

The British Post Office sent the following:-

General Post Office, London  
16<sup>th</sup> February 1877.

Sir,

1. The application made by the Colony of Jamaica for admission into the General Postal Union having been acceded to by the members of the Union, the entry will take effect from the 1st April next.

2. At the same date there will also be admitted into the Union the British Colonies of Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, Labuan, Hong Kong, Mauritius and the Seychelles, Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, and Bermuda; so that the General Postal Union will then consist of the following countries; viz.: Austro - Hungary, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Spain, the Spanish Colonies, the United States of America, France, the French Colonies generally, viz., Martinique, Guadeloupe and dependencies, French Guiana, St. Pierre-et-Miquelon, Senegal and dependencies, St. Mary de Madagascar, the French Establishments in India (Pondichery, Chandernagore, Karikal, Mahé, and Yanaon), and in Cochin China, New Caledonia and dependencies, the Marquesas Islands, Tahiti, and the Low Archipelago; Great Britain; Gibraltar, India, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Servia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

3. I transmit herewith for your information and guidance some copies of the Berne Treaty of the 9th October 1874, with the Detailed Regulations for the execution of the same, and also of the arrangement which was signed at Berne on the 27th January 1876, setting forth the conditions on which India and the French Colonies entered the Union, and which will be equally applicable to the case of Jamaica

4. As the Imperial Government has made it a condition that the Colony shall bear half the additional loss which its entry into the Union will entail upon this Department, it will be necessary that the postage on the correspondence contained in the mails exchanged with the United Kingdom should continue to be shared on the same principles as at present, leaving the amount of the loss to be subsequently ascertained and made good by the Colony.

5. Consequently, it will only be as regards mails exchanged directly with *France* or other countries of the Union, that the stipulations of the Berne Treaty will be adopted in their entirety by your office. But, while the mails with the United Kingdom will continue to be exchanged on the existing principles, advantage will be taken of the opportunity to simplify the arrangements as far as circumstances will admit.

6. The following will be the rates of postage chargeable in this country on prepaid correspondence for \_\_\_\_\_ from the 1st April next, whether the conveyance be by packet, by private ship, or partly by packet and partly by private ship :—

	By any Route.
Letters	6d. per ½ oz.
Post cards	3d. each.
Newspapers	1d. per 4 oz.
Other printed papers and patterns	2d. per 2 oz.

Unpaid letters will be charged 9d. per half ounce.

7. It will be observed that the postage on letters by private ship has been assimilated to the rate by packet, thus reverting to the arrangement which existed previous to the raising of the postage on letters by packet in 1863.

To have maintained the ship letter rate at 3d. per half ounce would, moreover, have been productive of inconvenience, as it would have involved making up the mails between this country and the Colony, and accounting for the postage under two different systems, whereas, in future, the same system will be adopted, whether the mail be forwarded by packet or by private ship.

8. Similar rates of postage should be adopted in upon correspondence addressed to the United Kingdom and to countries of the Postal Union generally.

9. On correspondence for places in the East, beyond Suez, however, which is forwarded via the United Kingdom and Brindisi, your office should collect, in addition to the above rates, 2d. per ½oz. for letters, 1d. for each post card, 1d. per 4 oz. for newspapers and 1d. per 2 oz. for all other descriptions of printed papers, patterns, etc., to cover the cost of the special transit through France and Italy. And on an unpaid letter from any place in the East received via Brindisi, the total charge should be 11d per oz.

10. You will observe that, according to Art. VI. of the Treaty, prepayment of postage on every description of correspondence can be effected only by means of postage stamps or stamped envelopes valid in the country of origin.

11. With regard to post cards sent from the United Kingdom to the Colony, it has not been thought expedient to issue at present cards bearing impressed stamps of the value of threepence.

12. The Public can, however, make use of the existing cards bearing stamps of the value of one halfpenny or one penny farthing, making up the deficiency in postage by affixing adhesive stamps to them of the required amount.

13. It is not incumbent upon your office to adopt post cards at all, if the Colonial Government should deem it inexpedient to do so, but if they are adopted, the charge upon them must not exceed half the single letter rate of postage.

14. I now proceed to describe the principal alterations which will be involved in the mode of making up the mails under the new arrangements.

#### **I.—Mails exchanged directly with the United Kingdom.**

15. The correspondence forwarded in these mails, whether by packet or by private ship, will be brought to account as follows:-

a. Paid Letters from the Colony addressed to the United Kingdom.

The Colony will retain 1d. per half ounce, the remaining 5d. being credited to this Department at a bulk rate per ounce, to be hereafter fixed.

b. Paid Letters from the United Kingdom, and from Non-Union Countries for the Colony.

