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NEW SOUTH WALES.



POSTAGE ACT, 13 VIC., No. 38.

WITH

REGULATIONS ISSUED THEREUNDER

BY

THE GOVERNOR AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

FOR THE

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

SYDNEY:

PRINTED BY W. W. DAVIES, AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
HYDE PARK.

1849.



NEW SOUTH WALES.



ANNO DECIMO TERTIO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

*By His Excellency SIR CHARLES AUGUSTUS FITZ ROY,
Knight Companion of the Royal Hanoverian
Guelphic Order, Captain-General and Governor-
in-Chief of the Territory of New South Wales
and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the
same, with the advice and consent of the Legis-
lative Council.*

No. XXXVIII.

An Act to establish an Uniform Rate of Postage, and to consolidate and amend the Law for the conveyance and postage of letters. [*Assented to, 12th October, 1849.*]

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient that the postage on letters Preamble. in New South Wales should be reduced to one uniform rate, and that the privilege of franking should be abolished, the Legislative Council of the said Colony pledging itself to make good any deficiency of Revenue which may be occasioned by such alteration in the existing duties: And whereas it is also expedient to repeal several Acts of the Governor and Legislative Council relating to the postage of letters, in order that the law on that subject may be consolidated and amended: Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, That from and after the first day of January next ensuing after the passing of this Act, the following Acts shall be repealed, except as to anything done or commenced to be done before the taking effect of this Act, and except in so far as any of the said Acts repeals any previous Act, namely, an Act passed in the fifth year of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "*An Act to provide for the convey- 5 Wm. IV., No. 24.*" *ance and postage of letters;*" and an Act passed in the second year of Her present Majesty's reign, intituled, "*An Act to amend an. 2 Vic., No. 17,*"

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and sums so to be fixed as aforesaid, shall not in any case exceed the rates of postage fixed by this Act.

IV. And be it enacted, That letters transmitted by the post shall, from and after the first day of January next, be charged by weight, according to the following scale, and that the several numbers of rates of postage hereinafter set forth shall be charged and be paid on letters transmitted by the post, that is to say:—On every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, one rate of postage; on every letter exceeding half an ounce and not exceeding one ounce in weight, two rates of postage; on every letter exceeding one ounce and not exceeding two ounces in weight, four rates of postage; on every letter exceeding two ounces and not exceeding three ounces in weight, six rates of postage; and on every letter exceeding three ounces and not exceeding four ounces in weight, eight rates of postage; and for every ounce in weight above the weight of four ounces there shall be charged and taken two additional rates of postage; and every fraction of an ounce above the weight of four ounces shall be charged as one additional ounce.

V. And be it enacted, That the following rates of postage shall be charged and paid on letters transmitted by post between places within the Colony, that is to say:—On all letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight transmitted by post (not being letters posted in any post town addressed to persons or places within such town) there shall be charged and paid one uniform rate of two-pence, without reference to the number of sheets, or pieces of paper, or enclosures, of which the same may be comprised, or to the distance or number of miles the same shall be conveyed; and that on all such letters, if exceeding half an ounce in weight, there shall be charged and paid progressive and additional rates of postage, (each additional rate being estimated at two-pence,) according to the scale of weight and number of rates hereinbefore fixed and declared.

VI. And be it enacted, That on all letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, when put into any Post Office for delivery at such Post Office, or within the limits of the city or town in which such Post Office is situated, there shall be charged and paid a uniform rate of one penny; and on all such letters, if exceeding half an ounce in weight, there shall be charged and paid additional rates of postage, according to the scale of weight and number of rates hereinbefore determined, estimating and charging each additional rate at one penny.

VII. And be it enacted, That on all ship letters there shall be charged and paid, in addition to the inland postage, the rates following, that is to say:—On all letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight there shall be charged and paid one uniform rate of three-pence; and on all such letters, if exceeding half an ounce in weight, there shall be charged and paid additional rates of postage, according to the scale of weight and number of rates hereinbefore contained, estimating and charging each additional rate at three-pence.

VIII. And be it enacted, That the postage payable for letters transmitted by vessels beyond the sea shall be paid by the sender, on delivery of such letters at the Post Office or other place appointed for the receipt of such letters.

Postage on Parcels, Legislative Proceedings, periodical publications.

Bankers' parcels.

Patterns.

Prices current.

Writs or proceedings of Courts of Justice.

Legislative Papers.

Periodical publications.

The Postmaster General, with Governor's approval, to cause stamps to be made and sold.

Penalty for forging stamps.

Stamped covers.

Letters or packets with stamps not equal to postage.

IX. And be it enacted, That the following rates of postage shall be charged and paid on all bankers' parcels, patterns of merchandise, prices current, writs or proceedings of Courts of Justice, legislative papers, and periodical publications, (newspapers excepted) that is to say :—Packets or covers containing notes, orders, specie, or pass books, without any letter or writing, other than the name of the sender, his place of abode, and the name and address of the person to whom the packet shall be sent; patterns or covers containing samples without any letter or writing, other than the name of the sender, his place of abode, the prices of the articles contained therein, and the name and address of the person to whom the packet shall be sent; prices current and catalogues without any writing, other than the prices, and the name and address of the person to whom the packet shall be sent; packets or covers containing any writ or proceeding out of any Court of Justice, or deed, conveyance, affidavit, or letter of attorney, without any letter or writing, other than the name of the sender, and the name and address of the person to whom the packet shall be sent; and packets or covers containing printed votes and proceedings of Parliament and of Colonial Legislatures, or pamphlets, magazines, reviews, and other periodical publications, (newspapers excepted) without any other letter or writing, other than the name and address of the person to whom the packet shall be sent; for every such packet not exceeding four ounces in weight, two-pence; and for every additional ounce or fraction of an ounce, one halfpenny.

X. And whereas it is desirable to facilitate the pre-payment of letters and packets sent by post: Be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General, with the approval of His Excellency the Governor, to cause stamps to be made and sold, indicating the receipt of such sum or sums of money as may be directed in that behalf by His Excellency the Governor.

XI. And be it enacted, That if any person shall fraudulently forge or imitate, or assist in forging or imitating, any stamp made under the authority of this Act, or shall offer, utter, or dispose of, any forgery or imitation of any such stamp, with intent to defraud the Revenue, or any person or body, corporate or politic, he or she shall be guilty of felony, and on conviction shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labor, or to hard labor on the roads or other public works of the said Colony, for such term not exceeding seven years as the Court shall award.

XII. And be it enacted, That all letters or packets, if enclosed in stamped covers, or having a stamp or stamps affixed thereto or impressed thereon, and all bankers' parcels, patterns, prices current, writs, or proceedings of Courts of Justice, periodical publications, and Legislative papers, if enclosed in stamped covers, or having a stamp or stamps affixed thereto, or impressed thereon, shall pass by the post free of postage, the stamp or stamps, in every such case, being affixed or appearing on the outside, and being of the value or amount of the rates of postage to which such letter or other packet or packets would be liable under this Act, and provided that the stamp shall not have been used before.

