

PASSED AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

POSTAL CONVENTION WITH CANADA.

Articles of agreement between the Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of Canada.

For the purpose of establishing and regulating the interchange of mails between the United States and Canada, it is agreed between the Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of Canada...

On the side of the United States: On the side of Canada: Port Huron, Michigan, Port Sarina, Windsor, Detroit, Windsor, Black Rock, New York, Port Erie, Lewistown, Queenstown, Youngstown, Niagara, Rochester, Niagara, Cape Vincent, Kingstons, Morrisstown, Brockville, Ogdensburg, Prescott, Whitehall, Prescott, Plattsburg, S. Johns, Route's Point, S. Johns, Burlington, Vermont, Stangland, Derby Line, Stangland, Buffalo, New York, Montreal, Albany, New York, Toronto, Boston, Massachusetts, Toronto, Fort Covington, N. Y., Dundas, Albany, N. Y., at...

On the side of the United States: On the side of Canada: Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Sault Ste. Marie, Baby's Point, Algona, Chatham, Detroit, Chatham, Buffalo, New York, Hamilton, by Queenstown through London, bag, Port Erie, Fort Erie, A. D. 1851, and shall come into operation on the first day of October, A. D. 1856.

On the side of the United States: On the side of Canada: Suspension Bridge, N. Y., Suspension Bridge, Plattsburg, Montreal, Moers, Hamiltonford, Troy, Montreal, through Sackett's Harbor, Kingston, Oswego, in Summer, New York, New York, Albany, Kingston, through Boston, Montreal, bag, Hamilton, by through Sherbrooke, J. bag, Canada Line, Montreal, Rutland, Vermont, St. John, by through Montreal, J. bag, Island Point, Montreal, Sherbrooke, and Route Agents, Richard, Abercorn, Franklin, Fredericton, North Troy, South Patten, Swanton, Hereford, Boston, Massachusetts, Sherbrooke, Cleveland, Ohio, Port Stanley.

Article II. The mails exchanged between the offices of New York, Albany, Buffalo and Boston, on the one side, and Toronto, Kingston, and Montreal, on the other, are to pass each way as through mails, not to be opened at any intermediate frontier office.

Article III. The postage to be charged in the United States, on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, to or from Canada, shall be five cents for any distance in the United States, not exceeding three thousand miles; and exceeding three thousand miles, within the United States, ten cents the single rate.

Article IV. The postage to be charged in Canada on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, to or from the United States, shall be five cents for any distance in Canada. Every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, to be charged as one-half ounce.

Article V. Upon all letters posted in the United States to be delivered in Canada, or posted in Canada to be delivered in the United States, these rates shall be combined in one rate, of which payment in advance shall be optional in either country, so that the whole combined rate cannot be prepaid.

Article VI. The Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of Canada shall each pay the postage on unpaid letters from Canada, as well as the postage on letters to Canada, prepaid in the U. S., and the Post-Office Department of Canada will collect and keep the postage on the unpaid letters from the United States, as well as the postage on letters prepaid in Canada to the United States.

Article VII. Each mail despatched from one country to the other shall be accompanied by a letter or post bill, containing the number of letters so posted, and distinguishing the mail from the unpaid, with their postage in separate columns.

Article VIII. The postage on newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and other printed matter, must be prepaid, or sent free to the line in the country where posted; and any postage afterwards accrued thereon, beyond the receipt of the collector and retained by the Post-Office Department of the country in which it accrues.

Article IX. The offices designated for the despatch and receipt of Canada mails, on the side of the United States, will stamp "U. States" upon all letters sent into Canada as delivery; and the offices designated for the despatch and receipt of United States mails, on the side of Canada, will stamp "Canada" upon all letters sent into the United States for delivery.

Article X. The Post-Office departments of the United States and Canada shall each return to the other all dead letters, unopened, without charge, every three months, or often, as may best suit the general regulations of each department.