The Colony will be credited with 1d. per half ounce, represented by a bulk rate per ounce.

c. Paid Letters from the Colony in transit through the United Kingdom.

The Colony will retain 1d. per half ounce on all letters sent in transit through the United Kingdom, whether addressed to Union countries or not.

d. Paid Letters from Union Countries in transit through the United Kingdom.

The Colony will not be entitled to any postage. Such letters will be sent as "forming no account."

e. Unpaid Letters from the Colony addressed to the United Kingdom or to Non- Union Countries.

The Colony will be entitled to 1d. per half ounce, as at present, and to the further sum of lid. per half ounce, being half the additional charge which will be made on such unpaid letters in this country.

f. Unpaid Letters from the Colony addressed to Union Countries.

The Colony will not be entitled to any postage. Such letters must be sent as "forming no account."

g. Unpaid Letters from the United Kingdom and all Countries in transit for the Colony.

The Colony will add its share of the postage (2½d. per half ounce) to the sum claimed by this office, whether the letters originate in the United Kingdom, in a country of the Union, or in a Non- Union Country.

h. Insufficiently Paid Letters.

Such letters, whether originating in the Colony and addressed to the United Kingdom, or Originating in the latter country and addressed to the Colony, will be treated as unpaid letters, allowance being made for the value of the postage stamps affixed.

Provision is made in the Letter Bills for placing the value of the stamps to the credit of the Receiving Office.

(i) Post Cards from the United Kingdom to the Colony, or from the Colony to the United Kingdom or another Country of the Union.

Your office will be entitled to one halfpenny on each card, the remainder of the postage being retained by, or credited to, this office.

Post cards from another country of the Union in transit through the United Kingdom will be sent as "forming no account," the receiving office not being entitled to any share of the postage.

j.) Newspapers.

Your office will retain the whole of the postage collected on newspapers addressed to the United Kingdom and to other countries of the Union, except when the papers are sent via Brindisi, in which case the supplementary rate of 1d. each, for the transit by special means through Italy and France, must be accounted for to this office.

On newspapers addressed to Non- Union countries your office will account to this Department in the same manner as at present.

On newspapers, whatever their origin, addressed to no postage will be credited to your office.

(k.) Paid Books and Patterns from the Colony addressed to the United Kingdom, or vice versa.

The postage will be shared in the same proportion as at present, and the imperial and colonial shares respectively will be brought to account on the Letter Bills at a rate per pound in bulk.

(l.) Paid Books and Patterns from the Colony for all Countries in transit through the United Kingdom.

The Colony will account to this office at the same rate as for books and patterns addressed to the United Kingdom ; but in the case of those addressed to Non-Union

countries, additional postage for the conveyance from the United Kingdom to destination must be accounted for on each separate packet, as at present.

(m.) Paid Books and Patterns from Countries in transit through the United Kingdom for the Colony.

Those originating in Non- Union countries will be brought to account with those originating in the United Kingdom ; but those from Union countries will be sent as " forming no account," the Colony not receiving any share of the postage on them.

(n.) Unpaid and insufficiently paid Books and Patterns.

These will form no account on the Letter Bilk, the despatching office retaining the portion of the postage prepaid (if any), and the receiving office retaining the charge collected on delivery.

(o.) Fees on Registered Letters, etc.

It is intended that the United Kingdom or the Colony, as the case may be, shall retain the fees on all registered articles it despatches.

As an exception to this arrangement, however, in the case of registered articles from \_\_\_\_\_ for certain Non-Union countries, forwarded in the mails for England, the Colony must credit the United Kingdom with the portion of the registration fee (2d. each), which this office has to account for to the Non- Union countries concerned.

The cases in which this credit must be given are set forth in the Table showing the rates of postage to be accounted for on correspondence forwarded through the United Kingdom.

16. In consideration of a larger share of the postage on correspondence forwarded by private ship being henceforth accounted for to the United Kingdom than at present, the gratuities to the commanders will be paid by this Department for the mails in both directions.

17. I transmit herewith specimens of the amended forms of Letter Bill and Acknowledgement of Receipt which will be adopted by this Department for the mails to and from the Colony respectively, and I request you will be good enough to cause forms of a similar pattern to be sent with your mails to the United Kingdom. I. have ordered a small supply to be printed here in the first instance and sent to you.

18. A Table showing the rates of postage to be accounted for to this office on all letters, newspapers, book packets, and patterns forwarded from the Colony in transit through the United Kingdom, accompanies these Instructions.

## **II —Mails exchanged directly with Countries of the Postal Union.**

19. The direct mails which your office at present exchanges with France & French Colonies must, in future, be made up strictly in accordance with the stipulations of the Postal Union Treaty.