XIII. And be it enacted, That in all cases in which any letter, parcel, or packet shall be posted in and addressed to places within the said Colony, having thereon, or affixed thereto, any Post Office stamp or stamps, the value or amount of which shall be less than

the rate of postage to which such letter, parcel, or packet would be liable under this Act, if pre-paid, there shall be charged on such letter, parcel, or packet, (newspapers excepted,) a postage of double the amount of the difference between the value of such stamp or stamps and the postage to which such letter, parcel, or packet would be liable as aforesaid, if pre-paid.

XIV. And be it enacted, That in all cases in which letters and packets posted in and addressed to places within the Colony shall be posted without the postage being pre-paid either by stamp or otherwise, there shall be charged on such letters or packets, (newspapers excepted) a postage of double the amount to which such letters or packets would otherwise be liable under this Act. Additional postage on letters not pre-paid.

XV. And whereas letters and packets sent by the post are chargeable by law, on being re-directed and again forwarded by the post, with a new and distinct rate of postage: Be it enacted, That on every post letter re-directed there shall be charged for the postage of such letter from the place at which the same shall be re-directed to the place of ultimate delivery, (in addition to all other rates of postage payable thereon) such a rate of postage only as the same would be liable to if pre-paid. Letters re-directed.

XVI. And be it enacted, That petitions and addresses forwarded to Her Majesty by the post shall be exempt from postage. Petitions to Her Majesty exempt.

XVII. And be it enacted, That Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils may receive by the post petitions and addresses to Her Majesty and His Excellency the Governor, and petitions addressed to either the Executive or Legislative Council, not exceeding thirty-two ounces in weight, exempt from postage: Provided such petitions and addresses be sent without covers, or in covers open at the sides. Petitions to the Governor, or Executive or Legislative Councils, exempt.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That the following classes of persons may both send and receive letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, by the post, on their own private concerns, at a postage of one penny for each letter, namely:—Every seaman employed in Her Majesty's Navy, whether at Home or abroad, whilst such seaman shall be actually employed in Her Majesty's service; every serjeant, corporal, drummer, trumpeter, fifer, and private soldier in Her Majesty's Regular Forces, Militia, Fencible Regiments, Artillery, or Royal Marines, whether at Home or abroad, whilst actually employed in Her Majesty's service; every serjeant, corporal, drummer, trumpeter, fifer, and private soldier in the service of the East India Company, whilst actually employed in the service of the Company; but the letters of commissioned officers or warrant officers, whether in the Army or Navy, or midshipmen, or masters' mates of the Navy, are not included in this provision; and with respect to letters sent by any such privileged persons, the following conditions shall be observed, that is to say, the postage of each letter, unless sent from parts beyond the seas as hereinafter mentioned, shall be paid on being put into a Post Office; and upon such letter shall be superscribed the name of the writer, and his class or description in the vessel, regiment, corps, or detachment to which he shall belong; and upon every such letter there shall be written, in the handwriting of, and signed by the officer having at the time the command of the vessel or of the regiment, corps, or detachment to which the privileged person belongs, the name of such officer, and the name of such vessel, or of such regiment, corps, or detachment; Letters of sailors and soldiers.

and with respect to letters received by the post by any of the said privileged persons, the following conditions shall be observed, the postage of each letter, unless sent from parts beyond the seas as hereinafter mentioned, shall be paid upon its being put into a Post Office, and it shall be directed to the privileged person, specifying on the superscription thereof, the vessel, or the regiment, corps, or detachment to which he shall belong, and whenever the letters sent or received by any such privileged persons shall be sent from parts beyond the seas without the said postage of one penny being pre-paid, every such letter shall be charged to the party receiving the same with a rate of two-pence; and any letters received by the post under this enactment by any such privileged persons, which may have been re-directed, shall not be charged any postage on or in respect of such re-direction.

Newspapers.

XIX. And be it enacted, That printed newspapers forwarded by post shall be liable to a postage of one penny for each newspaper, whether such postage be pre-paid or otherwise: Provided always, that although newspapers may be sent by the post, and thereupon are subject to the rate of postage hereinbefore set forth, it shall not be compulsory to send them by post, but the same may be sent in the way most convenient to the parties concerned.

Conditions to be observed in posting newspapers.

XX. And be it enacted, That with respect to every newspaper so forwarded by the post, the following conditions shall be observed:—First, it shall be sent without cover, or in a cover open at each end; second, there shall be no word or communication written or printed on the paper after its publication, or upon the cover thereof, nor any writing upon the paper or cover of it, except the name and address of the person to whom sent; third, there shall be no paper or thing enclosed in or with any such paper, (other than an open cover as aforesaid); fourth, the said newspaper shall be put into the Post Office at such hours of the day, and under all such regulations as the Postmaster General shall appoint; fifth, the postage on all newspapers intended for parts beyond the Colony shall be pre-paid; and every newspaper placed in any Post Office contrary to the foregoing conditions, or in respect of which any one of the said conditions has not been complied with, shall be detained or charged the same rate of postage to which a letter of the same weight would be liable.

Postage privileges to cease.

XXI. And be it enacted, That except in the cases herein specified, all privileges whatsoever of sending letters by the post free of postage, or at a reduced rate of postage, shall wholly cease and determine.

Postage, if not pre-paid, to be paid by the receiver;

XXII. And be it enacted, That in all cases in which the postage of any letter shall not have been paid by the sender, either by stamp or otherwise, it shall be paid by the person to whom the letter is addressed, on the delivery thereof to him; but if the letter be refused, or the party to whom it is addressed shall be dead, or cannot be found, the writer or sender shall pay the postage; and this enactment shall apply to every packet, newspaper, and thing whatsoever chargeable with postage, which shall be transmitted by the post.

or, if refused, &c., by the sender.

Registered letters.

XXIII. And be it enacted, That in case the Postmaster General shall at any time deem it expedient that any post letters should be registered by the Post Office, the Postmaster General may charge for each letter so registered such rate of postage, in

addition to any other rates payable under this Act, as the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council shall from time to time direct, (but such registration shall not render the Postmaster or the Post Office Revenue in any manner liable for the loss of any such post letters or the contents thereof;) and all registered letters shall be delivered to the Post Office, and also be delivered by the Post Office at or between such hours in the day, and under all such regulations in every respect, as the Postmaster General shall from time to time appoint; and the Postmaster General may therein require such registration rate to be paid on the letter being put into the Post Office.

XXIV. And be it enacted and declared, That in any suit or other proceeding for the recovery of any postage payable under or by virtue of this Act, the person from whom any letter, in respect of which any postage shall be sought to be recovered, shall purport to have come, shall be deemed the sender thereof, and the onus shall lie upon the party proceeded against to prove that such letter did not come from and was not sent by him.

Apparent writer to be deemed the sender.

XXV. And be it enacted, That in all proceedings whatsoever for the recovery of any postage, the Post Office tax upon any letter shall in all cases be evidence of the liability of such letter to be so taxed, and that the sum so taxed thereupon is payable as and for the postage thereof.

Post Office tax to be evidence of postage due.

