

Jan. 28, 1878.

Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Colonial Government of Victoria.

Contracting parties.

The undersigned, David M. Key, Postmaster General of the United States of America, by virtue of the powers vested in him by law, and Mr. George Collins Levey, specially empowered for that purpose by the Postmaster General of the Colony of Victoria, have agreed upon the following articles, subject to approval by the President of the United States, and ratification by the government of the Colony of Victoria, viz:

ARTICLE I.

Exchange of mails.

There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and the Colony of Victoria by means of the direct line of colonial mail packets plying to and from San Francisco, as well as by such other means of direct mail-steamship transportation between the United States and Victoria as shall hereafter be established with the approval of the respective Post Departments of the two countries, 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 Victoria and destined for foreign countries by way of the United States.

ARTICLE II.

Offices of exchange.

The postoffice of San Francisco shall be the United States office of exchange, and Melbourne the office of exchange of the Colony of Victoria for all mails transmitted under this arrangement.

ARTICLE III.

Accounts.

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 postage which it collects.

Letter rate.

The single rate of international letter postage shall be twelve cents in the United States, and sixpence in Victoria, on each letter weighing half an ounce or less, and an additional rate of twelve cents (sixpence) for each additional 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 mailing 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.

Newspaper, etc.,
rates:
In United States.

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

In Victoria.

The post office of Victoria shall levy and collect to its own use on newspapers and other articles of printed matter, patterns and samples of merchandise addressed to the United States, the regular rates of domestic postage chargeable thereon by the laws and regulations of the Colony of Victoria.

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 whatever. Delivery at destination.

Newspapers and all other kinds of printed matter, patterns 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 the revenue laws. Application of local laws.

ARTICLE IV.

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 Victoria 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: Territorial transit.

For the United States territorial transit of closed mails from Victoria 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

For the United States territorial and sea transit of closed mails from Victoria 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. By sea.

The Victoria 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 Victoria post office to the United States post office in such manner as the Postmaster General of the United States shall prescribe. Accounts.

ARTICLE V.

Prepaid letters from foreign countries received in and forwarded from the United States to Victoria shall be delivered in said colony free of all charges whatsoever, and letters received in Victoria 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 Victoria and addressed to those colonies. Delivery and forwarding.

ARTICLE VI.

The two Post Departments may, by mutual agreement, provide for the transmission of registered articles in the mails exchanged between the two countries. Registration.

The register fee for each article shall be ten cents in the United States and sixpence in Victoria. Fees.

ARTICLE VII.

The two Post Departments shall settle by agreement between them all measures of detail and arrangement required to carry this convention Details.

into execution, and may modify the same in like manner, from time to time, as the exigencies of the service may require.

ARTICLE VIII.

Marking-stamps. 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*.

ARTICLE IX.

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

ARTICLE X.

Commencement and duration This Convention shall come into operation on the first day of July, 1878, and shall be terminable at any time on a notice, by either office, of six months.

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

[SEAL.]

D. M. KEY,
Postmaster General of the United States.

GEORGE COLLINS LEVEY.

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

[SEAL.]

R. B. HAYES.

By the President:

WM. M. EVARTS,
Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, *January 28, 1878.*

I hereby approve of the foregoing Postal Convention, and have caused to be affixed hereto the seal of the Colony of Victoria.

[SEAL.]

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

GRAHAM BERRY,
Chief Secretary.

MELBOURNE, *March 26, 1878.*