Article XI. The expenses of transporting the mails between the frontier offices, where the conveyance is by water, shall be borne equally by the two departments; but when the transportation is by land, the expenses shall be borne by each in proportion to the distance traveled over the territory of each country. All contracts for such transportation shall, before they go into operation, be approved by the Post-Office Department of each country.

Article XII. This arrangement shall go into operation on the sixth of next, and it may be modified from time to time, as may be agreed upon by the parties hereto; it shall be null and void as the desire of either party, upon three months' notice.

In witness whereof, the Postmaster-General of the United States, and the Postmaster-General of Canada have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals, respectively, this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

N. K. HALL, J. MORRIS.

By subsequent arrangement, letters originating at either of the following line offices and destined for the corresponding line office, as hereinafter named, the distance being short, are allowed to go at a postage of two cents each, without regard to weight, viz:—

Port Huron, Mich., Port Sarina, Canada, Detroit, Windsor, Black Rock, New York, Port Erie, Lewistown, Queenstown, Youngstown, Niagara, Rochester, Niagara, Cape Vincent, Kingstons, Morrisstown, Brockville, Ogdensburg, Prescott, Whitehall, Prescott, Plattsburg, S. Johns, Route's Point, S. Johns, Burlington, Vermont, Stangland, Derby Line, Stangland, Buffalo, New York, Montreal, Albany, New York, Toronto, Boston, Massachusetts, Toronto, Fort Covington, N. Y., Dundas, Albany, N. Y., at...

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES. Of agreement between the Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of Canada, providing for the exchange of Registered Letters between the two countries.

Article I. Letters, alleged to be valuable, posted at any post-office in the United States or its Territories, and addressed to Canada, or to the United States and addressed to the United States, and deliverable at any of the respective offices of exchange to be thence conveyed to their destination, shall be registered at the office of mailing, on the application of the person posting the same: Provided, That the full postage chargeable thereon to destination, together with a registration fee of five cents on each letter, be prepaid

at such mailing office: And provided, also, That such registration shall not be compulsory, and shall be made at the option of the sender.

Article II. All such letters or packets mailed in the interior of the United States or Canada, respectively, shall be received, registered, and forwarded, as directed in the general regulations issued in each country in regard to the registration of valuable letters, and shall be sent to the respective exchange offices for the purpose of being forwarded thence by the first mail.

Article III. The respective exchange offices shall receive and forward, by each regular mail, originally mailed at said exchange offices, or sent to them to be forwarded, as prescribed by the regulations referred to in Article II., and shall enter therein the name of the person addressed and the post-office to which it is to be mailed for delivery. The postmaster of said exchange office will mail each such letter, or parcel of letters, in the usual manner in a separate package from the unregistered letters. The letter bills of such registered letters shall not be enclosed in the packages containing them, but shall be enclosed in a separate wrapper or envelope, and shall be sent to the postmaster of the corresponding exchange office.

Article IV. On the receipt of registered letters for delivery or distribution at either of the respective exchange offices, the postmaster of the receiving office will compare the letters with the bill, and endorse it "correct," if it is found so; and if not, he will note the error thereon, and return it to the sender, or to the postmaster of the office of mailing.

Registered letters received at either of the exchange offices, and destined for an inland post-office, shall be forwarded in the same manner as registered letters originally mailed at such office.

Article V. The registration fee of five cents shall accrue to the United States Post-Office Department upon all registered letters sent from the United States to Canada, and to the Canadian Post-Office Department upon all registered letters sent from Canada to the United States.

Article VI. The present articles shall be considered additional to those agreed upon between the two offices on the 21st day of March, A. D. 1851, and shall come into operation on the first day of October, A. D. 1856.

In witness whereof, the Postmaster-General of the United States, and the Postmaster-General of Canada, have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals, at the date set opposite to each, respectively.

JAMES CAMPBELL, ROBERT S. SPEER, Postmaster-General.