XXVI. And be it enacted, That in case any Postmaster shall suspect and believe that any letter or packet put into his office, or received by him as such Postmaster, and purporting to be a "banker's parcel," "pattern," "price current," "write or proceeding of any Court of Justice," "periodical publication," "Legislative paper," or "newspaper," doth not in fact contain solely and only that which the same shall so purport to contain as aforesaid, or doth contain some paper, note, or other thing, or writing, which under this Act would subject such letter or packet to postage, it shall be lawful for such Postmaster, and he is hereby required, to mark upon such letter or packet the amount of such postage, and such amount shall be demanded and received accordingly: Provided always, that in every such case of surcharge, if it shall at any time within ten days next following the delivery of the letter or packet be made to appear to the satisfaction either of the Postmaster by whom such letter or packet was so delivered, or of the Postmaster General, that the same was not in fact liable to postage, then the amount of the surcharge, or excess of postage, shall be returned to the party who shall have paid the same; and provided, that if the person to whom the letter or packet is delivered shall so require, the Postmaster by whom the same shall be so delivered shall, at the time of such delivery thereof, examine not only the outside, but the contents of the said letter or packet, in that person's presence, and thereupon demand and take the postage lawfully due on every such letter or packet, according to the provisions of this Act.

Provisions for surcharge in certain cases.

XXVII. And be it enacted, That except in the case of unclaimed and undelivered letters, no letter or packet whatever shall, under any circumstances, be returned to the writer or sender thereof without the express consent of the person to whom the same is directed; nor unless by virtue of an express warrant, in writing, under the hand of the Governor, shall any letter or packet be sent or delivered otherwise than according to the direction of the same.

Return of letters.

Letters posted contrary to this Act may be detained.

XXVIII. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General, and any officer of the Post Office, to detain any letters or packets which shall be posted or sent by the post contrary to the regulations of this Act, and to open such letters or packets, and either to return them to the senders thereof or to forward them to the places of their destination, charged in such case with the postage to which the same are liable.

Contracts for conveyance of mails.

XXIX. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General for the time being, under such instructions as shall be from time to time in that behalf given to him by the Governor, to enter into any contract or contracts, in writing, from time to time, in his own name, on behalf of the Government, for or in respect of the carriage or conveyance of the several mails throughout this Colony, or any or either of them, and to sue and be sued upon such contracts accordingly; and if any person having entered into any such contract shall, during the continuance thereof, unlawfully refuse or neglect to perform the same, or shall in any manner omit to comply with any stipulation or provision therein, he or she shall forfeit and pay a penalty or sum of not less than five pounds, nor more than fifty pounds, over and above the penalty recoverable upon such default, by virtue of any bond into which such person, or his or her surety or sureties, may have entered for the due performance of the contract.

Penalty on contractors for default.

Letters on board ship to be delivered on arrival to Postmaster &c., under a penalty.

XXX. And be it enacted, That all mails, bags, boxes, or packets of letters, or newspapers, and also all loose letters and newspapers which, at the time of the arrival of any ship or vessel within the limits of any port or harbour in the said Colony, shall be on board of such ship or vessel, directed to any person or persons within this Colony or its Dependencies, shall be delivered on demand to any Postmaster or Port Officer of such port or harbour, or to any person duly acting for such Postmaster or Port Officer; excepting always letters concerning goods on board such ship or vessel, and to be delivered with such goods, and letters containing any conveyance or other deed, commission, writ, or affidavit, and letters sent by way of introduction only, or concerning the bearer's private affairs; and any master, passenger, or other person on board of such ship or vessel, who shall knowingly or negligently detain on board of such ship or vessel, or keep in his or possession, any mail bag, mail box, packet of letters, letter, or newspaper, (except as aforesaid,) after such demand made as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay for every letter or newspaper so detained or kept, a penalty or sum not exceeding five pounds.

Exceptions.

Mails to be delivered immediately on arrival of a vessel at any port, or at any Post Office on the sea coast, or bank of a navigable River.

XXXI. And be it enacted, That all mails, bags, boxes, or packets, or letters, or newspapers which are conveyed, or required by law to be conveyed by post from one part of the Colony to the other, and which at the time of the arrival of any steam boat or other vessel within the limits of any such port, post town, or other place situated as aforesaid, shall be on board such steam boat or other vessel, shall be delivered, on demand, to any Port Officer or Postmaster of such port, post town, or other place situated as aforesaid, or to any person duly authorised to act for them or either of them; and any master, commander, or other person belonging to any such steam boat or other vessel, having charge of such mails, who shall refuse or neglect to deliver the same on demand as aforesaid, or shall detain or permit the detention of the same on board such

steam boat or other vessel, or shall not use due diligence in the delivery thereof, as well as for the secure and dry custody of the same while they shall be in his charge, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence, a penalty or sum not exceeding fifty pounds.

And to be kept safe and dry while on board, under a penalty.

XXXII. And be it enacted, That every master or other person in charge of any such ship or vessel arriving from parts beyond the said Colony, shall be entitled at any time after the expiration of twenty-four hours next after the arrival of such ship or vessel, to receive from the nearest Postmaster (who is hereby required to pay such master or person) the sum of one penny for every letter or packet, newspapers excepted, so delivered on demand as aforesaid, or delivered voluntarily to any Postmaster, or Port Officer, or at any Post Office, excepting only mail bags and packages received according to law from the General Post Office in England; and every such master or person shall give a receipt for the money so received, which receipt shall be to the Postmaster obtaining such letters or packets a sufficient voucher, and the same shall be allowed him in his account accordingly.

Allowances to masters of vessels for ship letters inwards.

XXXIII. And be it enacted, That if any master or person having the command of any ship or vessel about to depart from this Colony shall (after being thereto required by any such Postmaster or Port Officer) refuse or wilfully neglect to receive on board such ship or vessel any mail, or bag, or box of letters, or shall refuse or neglect carefully to deposit such mail, or bag, or box, in some secure and dry place on board of such ship or vessel, or to convey the same upon her then intended voyage, such master or person shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay a penalty or sum not exceeding one hundred pounds: Provided always, that every such master or person in command, who shall receive on board any such mail, or bag, or box, (for the purpose of conveying the same, according to the direction thereof,) shall be entitled immediately to demand and receive from such Postmaster or Port Officer, for the carriage thereof, one penny for every letter or packet contained therein, newspapers excepted, such master or person giving a receipt for the amount so received by him, which receipt shall be a sufficient voucher for such payment, and the same shall be allowed such Postmaster or Port Officer in his account accordingly.

Vessels departing from the Colony compelled to take Mails, under a penalty.

Allowance to masters of vessels for ship letters outwards.

XXXIV. And be it enacted, That if any master, commander, or other person having the charge of any steam boat or other vessel proceeding or about to proceed from any port or place within the Colony, to some other port or place within the same, shall refuse or neglect to receive any such Post Office mail on board such steam boat or other vessel, or to give a receipt for the same, being thereto required, he shall forfeit and pay a penalty or sum not exceeding fifty pounds.

Masters or commanders of steam boats, &c., to receive mails on board, and to give receipts for same, under a penalty.

