

March 15, 1873. *Postal convention between the United States of America and the United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway.*

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 Oluf Stenersen, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of his Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway to the United States of America, 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, to wit:

ARTICLE 1.

Exchanges of what correspondence. There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and the United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway. This exchange of correspondence shall embrace: 1. Letters, ordinary and registered. 2. Newspapers, books, 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, including grains and seeds. Such correspondence shall be exchanged whether originating in the United States and destined for either of the United Kingdoms, or *vice versa*; or originating in, or destined for, such foreign countries to which the contracting countries may serve as intermediaries.

ARTICLE 2.

Offices for exchange of. The offices for the exchange of mails shall be—on the part of Sweden—1. Göteborg; 2. The Travelling Post-office No. 1 between Göteborg and Stockholm; 3. The Travelling Post-office No. 2 between Malmö and Falköping. On the part of Norway—1. Christianssand; 2. Christiania; 3. The Sea Post-office on the Steamboat line between Hammerfest and Hamburg; and on the part of the United States—1. New York; 2. Chicago.

Discontinuance or change of offices. The respective Postal Administrations are authorized, if circumstances should require it, to discontinue any of the offices designated for the exchange of mails, or to establish others in their place.

ARTICLE 3.

Dispatch of mails, routes, cost of intermediate transportation. The Post-Offices of Sweden and Norway shall make their own arrangements for the dispatch of mails to the United States; and in like manner the Post Office of the United States shall make arrangements for the despatch of mails to Sweden and Norway. The mails shall be forwarded by regular routes of communication; and each office shall, at its own cost, pay the expense of the intermediate transportation (sea and territorial) of the mails which it despatches to the other country. It is agreed that the cost of the international, ocean, and territorial transit of closed mails, exchanged in either direction, between the frontiers of the respective countries, shall be first defrayed by that one of the offices which shall have obtained from the post-offices of the intermediary countries the most favorable terms for such conveyance, and any amount so advanced by one office, for and on account of the other, shall be promptly re-imbursed.

ARTICLE 4.

The standard weight for the single rate of postage shall be—

1. For letters, 15 grammes.

Standard weight
for single rate.

2. For all other correspondence mentioned in the second paragraph of the first article, that which each office adopts for the mails which it despatches to the other, adapted to the regulations prescribed for such correspondence in the despatching country. Each office shall, however, give notice to the other of the standard weight it adopts, and of any subsequent change thereof.

The rule of progression shall be an additional single rate for each additional single weight or fraction thereof.

Rule of progres-
sion.

The weight stated by the despatching office shall always be accepted, except in the case of manifest error.

Weight stated by
despatching office.

ARTICLE 5.

The single rate of postage for letter correspondence exchanged in direct mails between either of the United Kingdoms and the United States, shall be—

Single rate for let-
ters by.

I. By closed mail, via England, without regard to the forwarding of the correspondence, whether to or from a Swedish or Norwegian sea-port, England, or through Germany—

Closed mail via
England.

1. For letters from Sweden for the United States—

(a) When prepaid in Sweden, 36 öre.

(b) When paid in the United States, 14 cents.

2. For letters from the United States for Sweden—

(a) When prepaid in the United States, 9 cents.

(b) When paid in Sweden, 56 öre.

3. For letters from Norway for the United States—

(a) When prepaid in Norway, 12 skilling.

(b) When paid in the United States, 15 cents.

4. For letters from the United States for Norway—

(a) When prepaid in the United States, 10 cents.

(b) When paid in Norway, 18 skilling.

II. By direct regular steamship communication between ports in the United Kingdoms, whether the port be Swedish or Norwegian on the one side, and ports in the United States on the other side—

By direct steam-
ship.

1. For letters from Sweden for the United States—

(a) When prepaid in Sweden, 24 öre.

(b) When paid in the United States, 9 cents.

2. For letters from the United States for Sweden—

(a) When prepaid in the United States, 6 cents.

(b) When paid in Sweden, 36 öre.

3. For letters from Norway for the United States—

(a) When prepaid in Norway, 7 skilling.

(b) When paid in the United States, 9 cents.

4. For letters from the United States for Norway—

(a) When prepaid in the United States, 6 cents.

(b) When paid in Norway, 10 skilling.

Insufficiently prepaid letters shall be charged with the postage for unpaid letters, after deducting the prepaid amount.

On all other correspondence mentioned in the second paragraph of the first article, the rate shall be, for the mails despatched by either route, that which the despatching office shall adopt, adapted to the regulations prescribed for such correspondence in the despatching country. But each office shall give notice to the other of the rate it adopts, and of any subsequent change thereof.

Single rate on
other correspond-
ence.

ARTICLE 6.

The Atlantic sea-rate on the correspondence sent in closed mails through England shall not exceed 6 cents per ounce for letter-mails, mails via England.

