

(No. 72.)



1892.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC CONFERENCE, 1892 :

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.

TASMANIA.

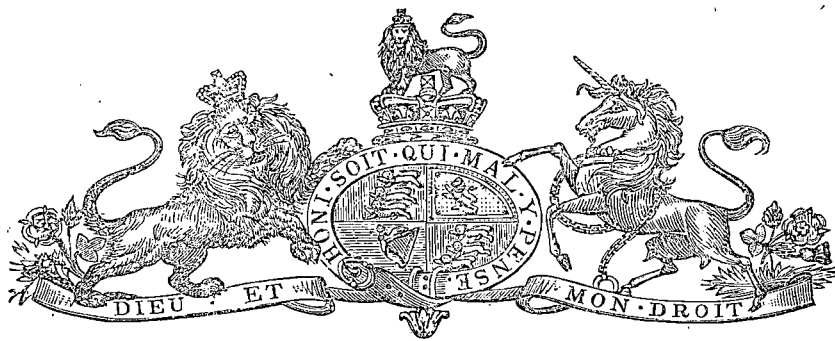
POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC
CONFERENCE, 1892.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CONFERENCE HELD IN HOBART, MARCH, 1892.

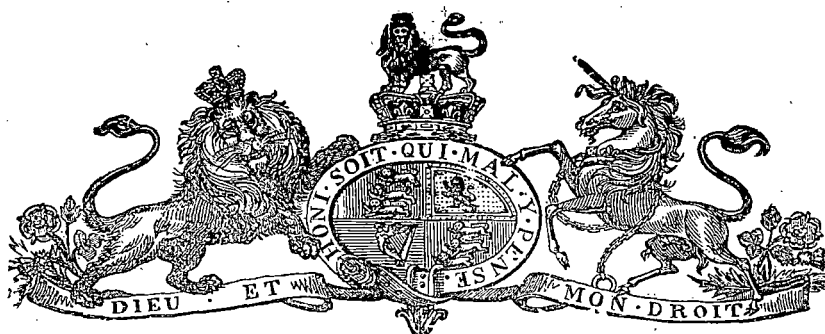
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS, REPORTS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS BY PERMANENT HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS,
WITH DRAFT OF AUSTRALASIAN POSTAL CONVENTION,
PAPERS LAID BEFORE THE CONFERENCE, AND REPORTS OF DEBATES.



Tasmania:

WILLIAM THOMAS STRUTT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART.

1892.



POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC CONFERENCE, 1892.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATES TO THE INTERCOLONIAL POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC CONFERENCE HELD IN HOBART DURING MARCH, 1892.

- I. THE Colonies, with the exception of New Zealand, were all represented at the Conference.
- II. The Conference sat on the 16th, 17th, 18th, 21st, and 22nd March.

The following were the principal Resolutions carried; viz.—

RELATING TO POSTAL SERVICE.

1. Reduced Rates of Commission on Intercolonial Money Orders, as recommended by the Sydney Conference of 1891 were agreed to. To take effect from 1st April, 1892.
2. It was resolved that the Intercolonial Postage on Newspapers should be uniform.
3. A Resolution was passed requesting the Government of South Australia to permit the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, and the Orient Steam Navigation Company to discharge cargo into lighters off Port Adelaide on Sundays, in order to facilitate Postal communication.
4. Resolved, that the system of dealing with letters relating to racing sweeps and betting transactions should be uniform throughout Australasia.
5. The draft of an Australasian Postal Convention, as submitted by Heads of Departments, was considered in detail, and, after some alterations, adopted.
6. An opinion was expressed by resolution that the carriage of mails over South Australian Railway Lines should be expedited.

TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

1. A Resolution was passed that Western Australia should be guaranteed against loss consequent on the reduction of charges on cable traffic passing through her territory similarly with South Australia. Victoria dissented; Queensland declined to vote.
2. The system of urgent telegrams intercolonially at double rates was adopted, New South dissenting; but agreeing to pass urgent messages between other Colonies over her lines to take precedence of other business on usual terms of interchange; viz., double rates.