POSTAL CONVENTION WITH VENEZUELA. Postal Convention between the United States of America and Venezuela.

Article I. An exchange of mails shall hereafter take place between the United States of America and Venezuela by the ordinary routes of sea transportation, as well by private ships as by American or Venezuelan steam or other mail vessels, subject to the laws of the respective countries.

Article II. Boston, New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and the cities of the United States, on the one side, and Caracas, Puerto Cabello, and Maracaibo, on the other, shall be the offices of exchange on the side of Venezuela, and all mail transmitted thereon shall be subject to the laws of that country.

Article III. The postage to be charged in the United States, on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, to or from Venezuela, shall be five cents for any distance in the United States, not exceeding three thousand miles; and exceeding three thousand miles, within the United States, ten cents the single rate.

Article IV. The postage to be charged in Venezuela on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, to or from the United States, shall be five cents for any distance in Venezuela. Every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, to be charged as one-half ounce.

Article V. Upon all letters posted in the United States to be delivered in Venezuela, or posted in Venezuela to be delivered in the United States, these rates shall be combined in one rate, of which payment in advance shall be optional in either country, so that the whole combined rate cannot be prepaid.

Article VI. The Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of Venezuela shall each pay the postage on unpaid letters from Venezuela, as well as the postage on letters to Venezuela, prepaid in the U. S., and the Post-Office Department of Venezuela will collect and keep the postage on the unpaid letters from the United States, as well as the postage on letters prepaid in Venezuela to the United States.

Article VII. Each mail despatched from one country to the other shall be accompanied by a letter or post bill, containing the number of letters so posted, and distinguishing the mail from the unpaid, with their postage in separate columns.

Article VIII. The postage on newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and other printed matter, must be prepaid, or sent free to the line in the country where posted; and any postage afterwards accrued thereon, beyond the receipt of the collector and retained by the Post-Office Department of the country in which it accrues.

Article IX. The offices designated for the despatch and receipt of United States mails, on the side of Venezuela, will stamp "U. States" upon all letters sent into Venezuela as delivery; and the offices designated for the despatch and receipt of Venezuelan mails, on the side of the United States, will stamp "Venezuela" upon all letters sent into the United States for delivery.

Article X. The Post-Office departments of the United States and Venezuela shall each return to the other all dead letters, unopened, without charge, every three months, or often, as may best suit the general regulations of each department.

Article XI. The expenses of transporting the mails between the frontier offices, where the conveyance is by water, shall be borne equally by the two departments; but when the transportation is by land, the expenses shall be borne by each in proportion to the distance traveled over the territory of each country. All contracts for such transportation shall, before they go into operation, be approved by the Post-Office Department of each country.

Article XII. This arrangement shall go into operation on the sixth of next, and it may be modified from time to time, as may be agreed upon by the parties hereto; it shall be null and void as the desire of either party, upon three months' notice.

In witness whereof, the Postmaster-General of the United States, and the Postmaster-General of Venezuela have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals, respectively, this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

N. K. HALL, J. MORRIS.

By subsequent arrangement, letters originating at either of the following line offices and destined for the corresponding line office, as hereinafter named, the distance being short, are allowed to go at a postage of two cents each, without regard to weight, viz:—

Port Huron, Mich., Port Sarina, Canada, Detroit, Windsor, Black Rock, New York, Port Erie, Lewistown, Queenstown, Youngstown, Niagara, Rochester, Niagara, Cape Vincent, Kingstons, Morrisstown, Brockville, Ogdensburg, Prescott, Whitehall, Prescott, Plattsburg, S. Johns, Route's Point, S. Johns, Burlington, Vermont, Stangland, Derby Line, Stangland, Buffalo, New York, Montreal, Albany, New York, Toronto, Boston, Massachusetts, Toronto, Fort Covington, N. Y., Dundas, Albany, N. Y., at...

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES. Of agreement between the Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of Canada, providing for the exchange of Registered Letters between the two countries.

