

By the Post-Master General of the Confederate States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, By the provisions of an act, approved March 15th, 1861, and amended by the first section of an act approved May 9th, 1861, the Post-Master General of the Confederate States "is authorized, on and after a day to be named by him for that purpose, to take the entire charge and direction of the postal service in the Confederate States," and all conveyance of mails within their limits, from and after such day, except by authority of the Post-Master General thereof, is thereby prohibited:

Now, therefore, I, John H. Reagan, Post-Master General of the Confederate States of America, do issue this my proclamation, notifying all Post-Masters, Contractors, and Special and Route Agents, in the service of the Post-Office Department, and engaged in the transmission and delivery of the mails, or otherwise in any manner connected with the service within the limits of the Confederate States of America, that on and after the 1st day June next, I shall assume the entire control and direction of the postal service therein: And I hereby direct all Post-Masters, Route Agents and Special Agents within these States, and now acting under the authority and direction of the Post-Master General of the United States, to continue in the discharge of their respective duties under the authority vested in me by the Congress of the Confederate States, in strict conformity with such existing laws and regulations as are not inconsistent with the laws and constitution of the Confederate States of America, and such further instructions as may hereafter be issued by my direction: And the said Post-Masters, Route Agents and Special Agents are also required to forward to this Department, without delay, their names, with the names of the offices of which they are Post-Masters, (giving the State and County,) to be directed to the "Chief of the Appointment Bureau, Post-Office Department, Montgomery, Alabama," in order that new commissions may be issued under the authority of this Government: And all Post-Masters are hereby required to render to the Post-Office Department at Washington, D. C., their final accounts and their vouchers for postal receipts and expenditures, up to the 31st day of this month, taking care to forward with said accounts all postage stamps and stamped envelopes, remaining on hand, belonging to the Post-Office Department of the United States, in order that they may receive the proper credits therefor in the adjustment of their accounts; and they are further required to retain in their possession, to meet the orders of the Post-Master General of the United States, for the payment of mail service within the Confederate States, all revenue which shall have accrued from the postal service prior to the said 1st day of June next.

All Contractors, Mail Messengers, and Special Contractors for conveying the mails within the Confederate States, under existing contracts with the Government of the United States, are hereby authorized to continue to perform such service under my direction, from and after the day last above named, subject to such modifications and changes as may be found necessary, under the powers vested in the Post-Master General by the terms of said contracts and the provisions of the second section of an act approved May 9th, 1861, conformable thereto: And the said Contractors, Special Contractors, and Mail Messengers, are required to forward, without delay, the number of their route or routes, the nature of the service thereon, the schedules of arrivals and departures, the names of the offices supplied, and the amount of annual compensation for present service, together with their address, directed to the "Chief of the Contract Bureau, Post-Office Department, Montgomery, Alabama.

Until a postal treaty shall be made with the Government of the United States for the exchange of mails between that Government and the Government of this Confederacy, Post-Masters will not be authorized to collect United States postage on mail matter sent to or received from those States; and until supplies of postage stamps and stamped envelopes are procured for the pre-payment of postage within the Confederate States, postage shall be paid in money, under the provisions of the first section of an act approved March 1st, 1861.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Post-Office Department of the Confederate States of America, at Montgomery, Alabama, the 13th day of May, in the year 1861.

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Post-Master General.



NEW POSTAGE ACTS.

Notice to the Public and Instructions to Post-Masters.

The following laws have been enacted by the Congress of the Confederate States of America:

Letter Postage.

“AN ACT to prescribe the Rates of Postage in the Confederate States of America, and for other purposes.

“The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That from and after such period as the Post Master General may by proclamation announce, there shall be charged the following rates of postage, to-wit: For every single sealed letter, and for every letter in manuscript or paper of any kind, upon which information shall be asked for or communicated in writing or by marks or signs, conveyed in the mail for any distance between places within the Confederate States of America, not exceeding five hundred miles, five cents; and for any distance exceeding five hundred miles, double that rate; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter, and every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, shall be charged with additional single postage; *and all packages containing other than printed or written matter—and money packages are included in this class—shall be rated by weight as letters are rated*, and shall be charged the rates of postage on letters; and all drop letters, or letters placed in any post office not for transmission but for delivery only, shall be charged with postage at the rate of two cents each; and in all the foregoing cases the postage must be pre-paid by stamps; and all letters which shall hereafter be advertised as remaining over or uncalled for in any post office shall be charged with two cents each in addition to the regular postage, both to be accounted for as other postages of this Confederacy.”

Postage on Newspapers, Pamphlets, and other printed matter, including Books.

“And be it further enacted, That all newspapers published within the Confederate States, not exceeding three ounces in weight, and sent from the office of publication to actual and *bona fide* subscribers within the Confederate States, shall be charged with postage as follows, viz: The postage on the regular numbers of a newspaper published weekly, shall be ten cents per quarter; papers published semi-weekly, double that amount; papers published thrice a week, treble that amount; papers published six times a week, six times that amount, and papers published daily, seven times that amount. And on newspapers weighing more than three ounces, there shall be charged on each additional ounce in addition to the foregoing rates, on those published once a week, five cents per ounce, or fraction of an ounce, per quarter; on those published twice a week, ten cents per ounce per quarter; on those published three times a week, fifteen cents per ounce per quarter; on those published six times a week, thirty cents per ounce per quarter; and on those published daily, thirty-five cents per ounce per quarter.