ELECTRICAL.

3. It was recommended that a Committee of Experts be appointed to draft a Report upon the systems proposed for the erection of electric light and power wires, and for the control of the same; also as to a system of underground wires.

GENERAL.

The Report of the Heads of Departments on subjects of detail connected with Postal and Telegraphic matters was received and adopted, with amendments.

Other matters were considered and withdrawn, and for such see Minutes of Proceedings.

Appended to this Report will be found :—

- I. Minutes of Proceedings.
- II. Reports of Heads of Departments.
- III. Draft of Australasian Postal Convention as adopted.
- IV. Papers laid before Conference.
- V. Reports of the principal proceedings.

Signed on behalf of Tasmania,

B. STAFFORD BIRD.

Signed on behalf of New South Wales,

JOHN KIDD.

Signed on behalf of Victoria,

JOHN GAVAN DUFFY.

Signed on behalf of South Australia,

W. COPLEY.

Signed on behalf of Queensland,

TH. UNMACK.

Signed on behalf of Western Australia,

R. A. SHOLL.



POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH CONFERENCE, HOBART, 1892.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOBART.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1892.

THE Conference met at 10 A.M., when the under-mentioned gentlemen, representing the Colonies herein named, were present; viz.—

- New South Wales*: The Hon. JOHN KIDD, M.P., Postmaster-General.
S. H. LAMBTON, Esq., Secretary to the Post Office Department.
E. C. CRACKNELL, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs.
- Victoria*: The Hon. JOHN GAVAN DUFFY, M.P., Attorney-General and Postmaster-General.
JAMES SMIBERT, Esq., Deputy Postmaster-General.
- Queensland*: The Hon. THEODORE UNMACK, M.P., Minister of Railways and Postmaster-General.
JOHN M'DONNELL, Esq., Under Secretary to the Post and Telegraph Department.
- South Australia*: The Hon. WILLIAM COPLEY, M.L.C., Minister of Agriculture and Education.
CHARLES TODD, Esq., C.M.G., M.A., F.R.S., Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs.
- Western Australia*: RICHARD A. SHOLL, Esq., Postmaster-General.
- Tasmania*: The Hon. B. S. BIRD, M.P., Treasurer and Postmaster-General.
ROBERT HENRY, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs.
HENRY BOYES, Esq., Secretary to the Post Office, &c.

The Honorable JOHN GAVAN DUFFY proposed, and the Honorable THEODORE UNMACK seconded, the appointment of the Honorable B. STAFFORD BIRD as President, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. THOMAS COOK JUST was appointed Secretary, upon the nomination of the Honorable JOHN KIDD, seconded by the Honorable THEODORE UNMACK.

The Conference then proceeded to consider the question of admitting the Press to the sittings, when it was unanimously resolved that such permission should be granted.

The Hon. JOHN KIDD, the Hon. JOHN GAVAN DUFFY, and the Hon. W. COPLEY presented their Commissions; the Hon. T. UNMACK and Mr. RICHARD A. SHOLL also presented their Credentials.

The HON. WILLIAM COPLEY laid on the Table copy of "An Act to amend 'The Post Office Act, 1876,' and for other purposes," passed by the Parliament of South Australia.

Received.

The HON. THEODORE UNMACK tabled "An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Posts and Telegraphs," passed by the Parliament of Queensland.

Received.

The HON. WM. COPLEY tabled a Return showing the International Telegraphic Traffic during the Ten months ending February 29th, 1892, compared with the corresponding period in 1889-90 and 1890-91.

Received.

The HON. WM. COPLEY moved that the Return be printed.

The HON. THEODORE UNMACK seconded.

Carried.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The Honorable JOHN GAVAN DUFFY moved that the following questions of Policy inserted in the Notice Paper, be dealt with by the Conference :—

POSTAL.