Article I. Letters, alleged to be valuable, posted at any post-office in the United States or its Territories, and addressed to Canada, or to the United States and addressed to the United States, and deliverable at any of the respective offices of exchange to be thence conveyed to their destination, shall be registered at the office of mailing, on the application of the person posting the same: Provided, That the full postage chargeable thereon to destination, together with a registration fee of five cents on each letter, be prepaid

at such mailing office: And provided, also, That such registration shall not be compulsory, and shall be made at the option of the sender.

Article II. All such letters or packets mailed in the interior of the United States or Canada, respectively, shall be received, registered, and forwarded, as directed in the general regulations issued in each country in regard to the registration of valuable letters, and shall be sent to the respective exchange offices for the purpose of being forwarded thence by the first mail.

Article III. The respective exchange offices shall receive and forward, by each regular mail, originally mailed at said exchange offices, or sent to them to be forwarded, as prescribed by the regulations referred to in Article II., and shall enter therein the name of the person addressed and the post-office to which it is to be mailed for delivery. The postmaster of said exchange office will mail each such letter, or parcel of letters, in the usual manner in a separate package from the unregistered letters. The letter bills of such registered letters shall not be enclosed in the packages containing them, but shall be enclosed in a separate wrapper or envelope, and shall be sent to the postmaster of the corresponding exchange office.

Article IV. On the receipt of registered letters for delivery or distribution at either of the respective exchange offices, the postmaster of the receiving office will compare the letters with the bill, and endorse it "correct," if it is found so; and if not, he will note the error thereon, and return it to the sender, or to the postmaster of the office of mailing.

Registered letters received at either of the exchange offices, and destined for an inland post-office, shall be forwarded in the same manner as registered letters originally mailed at such office.

Article V. The registration fee of five cents shall accrue to the United States Post-Office Department upon all registered letters sent from the United States to Canada, and to the Canadian Post-Office Department upon all registered letters sent from Canada to the United States.

Article VI. The present articles shall be considered additional to those agreed upon between the two offices on the 21st day of March, A. D. 1851, and shall come into operation on the first day of October, A. D. 1856.

In witness whereof, the Postmaster-General of the United States, and the Postmaster-General of Canada, have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals, at the date set opposite to each, respectively.

JAMES CAMPBELL, ROBERT S. SPEER, Postmaster-General.

POSTAL CONVENTION WITH HONG KONG. Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Colonial Government of Hong Kong, China.

Article I. The Post-Office of the United States and the Post-Office of Hong Kong shall be established at the respective offices of exchange on the side of the United States, and all mail transmitted thereon shall be subject to the laws of that country.

Article II. The postage to be charged in the United States, on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, to or from Hong Kong, shall be five cents for any distance in the United States, not exceeding three thousand miles; and exceeding three thousand miles, within the United States, ten cents the single rate.

Article III. The postage to be charged in Hong Kong on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, to or from the United States, shall be five cents for any distance in Hong Kong. Every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, to be charged as one-half ounce.

Article IV. Upon all letters posted in the United States to be delivered in Hong Kong, or posted in Hong Kong to be delivered in the United States, these rates shall be combined in one rate, of which payment in advance shall be optional in either country, so that the whole combined rate cannot be prepaid.

Article V. The Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of Hong Kong shall each pay the postage on unpaid letters from Hong Kong, as well as the postage on letters to Hong Kong, prepaid in the U. S., and the Post-Office Department of Hong Kong will collect and keep the postage on the unpaid letters from the United States, as well as the postage on letters prepaid in Hong Kong to the United States.

Article VI. Each mail despatched from one country to the other shall be accompanied by a letter or post bill, containing the number of letters so posted, and distinguishing the mail from the unpaid, with their postage in separate columns.

Article VII. The postage on newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and other printed matter, must be prepaid, or sent free to the line in the country where posted; and any postage afterwards accrued thereon, beyond the receipt of the collector and retained by the Post-Office Department of the country in which it accrues.

