returned, charged with the postage which would have been paid by the addressees.

Ordinary letters and articles under band, which shall have originally been delivered to the postal administration of France, or to the postal administration of the United States, by other administrations, and which, in consequence of change of residence of the addressees, must be returned from one of the two countries to the other, shall be reciprocally delivered, charged with the postage required at the place of first destination.

ARTICLE XIII.

Ordinary or registered letters, samples of merchandise, photographs, and printed matter, exchanged in open mails between the two postal administrations of France and of the United States, and which shall be found undeliverable, for any cause whatsoever, must be reciprocally returned at the end of each month, and oftener if possible. Letters and packages found undeliverable, monthly return.

Such articles as shall have entered into the accounts shall be returned for the rate at which they shall have been originally entered on the account by the dispatching office.

Such as shall have been delivered prepaid to destination or to the frontier of the corresponding office shall be returned without charge or discount.

ARTICLE XIV.

The postal administration of France and the postal administration of the United States shall designate by common accord the offices through which the exchange of the respective correspondence should take place; they shall regulate the routes of the correspondence reciprocally transmitted, and the form of the accounts mentioned in the preceding article XI, and also every other measure of detail or order necessary to assure the execution of the stipulations of the present convention. Offices and routes of exchange; measures of detail, how fixed.

It is understood that the measures designated above may be modified by the two administrations whenever, by common accord, they shall perceive such necessity. Modifications.

ARTICLE XV.

The present convention shall have force and effect from the day agreed upon by the two parties, and shall remain obligatory from year to year, until one of the two parties shall have made known to the other, a year in advance, its intention to terminate the same. Duration of convention.

During this last year the convention shall continue to have full and entire force, without prejudice to the liquidation and the balance of the accounts between the respective administrations after the expiration of said term.

ARTICLE XVI.

The present convention shall be ratified and the ratifications exchanged as soon as possible. Ratification, when.

In faith of which the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present convention and have affixed their seals thereto. Signature of convention.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington the twenty-eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four.

[SEAL.]

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

A. BARTHOLDI.

[SEAL.]

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

[SEAL.]

U. S. GRANT.

By the President:

HAMILTON FISH,
Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, April 28, 1874.

[Translation.]

Approval by President of French Republic.

Having seen and examined the above convention, we have approved it, and do approve, by virtue of the provisions of the law voted by the National Assembly, in the session of 25th June, 1874. In faith of which we have caused to be placed hereupon the seal of the republic.

Given at Versailles, June 26, 1874.

[SEAL.] MARÉCHAL MAC MAHON, DUC DE MAGENTA.

By the President of the French Republic:
The minister of foreign affairs,

DECAZES.

Ratifications exchanged.

We, J. W. Marshall, Postmaster-General of the United States, and Amédée Bartholdi, officer of the Legion of Honor, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of France, certify that on this date we have proceeded to perform the exchange of ratifications of the postal convention which was concluded between the United States and the French republic at Washington the 28th day of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington this seventeenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four.

[SEAL.]

J. W. MARSHALL,
Postmaster-General.

[SEAL.]

A. BARTHOLDI.

Regulations of detail and order, concluded between the postal administration of the United States and the postal administration of France, for the execution of the postal convention of 28th April, 1874.

Agreement on details.

In view of the postal convention concluded the 28th of April, 1874, between the United States and France, stipulating (Article XIV) that the postal administrations of the two countries shall designate, by common accord, the offices through which the exchange of the respective correspondence shall take place, and shall regulate the direction of the correspondence reciprocally transmitted, the form of accounts, as well as every other measure of detail or order necessary to assure the execution of the said convention, the Postmaster-General of the United States of the one part, and the Director General of the Posts of France, of the other part, have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1.

Offices of exchange designated.

The exchange of correspondence between the postal administration of France and the postal administration of the United States shall be effected as follows:

On the side of the postal administration of France—

1st. By the office of Paris.

2d. By the office of Havre.

3d. By the office of Cherbourg.

4th. By the office of Brest.

5th. By the traveling office of Paris to Calais.

6th. By the traveling office of Lille to Calais.

On the side of the postal administration to the United States—

1st. By the office of Boston.

2d. By the office of New York.

ARTICLE 2.

Routes of exchange designated.

The relations between the French exchange-offices and the American exchange-offices shall be established in the following manner, viz:

By the way of the French mail-packets.—The offices of Paris, Havre, and Brest shall correspond with the office of New York.