

June 30, 1904.

*Parcels-post convention between the United States of America and the empire of Japan.*

## Preamble.

For the purpose of making better postal arrangements between the United States of America and the Empire of Japan, the undersigned, Henry C. Payne, Postmaster-General of the United States of America, and Takahira Kogoro, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan at Washington, duly empowered thereto, have agreed upon the following articles for the establishment of a Parcels-Post System of exchanges between the two countries.

## ARTICLE I.

## Scope of convention.

The provisions of this Convention relate only to parcels of mail matter to be exchanged by the system herein provided for, and do not affect the arrangements now existing under the Universal Postal Convention, which will continue as heretofore; and all the agreements hereinafter contained apply exclusively to mails exchanged under these articles, directly between the offices of San Francisco, Seattle, Tacoma, Honolulu, and such other offices in the United States as may be hereafter designated by the Postmaster-General of the United States, and the offices of Yokohama, Kobe and Nagasaki and such other offices in the Empire of Japan as may be hereafter designated by His Imperial Majesty's Minister of State for Communications; such matter to be admitted to the mails under these articles as shall be sent through such exchange offices from any place in either country to any place in the other.

## Exchange offices.

## ARTICLE II.

## Articles admitted to mails.

There shall be admitted to the mails exchanged under this Convention, articles of merchandise and mail matter—except letters, postcards and written matter of all kinds—that are admitted under any conditions to the domestic mails of the country of origin, except that no parcel must exceed fifty dollars (\$50) or its equivalent in value, 4 pounds 6 ounces (525 momme) in weight, nor the following dimensions: Greatest length in any direction, three feet six inches [3 shaku 5 sun]; greatest length and girth combined, six feet [6 shaku]; and must be so wrapped or inclosed as to permit the contents to be easily examined by customs officers and by postmasters duly authorized to do so; and except that the following articles are prohibited:

## Articles prohibited.

Publications which violate the copyright laws of the country of destination; poisons, and explosive or inflammable substances; fatty substances; liquids and those which easily liquefy; confections and pastes; live or dead animals, except dead insects and reptiles when thoroughly dried; fruits and vegetables which easily decompose, and substances which exhale a bad odor; lottery tickets, lottery advertisements, or lottery circulars; all obscene or immoral articles; articles which may in any way damage or destroy the mails, or injure the persons handling them.

ARTICLE III.

A letter or communication of the nature of personal correspondence must not accompany, be written on, or inclosed with any parcel.

Letters not to accompany parcels.

If such be found, the letter will be placed in the mails if separable, and if the communication be inseparably attached, the whole parcel will be rejected. If, however, any such should inadvertently be forwarded, the country of destination may collect on the letter or letters double rates of postage according to the Universal Postal Convention.

Rejection.

No parcel may contain parcels intended for delivery at an address other than that borne by the parcel itself. If such inclosed parcels be detected, they must be sent forward singly, charged with new and distinct parcels-post rates.

Address.

ARTICLE IV.

The parcels in question shall be subject in the country of destination to all customs duties and all customs regulations in force in that country for the protection of its customs revenues, and to the following rates of postage, which shall in all cases be required to be FULLY PREPAID, viz:

Rates of postage.

In the United States; for a parcel not exceeding one pound [120 momme] in weight, 12 cents; and for each additional pound [120 momme] or fraction of a pound, 12 cents.

In the Empire of Japan; for a parcel not exceeding 120 momme [1 pound] in weight, 24 sen; and for each additional 120 momme [1 pound] or fraction thereof, 24 sen.

ARTICLE V.

The sender of each parcel must make a *Customs Declaration*, upon a special form provided for the purpose [see Form 1, "A", annexed hereto], giving the address, a general description of the parcel, an accurate statement of the contents and value, date of mailing, and the sender's signature and place of residence; which declaration must accompany the parcel to destination.

Customs declaration.  
Post, p. 2280.

Either country may authorize the postoffice where the parcel is mailed to deliver to the sender of the parcel at the time of mailing, a certificate of mailing on a form like Form 2 annexed hereto.