Article VIII. The offices designated for the despatch and receipt of United States mails, on the side of Hong Kong, will stamp "U. States" upon all letters sent into Hong Kong as delivery; and the offices designated for the despatch and receipt of Hong Kong mails, on the side of the United States, will stamp "Hong Kong" upon all letters sent into the United States for delivery.

Article IX. The Post-Office departments of the United States and Hong Kong shall each return to the other all dead letters, unopened, without charge, every three months, or often, as may best suit the general regulations of each department.

Article X. The expenses of transporting the mails between the frontier offices, where the conveyance is by water, shall be borne equally by the two departments; but when the transportation is by land, the expenses shall be borne by each in proportion to the distance traveled over the territory of each country. All contracts for such transportation shall, before they go into operation, be approved by the Post-Office Department of each country.

from a day to be fixed by the two Post-Office Departments, and shall continue in force until annulled by mutual consent, or until one of the two Post-Office Departments shall have given to the other a previous notice of one year of its intention to abrogate or modify the same.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington on the 19th day of July, A. D. 1856, and at Caracas on the 20th day of June, A. D. 1856.

J. M. ALVAREZ LUGO, Minister of Internal Improvements.

POSTAL CONVENTION WITH HONG KONG. Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Colonial Government of Hong Kong, China.

Article I. The Post-Office of the United States and the Post-Office of Hong Kong shall be established at the respective offices of exchange on the side of the United States, and all mail transmitted thereon shall be subject to the laws of that country.

Article II. The postage to be charged in the United States, on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, to or from Hong Kong, shall be five cents for any distance in the United States, not exceeding three thousand miles; and exceeding three thousand miles, within the United States, ten cents the single rate.

Article III. The postage to be charged in Hong Kong on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, to or from the United States, shall be five cents for any distance in Hong Kong. Every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, to be charged as one-half ounce.

Article IV. Upon all letters posted in the United States to be delivered in Hong Kong, or posted in Hong Kong to be delivered in the United States, these rates shall be combined in one rate, of which payment in advance shall be optional in either country, so that the whole combined rate cannot be prepaid.

Article V. The Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of Hong Kong shall each pay the postage on unpaid letters from Hong Kong, as well as the postage on letters to Hong Kong, prepaid in the U. S., and the Post-Office Department of Hong Kong will collect and keep the postage on the unpaid letters from the United States, as well as the postage on letters prepaid in Hong Kong to the United States.

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Article VIII. The offices designated for the despatch and receipt of United States mails, on the side of Hong Kong, will stamp "U. States" upon all letters sent into Hong Kong as delivery; and the offices designated for the despatch and receipt of Hong Kong mails, on the side of the United States, will stamp "Hong Kong" upon all letters sent into the United States for delivery.

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Article XI. This arrangement shall go into operation on the sixth of next, and it may be modified from time to time, as may be agreed upon by the parties hereto; it shall be null and void as the desire of either party, upon three months' notice.

In witness whereof, the Postmaster-General of the United States, and the Postmaster-General of Hong Kong have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals, respectively, this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

JAMES CAMPBELL, ROBERT S. SPEER, Postmaster-General.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES. Of agreement between the Post-Office Department of the United States and the Post-Office Department of Canada, providing for the exchange of Registered Letters between the two countries.

Article I. Letters, alleged to be valuable, posted at any post-office in the United States or its Territories, and addressed to Canada, or to the United States and addressed to the United States, and deliverable at any of the respective offices of exchange to be thence conveyed to their destination, shall be registered at the office of mailing, on the application of the person posting the same: Provided, That the full postage chargeable thereon to destination, together with a registration fee of five cents on each letter, be prepaid

at such mailing office: And provided, also, That such registration shall not be compulsory, and shall be made at the option of the sender.