1. Free Postage of Newspapers from New South Wales to the other Australian Colonies.
2. Communication with Berne Bureau to be carried on by one Colony. Settlement of Accounts by Berne.
3. Proposal of Great Britain to assimilate Australian Postage Rates (Foreign) to those adopted for the United Kingdom from 1 January, 1892.
4. Reduction of Intercolonial Rate on "Printed Papers" to 1*d.* per 4 ozs. (or to $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per 2 ozs.)
5. Through-Train from Sydney to Melbourne and from Melbourne to Sydney on Sunday.
6. Question of Mail Steamer not being allowed to land Cargo or do work at Adelaide on Sunday.

TELEGRAPH.

7. Pacific Cable Route.
8. Cable Subsidy for reduced Rates, Queensland and New Zealand.
9. Electric Light and Power. Laws and Regulations especially in relation to Telegraph and Telephone Wires, and to secure immunity from accident.
10. Intercolonial Telegraph Rates.

The Honorable JOHN KIDD seconded.

Carried.

The Honorable JOHN GAVAN DUFFY moved, and the Honorable JOHN KIDD seconded—

That the following subjects on the Notice Paper be referred to the Heads of Departments represented at the Conference as a Sub-Committee, with a view to their bringing up a Report on such subjects to-morrow or as early as possible :—

POSTAL.

1. Limitation of weight of Samples and Patterns. Increase from 250 grammes to 350.
2. Transmission through the Post of Articles liable to Customs Duty.
3. Withdrawal or re-direction by the Sender of Correspondence once posted.
4. Uniform classification of Correspondence, Inland as well as Foreign, on lines of Postal Union.
5. Uniformity of practice as regards responsibility on account of Registered Articles.
6. Minimum Charge for Parcels. Adoption generally of the Single 1 lb. Rate, in lieu of the 2lb. rate, as the first charge.
7. Uniformity of practice in dealing with Surtaxed Letters. To adopt Postal Union practice.
8. Consideration of Article 7 (New) of Vienna Convention relative to Registered Correspondence despatched "*grève de remboursement*."
9. Intercolonial Postal Convention, still in abeyance, to be revised with a view to conformity, where advisable, with the Universal Postal Union, which the Colonies have since entered.
10. Australian Territorial Transit Rates for conveyance of Mails, and mode of settlement with Foreign Countries under Postal Union régime.
11. Application of such Rates to Intercolonial Mails.
12. Consolidation of Postal and Telegraph Acts with view to uniformity.

13. Express Service.
14. Statistics.
15. Re-direction Charge; also Charge for return of Dead Letters.
16. Late Fees.
17. Postal Notes, Currency, &c.
18. Unclaimed Letters; Dead Letter List.
19. Newspapers, sending unpaid; Intercolonial; arrangements with Railway Authorities. Postage on (Tasmania); Registration, &c.
20. Parcels Post. Insurance, Compensation, Transit Rates by Rail and Sea.
21. Acknowledgment of Receipt of Registered Letters.
22. Post Cards, Reply, &c.
23. Special Trains, France and Italy.
24. Money Orders, allowance in account.
25. Return of Special Request Letters; Taxing and Collection of Postage for Re-direction.
26. Universal Stamps for Colonies.
27. Surcharge Rate on Postal Notes.

TELEGRAPH.

28. Uniform Telegraph Code.
29. Telegraph Money Orders.
30. Multiple Messages in connection with Press Associations.
31. Zone Hour System.
32. Telephone System, including Rates, Regulations, Collection of Rentals, &c.
33. Underground Wires.
34. What Telegraph Lines should be regarded as International.

Carried.

Conference adjourned at 10.55 A.M. until to-morrow at 10 A.M.

B. STAFFORD BIRD, President.

THOS. C. JUST, Secretary.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOBART.

THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1892.

