

Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Colonial Government of Queensland. Dec. 8, 1875, and Feb. 2, 1876.

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 colony of Queensland:

ARTICLE I.

There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and Queensland by means of the direct line of colonial mail-packets plying between San Francisco and New South Wales, as well as by such other means of direct mail-steamship transportation between the United States and New South Wales as shall hereafter be established with the approval of the respective post departments of the countries concerned, comprising letters, newspapers, printed matter of every kind, and patterns and samples of merchandise, originating in either country and addressed to and deliverable in the other country, as well as correspondence in closed mails originating in Queensland and destined for foreign countries by way of the United States.

Exchange of mails.

ARTICLE II.

The post-office of San Francisco shall be the United States office of exchange, and Brisbane the office of exchange of the colony of Queensland, for all mails transmitted under this arrangement.

Offices of exchange.

ARTICLE III.

No accounts shall be kept between the post-departments of the two countries upon the international correspondence, written or printed, exchanged between them, but each country shall retain to its own use the postages which it collects.

No accounts to be kept.

The single rate of international letter-postage shall be twelve cents in the United States, and sixpence in Queensland on each letter weighing half an ounce or less, and an additional rate of twelve cents (sixpence) for each single weight of half an ounce or fraction thereof, which shall in all cases be prepaid at least one single rate by means of postage stamps at the office of dispatch in either country. Letters unpaid, or prepaid less than one full rate of postage, shall not be forwarded, but insufficiently paid letters, on which a single rate or more has been prepaid, shall be forwarded charged with the deficient postage to be collected and retained by the post-department of the country of destination.

Single-letter rate.

Unpaid or short paid letters.

The United States post office shall levy and collect to its own use on newspapers addressed to Queensland a postage charge of two cents, and on all other articles of printed matter, patterns, and samples of merchandise addressed to Queensland, a postage charge of four cents per each weight of four ounces or fraction of four ounces.

Newspaper rate.

Printed matter, etc.

The post office of Queensland shall levy and collect to its own use on newspapers addressed to the United States a postage charge of two cents, and on other articles of printed matter, patterns, and samples of merchandise addressed to the United States, a postage charge of four cents per each weight of two ounces or fraction of two ounces.

Newspaper rates.

Printed matter, etc.

Letters, newspapers, and other articles of printed matter, patterns, and samples of merchandise, fully prepaid, which may be received in either country from the other, shall be delivered free of all charge whatsoever.

Free delivery.

Newspapers, etc., containing written matter. Newspapers and all other kinds of printed matter, and samples of merchandise are to be subject to the laws and regulations of each country, respectively, in regard to their liability to be rated with letter postage when containing written matter, or for any other cause specified in said laws and regulations, as well as in regard to their liability to customs duty under revenue laws.

Customs duties.

ARTICLE IV.

Closed-mail transit across United States. The United States office engages to grant the transit through the United States, as well as the conveyance by United States mail-packets, of the correspondence in closed mails which the Queensland post office may desire to transmit via the United States to British Columbia, the British North American provinces, the West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America, and at the following rates of United States transit-postage, viz :

Rates by land-routes. For the United States territorial transit of closed mails from Queensland for Mexico, British Columbia, Canada, or other British North-American Provinces, when transmitted entirely by land-routes, six cents per ounce for letter-mails and sixteen cents per pound for all kinds of printed matter.

Rates by land and sea routes. For the United States territorial and sea transit of closed mails from Queensland for British Columbia or other British North American Provinces, Mexico, Central and South America, or the West India Islands, when transmitted from the United States by sea, twenty-five cents per ounce for letter-mails, and twenty cents per pound for all kinds of printed matter.

Accounts to be rendered. The Queensland post office shall render an account to the United States post office, upon letter-bills to accompany each mail, of the weight of the letters, and also of the printed and other matter contained in such closed mails, forwarded to the United States for transmission to either of the above-named countries and colonies, and the accounts arising between the two offices on this class of correspondence shall be stated, adjusted, and settled quarterly, and the amounts of the United States transit-charges found due on such closed mails shall be promptly paid over by the Queensland post office to the United States post office in such manner as the Postmaster-General of the United States shall prescribe.

To be settled quarterly.

ARTICLE V.

Letters from foreign countries and to other colonies. Prepaid letters from foreign countries received in and forwarded from the United States to Queensland shall be delivered in said colony free of all charges whatsoever, and letters received in Queensland from the United States addressed to other colonies of Australia will be forwarded to destination subject to the same conditions as are applicable to correspondence originating in Queensland and addressed to those countries.

ARTICLE VI.

Registered articles. The two post-departments may, by mutual agreement, provide for the transmission of registered articles in the mails exchanged between the two countries.

Registration fee. The register-fee for each article shall be ten cents in the United States and fourpence in Queensland.

ARTICLE VII.

Details, how settled. The two post-departments shall settle by agreement between them all measures of detail and arrangement required to carry this convention into execution, and may modify the same in like manner, from time to time, as the exigencies of the service may require.

Modification.

ARTICLE VIII.

Every fully prepaid letter dispatched from one country to the other shall be plainly stamped with the words "paid all," in *red ink*, on the right-hand upper corner of the address, in addition to the date-stamp of the office at which it was posted, and on insufficiently-paid letters the amount of the deficient postage shall be inscribed in *black ink*. Marks on letters.

ARTICLE IX.

Dead letters, which cannot be delivered from whatsoever cause, shall be mutually returned, without charge, monthly, or as frequently as the regulations of the respective offices will permit. Dead letters.

ARTICLE X.

This convention shall come into operation on the 1st day of January, 1876, and shall be terminable at any time on a notice, by either office, of six months. Commencement and termination.

Done in duplicate and signed in Brisbane, the eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, and in Washington on the second day of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six. Signatures.

[SEAL.]

MARSHALL JEWELL,
Postmaster-General of the United States.

GEORGE THORN, JUNIOR,
Postmaster-General of Queensland.

Approved.

EWD. CAIRNS.

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

[SEAL.]

U. S. GRANT.

By the President:

HAMILTON FISH,
Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, February 5, 1876.