XXXV. And be it enacted, That the master, commander, or other person having the charge of any such steam boat or other vessel, shall give timely notice of the near approach thereof to any such port, post town, or other place situated as aforesaid, either by the ringing of a bell or by such other concerted signal as may reasonably be expected to be distinctly heard or seen by such Postmaster, or other person, a sufficient time before the actual arrival of such steam boat or other vessel, to enable him to be prepared to receive or despatch any mail on board such steam boat or other vessel; and if any such master, commander, or other person as-

Steamers, &c., to give notice of their approach to any place appointed for the receipt and despatch of letters, under a penalty.

aforesaid, shall refuse, fail, or neglect to give such notice, he shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay a penalty or sum not exceeding fifty pounds.

Allowances to masters or vessels for conveyance of mails coastwise.

XXXVI. And be it enacted, That for the conveyance of any mails from one port, post town, or other place, to any other such port, post town, or other place, within the said Colony, the master, or commander, or any other person having the charge of any such steam boat or other vessel, shall be entitled to demand and receive at the rate of one halfpenny for every letter or packet chargeable with postage contained in such mail; and such payments shall be made at such place and time, and under such regulations, as the Postmaster General shall appoint; and every such master, commander, or other person as aforesaid, shall give a receipt for the amount so received by him, which receipt shall be to the Postmaster General, or to any Postmaster or other person as aforesaid, making such payment, a full and valid discharge for the same; and the said Postmaster General, and every such Postmaster and other person, in passing his accounts, shall receive credit for every such sum or sums which shall be therein mentioned accordingly: Provided that such master or other person having the charge of any such steam boat or other vessel shall not be entitled to demand or receive any such payment in respect of any newspaper or newspapers placed on board such vessel by the Postmaster General, or other person duly authorised in that behalf.

Penalty for delaying such mails.

XXXVII. And be it enacted, That if any Port Officer, Postmaster, or other person duly authorised to receive or despatch any such mails as aforesaid, shall neglect or fail to deliver, or shall retard the delivery of, any bag, box, mail, letter, packet, or newspaper, he shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay a penalty or sum not exceeding fifty pounds.

Penalty for sending or conveying letters otherwise than by post.

XXXVIII. And be it enacted, That after the commencement of this Act, no letter or packet chargeable with postage, (except newspapers as aforesaid,) shall be carried for hire or reward otherwise than by post; and if any such letter or packet shall be so carried or conveyed, or be sent or taken charge of for the purpose of being so carried or conveyed, by any person (not being a person employed in the Post Office, or in the conveyance of post letters), the person so sending or conveying such letter or packet, or taking charge of the same for such carriage or conveyance, shall, for every such letter or packet, forfeit and pay a penalty or sum not exceeding twenty pounds; and every such letter and packet sent or carried, or taken charge of to be carried, otherwise than by post, shall be deemed, in any prosecution for this offence, to have been for hire or reward, unless the contrary shall be shewn by the defendant.

Exceptions.

XXXIX. Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing in the last preceding clause contained shall extend to any letter or packet exceeding sixteen ounces in weight, nor to any letter or packet concerning goods, sent with such goods, and to be delivered therewith, or containing any writ or proceeding out of any Court of Justice, or deed, conveyance, affidavit, or letter of attorney, nor to any letter or packet sent by any person concerning his or her private affairs by any special messenger, nor to any letter or packet *bona fide* sent or carried to or from the nearest Post Office.

XL. And be it enacted, That any Postmaster, or other officer belonging to the Post Office, or any person employed by or under a Postmaster, or in the receiving, sorting, carrying, conveying, or delivering of post letters, or otherwise in the business of the Post Office, who shall offend against, or wilfully neglect, or omit to comply with, any of the rules and regulations so from time to time to be made as aforesaid, or any of the provisions of this Act, shall for every such offence, neglect, or omission, forfeit and pay a penalty or sum not exceeding fifty pounds.

Penalty for offences by persons in the Post Office.

XLI. And be it enacted, That if the driver of any mail coach or other carriage used for the conveyance of the mail, or the guard, or any person in charge of a mail, whether conveyed by any such carriage, or on horseback, or foot, shall loiter on the road, or wilfully mispend or lose time so as to retard the arrival of the mail at its proper destination, or shall not, in all possible cases, convey such mail at the speed of such a number of miles an hour as are fixed by the Postmaster General for the conveyance thereof, unless the circumstances of the weather, or the badness of the roads, or the occurrence of any accident, shall prevent the same, then and in every such case the driver or guard, or person in charge, (as the case may be,) so offending, and being convicted thereof, by his own confession, on view of a Justice, or the oath or oaths of one or more credible witness or witnesses, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five pounds for every such offence.

Penalty for delaying the arrival of mails.

XLII. And whereas post letters are sometimes, by mistake, delivered to the wrong person, and post letters and post letter bags are lost in the course of conveyance or delivery thereof, and are detained by the finders in expectation of gain or reward: Be it therefore enacted, That every person who shall fraudulently retain, or shall wilfully secrete, or keep, or detain, or being required to deliver up by an officer of the Post Office, shall neglect or refuse to deliver up a post letter which ought to have been delivered to any other person, or a post letter bag or post letter which shall have been sent, whether the same shall have been found by the person secreting, keeping, or detaining, or neglecting, or refusing to deliver up the same, or by any other person, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable to be punished by fine and imprisonment.

Punishment for fraudulently retaining after delivery thereof by mistake, any letter or packet, and wilfully secreting or detaining any letters, &c., that have been lost.

XLIII. And to prevent obstructions opposite the General Post Office: Be it enacted, That no hackney carriage shall stand or ply for hire opposite the General Post Office, or any part thereof respectively, and that every driver or any person having the management of any hackney carriage, who shall permit the same to stand or ply for hire opposite the said Post Office, shall forfeit for every such offence five pounds; and for the purposes of this provision every carriage with two or more wheels, whatever may be the form or construction of such carriage, or the number of persons which the same shall be calculated to convey, or the number of horses by which the same shall be drawn, shall be a hackney carriage within the meaning of this Act; and in all proceedings at law, or otherwise, and upon all occasions whatsoever, it shall be sufficient to describe it by the term hackney carriage; and every hawker, newsvender, or idle or disorderly person, who shall stop or loiter on the flagway or pavement opposite the General Post Office, or any part thereof respectively, shall forfeit for every such offence five pounds.

No Hackney Carriage to ply for hire opposite the General Post Office, under a penalty.

No hawker, newsvender, &c., to stop or loiter on pavement, under a penalty.

Punishment for taking letters from persons in the Post Office, &c.

XLIV. And be it enacted, That if any person, whether employed in the Post Office or otherwise, shall fraudulently take from the possession of any Postmaster, or person employed to convey post letters, or from out of any Post Office or place appointed for the receipt or delivery of post letters, any letter or packet, or mail of letters, or any matter or thing enclosed in any such letter, packet, or mail, (sent or to be sent by such post,) or shall fraudulently take any letter or packet, or any matter or thing enclosed therein, out of such bag or mail, every such person so offending shall be deemed guilty of felony, and, on conviction thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned with or without hard labor, or, if a male, to be worked on the roads or other public works of the Colony for such term, not exceeding fourteen years, as the Court shall award.

Prosecution of offences.