20. Full information on the subject will be found in the Treaty and in the Detailed Regulations for the execution of the same.

21. The Articles in the Detailed Regulations to which your attention is more particularly directed are 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9.

22. You will remark that Acknowledgments of Receipt are not required for mails exchanged according to the Union principles.

23. As you may not have time to print a supply of the Union form of Letter Bill (A.) before the new arrangements come into operation, I enclose a few copies for the use of your office.

24. I likewise send a small supply of "Bulletins de Verification" (B.) for reporting, as required by Article 9. of the Detailed Regulations, errors observed in checking the mails received from Foreign countries of the Union.

25. Your office already uses a T stamp for stamping unpaid or insufficiently paid letters addressed to France, and you must in Picture apply that stamp to all unpaid or insufficiently paid letters addressed to all other Union countries.

26. For the sea conveyance of the mails despatched from the Colony to France by French Packet, your office will account direct to the French Post Office, and at the rate of 25 francs per kilogramme for letters and postcards, and 1 franc per kilogramme for other descriptions of correspondence, the payment being based upon statistics taken during the prescribed periods. A similar course should also be adopted with regard to the direct mails for *French Colonies*.

27. If you should exchange direct mails with the United States, the Union principles should of course be adopted, and your accounts with the United States Post Office must be settled independently of this Department. E As, however, the payment now made by that office for the conveyance of mails from New York to \_\_\_\_\_ - is less than the rates mentioned above, the original rates of 6 francs 50 centimes per kilogramme for letters, and 50 centimes per kilogramme for printed papers, &c., fixed by Article X. of the Berne Treaty, will be applied to the above mails ; it being expressly laid down in that article that in no case shall the expenses of sea conveyance be higher than those actually in force.

### **III. Mails exchanged with other British Colonies in the Union.**

28. For the mails which your office exchanges with any of the British Colonies now entering the Union, the existing form of Letter Bill should continue to be used.

29. Correspondence for other Colonies in the Union, which may have to pass in transit through the United Kingdom, should, as a rule, be sent in the mails for London, rather than in separate closed mails for those Colonies.

### **IV. Mails exchanged with British Colonies not in the Union.**

30. For the mails which you forward to the British West India Colonies not in the Union, you will also continue to use the existing forms of Letter Bill, and make up the mails in the same manner as at present.

### **General Observations.**

31. The maximum limit of weight allowed by the Treaty for packets of newspapers, other printed papers, legal and commercial documents, is 1,000 grammes, or about 2lbs., and for patterns of merchandize 250 grammes, or about 8 ounces.

32. These limits must be strictly adhered to as regards all packets addressed to the Foreign countries of the Union, but packets of this description addressed to the United Kingdom may, for the present, as an exceptional measure, continue to be sent up to the weight now allowed; viz., 5lbs.

33. For a definition of the articles which are included in the term "legal and commercial documents," I have to refer you to Article XIII. of the Detailed Regulations.

34. No letter containing gold or silver money, jewels or precious articles, or any other article liable to Customs duty, must be sent through the post to any of the countries of the Union.

35. You will observe by Art. VIII. of the Berne Treaty that official correspondence relative to the Postal Service is exempt from postage, whether international, sea, or transit.

36. According to the provisions of Article VII. of the Treaty, no additional postage must be charged for re-transmission of correspondence within the interior of the Union. Put, in case an article which has only passed through the inland service of one of the countries of the Union should, by being re-directed, enter into the inland service of another country of the Union, the Post Office of the country of destination is to add its inland rate.

37. All matters of detail connected with the mails which you exchange with countries of the Union, must be arranged by correspondence directly with the Postal Administrations of those countries, to which, in conformity with Article 1. of the Detailed Regulations, you will also communicate the rates of postage adopted by your office for countries of the Union.

38. All other countries of the Union will likewise require to know the rates of postage adopted by your office ; but in their cases this Department will act as the medium of communication, and I have to request, therefore, that you will inform me as soon as possible of the rates fixed in the Colony.

39. You will observe by Article III. (sec. 4.) of the Detailed Regulations that an impression of the stamp made by your office for stamping registered correspondence must be forwarded to the International Bureau for transmission to all the other offices of the Union. Care must be taken to supply the International Bureau with the requisite number of impressions.

40. In order to avoid the delay which would result from the Managing Office of the Union or the International Bureau having to consult distant Colonies upon matters of detail affecting the business of the Union, it has been arranged that Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies shall act, on behalf of your office, in all matters on which the opinion of the Colony would ordinarily be invited.

41. With regard to the form on which you will have in future to render your Accounts to this Department, as several alterations in the existing form will occur, I have caused the new form to be printed, and a small supply will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,