

July 15, 1882.

Convention for the exchange of sums of money by means of postal orders between the United States and Portugal. Concluded at Washington, July 15, 1882.

Contracting parties.

The Government of the Republic of the United States of America and the Government of his Majesty the King of Portugal and of the Algarves, being desirous of facilitating the exchange of sums of money between the two countries by making use of postal orders and availing themselves of the authority granted by Articles 13 and 15 of the Convention of the Universal Postal Union concluded at Paris on the 1st of June, 1878, the undersigned, Timothy O. Howe, Postmaster General of the United States of America, in virtue of the powers vested in him by law, and Viscount das Nogueiras, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of his Majesty the King of Portugal, 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 convention.

ARTICLE 1.

Scope.

SEC. 1. There shall be a regular exchange of sums of money by means of postal orders between Portugal and the United States of America.

Stipulations made applicable to the Azores and to the Madeira Islands.

SEC. 2. All the stipulations which are contained in this Convention with regard to Portugal are to be understood as applicable also to the Azores and to the Madeira Islands.

Designation of localities for issue and payment of orders.

SEC. 3. The Postal Administration of each of the two countries shall determine in regard to its own territory—

- a.—The localities where the orders in question can be issued.
- b.—The localities where such orders can be paid.

ARTICLE 2.

Payments in gold coin, or, money of equal value; exception.

SEC. 1. The amount of the orders shall be collected from the remitters and paid to the beneficiaries in gold coin or in other lawful money of equal value. Each one of the Postal Administrations may however receive for the issue and employ for the payment of money-orders any money of less value which is a legal tender in its own country, provided account be taken of the difference of value, when occasion arises.

Maximum.

SEC. 2. The amount of each order shall not exceed—

- a.—Fifty milreis when issued in the United States for payment in Portugal.
- b.—Fifty dollars when issued in Portugal for payment in the United States.

The Postal Administrations of the two countries may however, by mutual agreement, increase this maximum to ninety milreis and to one hundred dollars.

Rate of conversion.

SEC. 3. The amount of each order shall be expressed in the metallic money of the country in which payment is to be made. For this purpose, the Postal Administration of the country of origin shall fix the rate of conversion of its own money into metallic money of the country of payment.

Right to transfer, by endorsement, reserved.

SEC. 4. The right is reserved to each of the two contracting countries to declare transferable, within its territory, by means of endorsement, the ownership of postal orders originating in the other.

ARTICLE 3.

SEC. 1. Each of the two contracting countries shall fix the rate of fees to be collected from the remitters of money-orders issued therein for payment in the other country. This rate of fees shall not exceed one and one half per cent. upon the amounts constituting the divisions in the schedule of fees. Schedule of fees.

SEC. 2. In addition to the fee mentioned in this Article no other charge, tax, commission, or impost shall be collected for the issue, transmission, distribution, or payment of money-orders, provided for in this Convention.

SEC. 3. The country which issues the orders shall pay to the country on which they are drawn three quarters of one per cent. computed upon the total value of those orders.

ARTICLE 4.

Orders issued in Portugal for payment in the United States shall not contain a fraction of a cent, and those which are issued in the United States for payment in Portugal shall not contain a fraction of ten reis. Fractions excluded.

ARTICLE 5.

The service of the postal money-order system between the two countries shall be performed exclusively by the agency of offices of exchange. Designation of exchange offices.
These offices shall be—

a.—Lisbon, on the part of Portugal.

b.—New York, on the part of the United States. •

ARTICLE 6.

SEC. 1. Each Office of Exchange shall send, by every mail, to the other, a certified List, in duplicate, of the money-orders issued in its own country, since the last previous transmission, for payment in the other. List and advices of transmission of.

SEC. 2. At the close of each Quarter, or, at the latest, within two months after the expiration thereof, an account, in duplicate, shall be prepared and transmitted by the Administration of Mails, Telegraphs, and Light-houses of Portugal to the Postal Administration of the United States. This account, having been accepted, shall be paid in the metallic money of the creditor country by the indebted Postal Administration, within a limited time to be determined by mutual agreement. Quarterly accounts.
Payment of balances.

SEC. 3. For this purpose the smaller credit shall be converted into the money of the larger credit.

SEC. 4. In case of the non-payment of the balance of an account within the time specified, the amount of such balance shall be chargeable with interest from the date of the expiration of the stipulated period until the day of the transmission of the amount due. Such interest shall be computed at the rate of five per cent. per annum; and is to be entered in the accounts as a debit against the dilatory Administration. Unpaid balances to bear interest.

ARTICLE 7.

SEC. 1. The sums received for the issue of money-orders remain the property of the remitters until they shall have been duly paid to the beneficiaries or to the representatives of the latter. Outstanding money-orders.

SEC. 2. Postal orders accrue to the country of origin when the amounts thereof have not been claimed by the payees within a period of time fixed by mutual agreement.

SEC. 3. Repayment of orders to remitters shall not be made until an authorization for such repayment shall first have been obtained by the country of issue from the country where such orders are payable, and the amounts of the repaid orders shall be duly credited to the for- Repayment to remitters.

mer country in the quarterly account. It is the province of each Postal Administration to determine the manner in which repayment to the remitters is to be made. Under no circumstances can the fees paid for money-orders be refunded to the remitters thereof.

Duplicate orders. SEC. 4. Duplicate orders shall only be issued by the Postal Administration of the country on which the original orders were drawn, and in conformity with the regulations established, or, to be established, in that country.

ARTICLE 8.

Suspension. Each Administration is authorized, in extraordinary circumstances that would justify the measure, to suspend temporarily the money-order service, in whole or in part, upon condition of giving notice of such suspension immediately to the other country, and, if deemed necessary, by means of the telegraph.

ARTICLE 9.

Regulations to be provided. The General Administration of Mails, Telegraphs, and Light-Houses, of Portugal, and the General Postal Administration of the United States are authorized to adopt by mutual agreement all measures, and to arrange all matters of detail, necessary to secure the execution of all the stipulations of the present Convention.

ARTICLE 10.

Commencement. The present Convention shall take effect on the first day of January, 1883, and shall continue in force until twelve months after either of the contracting parties shall have notified to the other its intention to terminate it.

ARTICLE 11.

Ratification. The ratifications of the present Convention shall be exchanged prior to the first day of December, 1882.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and have affixed thereto their seals.

Date. Executed in duplicate and signed at Washington the fifteenth day of July, 1882.

Signatures.

[Seal of the Post Office Department
of the United States.]

[Seal of the Legation of Portugal to the
United States.]

TIM^o. O. HOWE,
The Postmaster General of the United States.
VISCONDE DAS NOGUEIRAS,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary of Portugal to the United States.

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

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

By the President.

[Seal of the United
States.]

FRED'K T. FRELINGHUYSEN,
Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, July 15th, 1882.