XLV. And for the more effectual prosecution of offences committed against the Post Office: Be it enacted, That in any indictment or information for any offence committed upon or in respect of any property which may be laid in, or stated to belong to, the Postmaster General, it shall be sufficient to state any such property to belong to, and to lay it in the Postmaster General of the said Colony, and it shall not be necessary to specify the name or addition of any such Postmaster General; and that whenever in any indictment or information for any offence committed against this or any other Act relating to the Post Office, it shall be necessary to mention for any purpose whatever the said Postmaster General, it shall be sufficient to describe such Postmaster General as the Postmaster General of the said Colony, without any further or other name, addition or description whatsoever.

Proceedings for penalties.

XLVI. And be it enacted, That all offences against this Act, or against any or either of the rules and regulations so to be made under this Act as aforesaid, in respect of which said offences any pecuniary fine or penalty is by this Act imposed, (where no other provision for the recovery thereof is in that behalf made,) shall be heard and determined, and such fines and penalties be awarded and imposed in a summary way, by and before any two Justices of the Peace, upon complaint in that behalf made, and all fines and penalties so awarded and imposed, shall go and be distributed, and all persons aggrieved by any summary conviction under this Act shall be entitled to appeal therefrom, in the manner provided respectively by the Act of the said Governor and Council, passed in the fifth year of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "*An Act to regulate summary proceedings before Justices of the Peace*": Provided however, that no formal information shall be necessary, but that on due service of a summons all subsequent proceedings shall be and be held to be as valid and effectual as if a formal information were filed: Provided further, that in every such summons the general nature of the complaint shall be succinctly stated, and that all such proceedings shall be taken in the name of Her Majesty's Attorney General, or of the Postmaster General, or of some other officer employed in the Post Office Department of the said Colony.

5 Will. IV., No. 22.

Limitation of actions for executing Act.

XLVII. And be it enacted, That if any action or suit shall be commenced against any person or persons for anything done in pursuance of this Act, the same shall be commenced within twelve months after the fact committed, and not afterwards; and the

defendant or defendants in such action shall and may plead the General issue, general issue, and give this Act and the special matter in evidence, and that the same was done in pursuance and by the authority of this Act; and if it shall appear so to be done, or that such action or suit shall be commenced after the time before limited for bringing the same, the jury shall find for the defendant or defendants; and upon a verdict for the defendant, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall be nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their action or suit after the defendant or defendants shall have appeared, or if upon demurrer judgment shall be given against the plaintiff or plaintiffs, the defendant or defendants shall and may recover treble costs, and Treble costs. have the like remedy for the same as any defendant or defendants hath or have by law in any other cases.

XLVIII. And be it enacted, That the moneys to arise by Appropriation of Postage duties, &c. and from the several rates and duties as aforesaid, and also all sums of money imposed and levied by way of penalty under the provisions of this Act, (except such part thereof as may be payable to the party suing or informing in respect thereof) shall respectively be paid to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, for the public uses of the said Colony, and in support of the Government thereof; and shall be applied thereto in such manner as shall be directed by any Act to be passed by the Governor and Legislative Council of the said Colony.

XLIX. Provided always, and it is hereby declared and Not to interfere with powers vested in Postmaster General in England, and Commissioners of the Treasury. enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to abridge or interfere with the powers vested respectively in the Postmaster General in England, and the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any three of them, by a certain Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the seventh and eighth years of Her Majesty's reign, intituled, "*An Act for the* 7 & 8 Vic., cap. 49. "*better regulation of Colonial Posts.*"

*Passed the Legislative Council this }
third day of October, one thousand }
eight hundred and forty-nine. }*

CHARLES NICHOLSON,
SPEAKER.

WM. MACPHERSON, CLERK OF THE COUNCIL.

In the name and on the behalf of Her Majesty, I assent to this Act,

CH^S. A. FITZ ROY,
GOVERNOR.

Govt. House, Sydney, 12th October, 1849.



POST OFFICE REGULATIONS.



REGULATIONS

OF THE

GOVERNOR AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

For the guidance of the Post Office Department under the Act of the Governor and Legislative Council, 13 Vict., No. 38, intituled, "An Act to establish "an Uniform Rate of Postage, and to consolidate "and amend the Law for the Conveyance and "Postage of Letters."

POSTMASTERS AND POST OFFICES.

I. All persons in the Department of the Post Office Postage Act. are required to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the several provisions of the said Act, and as far as in them lies to see that they are duly carried into effect. They will be guided in such matters as are not therein specially provided for by the following Regulations.

II. A separate office or apartment, where practicable, must in every case be provided for conducting the business of the Post Office. Separate room for Post Office.

III. The words Post Office must be exhibited in "Post Office." large conspicuous characters outside the building, so as to attract public attention.

IV. No person who has not subscribed the Declaration required by Clause 2 of the Act, shall have access to the interior of a Post Office. Official Declaration.

V. Every Post Office is to be opened at 9 a.m., and to close at 6 p.m., except where the mails arrive at a later hour, in which case the Office is to be kept open for half an hour after such arrival, but not later than 8 o'clock. Time of keeping office open.

Sunday attendance.

VI. On Sundays, Country Postmasters must open their Offices for one hour, either before or after Divine Service, as may be considered most convenient for the public.

Removal of office.

VII. The Office must not be removed without the consent of the Postmaster General, or of the Chief Postmaster in the District of Port Phillip.

Letter box.

VIII. The letter box must be fixed in a convenient and accessible situation, and the words "Post Office Letter Box" placed over it in very plain characters.

Construction.

Its construction must be such as to provide for the security of the letters, and it is to be closed only during the time of despatch of the mails as directed by Rule No. 11.

Closing time, how regulated.

DESPATCH AND RECEIPT OF MAILS.

Despatch of mails.

IX. Each Postmaster is carefully to stamp every letter passing through his office with the appropriate Post Office stamp on the day on which it is received, and in case there should not be affixed thereon a stamp or stamps equal to the rate of postage, he is to write legibly thereon the postage with which it is chargeable, marking letters on which the postage is paid, at the time of being delivered in, with red ink, and unpaid letters with black ink, as a distinguishing mark. He will further stamp with red ink the words "Post-paid," on letters which are so paid.

Letters to be stamped and plainly marked.

Moveable figure in stamp to be changed daily.

X. It is important that all letters should bear a clear impression of the Office dated stamp, and great care must be taken that the moveable figure is correctly changed at the commencement of each day, when an impression of the stamp must be made in a book to be kept for that purpose.

XI. A statement of the hours of closing the mails Statement of hours for closing the mail.
 is to be kept affixed on some exterior part of each Post Office, in order to avoid the frequent occurrence of letters being put in after the departure of the mails; and each Post Office shall be closed for half an hour Post Office closed for half an hour before the despatch of the mails. before the despatch of the mails, to allow time for assorting and securing the same; but letters will be received to within a quarter of an hour of despatch Fees on late letters. upon payment of a fee of sixpence for each letter. Letters put in too late for transmission must be marked with the words "too late," and the date of the mail for which they are so late.

