

Printed matter, how to be sent.

Newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals, books, and other articles of printed matter, must be sent in narrow bands, open at the sides or ends, and 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.

Dead letters to be returned.

ARTICLE V. The Post-Office Departments of the two countries shall reciprocally return to each other, unopened and without charge, every three months, or more frequently if practicable, all dead letters which from any cause cannot be delivered to their addresses in the country to which they were sent.

This convention, when to go into operation;

ARTICLE VI. This arrangement shall go into operation on the first day of September, 1862. It may be modified from time to time by mutual agreement of the Post-Office Departments of the two countries; and it is to be continued in force until annulled by mutual consent, or by either Post-Office Department, after the expiration of three months' previous notice to the other of its intention to annul the same.

how long to be continued.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington on the 16th day of July, 1862, and at Guatemala city on the 4th day of June, 1862.

M. BLAIR,

Postmaster-General.

ANTO ANDRÉU,

P. M. Gen., ad interim.

Approved:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Approved:

RAFAEL CARRERA.

By the President:

WM. H. SEWARD.

P. DE AYICINENA.

WASHINGTON, July 16, 1862.

Postal Convention between the United States of America and Venezuela. July 19, 1865
June 26, 1866.

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 packets plying between the seaports of the two countries.

Mails to be exchanged.

ARTICLE II. Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and New Orleans shall be the exchange offices on the side of the United States, and Cdad Bolivar, Laguaira, Porto Cabello, and Maracaibo shall be the offices of exchange on the side of Venezuela for all mails transmitted between the two countries under this arrangement; and all mail matter transmitted in either direction between the respective offices of exchange shall be forwarded in closed bags or pouches, under seal, addressed to the corresponding exchange office.

Offices of exchange.

Mail matter, how to be transmitted.

ARTICLE III. No accounts shall be kept between the Post-Office Departments of the two countries upon the correspondence, written or printed, exchanged between them; but the country which despatches mails to the other shall levy, collect, and retain, exclusively to its own use, such rates of inland postage as are now or may hereafter be established by its laws for domestic correspondence, together with the sea rates of postage hereinafter prescribed; which inland and sea postage shall be combined into one rate and collected by the despatching country in advance; the prepayment thereof to be certified by the appropriate official stamp of the despatching office.

No accounts between the two offices.

Each to collect its own postage.

Prepayment.

There shall be charged for sea postage upon letters, newspapers, and prints of all kinds, in sheets, in pamphlets, and in books, sheets of music, engravings, lithographs, photographs, drawings, maps and plans, conveyed by vessels of the United States or of Venezuela between the ports of the two countries, the following rates, that is to say:—

Sea postage.

Upon all letters or other communications in manuscript which are subject by the laws of either country to letter rate of postage, the rate of seven cents United States currency, or its equivalent in the currency of Venezuela, for each weight of half an ounce American or fraction of half an ounce.

On letters;

2d. Upon each newspaper, daily or other, the rate of one cent United States currency, or its equivalent in the currency of Venezuela.

newspapers;

3d. Upon prints of all kinds, in sheets, in pamphlets, or in books, sheets of music, engravings, lithographs, photographs, drawings, maps and plans, the rate of one cent United States currency, or its equivalent in the currency of Venezuela, for each ounce or fraction of an ounce in weight.

prints.

The said newspapers and other printed matter shall be enclosed in narrow bands or covers open at the sides or ends, so that they may be easily examined, subject to the laws and regulations of each country respectively.

Printed matter, how to be enclosed.

ARTICLE IV. Upon all letters and articles of printed matter enumerated in Article III. received in the United States of America from Venezuela by sea, there will be charged by the United States such rates of inland postage as are now or may hereafter be established by the laws of the United States, which shall be collected at the place of destination, and shall belong exclusively to the United States of America; and *vice versa* upon all letters and like articles of printed matter received in Venezuela from the United States of America by sea, there

Inland postage in the United States.

will be charged by Venezuela such rates of inland postage as are now or may hereafter be established by the laws of Venezuela, which shall be collected at the place of destination, and shall belong exclusively to Venezuela.

Expense of sea transportation.

Mailable articles exempt from other rates.

Letters, not delivered, to be returned.

Newspapers.

Free transit for closed mails.

Agent.

Rates for correspondence despatched to be forwarded.

Correspondence between each government and its legation to be free.

Amendments hereto may be made.

This convention when to take effect, and how long to continue.

Each country shall defray the entire expense of sea transportation of the mails which it shall despatch to the other country.

ARTICLE V. It is distinctly agreed that all mailable articles despatched from one country to the other shall be exempt in the country of destination from any rate or fee whatever beyond the charges prescribed by this convention, and shall be free from any detention or inspection, and promptly delivered to the persons addressed, being subject in their transmission to the laws and regulations of each country respectively.