“And periodicals published oftener than bi-monthly shall be charged as newspapers.

“And other periodicals, sent from the office of publication to actual and *bona fide* subscribers, shall be charged with postage as follows, viz: The postage on the regular numbers of a periodical, published within the Confederate States, not exceeding one and a half ounces in weight, and published monthly, shall be two and a half cents per quarter; and for every additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce, two and a half cents additional; if published semi-monthly, double that amount. And periodicals published quarterly or bi-monthly, shall be charged two cents an ounce; and regular subscribers to newspapers and periodicals shall be required to pay one quarter's postage thereon in advance, at the office of delivery, unless paid at the office where published.

“And there shall be charged upon every other newspaper, and each circular not sealed, hand-bill, engraving, pamphlet, periodical and magazine, which shall be unconnected with any manuscript or written matter, and not exceeding three ounces in weight, and published within the Confederate States, two cents; and for each additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce, two cents additional; and in all cases the postage shall be pre-paid by stamps or otherwise, as the Post Master General shall direct.

“And books, bound or unbound, not weighing over four pounds, shall be deemedailable matter, and shall be charged with postage, to be pre-paid by stamps or otherwise, as the Post Master General shall direct, at two cents an ounce for any distance.

“And upon all newspapers, periodicals and books, as aforesaid, published beyond the limits of the Confederate States, there shall be charged postage at double the foregoing specified rates.

“The publishers of newspapers or periodicals within the Confederate States, may send and receive to and from each other, from their respective offices of publication, one copy of each publication, free of postage.

“All newspapers, unsealed circulars, or other unsealed printed transient matter, placed in any post-office, not for transmission but for delivery only, shall be charged postage at the rate of one cent each.”

Franking Privilege.

“And be it further enacted, That from and after the day when this act goes into effect the franking privilege shall be abolished: Provided, That the Post Master General and his chief clerk, the chief of the Contract, Appointment and Finance Bureaus, and the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, shall be and they are hereby authorized to transmit through the mail, free of postage, any letter packages, or other matters relating exclusively to the official duties or to the business of the Post Office Department; but they shall, in every such case, indorse on the back of the letter or package to be sent free of postage, over their own signature, the words “Official

Business." And for any such indorsement falsely made, the person so offending shall forfeit and pay three hundred dollars. And provided further, The several deputy post masters throughout the Confederate States shall be and hereby are authorized to send through the mail, free of postage, all letters and packages which it may be their duty or they may have occasion to transmit to any person or place, and which shall relate exclusively to the business of their respective offices or to the business of the Post Office Department; but in every such case the deputy post master sending any such letter or package shall indorse thereon, over his own signature, the words "Post Office Business." And for any and every such indorsement falsely made, the person making the same shall forfeit and pay three hundred dollars."

Payment of Postage in Money until Postage Stamps and Stamped Envelopes are provided.

"SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That until postage stamps and stamped envelopes can be procured and distributed, the Post Master General may order the postage of the Confederacy to be pre-paid in money, under such rules and regulations as he may adopt."

Repeal of the Letter Registration System.

"And be it further enacted, That the third section of an act entitled "An act further to amend an act entitled 'An act to reduce and modify the rates of postage in the United States, and for other purposes, passed March third, eighteen hundred and fifty-one,'" approved March 3d, 1855, whereby the letter registration system was established, be and is hereby repealed from and after the day when this act goes into effect."

Conveyance of Mail Matter by "Express" and other Chartered Companies.

"SEC. 5. That it shall be lawful for the Post Master General to allow express and other chartered companies to carry letters and all mail matter of every description, whether the same be enclosed in stamped envelopes or pre-paid by stamps or money; but if the same be pre-paid in money, the money shall be paid to some post master, who shall stamp the same paid, and shall account to the Post Office Department for the same, in the same manner as for letters sent by the

mail; and if pre-paid by stamps, then the express or other company receiving such letters for delivery shall obliterate such stamps, under the penalty of five hundred dollars for each failure, to be recovered by action of debt in any court having jurisdiction thereof, in the name of the Post Master General, for the use of the Confederate States; but if said letters or mail matter shall be received by such express or other company, not for delivery, but to be mailed, then the matter so carried shall be pre-paid at the same rate that the existing law requires it to be paid from the point where it may be received by such company to the point of its destination, and the post master, where such company may mail the same, shall deface the stamps upon the same.

"SECTION 6. Be it further enacted, That agents of any company who may carry letters under the provisions of this act, shall be required to take an oath that he will faithfully comply with the law of the Confederate States relating to the carrying of letters or other mail matter, and obliterating postage stamps, which oath may be administered by any justice of the peace, and shall be in writing, and signed by such agent or messenger, and filed in the Post-Office Department.

"Approved, March 15th, 1861."

"AN ACT to continue in force certain laws of the United States of America.

"Be it enacted by the Confederate States of America in Congress assembled, That all the laws of the United States of America, in force and in use in the Confederate States of America on the first day of November last, and not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Confederate States, be and the same are hereby continued in force until altered or repealed by the Congress.

"Adopted, February 9, 1861."

Post Masters' Returns must be made to close on the 31st March, the 30th June, the 30th September, and the 31st December, in each year: And the Return for the fractional part of the current quarter, which ends June 30th next, must be promptly rendered to the Chief of the Finance Bureau, Post Office Department, Montgomery, Alabama, in the form and manner prescribed by existing laws and regulations.