XII. All letters received into any Post Office are Assortment of letters. to be carefully assorted; each description of letter, "stamped," "paid," and "unpaid," being tied in separate bundles, and forwarded in the mail bag addressed to the Post Office most conveniently situated for distribution with reference to their address; and each mail bag is to be carefully secured and sealed by the Postmaster before it is despatched.

XIII. Mails are to be made up at each passing of Making up mails. the mail conveyance. A Letter Bill, specifying the Letter bills. contents of such mail, is invariably to be forwarded with each, having the word "nil" written across when there may not be any letters, that a Letter Bill may appear for every day the mail should have arrived or been despatched.

XIV. When there may be letters for any Post Letters for other Post Offices. Office, situate on some other road, they are to be sent in the mail to the Post Office nearest to the junction of such other road, the postage thereon being included in the Letter Bill with those intended for distribution at that office; and, when re-for-

warded thence, they are to be inserted in the letter bill as "mis-sent," in order that the Postmaster may be allowed credit for the same in his account; and special care must be taken in the assortment of mails immediately on their arrival, that letters, so requiring to be forwarded, may not be detained beyond the first despatch after their receipt.

Letter bills to be duly signed and numbered.

XV. All Letter Bills are to be duly dated and signed before despatch, and numbered in progressive series, commencing with No. 1 on the first day of each year, and they are also to be receipted and dated immediately on arrival. Care must be taken in stating the hour of despatch and receipt, as on these documents the Postmaster General must depend in imposing penalties on the Contractors for delays in the conveyance of the mails.

Time bills.

XVI. All Time Bills which accompany mails are to be receipted and returned by the following post.

Letter bills to be entered.

XVII. All Letter Bills, whether received or despatched, are to be carefully entered in a book kept for that purpose, and in case of Letter Bills being received unsigned they are to be immediately returned for signature.

Incorrect letter bills to be returned.

XVIII. The receiving Postmaster is to be considered chargeable with the full amount of postage specified in the Letter Bill on such letters as are unpaid, and with the difference of postage due on such as are only partially pre-paid, unless upon comparison with the contents of the mail, he should find the same to be incorrect, in which case he is to give notice of the error by the next mail to the Postmaster by whom it may have been despatched, in order that both the Letter Bill and book may be corrected.

XIX. Should the Letter Bill be incorrect in respect of paid letters it must be returned in like manner, the despatching Postmaster being chargeable with the postage on such letters. Letter bills incorrect in respect of paid letters must also be returned.

RATES OF POSTAGE.

XX. A Table of the Rates of Postage set forth in the annexed Schedule is to be kept constantly legible on some convenient part of each Post Office for public inspection, and each Postmaster will take care that such rates are duly charged and accounted for. Table of rate of postage to be publicly exposed for inspection.

XXI. Letters not paid in advance, or not having affixed to them stamps equal to the rate of postage, are subject to double the rates of pre-paid letters. Letters not pre-paid to be charged double.

XXII. All letters for places beyond the Colony, must be pre-paid, or have affixed to them stamps equal to the rate of postage. Ship letters.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

XXIII. Letters having stamps affixed to them, equal to the rates of postage chargeable upon such letters, pass free of all other postage. The stamps are to be placed on the front of the letter, above the superscription. Letters bearing stamps.

XXIV. In cases where the value of the stamps is less than the amount of postage to which it would be liable if pre-paid, the letter must be charged, on delivery, double the amount of the difference. Insufficient number of stamps.

Ship Letters insufficiently stamped to be returned to the chief office.

XXV. Letters addressed to parts beyond the Colony, bearing an insufficient number of stamps, must be sent to the General Post Office, Sydney, or to the Post Office, Melbourne, to be returned, in all practicable cases, to the writers.

Sale of postage stamps.

XXVI. The several Postmasters will be required to sell postage stamps to the public, which they will obtain, upon requisition, from the General Post Office at Sydney, or from the Post Office at Melbourne, and they must be careful always to have a sufficient supply on hand. The stamps will be of the following rates, viz. :—

Stamps to be obtained from the General Post Office, Sydney.

Price of stamps.

Penny stamps1d. each.
 Two-penny stamps2d. „
 Three-penny stamps.....3d. „

Poundage on sale of stamps.

XXVII. A poundage of 4 per cent. will be granted upon the sale of stamps, which will be supplied to the

Stamps supplied to the public wholesale at a reduction.

public at the following wholesale prices,—

Penny stamps	25 for	2s.
	50 „	4s.
	75 „	6s.
	100 „	8s.
Two-penny stamps	25 „	4s.
	50 „	8s.
	75 „	12s.
	100 „	16s.
Three-penny stamps.....	25 „	6s.
	50 „	12s.
	75 „	18s.
	100 „	24s.

Postage stamps forwarded to Postmasters and charged in their monthly accounts.

XXVIII. Postage stamps, when forwarded to Postmasters, will be charged against them in the same manner as postage, and will be included in their monthly account; but Postmasters will be allowed

credit, at the end of each month, for any stamps remaining unsold, upon their furnishing a proper statement thereof, in the form hereto annexed (F.)

Stamps remaining on hand to be accounted for.

XXIX. Any Postmaster, or person employed in the Post Office, who shall charge any higher rate for Post Office stamps than the prices fixed in Rules Nos. XXVI & XXVII, shall be dismissed from the service.

Postmasters, &c., not allowed to charge for stamps beyond the fixed rate. Dismissal for infringement of this regulation.

XXX. When letters are posted all stamps on them must be carefully obliterated with the stamp furnished for that purpose. In the obliteration of stamps, the black composition supplied for the purpose must *always* be used; and Postmasters and others are enjoined to be particularly careful in the performance of this part of their duty.

Obliteration of postage stamps.

XXXI. Letters Reposted bearing stamps which have been previously obliterated, or defaced, must be treated as unpaid letters.

Letters with obliterated stamps.

XXXII. No Postmaster, or person employed in a Post Office, is allowed to affix a postage stamp to a letter which has been pre-paid with money at his office.

Postmasters, &c., not to affix stamps to pre-paid letters.

REGISTRATION.

XXXIII. The system of registration is applicable to all descriptions of letters without distinction, whether they contain coin or articles of value or not. Parties sending bank-notes or drafts should be advised, for greater security, to cut such notes or drafts in halves, and send them by different posts.

Registration of letters.

Bank notes or drafts should be cut in halves for greater security.

XXXIV. Postmasters, or other persons employed in a Post Office, when called upon to register a letter, will demand a fee of sixpence, which is, of course, exclusive of any postage that may be due thereon, and will stamp, or write distinctly, on the

Registration fee.

Receipts.

letter, "Registered Letter," and enter the address and number of it on the left hand side of the Receipt Book with which he is furnished. To the party posting the letter he will give the receipt which he will cut out of the book, and upon which he must enter the address of the letter, so as to correspond with the entry in the book.

Full address of Registered letter to be entered in letter bill.

