

## VICTORIA.

POSTAL CONVENTION BETWEEN VICTORIA AND  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

29 VICTORIA No. 298, SECTION 32.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

POSTAL CONVENTION BETWEEN THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT OF VICTORIA  
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The undersigned David M. Key, Postmaster-General of the United States of America, by virtue of the powers vested in him by law, and Mr. George Collins Levey, specially empowered for that purpose by the Postmaster-General of the Colony of Victoria, have agreed upon the following Articles, subject to approval by the President of the United States and ratification by the Government of the Colony of Victoria, viz. :—

ARTICLE 1.

There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and the Colony of Victoria, by means of the direct line of colonial mail packets plying to and from San Francisco, as well as by such other means of direct mail steamship transportation between the United States and Victoria as shall hereafter be established, with the approval of the respective Post Departments of the two countries, comprising letters, newspapers, printed matter of every kind, and patterns and samples of merchandise, originating in either country, and addressed to and deliverable in the other country, as well as correspondence in closed mails originating in Victoria, and destined for foreign countries by way of the United States.

ARTICLE 2.

The Post Office of San Francisco shall be the United States office of exchange, and Melbourne the office of exchange of the Colony of Victoria, for all mails transmitted under this arrangement.

ARTICLE 3.

No accounts shall be kept between the Post Departments of the two countries upon the international correspondence, written or printed, exchanged between them; but each country shall retain to its own use the postage which it collects.

The single rate of international letter postage shall be 12 cents in the United States and 6d. in Victoria on each letter weighing half an ounce or less, and an additional rate of 12 cents (6d.) for each additional weight of half an ounce or fraction thereof, which shall in all cases be prepaid at least one single rate, by means of postage stamps, at the office of mailing in either country.

Letters unpaid or prepaid less than one full rate of postage shall not be forwarded; but insufficiently paid letters on which a single rate or more has been prepaid shall be forwarded, charged with the deficient postage, to be collected and retained by the Post Department of the country of destination.

The United States Post Office shall levy and collect to its own use, on newspapers addressed to Victoria, a postage of 2 cents; and on all other articles of printed matter, patterns and samples of merchandise, addressed to Victoria, a postage charge of 4 cents per each weight of four ounces or fraction of four ounces.

The Post Office of Victoria shall levy and collect to its own use, on newspapers and other articles of printed matter, patterns and samples of merchandise, addressed to the United States, the regular rates of domestic postage chargeable thereon by the laws and regulations of the Colony of Victoria.

Letters, newspapers, and other articles of printed matter, patterns and samples of merchandise, fully prepaid, which may be received in either country from the other, shall be delivered free of all charge whatever.

Newspapers and all other kinds of printed matter, patterns and samples of merchandise, are to be subject to the laws and regulations of each country respectively in regard to their liability to be rated with letter postage when containing written matter, or for any other cause specified in said laws and regulations, as well as in regard to their liability to customs duty under the revenue laws.

## ARTICLE 4.

The United States Office engages to grant the transit through the United States, as well as the conveyance by United States mail packets, of the correspondence in closed mails which the Victoria Post Office may desire to transmit, *via* the United States, to British Columbia, the British North American Provinces, the West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America, and at the following rates of United States transit postage, *viz.* :—

For the United States territorial transit of closed mails from Victoria for Mexico, British Columbia, Canada, or other British North American Provinces, when transmitted entirely by land routes, 6 cents per ounce for letter mails, and 16 cents per pound for all kinds of printed matter.

For the United States territorial and sea transit of closed mails from Victoria for British Columbia, or other British North American Provinces, Mexico, Central and South America, or the West India Islands, when transmitted from the United States by sea, 25 cents per ounce for letter mails, and 20 cents per pound for all kinds of printed matter.

The Victoria Post Office shall render an account to the United States Post Office, upon letter bills to accompany each mail, of the weight of the letters, and also of the printed and other matter contained in such closed mails forwarded to the United States for transmission to either of the above-named countries and colonies; and the accounts arising between the two offices on this class of correspondence shall be stated, adjusted, and settled quarterly, and the amounts of the United States transit charges found due on such closed mails shall be promptly paid over by the Victoria Post Office to the United States Post Office in such manner as the Postmaster-General of the United States shall prescribe.

## ARTICLE 5.

Prepaid letters from foreign countries received in and forwarded from the United States to Victoria shall be delivered in said colony free of all charges whatsoever; and letters received in Victoria from the United States, addressed to other colonies of Australia, will be forwarded to destination, subject to the same conditions as are applicable to correspondence originating in Victoria and addressed to those colonies.

## ARTICLE 6.

The two Post Departments may, by mutual agreement, provide for the transmission of registered articles in the mails exchanged between the two countries.

The register fee for each article shall be 10 cents in the United States and 6d. in Victoria.

## ARTICLE 7.

The two Post Departments shall settle by agreement between them all measures of detail and arrangement required to carry this Convention into execution, and may modify the same in like manner from time to time as the exigencies of the service may require.

## ARTICLE 8.

Every fully prepaid letter despatched from one country to the other shall be plainly stamped with the words, "Paid all," in *red ink*, on the right hand upper corner of the address, in addition to the date stamp of the office at which it was posted; and on insufficiently paid letters the amount of the deficient postage shall be inscribed in *black ink*.

## ARTICLE 9.

Dead letters which cannot be delivered, from whatever cause, shall be mutually returned without charge monthly, or as frequently as the regulations of the respective Offices will permit.

## ARTICLE 10.

This Convention shall come into operation on the first day of July 1878, and shall be terminable at any time on a notice by either Office of six months.

Done in duplicate, and signed in Washington the twenty-eighth day of January in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

(L.S.)

D. M. KEY,  
Postmaster-General of the United States.

GEORGE COLLINS LEVEY.

I hereby approve of the foregoing Convention, and in testimony thereof I have caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

R. B. HAYES.

(L.S.)

By the President,

WM. M. EVARTS,  
Secretary of State.

Washington, 28th January 1878.

I hereby approve of the foregoing Postal Convention, and have caused to be affixed hereto the seal of the colony of Victoria.

(Sd.)

G. F. BOWEN,  
Governor.

(Sd.) GRAHAM BERRY, Chief Secretary.

Melbourne, 28th March 1878.