Receipt.  
Post, p. 2280.

The sender of a parcel may have the same registered by paying the registration fee required for registered articles in the country of origin, and, on demand therefor, will receive a return receipt, without additional charge.

Return receipt.

ARTICLE VI.

The addressees of registered articles shall be advised of the arrival of a parcel addressed to them, by a notice from the postoffice of destination.

Notice to addressees.

The parcels shall be delivered to addressees at the postoffices of address in the country of destination free of charge for postage; but the customs duties properly chargeable thereon shall be collected on delivery in accordance with the customs regulations of the country of destination; and the country of destination may, at its option, levy and collect from the addressee for interior service and delivery a charge not exceeding five cents in the United States and ten sen in the Empire of Japan, on each single parcel of whatever weight.

Collection of duties.

ARTICLE VII.

The parcels shall be considered as a component part of the mails exchanged direct between the United States and the Empire of Japan,

Transportation.

and shall be dispatched by the country of origin at its own cost and by such means as it provides, to the country of destination; but must be forwarded, at the option of the dispatching office, either in boxes prepared especially for the purpose or in ordinary mail sacks, to be marked "Parcels-Post," and not to contain any other articles of mail matter, and to be securely sealed with wax, or otherwise, as may be mutually provided by regulations hereunder.

Return of bags, etc.

Each country shall promptly return *empty* to the dispatching office by next mail, all such bags and boxes, but subject to other regulations between the two Administrations.

Packing.

Although articles admitted under this Convention will be transmitted as aforesaid between the exchange offices, they should be so carefully packed as to be safely transmitted in the open mails of either country, both in going to the exchange office in the country of origin and to the office of address in the country of destination.

Descriptive lists.

Each dispatch of a parcels-post mail must be accompanied by a descriptive list, in duplicate, of all the parcels sent, showing distinctly the list number of each parcel, the name of the sender, the name of the addressee, with address of destination, and the declared contents and value; and must be inclosed in one of the boxes or sacks of such dispatch. [See Form 3 annexed hereto.]

#### ARTICLE VIII.

Receipt of mail.

As soon as the mail shall have reached the office of destination, that office shall check the contents of the mail.

Parcel bill.

In the event of the parcel bill not having been received, a substitute should be at once prepared.

Errors.

Any errors in the entries on the parcel bill which may be discovered, should, after verification by a second officer, be corrected and noted for report to the dispatching office on a form "Verification certificate," which should be sent in a special envelope.

Nonreceipt of parcels.

If a parcel advised on the bill be not received, after the nonreceipt has been verified by a second officer, the entry on the bill should be canceled and the fact reported at once.

Damaged parcels.

Should a parcel be received in a damaged or imperfect condition, full particulars should be reported on the same form.

Correct mails.

If no verification certificate or note of error be received, a parcels-mail shall be considered as duly delivered, having been found on examination correct in all respects.

#### ARTICLE IX.

Failure to deliver.

If the parcels can not be delivered as addressed, or if they are refused, they should be reciprocally returned without charge, directly to the dispatching office of exchange, at the expiration of thirty days from their receipt at the office of destination, and the country of origin may collect from the sender for the return of the parcel a sum equal to the postage when first mailed.

Disposal of prohibited parcels.  
*Ante*, p. 2276.

Provided, however, that parcels prohibited by Article II and those which do not conform to the conditions as to size, weight and value prescribed by said article, shall not necessarily be returned to the country of origin, but may be disposed of, without recourse, in accordance with the customs laws and regulations of the country of destination.

Perishable articles.

When the contents of a parcel which can not be delivered are liable to deterioration or corruption, they may be destroyed at once, if necessary, or if expedient, sold, without previous notice or judicial formality, for the benefit of the right person, the particulars of each sale being noticed by one post-office to the other.

ARTICLE X.

The Post-Office Department of either of the contracting countries will not be responsible for the loss or damage of any parcel; but either country is at liberty to indemnify the sender of any parcel which may be lost or destroyed in its territory. Nonresponsibility for loss, etc.