XXXV. The full address of registered letters must be entered upon the "Time Bill," or "Letter Bill;" and it will be necessary for every officer on opening a bag, immediately to seek the "Time Bill," or "Letter Bill;" and in the event of a registered letter being entered thereon, to certify its arrival, by attaching his initials to such entry. He will then place the letter in its proper channel for disposal, taking an acknowledgment, by initials or otherwise, from the person into whose hands it may be given for delivery or despatch, each officer pursuing the same course until it reach the party for whom it is intended, when the usual official receipt is to be obtained, and forwarded, to the General Post Office at Sydney, or the Post Office at Melbourne, with the vouchers which accompanied the letter.

Caution to use care, and consequences attaching to the loss of a registered letter.

XXXVI. Should any letter entered as registered be missing, the opener of the bag must immediately report the fact, as, although the Post Office revenue is by law exempt from any liability in such cases, the officer of the Department into whose possession any such missing letter is traced, will be held responsible for it, until he shall have discharged himself of the responsibility by a satisfactory explanation.

Registered letters for places beyond the Colony.

XXXVII. Letters intended for any place beyond the Colony may also be registered upon payment of a similar fee, and the receipt from the Postmaster of the place to which the letter is addressed will be returned, by the first opportunity, to the office where it was registered, with the vouchers which accompanied it.

MISSENT, RE-DIRECTED, AND DEAD LETTERS.

XXXVIII. When letters, newspapers, or packets Missent letters. of any kind are missent to any office, the words "missent" must be stamped or written on the front of each, and the dated stamp of the town or place affixed. Such letters or newspapers or other packets will then be forwarded to their destination by the first post.

XXXIX. In the case of the arrival of letters or news- Undelivered letters. papers for parties not known or not to be found, they are to be immediately entered on a list to be exposed for view on the outside of the Post Office, and if not claimed at the expiration of thirty days, they must be returned to the General Post Office, Sydney, or the Post Office, Melbourne, to be advertised in the *Government Gazette*; and if not claimed within one month Unclaimed letters to be returned to the writers. thereafter they will be returned to the writer. But should it be known in what other District the parties reside, such letters are to be immediately re-forwarded.

XL. When letters, newspapers, or packets of any kind are "refused," or the person to whom they are addressed is "deceased," they are to be returned immediately to the General Post Office, Sydney, or to the Post Office, Melbourne, for the purpose of being sent back to the writer; and in all cases of letters returned to Sydney or Melbourne the reason of non-delivery is to be assigned on each. Letters refused or addressed to parties "deceased," to be returned to the writers.

XLI. The letters or newspapers so returned must be entered in the letter bill under the head of "missent," in order that the Postmasters may be allowed credit for the same in their accounts, and the address of every refused or undelivered registered letter so returned must be entered in full on the letter bill. Returned letters to be entered under head of "missent," in the letter bill.

XLII. Foreign letters undelivered are to be advertised as unclaimed in the *Government Gazette* at Unclaimed foreign letters.

Sydney or Melbourne, and at the expiration of twelve months, if not applied for, they shall be returned to London, or to the place from whence they may have been received.

PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES.

XLIII. Petitions and addresses to Her Majesty are exempt from postage.

XLIV. Members of Council may receive, free of postage, petitions and addresses to Her Majesty and His Excellency the Governor, and petitions addressed to either the Executive or Legislative Council, if not exceeding 32 ounces in weight, and sent without covers, or in covers open at the sides.

SEAMEN'S AND SOLDIERS' LETTERS.

XLV. Seamen and soldiers, while they are employed in Her Majesty's Service, can send or receive letters, not exceeding half an ounce in weight, on their own private concerns only, at the rate of 1d. each, if superscribed and forwarded in conformity with the 18th clause of the Act.

ACCOUNTS.

XLVI. All letter bills are to be carefully preserved by the Postmaster to whom they have been addressed, and to be forwarded, as vouchers for his monthly accounts, to the General Post Office at Sydney, or to the Post Office, Melbourne, by the first mail after the termination of each month, together with the margins or counterparts of those despatched, and a statement (in form F.) of all letters and postage stamps which may then be remaining in his Office, as well as any letter bills received in the early part of any month bearing date of despatch in the previous one.

Petitions exempt
from postage.

Sailors' and soldiers'
letters.

Letter bills.

XLVII. As soon as practicable after the receipt of ^{Postmaster's ac-} these vouchers, an account will be furnished to each ^{counts.} Postmaster, which is to be immediately examined and attested, and returned to the General Post Office, or in the District of Port Phillip to the Post Office at Melbourne, with the amount of collections appearing due thereon; and Postmasters will be held liable to the forfeiture of their quarter's salary should any part of their collections for the previous quarter be in arrear. In such accounts the Postmasters will be charged with the full amount of the letter bills and allowed credit when necessary in any of the following particulars.

XLVIII. On being satisfied that any claim made ^{Overcharged letters.} to them, respecting overcharged letters or packets, is just, in conformity with clause 26 of the Act, Postmasters will return the amount overcharged, requesting the parties to leave with them the covers, with a receipt thereon, if they can be spared; but if not, they will take a separate receipt as a voucher for the amount which they may thus return. In either case the receipt must be witnessed, and all such covers and receipts shall be forwarded to the General Post Office, Sydney, or to the Post Office, Melbourne, at the end of each month, included in form F, that the Postmasters may be allowed credit for the same in their accounts.

XLIX. All additional postage which may be de- ^{Additional postage} manded on letters charged single only but proving to be double, treble, or as the case may be, is to be accounted for at the end of each month with the statement of letters and postage stamps remaining in the Office. (Form F.)

L. The postage chargeable on letters not having stamps of sufficient value, as also the fees on registering and on late letters, are to be accounted for in like manner.

Payments by Post-
master General.

LI. The Postmaster General, and the Chief Postmaster of Port Phillip, are punctually to pay into the Treasury weekly, without any deduction whatever, all public monies collected since the last payment, and are further to make up and forward to the Auditor General by the 10th of each month, an attested statement of such collections, transmitting in support thereof, as soon afterwards as possible, the monthly accounts of the several Country Postmasters.

Monthly accounts.

NEWSPAPERS.

Newspapers to be
posted before 3
o'clock p.m.

LII. Newspapers, if intended for transmission by the same day's post, must be delivered into the Post Office before 3 o'clock of that day, or they will be delayed till the succeeding post.

Postmasters to exa-
mine newspapers.

LIII. Postmasters are to examine newspapers as often as practicable, and on detection of any enclosures or writing on the papers except the address, are to charge them with postage on the same principle as letters.

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

Postmasters to report
irregularities,

LIV. It is the duty of every Postmaster to report to the Postmaster General, from time to time, any irregularity which may come under his notice relating to the business of the Post Office, and particularly on the part of the contractors in the manner of conveying the mails, as regards their non-preservation from wet, or delay in the time of arrival or departure, or in their conveying letters clandestinely in violation of clause 38 of the Act.

LV. The attention of all persons connected with ^{Penalties.} the Post Office Department is particularly directed to the penalties imposed by clause XL of the Act for wilful neglect to comply with any part of the said Act or these Regulations.

LVI. A letter once posted becomes the property of the person to whom it is addressed, and cannot under ^{Letters once posted cannot be given up.} any circumstances be given up, even to the writer, but must be forwarded according to the address. No application however urgent will justify a Postmaster in departing from this rule.

