
Colonial Secretary's Office,
29th October, 1878.

THE GOVERNOR directs the publication, for general information, of the following translation into English of the Postal Union Convention which was signed at Paris on the 1st June, 1876.

By command,

EDWARD NEWTON,
Colonial Secretary.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

Concluded between Germany, the Argentine Republic, Austro-Hungary, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark and the Danish Colonies, Egypt, Spain and the Spanish Co-

lonies, the United States of North America, France and the French Colonies, Great Britain and certain British Colonies, British India, Canada, Greece, Italy, Japan, Luxemburg, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, the Netherlands and the Netherland Colonies, Peru, Persia, Portugal and the Portuguese Colonies, Roumania, Russia, Servia, Salvador, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

CONVENTION.

The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the countries above enumerated, being assembled in Congress at Paris, by virtue of Art. XVIII. of the Treaty constituting the General Postal Union, concluded at Berne on the 9th October 1874, have, by common consent, and subject to ratification, revised the said Treaty conformably to the following stipulations:

Article I.—The countries between which the present Convention is concluded, as well as those which may join it hereafter, form, under the title of "Universal Postal Union," a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence between their Post Offices.

Article II.—The stipulations of this convention extend to letters, post cards, printed papers of every kind, commercial papers and patterns or samples of merchandize, originating in one of the countries of the Union, and intended for another of those countries. They also apply, so far as regards conveyance within the Union, to the exchange by post of the articles above mentioned between the countries of the Union and countries foreign to the Union whenever that exchange makes use of the services of two of the contracting parties at least.

Article III.—The Postal Administrations of neighbouring countries or countries able to correspond directly with each other, without borrowing the intermediary of the services of a third Administration, determine by common consent, the condition of the conveyance of their reciprocal mails across the frontier, or from one frontier to the other.

Unless any contrary arrangement be agreed upon, the direct sea conveyance between two countries by means of packets or vessels depending upon one of them shall be considered as a third service; and this conveyance, as well as any performed between two offices of the same country, by the intermediary of sea or territorial services maintained by another country, is regulated by the stipulations of the following Article.

Article IV.—The right of transit is guaranteed throughout the entire territory of the Union.

Consequently, the several Postal administrations of the Union may send reciprocally through the intermediary of one or of several of them, as well closed mails as correspondence *a decouvert*, according to the wants of the traffic and the requirements of the postal service.

The correspondence exchanged, whether *a decouvert* or in closed mails, between two officers of the Union, by means of the services of one or of several other administrations of the Union, is subject to the following transit charges, to be paid to each

of the countries traversed, or whose services participate in the conveyance; viz.,—

1. For territorial conveyance, 2 francs per kilogramme of letters or post cards, and 25 centimes per kilogramme of other articles.
2. For sea conveyance, 15 francs per kilogramme of letters or post cards, and 1 franc per kilogramme of other articles.

It is however, understood,—

1. That wherever the transit is already gratuitous at present, or subject to more advantageous conditions, such state of thing is maintained, except in the case provided for in paragraph 3 following:
2. That wherever the rate of sea conveyance has hitherto been fixed at 6 francs 50 centimes per kilogramme of letters or post cards, such rate is reduced to 5 francs.
3. That every sea conveyance not exceeding 300 nautical miles is gratuitous if the administration concerned is already entitled on account mails or correspondence benefiting by this conveyance, to the remuneration applicable to territorial transit; in the contrary case, payment is made at the rate of 2 francs per kilogramme of letters and 25 centimes per kilogramme of other articles.
4. That in the case of sea conveyance effected by two or more administrations, the expenses of the entire transport cannot exceed 15 francs per kilogramme of letters or post cards, and 1 franc per kilogramme of other articles; those expenses are, in such case, shared between the administrations in proportion to the distances traversed, without prejudice to other arrangements between the parties interested:
5. That the rates specified in the present article do not apply either to conveyance by means of services depending upon administrations foreign to the Union, or to conveyance within the Union by means of extraordinary services specially established or maintained by one administration in the interest or at the request of one or several other administrations. The conditions of these two categories of conveyance are regulated by mutual consent between the administrations interested.

The expenses of transit are borne by the administration of the country of origin.

The general accounting of those expenses takes place on the basis of statements prepared every two years, during a month, to be determined on, in the Detailed Regulations referred to in Article XIV. hereafter.

The correspondence of the Postal Administrations with each other, articles re-directed or mis-sent, undelivered articles, acknowledgments of delivery, post office money orders or advices of the issue of orders, and all other documents relative to the Postal service, are exempt from all charges for transit, whether territorial or by sea.