Article II. All such letters or packets mailed in the interior of the United States or Canada, respectively, shall be received, registered, and forwarded, as directed in the general regulations issued in each country in regard to the registration of valuable letters, and shall be sent to the respective exchange offices for the purpose of being forwarded thence by the first mail.

Article III. The respective exchange offices shall receive and forward, by each regular mail, originally mailed at said exchange offices, or sent to them to be forwarded, as prescribed by the regulations referred to in Article II., and shall enter therein the name of the person addressed and the post-office to which it is to be mailed for delivery. The postmaster of said exchange office will mail each such letter, or parcel of letters, in the usual manner in a separate package from the unregistered letters. The letter bills of such registered letters shall not be enclosed in the packages containing them, but shall be enclosed in a separate wrapper or envelope, and shall be sent to the postmaster of the corresponding exchange office.

Article IV. On the receipt of registered letters for delivery or distribution at either of the respective exchange offices, the postmaster of the receiving office will compare the letters with the bill, and endorse it "correct," if it is found so; and if not, he will note the error thereon, and return it to the sender, or to the postmaster of the office of mailing.

Registered letters received at either of the exchange offices, and destined for an inland post-office, shall be forwarded in the same manner as registered letters originally mailed at such office.

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A Singular Adventure. The Muskegan (Michigan) Enterprise relates the following singular adventure:

When we were publishing a paper in Lewisburg, West Virginia, several years ago, a very singular accident befel a young man there, which we narrated briefly at the time. A few days ago we chanced to meet him here in Muskegan, and he narrated his adventure at our request. It occurred on the farm of Gen. A. W. G. Davis, in Greenbrier county, in 1856.

We give his story in his own words, as near as we can recollect them: "I was plowing on Gen. Davis' farm in 1856," said he, "unconscious of being on insecure ground, when suddenly the earth seemed to fall beneath me. I saw the horses descending, but was too frightened to let go the plow handles. The pitch of the horses with the earth gave my fall an impetus, and somehow I caught the mane of one of them in my fall, and so held on instinctively. What I thought when falling I can hardly tell. At any rate I did some rapid thinking. When I landed I felt that the horse whose mane I had hold of, and although the horse was instantly killed, I was merely stunned and confused. On recovering myself I looked up, and the hole through which I had fallen looked so small I concluded I must have fallen 150 feet.

My first thought was to call for aid, but I instantly recalled that Gen. Davis was at least a mile from Gen. Davis' house, and that there was not the remotest probability that any one had seen my descent into the earth. It was then early morning, and as I had brought out my dinner with me, no one would miss me before nightfall. While going over these facts in my own mind, I heard the rush of water near at hand, and it occurred to me that I must have fallen upon the bed of Sinking creek, which, as you know, falls into the earth above Frankfort, and does not come out but once till it reaches the Greenbrier river. To stay where I was, or to attempt to follow the subterranean passage, was the next question. I sometimes took the team to my own tenant stable, and might not be missed for days; so I determined to follow the stream. I waded in it, and, judging from its depth of from one to three feet, I concluded it must be the identical creek spoken of. Leaving my dead companion behind me, I followed the stream. For the most part I had pretty easy work of it, but sometimes I came to a deep place where I was forced to swim a considerable distance; again, I was often precipitated headlong into deep water by the precipitous nature of the rocky bed of the stream. Talk about the darkness of the grave! A grave itself could not have been more palpably dark than the passage I was following.

The occasional rippling of the waters was an unexpressed dear sound to my ears. Day and night were the same to me. At last, wearied with my efforts, I laid down on a comparatively dry rock to rest, and must have slept for hours.

When I awoke again I took to the water, carefully ascertaining which way it ran, so as not to lose my labor by retracing my steps. It seemed to me that the farther I went the more difficult progress became. When I had gone perhaps a mile, I came to a place where I had to crawl on my hands and knees in the water. Here was a dilemma I had not looked for. I