ARTICLE XI.

Each country shall retain to its own use the whole of the postages, registration and delivery fees, it collects on said parcels; consequently, this Convention will give rise to no separate accounts between the two countries. Fees to be retained.

ARTICLE XII.

The Postmaster-General of the United States of America, and His Imperial Majesty's Minister of State for Communications, shall have authority to jointly make such further regulations of order and detail as may be found necessary to carry out the present Convention from time to time; and may, by agreement, prescribe conditions for the admission in parcels exchanged under this Convention of any of the articles prohibited by Article II. Further regulations.  
Ante, p. 2276.

ARTICLE XIII.

This Convention shall take effect and operations thereunder shall begin on the first day of August, 1904, and shall continue in force until terminated by mutual agreement, but may be annulled at the desire of either Department, upon six months' previous notice given to the other. Duration of convention.

Done in duplicate, and signed at Washington the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and four. Signatures.

[Seal of the Post-Office  
Dept. of the U. S.]

HENRY C. PAYNE,  
*Postmaster-General of the United States.*

[Seal of the  
Legation  
of Japan.]

TAKAHIRA KOGORO,  
*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary  
of his Majesty the Emperor of Japan.*

The foregoing Parcels-Post Convention between the United States of America and the Empire of Japan has been negotiated and concluded with my advice and consent, and is hereby approved and ratified. Approval.

In testimony whereof I have caused the Seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

[SEAL OF U. S.]

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

By the President:

JOHN HAY,  
*Secretary of State.*

WASHINGTON, July 1, 1904.

Form 1.

FORM No. 1

A.

*Parcels-Post between the United States and the Empire of Japan.*

Date Stamp.	FORM OF CUSTOMS DECLARATION.	Place to which the parcel is addressed.
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Description of parcel: [State whether box, basket, bag, etc.]	Contents.	Value.	Per cent.	Total customs charges.
	Total.			

Date of posting:....., 19..; signature and address of sender {.....  
~~For use of Post-Office only, and to be filled up at the office of exchange:~~  
Parcel Bill No.....; No. of rates prepaid.....; Entry No.....

B.

Parcels-Post from [country of origin.]  
The import duty assessed by an officer of customs on contents of this parcel amounts to ..... which must be paid before the parcel is delivered.

Date  
Stamp.

C.

Parcels-Post from [country of origin.]  
This parcel has been passed by an officer of customs and must be delivered  
**FREE OF CHARGE.**

Date.  
Stamp.

.....  
*Customs Officer.*

Form 2.

FORM No. 2.

*Parcels-Post.*

A parcel addressed as under has been posted here this day.	
Office Stamp.	..... ..... .....
This certificate is given to inform the sender of the posting of a parcel, and does not indicate that any liability in respect of such parcel attaches to the Postal Administration.	

Date stamp of dispatching exchange Post- Office.	Parcels from <span style="font-size: small;">[country of origin.]</span> for <span style="font-size: small;">[country of destination.]</span>	Date stamp of receiving exchange Post-Office.					
	Parcel Bill No. ...., dated..... 19..; per S. S. "....."						
*Sheet No. ...							
Entry No.	Origin of parcel.	Name of sender.	Address of parcel.	Declared contents.	Declared value.	Number of rates prepaid.	Observations.
				Totals ...			
<p>* When more than one sheet is required for the entry of the parcels sent by the mail, it will be sufficient if the undermentioned particulars are entered on the last sheet of the Parcel Bill.</p> <p>Total number of parcels sent by the mail <span style="float: right;">Total weight of mail ..... lbs.</span>  <span style="font-size: small;">[country of destination.]</span>                  to .....</p> <p>Number of boxes or other receptacles <span style="float: right;">Deduct weight of receptacles .....</span>                  forming the mail .....</p> <p>Signature of postal official at the dispatching exchange post-office. <span style="float: right;">Net weight of parcels .....</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">.....                  Signature of postal official at the receiving exchange post-office.                  .....</p>							