

Convention between the United States of America and Chili, concerning the exchange of money orders.

August 12, 1897.

The undersigned, James A. Gary, Postmaster-General of the United States of America, by virtue of the powers vested in him by law, and Senor Don Domingo Gana, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Chili to the United States of America, in the name of his Government, and by virtue of the powers which have been given him, to this effect, and which he has formally presented have agreed upon the following convention:

ARTICLE I.

There is established between the United States of America and Chili a regular exchange of postal money-orders. This exchange is to be effected by an Exchange Office in each country which each of the two Administrations shall have designated for this purpose, which Exchange Offices shall forward to each other the orders issued by the respective countries, accompanying them by a list in which they shall be duly entered.

Exchange of money orders.

Exchange offices.

ARTICLE II.

The amount of the orders shall always be expressed in the money of the country where payment is to be made.

In what money to be expressed.

ARTICLE III.

1. No order shall exceed the sum of one hundred dollars if it is payable in the United States, and one hundred pesos if it is payable in Chili.

Maximum amount.

2. Fractions of a cent or of a centavo are not to be introduced into the amount of an order.

Fractions.

ARTICLE IV.

1. The amount of the orders shall be paid in by the remitters and paid to the beneficiaries in gold coin, or other lawful money of equal value. If the value of this last-named money should be inferior, account shall be taken, in effecting payment, of the difference in said values.

Payment in legal money, etc.

2. The Administration of each of the two contracting countries reserves the right to declare transferable, within its territory, by means of indorsement, the ownership of orders originating in the other.

Transfer by indorsement.

ARTICLE V.

Until the two Postal Administrations shall consent to an alteration, it is agreed that in all matters of account relative to money-orders, which shall result from the execution of the present convention, the peso of Chili shall be considered as equivalent to ninety-seven and four-tenths cents of the money of the United States.

Money equivalents.

ARTICLE VI.

1. Each of the two Administrations shall fix the rate of fees charged upon orders issued in its own country and payable in the other.

Rate of fees.

- limit. 2. This rate shall not, however, exceed one per cent. upon the amounts constituting the divisions in the schedule of fees.
- notice. 3. The two Administrations will communicate to each other the fees which they shall have established and the changes which they may subsequently make therein.
- no additional charges. 4. The money-orders and the receipts given upon such orders, as well as the receipts that may be delivered to the remitters, shall not be subjected, at the expense of the remitters or payees of the amounts, to any charge or tax whatever in addition to the fees to be received by virtue of Sections 1 and 2 of this Article.

ARTICLE VII.

- Payment. The Postal Administration by which the money-orders are issued shall pay to the Postal Administration of the country of payment the total amount of the orders which it has certified to the latter, and in addition thereto one-half of one per centum on such total.

ARTICLE VIII.

- Disposition of amounts of unclaimed orders, etc. The sums received by each of the two Administrations in payment for orders the amounts of which have not been claimed by the persons entitled thereto within one year after the date of the receipt of the List on which they are entered, and for orders repayment of which to the remitters has been duly authorized by the Administration of the country of destination, shall accrue permanently to the Administration which issued the orders; but repayment, whether by means of an original or by a duplicate order, shall not be made to the remitter until authority therefor shall have been obtained from the Postal Administration of the country where such order is payable, with a statement that the order has not been paid, and will not be paid in that country.

ARTICLE IX.

- Accounts. 1. At the end of each fiscal quarter, to wit: March 31st, June 30th, September 30th, and December 31st, of each year, the Postal Administration of Chili shall prepare an account showing the financial results of the exchange of money orders between the two countries during the quarter to which the account refers.
- credits. 2. In said account there shall be credited to each Administration:
 - (a) The gross amount of all orders entered in the Lists dispatched to it by the other Administration.
 - (b) One-half of one per cent. upon the total amount of such orders.
 - (c) The gross amount of all orders issued by it which have become void under the terms of Article VIII.
 - (d) The gross amount of all orders issued by it, the repayment of which has been authorized, as provided in Article VIII.
- examination, etc. 3. The Postal Administration of the United States shall examine this account, and if occasion arises shall make such remarks as may be necessary. If that Administration is found to be the debtor, it shall transmit the balance due within thirty days, at the latest, after the receipt of the account, to the Postal Administration of Chili. If the account shows a balance to the credit of the Postal Administration of the United States that of Chili shall transmit the amount thereof to the former within thirty days, at the latest, after the receipt of notice of acceptance of the account.
- Expenses. 4. The expenses which may result from the payment of balances, or from payments on account, shall be borne by the debtor Administration.

ARTICLE X.

- Payments on account. Whenever during the course of a quarter it is found that the amount of orders drawn upon either of the two Administrations exceeds by five

thousand dollars, United States money, or five thousand five hundred pesos in Chilian money, the amount of orders drawn upon the other Administration, the latter shall send to the former the approximate amount of the ascertained difference in a round sum, as a payment on account.

ARTICLE XI.

1. The form and the conditions of issue of money-orders in each country are subject to the regulations in force, or to be established, in the country of origin, but no money-order shall be issued unless the remitter furnish in full the surnames and the initial or initials, at least, of the given names of both the remitter and the payee; or in case of a firm or corporation its name or commercial designation.

Regulations.

2. The form as well as the conditions for payment of money-orders, including those relating to the suspension of payment, the renewing of orders, the issue of duplicates, and other matters concerning payment are subject to the regulations in force, or to be established, in the country of destination.

ARTICLE XII.

Each of the two Administrations is empowered, under extraordinary circumstances, which may be of a nature to warrant the measure, to suspend temporarily the money-order service between the two countries, provided, however, that notice of such suspension be given to the other Administration immediately, and, if deemed necessary, by means of the telegraph.

Temporary suspension of service.

ARTICLE XIII.

The Postal Administrations of the two countries shall have power, by mutual agreement, to arrange Detailed Regulations for the execution of the present Convention and to modify them at any time according to the requirements of the service.

Detailed regulations.

ARTICLE XIV.

The present Convention shall take effect on the 1st day of January, 1896.¹ It shall remain in force until the expiration of a period of one year after the date upon which one of the two contracting Administrations shall have notified the other of its intention to terminate it.

Duration, etc.

ARTICLE XV.

The ratification of the present Convention by Chili shall be delivered to the Postmaster-General of the United States as soon as practicable.¹

Ratification.

No ratification on the part of the United States of America is necessary, the Postmaster-General having plenary authority by law to fully conclude the same.

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

Signatures.

Executed in duplicate and signed at Washington on the 12th day of August, 1897.

JAS. A. GARY,

Postmaster-General of the United States of America.

DOMINGO GANA,

*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
from Chili to the United States of America.*

¹ Notice of the ratification of this convention, dated September 13, 1898, was received by the Post-Office Department October 17, 1898, hence January 1, 1899, has been fixed by that Department as the date when the exchange shall begin, that being the earliest practicable time.