

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

**Contracting parties.** The undersigned, William F. Vilas, Postmaster General of the United States of America, by virtue of the powers vested in him by law, and William Henry Burgess, Postmaster General of the Colony of Tasmania, 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 Tasmania, viz:

ARTICLE 1.

**Mail communication.** There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and the Colony of Tasmania 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 Tasmania 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 Tasmania and destined for foreign countries by way of the United States.

ARTICLE 2.

**Exchange offices.** The post office of San Francisco shall be the United States office of exchange, and Hobart and Launceston the offices of exchange of the Colony of Tasmania for all mails transmitted under this arrangement.

ARTICLE 3.

**Each country to keep postage it collects.** 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.

**Rates. Letters.** The single rate of international letter postage shall be twelve cents in the United States, and six-pence in Tasmania, on each letter weighing half an ounce or less, and an additional rate of twelve cents (six-pence) 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-Office Department of the country of destination.

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

The post office of Tasmania 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 Tasmania.

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. Prepaid matter to be delivered free of charge.

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.

ARTICLE 4.

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 Tasmanian 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: Transit across the United States of closed mails.

For the United States territorial transit of closed mails from Tasmania 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

For the United States territorial and sea transit of closed mails, from Tasmania 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.

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

ARTICLE 5.

Prepaid letters from foreign countries received in and forwarded from the United States to Tasmania shall be delivered in said colony free of all charges whatsoever; and letters received in Tasmania 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 Tasmania and addressed to those colonies. Letters in transit to be forwarded.

ARTICLE 6.

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

The register fee for each article shall be ten cents in the United States and four pence in Tasmania. Rate.

## ARTICLE 7.

**Detail.** 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.

## ARTICLE 8.

**Rate paid.**  
**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 9.

**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 10.

**Commencement and termination.** This Convention shall come into operation on the first day of July 1886, and shall be terminable at any time on a notice by either office of six months.

**Executed.** Done in duplicate and signed in Washington the thirtieth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, and in Hobart on the thirty-first day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six.

**Signatures.**

[SEAL]

WM. F. VILAS  
*Postmaster General of the United States*  
W. H. BURGESS  
*Postmaster General of Tasmania*

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

[SEAL]

GROVER CLEVELAND

By the President  
T. F. BAYARD  
*Secretary of State*  
WASHINGTON, July 30, 1886.