Sea-rate on closed
mails via England.

and 6 cents per pound for other correspondence; nor shall the charge for the sea-conveyance thereof, between England and the United Kingdoms, exceed 2 cents per single-letter rate, or 6 cents per ounce net weight of letter-mails, and 6 cents per pound for other correspondence.

Sea-rate by direct steamship.

It is also agreed that the entire cost of the sea transportation between the boundaries of the respective countries, by any direct line of steamships adapted to the conveyance of mails, and employed by the respective post-offices, shall not exceed 2 cents for each single-letter rate, or 6 cents per ounce, net weight, of letter-mails, and 6 cents per pound of other correspondence.

Sea-rate on closed mails through Germany.

It is further stipulated that the Atlantic sea rate on the correspondence sent in closed mails through Germany shall not exceed 5 cents per 30 grammes of letters, and 10 cents per kilogramme of other correspondence.

Re-imbursement on closed mails through Germany.

It is also understood and agreed that the Norwegian Post-Office shall be re-imbursed for the closed mails sent through Germany, which have been forwarded by the direct steamboat line between Christianssand and Hamburg, worked on Norwegian account, by a sum corresponding to the Swedish and Danish rate of transit for closed mails sent through Sweden and Denmark.

ARTICLE 7.

Postage, how paid.

Ordinary letters may be sent prepaid or unpaid, but on registered letters, and on all other correspondence mentioned in the second paragraph of the first article, prepayment shall be obligatory.

ARTICLE 8.

Registered articles, fee on.

Registered articles shall, in addition to the postage, be subject to a register fee of 30 öre in Sweden, of 8 skilling in Norway, and of 8 cents in the United States. This fee, as well as the postage, shall always be prepaid. Each office is at liberty to reduce this fee for the mails it despatches.

ARTICLE 9.

What may be registered.

Any correspondence may be registered, as well the international as that originating in or destined for other countries to which the post-offices of the contracting countries may serve as intermediaries for the transmission of such registered articles.

Notice of intermediary service.

Each office shall notify the other of the countries to which it may serve as intermediary.

ARTICLE 10.

Accounts on exchange of correspondence, how adjusted.

The accounts on the international correspondence, exchanged in either direction, shall be adjusted and settled on the following basis, viz:

I. Between Sweden and the United States:

From the total amount of international postages and register fees for correspondence between Sweden and the United States, collected in Sweden, the Sweden Postal Administration shall deduct the amount which, without exceeding the highest rates agreed upon, has been paid for the conveyance of the mails to the frontier of the United States. From the total amount of international postages and register fees, for correspondence exchanged between Sweden and the United States, collected in the United States, the Postal Administration of the United States shall, in like manner, deduct the amount which, without exceeding the highest rates agreed upon, has been paid for the conveyance of the mails to the frontier of Sweden, (or of Norway, in case of conveyance by direct steamship communication, or through England.)

Of the amount of the two net sums thus obtained, Sweden shall receive one moiety and the United States the other.

II. Between Norway and the United States:

From the total amount of the international postages and register fees for correspondence between Norway and the United States, collected in Norway, the Norwegian Postal Administration shall deduct the amount which, without exceeding the highest rates agreed upon, has been paid for the conveyance of the mails to the frontier of the United States. From the total amount of international postages and register fees for correspondence between Norway and the United States, collected in the United States, the Postal Administration of the United States shall, in like manner, deduct the amount which, without exceeding the highest rates agreed upon, has been paid for the conveyance of the mails to the frontier of Norway, (or of Sweden, in case of conveyance by direct steamship communication, or through England.)

Of the amount of the two net sums thus obtained, Norway shall receive one moiety, and the United States the other.

ARTICLE 11.

The correspondence mentioned in the second paragraph of the first article shall be despatched under regulations to be established by the despatching office; but these shall embrace the following: Regulations of correspondence other than letters.

1. No package shall contain anything which shall be closed against inspection, nor any written communication whatever except to state from whom and to whom the packet is sent, and numbers and prices placed upon patterns or samples of merchandise.

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

3. 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.

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

5. Except as above no charge whatever shall be collected on the letters and other correspondence exchanged. The small local carriers' fee now chargeable in Sweden may, however, be levied to the use of the Swedish office; and as long as a fee of 2 skilling for the delivery of poste restante letters, and one of 4 skilling for letters posted after the general time for collecting the post, are chargeable in Norway, these fees may be levied to the use of the Norwegian office. Local carriers' fees in Sweden; certain fees in Norway.

ARTICLE 12.

The Postal Administrations of each of the United Kingdoms, and that of the United States, shall establish by agreement, and in conformity with the arrangements in force at the time, the conditions upon which the offices may exchange in open mails the correspondence originating in or destined for foreign countries to which they may serve as intermediaries. Intermediary service, conditions how established.