ARTICLE VI. Letters and other communications in manuscript, which, from any cause, shall not be delivered to their address, after the expiration of a proper period to effect their delivery, shall be reciprocally returned without charge to the Post-Office Department of the despatching country; but newspapers and all other articles of printed matter which cannot be delivered to their address shall not be returned, but remain at the disposal of the receiving country.

ARTICLE VII. The Post Departments of the United States and of Venezuela reciprocally engage to grant each to the other the gratuitous conveyance across their respective territories of all correspondence which shall be exchanged in closed mails with any countries to which they may respectively serve as intermediaries, provided always that such conveyance shall be effected by the ordinary means of mail conveyance in use, and that the countries taking the benefits of such gratuitous service shall reciprocally accord the like privilege of free transit across their respective territories. The privilege is also accorded to each administration of sending an agent, at its own expense, in charge of the mails in transit. The further privilege is accorded of a free transfer of closed mails in the ports and harbors of the respective countries from one vessel to another, in continuance of their conveyance to final destination.

ARTICLE VIII. Correspondence of all kinds which either department shall despatch to the other for the purpose of being thence forwarded in its mails to another country of destination to which prepayment is optional, shall be subject to the rates established by Article III. of this convention, added to the interior rate in force beyond the frontier of the forwarding country, so that only one interior rate shall be received by the forwarding department.

ARTICLE IX. The correspondence between each government and its legation near the other, and that of the latter with the former, shall be conveyed to its destination free of postage, and with all the precautions which both governments may find necessary for its inviolability and security.

ARTICLE X. In case any change or amendment in the provisions of this convention shall be desired by either party, the same may be proposed by such party; and when the details thereof shall be agreed to and approved by both parties, this convention shall be considered as changed or amended accordingly.

ARTICLE XI. This convention shall take effect from a day to be fixed by the two Post Departments, and shall continue in force until annulled by mutual consent, or until one of the two Post Departments shall have given to the other a previous notice of one year of its intention to abrogate the same.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington on the 19th day of July, A. D. 1865, and at Caracas on the 26th day of June, A. D. 1866.

[L. S.]

W. DENNISON,

Postmaster-General.

[L. S.]

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

Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Colonial Government of Hong Kong, China.

ARTICLES of agreement between the Post Office Department of the United States and the General Post Office at Hong Kong. August 10, 1867.

For the purpose of establishing and regulating the interchange of mails between the United States and Hong Kong and dependent Chinese ports, by means of the direct line of United States mail packets plying between San Francisco and Hong Kong, *via* Yokohama in Japan, it is agreed between the Post Office Department of the United States and the Post Office Department of Hong Kong:

ARTICLE I. The post offices of New York and San Francisco shall be the United States offices of exchange, and the General Post Office at Hong Kong the office of exchange of the colony of Hong Kong for all mails transmitted under this arrangement.

ARTICLE II. There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and the colony of Hong Kong, by means of United States mail packets, plying between San Francisco and Hong Kong, comprising letters, newspapers, and prices current originating and posted in the United States, and addressed to and deliverable in Hong Kong and those Chinese ports with which the Hong Kong post office has postal relations, including the ports of Canton, Amoy, Swatow, and Foo-chow, and, vice versa, of correspondence originating and posted in Hong Kong and the Chinese ports above designated, and addressed to and deliverable in the United States.

ARTICLE III. The postage to be levied and collected at the office of mailing in the United States, upon letters, newspapers, and prices current, destined for Hong Kong and the above designated Chinese ports, with which Hong Kong has postal connections, shall be ten cents per single rate of half an ounce or under on letters, and two cents each on newspapers and prices current; and the postage to be levied and collected at Hong Kong and dependent Chinese ports, on correspondence originating in those ports and destined to the United States, shall be eight cents per single rate of half an ounce or under on letters, and two cents on each newspaper or price current. No postal accounts shall be kept between the respective postal departments upon the correspondence exchanged between them under this arrangement, but each department shall deliver the correspondence which it receives from the other free of all postage charge, that is to say, the Hong Kong post department agrees to deliver without charge all letters, newspapers, and prices current, brought by the United States mail packets, addressed to Hong Kong, and, also, to forward without charge all such letters, newspapers, &c., as are addressed to the Chinese ports above named, south of Shanghai; and the United States postal department, on its side, agrees to deliver without charge all letters, newspapers, &c., originating in Hong Kong, or the ports mentioned, and forwarded by said packets addressed to and deliverable in the United States. All letters, newspapers, &c., despatched by either office to the other, under this arrangement, shall be plainly stamped with the words "paid all," in red ink, on the right-hand upper corner of the face of the address, and shall also bear the stamp of the mailing exchange office on their face, and that of the receiving exchange office on their back.

ARTICLE IV. The postal departments of the United States and of Hong Kong shall each return to the other, monthly, or as frequently as

Contracting parties.

Offices of exchange established.

Correspondence to be exchanged.

Rates of postage upon letters, newspapers, &c.

No postal accounts to be kept.

Letters, &c. to be stamped "paid all."

Letters, &c. not delivered to