LVII. Letters posted without any address, or imperfectly directed, so that they cannot be forwarded ^{Letters not addressed or imperfectly directed to be sent to the Chief Office.} to their destination, should be duly stamped and sent to the General Post Office, Sydney, or to the Post Office, Melbourne.

LVIII. The Letter Carriers will deliver letters ^{Letter carriers' delivery.} within the limits of the City of Sydney twice in each day, starting from the General Post Office at nine o'clock in the morning, and at two o'clock in the afternoon; and Letter Carriers who shall, under any circumstances whatever, stop to deliver letters in the streets, or deviate ^{Letter carriers, on no pretence whatever, to stop or loiter whilst on delivery.} from their direct round, or loiter whilst on delivery, will be dismissed from the service.

LIX. The Receiving Offices will be visited at one ^{Receiving offices.} o'clock, p. m., and at four o'clock, p. m., each day, when all letters found there will be brought to the General Post Office for distribution.

LX. The Postmaster General shall be held bound ^{Securities, bonds, &c.} to give satisfactory security, by bond, to Her Majesty, himself in £500, and two sureties in £250 each; the Chief Postmaster of the District of Port Phillip, himself in £300, and two sureties in £150 each; every

Postmaster, himself in £100, and two sureties in £50 each; and every person concerned in the assortment and delivery of letters, himself in £50, and two sureties in £25 each for the diligent and faithful discharge of their duties respectively, and for duly accounting for all public monies passing through their hands.

Surety's death, or
insolvency.

LXI. In the event of the death, bankruptcy, or insolvency, of any surety, notice is to be given to the Postmaster General, or to the Chief Postmaster in the District of Port Phillip, and a new surety named.

Postmaster General
to exercise a general
superintendence.

LXII. It is the duty of the Postmaster General to exercise a general superintendence over the several Postmasters and contractors, to see that they are punctual and attentive in every part of their duty, and that the established Regulations are fully carried into effect; and he is further to submit from time to time to the Colonial Secretary, for the Governor's consideration, any measures the adoption of which may appear to him necessary to enable him effectually to carry on the duties entrusted to his management.

Hours of attendance
at the General Post
Office.

LXIII. The General Post Office will be open to the public from nine o'clock, a. m., till six, p. m., except for half an hour for the despatch of country mails, namely, from half-past four to five, p. m.

Arrivals of mails by
vessels.

LXIV. On the arrival from beyond sea of any vessel within any Port in this Colony where a Post Office is established, the Postmaster General or Postmaster, as the case may be, whether on Sunday or any other day, will forthwith cause all mails, loose letters and packets to be brought to the Post Office and delivered as soon as possible thereafter; and the attention of all masters of vessels is to be particularly directed to

the gratuities allowed upon all loose letters and packets so delivered over, and the penalties imposed for delay of the mails under clauses XXX and XXXI, of the said Act.

LXV. Subscribers of one guinea per annum will be Private letter boxes. entitled to have private boxes and obtain their letters at a separate delivery window, but otherwise they will not be differently accommodated, nor be served earlier, the delivery of letters by the carriers and at the Office commencing at the same time.

By Command of His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,

E. DEAS THOMSON.

(Schedule referred to in Clause XX.)

TABLE OF RATES OF POSTAGE.

INLAND LETTERS.

Not exceeding half an ounce - - - - -	2 pence
Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ an oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. -	4 „
„ 1 oz., „ 2 „ -	8 „
„ 2 „ „ 3 „ -	12 „
„ 3 „ „ 4 „ -	16 „

and for every ounce or fraction of an ounce above four ounces, four-pence additional.

TOWN LETTERS.

Not exceeding half an ounce - - - - -	1 penny
Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ an oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. -	2 pence
„ 1 oz., „ 2 „ -	4 „
„ 2 „ „ 3 „ -	6 „
„ 3 „ „ 4 „ -	8 „

and for every ounce or fraction of an ounce above four ounces, two-pence additional.

Bankers' parcels, patterns, prices current, writs, or proceedings of Courts of Justice, Legislative papers, and periodical publications, if forwarded in conformity with clause IX of the Act:—

Not exceeding 4 ounces	2 pence
And for every additional ounce } or fraction of an ounce..... }	1 half-penny.

Letters or parcels not pre-paid, or not having affixed stamps equal to the above rates of postage, to be charged double.

SHIP LETTERS.

In addition to the Inland Postage.

Not exceeding half an ounce - - - - -	3 pence
Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ an oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. -	6 „
„ 1 oz., „ 2 „ -	12 „
„ 2 „ „ 3 „ -	18 „
„ 3 „ „ 4 „ -	24 „

and for every ounce or fraction of an ounce above four ounces, sixpence additional.

Clause VIII of the Act directs that the postage on letters transmitted by vessels beyond the seas must be prepaid. In like manner the inland postage on such letters posted in the interior must be pre-paid, or they will not be forwarded. But letters arriving by ship from parts beyond the sea, and sent inland (in addition to the sea postage,) will be liable only to the same inland postage as they would have been if pre-paid.

SAILORS' AND SOLDIERS' LETTERS.

Letters sent to or by sailors and soldiers come under the following Regulations:—

1.—Every such letter must be superscribed in the manner directed by Clause XVIII, of the Act.

2.—The weight must not exceed half an ounce.

3.—Letters sent by, or addressed to, sailors or soldiers, and posted in the Colony, in accordance with the foregoing restrictions, will be charged,

If pre-paid 1 penny.

4.—If not pre-paid they will be charged double the rate of an ordinary letter, unless addressed to parts beyond the Colony, in which case they will not, of course, be forwarded at all, as directed in Rule No. XXII.

5.—Letters sent by, or received from, sailors or soldiers, and arriving from parts beyond the Colony, will be charged,

- If pre-paid 1 penny
- If not pre-paid 2 pence.

6.—And in every case where sailors' or soldiers' letters are posted not in accordance with the requirements of Clause XVIII of the Act, they will be treated as ordinary *unpaid letters*.

NEWSPAPERS.

For each newspaper, or *Government Gazette*, whether pre-paid or not..... } 1 penny.

Any newspaper posted contrary to the provisions of Clause XX, of the Act, will be detained, or charged as a letter of the same weight.

(Form referred to in clauses XXVII, XLVI, and XLVIII.)

F.

STATEMENT to be forwarded to the General Post Office, at Sydney, or to the Post Office, at Melbourne, by the first Mail succeeding the termination of each month, with the Letter Bills received and Margins of those despatched, during the previous month, as directed by the 46th Clause of the Regulations.

FOR THE MONTH OF	No.	AMOUNT.	
Penny Letters received and delivered during this Month being } for Letters put into this Post Office for delivery at this Post Office }			
Additional Postage, charged by the undersigned, on Letters, Pack- } ages, &c., during the Month }			
Fees on registered and late letters... ..			
Overcharges returned under the 46th Clause of the Regulations, as } per covers and receipts herewith..... }			
Letters remaining in the Post Office on the last day { of the same Month { Paid Unpaid			
Newspapers.....ditto.....ditto { Paid Unpaid			
Stampsditto.....ditto			

POST OFFICE, at
the day of

184
Postmaster.