Article V.—The rates of postage for the conveyance of postal articles throughout the entire extent of the Union, including their delivery at the residence of the addresses in the countries of the Union where a delivery is or shall be organized, are fixed as follows:

1. For letters, 25 centimes in case of prepayment, and double that amount in the contrary

case for each letter and for every weight of 15 grammes or fraction of 15 grammes.

2. For post cards, 10 centimes per card.
3. For printed papers of every kind, commercial papers, and patterns or samples of merchandise, 5 centimes for each article or packet bearing a particular address, and for every weight of 50 grammes or fraction of 50 grammes provided that such article or packet does not contain any letter or manuscript note having the character of an actual and personal correspondence and that it be made up in such a manner as to admit of its being easily examined.

The charge on commercial papers cannot be less than 25 centimes per packet, and the charge on patterns or samples cannot be less than 10 centimes per packet.

In addition to the rates, and the minima fixed by the preceding paragraphs, there may be levied:

1. For every article subjected to the sea transit—rates of 15 francs per kilogramme of letter, or post cards, and 1 franc per kilogramme of other articles, a surcharge which may not exceed 25 centimes per single rate for letters, 5 centimes per post card, and 5 centimes per 50 grammes, or fraction of 50 grammes, for other articles. As a temporary arrangement there may be levied a surcharge up to ten centimes per single rate for the letters subjected to the transit rate of 5 francs per kilogramme.
2. For every article conveyed by services maintained by administrations foreign to the Union, or conveyed by extraordinary services in the Union giving rise to special expenses, a surcharge in proportion to those expenses.

In case of insufficient prepayment, correspondence of every kind is liable to a charge equal to double the amount of the deficiency, to be paid by the addressees.

There shall not be forwarded:—

1. Articles other than letters which are not prepaid at least partly, or which do not fulfil the conditions required above in order to enjoy a reduction of charge.
2. Articles of a nature likely to stain or injure the correspondence.
3. Packets of patterns or samples of merchandise which have a saleable value, or which exceed 250 grammes in weight, or measure more than 20 centimetres in length, 10 in breadth, and 5 in depth.
4. Lastly, packets of commercial papers, and printed papers of every kind, the weight of which exceeds 2 kilogrammes.

Article VI.—The article specified in Article V. may be registered.

Every registered article is liable, at the charge of the sender,—

1. To the ordinary prepaid rate of postage on the article, according to its nature:
2. To a fixed registration fee of 25 centimes at the maximum in European States, and of 50 centimes at the maximum in other countries, including the issue of an acknowledgment of posting to the sender.

The sender of a registered article may obtain an acknowledgment of the delivery of such article, by paying in advance a fixed fee of 25 centimes at the maximum,

In case of the loss of a registered article, and except in the case of force majeure, there is to be paid an indemnity of 50 francs to the sender, or, at his request, to the addressee, by the administration of the country in the territory or in the maritime service of which the loss as occurred, that is to say, where the trace of the article has ceased.

As a temporary measure, the administrations of the countries beyond Europe, whose legislation is actually opposed to the principle of responsibility, are permitted to postpone the application of the preceding clause until the time when they shall have obtained by legislative enactment authority to subscribe to it. Up to that time the other administrations are not bound to pay an indemnity for the loss, in their respective services, of registered articles addressed to or originating in the said countries.

If it is impossible to discover the service in which the loss has occurred, the indemnity is borne in equal proportions between the two corresponding Offices.

Payment of this indemnity is made with the least possible delay, and, at the latest, within a year dating from the date of application.

Every claim for an indemnity is excluded if it be not made within one year, counting from the date on which the registered article was posted.

Article VII.—Those countries of the Union which have not the franc for their monetary unit fix their charges at the equivalents in their respective currencies, of the rates determined by Articles V. and VI. preceding. Such countries have the option of rounding off the fractions in conformity with the Table inserted in the *Règlement* mentioned in Article XIV. of the present Convention.

Article VIII.—Prepayment of postage on every description of article can be effected only by means of postage stamps valid in the country of origin for the correspondence of private individuals.

Official correspondence relative to the Postal service, and exchanged between Postal Administrations, is alone exempted from this obligation, and from all liability to charge.

Article IX.—Each Office keeps the whole of the sums which it collects by virtue of the foregoing Articles V., VI., VII., and VIII. Consequently, there is no necessity on this head for any accounts between the several Administrations of the Union.

Neither the senders nor the addressees of letters and other postal packets are called upon to pay, either in the country of origin or in that of destination, any tax or postal duty other than those contemplated by the Articles above mentioned.

Article X.—No supplementary postage is charged for the redirection of postal packets within the interior of the Union.

Article XI.—It is forbidden to the public to send by post—

1. Letters or packets containing gold or silver bullion, pieces of money, jewelry or precious articles:
2. Any packets whatever containing articles liable to Customs duty.