It is, however, always understood that such correspondence shall only be charged with the rate applicable to international correspondence augmented by the postage and other taxes due to Foreign Postal Administrations, and any other tax for exterior service. Charges on.

ARTICLE 13.

The postal accounts between the respective offices which, according to Article 10, are to be settled separately between Sweden and the United States, and between Norway and the United States, shall be stated quarterly, and transmitted and verified as speedily as practicable; and the balance found due shall be paid to the creditor office, either by exchange on London, or at the debtor office, as the creditor office may desire. Postal accounts quarterly. Balances, how

Conversion of moneys. The rule for the conversion of the moneys of the respective countries shall be established by common agreement between the respective offices.

ARTICLE 14.

Transfer of closed mails without expense to office where transferred. When in a port, whether belonging to either of the United Kingdoms or to the United States, 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 charge by one office against the other.

ARTICLE 15.

Official communication between parties. Official communications between the respective Postal Administrations shall not be the occasion of any accounts between them.

ARTICLE 16.

Detailed regulations, how made. The respective Post-Offices shall, by mutual consent, make detailed regulations for carrying the articles of this convention into execution; and in like manner modify such regulations, from time to time, as the exigencies of the service may require.

ARTICLE 17.

Return of letters wrongly sent, &c. Letters wrongly sent, wrongly addressed; or not deliverable for any cause, shall be returned to the despatching office, at its expense for the return, if any expense shall be incurred. Registered articles, in the second paragraph of the first article mentioned, shall also be returned in like manner. Other articles shall be left to the disposition of the receiving office.

Uncollected postage on returned matter. Any postages not collected upon the correspondence returned, but which shall have been charged against the receiving office, shall be deducted from the account.

ARTICLE 18.

Duration of convention; ratification of. This convention shall take effect from and on the 1st day of July, 1873. It shall be continued in force until one year from the time when any of the Governments of the respective countries shall have given notice of its wish to terminate the same. It is to be ratified, and the ratifications are to be exchanged as soon as possible.

Done in duplicate original at the city of Washington, this fifteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

JNO. A. J. CRESWELL. [SEAL.]
Postmaster-General.

OLUF STENERSEN. [SEAL.]

Approval by President. 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:
HAMILTON FISH,
Secretary of State.
WASHINGTON, March 15, 1873.
[SEAL.]

[Translation.]

Ratification by King of Sweden, &c. We, Oscar, by the grace of God King of Sweden, Norway, the Goths and the Vandals, make known that whereas, We and the United States of America have found it expedient and necessary to enter into negotia-

tions having for their object the conclusion of a postal convention, and our Minister, duly authorized for that purpose, having, on the 15th day of March, in the present year, with the Postmaster-General of the United States, established, concluded, signed, and with his seal provided a convention, word for word as follows:

(See Convention above.)

Therefore We have desired to ratify, approve, and accept the convention so concluded, with all its articles, paragraphs, and clauses, and We do by these presents, in the most express terms, approve, accept, and ratify the same; and We will sincerely and honestly uphold and fulfill the foregoing convention and all its articles, paragraphs, and clauses.

In witness whereof We have, with our own hand, signed, and caused the same to be confirmed by our royal seal.

Done at Stockholm Castle, on the sixteenth day of the month of May, in the year after the birth of our Lord and Saviour, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

OSCAR. [SEAL.]

O. M. BJORNSTJERNA.

The undersigned having met together for the purpose of exchanging the ratifications of the convention concluded at the city of Washington on the fifteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, between His Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway, and the United States of North America, concerning the exchange of correspondence between the United States of North America and the United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway, and the respective ratifications of the said convention having been carefully compared and found to agree exactly one with the other, and both with the original of the said convention, the exchange has this day been effected in the usual form.

In witness whereof the undersigned have signed the present certificate of exchange, and have affixed thereto the seals of their arms.

Done at Stockholm the 26th day of May, 1873.

C. O. ANDREWS. [SEAL.]

O. M. BJORNSTJERNA. [SEAL.]

Detailed regulations agreed upon between the Post-Office of the United States and the Postal Administration of Sweden for the execution of the convention of the 15th of March, 1873, between the United States of America and the Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway.

May 30 and June 24, 1873.

Ante, p. 78.

ARTICLE I.

The American exchange offices of New York and Chicago shall make up mails for the Swedish exchange offices of Göteborg, the travelling post-office No. 1 between Göteborg and Stockholm, and the travelling post-office No. 2 between Malmö and Falköping.

The latter shall make up mails for the exchange offices of New York and Chicago.

Table A, hereto annexed, indicates the correspondence to be distributed to each exchange office.

ARTICLE 2.

Each mail exchanged between the respective offices shall be accompanied by a letter-bill, showing the postages and the charges of transit, the fees, &c., accruing to each office upon the different kinds of correspondence.

Letter-bills.

The form of this letter-bill shall follow the models B¹ and B², hereto

Form of.