In the event of a packet falling under one of these prohibitions being delivered by one Administration of the Union to another Administration of the Union, the latter proceeds according to the manner and forms prescribed by its legislation, or by its inland regulations.

There is, moreover, reserved to the Government

of every country of the Union the right to refuse to convey over its territory, or to deliver, as well as articles liable only to a reduced rate, in regard to which the laws, ordinances, or decrees which regulate the conditions of their publication or of their circulation in that country have not been complied with, as correspondence of every kind which may evidently bear inscriptions forbidden by the legal enactments or regulations in force in the same country.

Article XII.—The Officers of the Union which have relations with countries beyond the Union admit all the other Officers to take advantage of these relations for the exchange of correspondence with the said countries.

The correspondence exchanged *a decouvert* between a country of the Union and a country foreign to the Union, through the intermediary of another country of the Union, is treated, as regards the conveyance beyond the limits of the Union, in conformity to the conventions, arrangements, or special provisions governing the postal relations between the latter country and the country foreign to the Union.

The rates chargeable on the correspondence in question consist of two distinct elements, viz.,

1. The Union rate fixed by Articles V., VI., and VII. of the present convention.
2. A rate for the conveyance beyond the limits of the Union.

The first of these rates is assigned,—

- a. For correspondence originating in the Union and addressed to foreign countries, to the despatching office in case of pre-payment, and to the office of exchange in case of non-pre-payment.
- b. For correspondence originating in foreign countries and addressed to the Union, to the office of exchange in case of pre-payment, and to the office of destination in case of non-pre-payment.

The second of these rates is, in every case assigned to the office of exchange.

With regard to the expenses of transit within the Union, the correspondence originating in or addressed to a foreign country is assimilated to that from or for the country of the Union which maintains relations with the country foreign to the Union, unless such relations imply obligatory and partial pre-payment, in which case the said Union country has the right to the territorial transit rates fixed by Article IV. preceding.

The general settlement of the rates of postage chargeable for the conveyance beyond the limits of the Union takes place on the basis of statements, which are prepared at the same time as the statements drawn up by virtue of Article IV. preceding, for the calculation of the expenses of transit within the Union.

As regards the correspondence exchanged in *closed mails* between a country of the Union and a country foreign to the Union, through the intermediary of another country of the Union, the transit thereof is subject,

Within the limits of the Union, to the rates fixed by Article IV. of the present convention.
Beyond the limits of the Union, to the conditions resulting from the special arrangements concluded for that purpose between the Administrations interested.

Article XIII.—The exchange of letters of declared value and that of Post Office Money Orders form the subject of special arrangements between the various countries or groups of countries composing the Union.

Article XIV.—The Postal Administrations of the various countries composing the Union, are competent to draw up, by common consent, in the form of a *Reglement*, all the measures of order and detail which are judged necessary.

The several Administrations may, moreover, make amongst themselves the necessary arrangements on the subject of questions which do not concern the Union generally, provided that those arrangements are not contrary to the present Convention.

The Administrations interested are, however, permitted to come to mutual arrangements for the adoption of lower rates of postage within a radius of 30 kilometres, for the conditions of the delivery of letters by express, as well as for the exchange of post card with paid answers. In this latter case the answer when sent to the country of origin enjoys the exemption from transit charges stipulated by the last paragraph of Article IV. of the present Convention.

Article XV.—The present Convention does not involve alterations in the postal legislation of any country as regards anything which is not provided for by the stipulations contained in this Convention.

It does not restrict the right of the contracting parties to maintain and to conclude treaties, as well as to maintain and establish more restricted Unions, with a view to the improvement of postal relations.

Article XVI.—There is maintained, under the name of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, a central office, which is conducted under the surveillance of the Swiss Postal Administration, and the expenses of which are borne by all the Offices of the Union.

This Office continues to be charged with the duty of collecting, collating, publishing and distributing information of every kind which concerns the international postal service; of giving, at the request of the parties concerned, opinion upon questions in dispute; of making known proposals for modifying the acts of the congress; of notifying alterations adopted; and, in general, of considering and working out all questions in the interest of the Postal Union.

Article XVII.—In case of disagreement between two or more members of the Union as to the interpretation of the present Convention, the question in dispute is decided by arbitration. To that end each of the Administrations concerned chooses another member of the Union not directly interested in the matter.

The decision of the arbitrators is given by an absolute majority of votes.

In case of an equality of votes the arbitrators choose, with the view of settling the difference, another Administration equally uninterested in the question in dispute.

Article XVIII.—Countries which have not taken part in the present Convention are admitted to be parties to it upon their demand.

This adhesion is notified diplomatically to the Government of the Swiss Confederation, and by that Government to all the countries of the Union.

It implies, as a matter of right, accession to all the clauses, and admission to all the advantages stipulated by the present Convention.

It devolves upon the Government of the Swiss Confederation to determine, by common consent with the Government of the country interested, the share to be contributed by the Administration of this latter country towards the expenses of the International Bureau, and, if necessary, the rates to be levied by that Administration in conformity to Article VII. preceding.

Article XIX.—Congresses of plenipotentiaries of the countries participating in the Convention, or simple Administrative Conferences, according to the importance of the questions to be solved, are held, when a demand for them is made or approved by two-thirds, at least, of the Governments or Administrations, as the case may be.

Nevertheless, a Congress shall be held at least once in every five years.

Each country may be represented either by one or several delegates, or by the delegation of another country. But it is understood that the delegate or delegates of one country can be charged with the representation of two countries only, including the country they represent.

In the deliberations each country has one vote only.

Each Congress fixes the place of meeting of the following Congress.

For conferences, the administrations fix the places of meeting according to the proposal of the International Bureau.

Article XX.—In the interval which elapses between the meetings, any Postal Administration of a country of the Union has the right to address to the other Administrations belonging to it, through the intermediary of the International Bureau, proposals concerning the business of the Union. But, in order to become binding those proposals must obtain—

1. Unanimity of votes, if they involve any modification of the stipulations of Articles II., III., IV., V., VI., and IX. preceding.

2. Two thirds of the votes, if they involve a modification of the stipulations of the Convention other than those of Articles II., III., IV., V., VI and IX.

3. A simple absolute majority, if they involve either the interpretation of the stipulations of the Convention, except the case of dispute contemplated by Article XVII. preceding.

The binding decision is sanctioned in the first two cases by a diplomatic declaration, which the Government of the Swiss Confederation is charged with the duty of preparing and transmitting to all the Governments of the contracting countries, and in the third case by a simple notification from the International Bureau to all the Administrations of the Union.

Article XXI.—The following are considered as forming, for the application of Articles XVI., XIX., and XX. preceding, a single country or administration, as the case may be:—

1. The Empire of British India.
2. The Dominion of Canada.
3. The whole of the Danish Colonies
4. The whole of the Spanish Colonies.
5. The whole of the French Colonies.
6. The whole of the Netherland Colonies.
7. The whole of the Portuguese Colonies.

Article XXII.—The present Convention shall come operation on the 1st April, 1879, and shall remain in vigour during an indefinite period; but each contracting party has the right of withdrawing from the Union by means of a notice given, one year in advance, by its Government to the Government of the Swiss confederation.

Article XXIII.—After the date on which the present Convention takes effect, all the stipulations of the Treaties, Conventions, Arrangements, or other Acts previously concluded between the various countries or Administrations, in so far as those stipulations are not in accordance with the terms of the present Convention, are abrogated, without prejudice to the rights reserved by Article XV.

The present Convention shall be ratified as soon as possible. The acts of ratification shall be exchanged at Paris.

In faith of which the plenipotentiaries of the countries above enumerated have signed the present Convention at Paris, the first of June, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.

CONVENTION OF PARIS.

FINAL PROTOCOL.

The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the countries which have this day signed the Convention of Paris, have agreed as follows:

I. Persia, which forms part of the Union, being unrepresented, will nevertheless be allowed to sign the Convention hereafter, provided that country confirms its adhesion by a diplomatic act with the Swiss Government, before the 1st April 1879.

II. The countries foreign to the Union, which have deferred their adhesion or which have not yet come to a decision, shall enter the Union on fulfilling the conditions specified in Article XVIII for the Convention.

III. In case one or other of the contracting parties should not ratify the Convention shall nevertheless be binding on the parties to it.

IV. The various British Colonies, other than Canada and British India, which are parties in the Convention, are, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, Labuan, Hong Kong, Mauritius and dependencies, Bermuda, British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad.

In faith of which the plenipotentiaries hereunder mentioned have drawn up the present final protocol, which shall have the same force and the same value as if the stipulations which it contains were inserted in the Convention itself, and they have signed it in one single instrument, which shall be deposited in the archives of the French Government, and a copy of which shall be delivered to each party.

Paris, 1st June, 1878.

[Here follow the signatures of the delegates of the Governments of Great Britain and certain British Colonies, Germany, the Argentine Republic, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark and the Danish Colonies, Egypt, Spain and the Spanish Colonies, the United States of North America, France, the French Colonies, British India, Canada, Greece, Italy, Japan, Luxemburg, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, the Netherlands and Netherland Colonies, Peru, Portugal and the Portugues Colonies, Roumania, Russia, Salvador, Servia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey.]