THE Conference met at 10 A.M., when the under-mentioned gentlemen, representing the Colonies herein named, were present; viz.—

- New South Wales:* The Hon. JOHN KIDD, M.P., Postmaster-General.
S. H. LAMBTON, Esq., Secretary to the Post Office Department.
E. C. CRACKNELL, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs.
- Victoria:* The Hon. JOHN GAVAN DUFFY, M.P., Attorney-General and Postmaster-General.
JAMES SMIBERT, Esq., Deputy Postmaster-General.
- Queensland:* The Hon. THEODORE UNMACK, M.P., Minister of Railways and Postmaster-General.
JOHN M'DONNELL, Esq., Under Secretary to the Post and Telegraph Department.
- South Australia:* The Hon. WILLIAM COPLEY, M.L.C., Minister of Agriculture and Education.
CHARLES TODD, Esq., C.M.G., M.A., F.R.S., Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs.
- Western Australia:* RICHARD A. SHOLL, Esq., Postmaster-General.
- Tasmania:* The Hon. B. S. BIRD, M.P., Treasurer and Postmaster-General.
ROBERT HENRY, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs.
HENRY BOYES, Esq., Secretary to the Post Office, &c.

It was suggested by Hon. T. UNMACK, that in order to enable the Heads of Departments present to complete their Reports, the Conference should adjourn. He moved, "That the Conference now adjourn until 10 A.M. to-morrow."

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY seconded the Motion, which was carried.

Conference adjourned at 10.15 A.M. until to-morrow at 10 A.M.

B. STAFFORD BIRD, President.

THOS. C. JUST, Secretary.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOBART.

FRIDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1892.

THE Conference met at 10 A.M., when the under-mentioned gentlemen, representing the Colonies herein named, were present; viz.—

- New South Wales*: The Hon. JOHN KIDD, M.P., Postmaster-General.
S. H. LAMBTON, Esq., Secretary to the Post Office Department.
E. C. CRACKNELL, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs.
- Victoria*: The Hon. JOHN GAVAN DUFFY, M.P., Attorney-General and Postmaster-General.
JAMES SMIBERT, Esq., Deputy Postmaster-General.
- Queensland*: The Hon. THEODORE UNMACK, M.P., Minister of Railways and Postmaster-General.
JOHN M'DONNELL, Esq., Under Secretary to the Post and Telegraph Department.
- South Australia*: The Hon. WILLIAM COPLEY, M.L.C., Minister of Agriculture and Education.
CHARLES TODD, Esq., C.M.G., M.A., F.R.S., Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs.
- Western Australia*: RICHARD A. SHOLL, Esq., Postmaster-General.
- Tasmania*: The Hon. B. S. BIRD, M.P., Treasurer and Postmaster-General.
ROBERT HENRY, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs.
HENRY BOYES, Esq., Secretary to the Post Office, &c.

Mr. HENRY presented a Progress Report from the Sub-Committee of Heads of Departments on questions of detail.

The Honorable J. GAVAN DUFFY moved,—

That the consideration of the Report be postponed until after the consideration of the Notices on the Paper.

The Honorable T. UNMACK seconded.

Carried.

The Honorable JOHN KIDD moved,—

That it is desirable that the reduced Intercolonial Telegraph charges, recommended by the Conference at Sydney in March last, be adopted from the 1st July next; namely,—That, with the exception of Western Australia and New Zealand, the rates between any two contiguous Colonies shall be 1s. for fifteen words, and 1½d. for each additional word, names and addresses to be paid for. Between any three Colonies the minimum charge to be 1s. 6d. for fifteen words, and 2d. for each additional word. Similar rates to apply to telegrams to and from Tasmania, plus cable rates—Tasmania being treated as a Colony contiguous to Victoria. Telegrams to and from Western Australia to be dealt with as follows:—

Between South Australia and Western Australia—1s. 6d. for the first fifteen words, including names and addresses, and 2d. for every additional word.

Between New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia—2s. for the first fifteen words, including names and addresses, and 3d. for every additional word.

Between Queensland and Western Australia—2s. 6d. for the first fifteen words, including names and addresses, and 4d. for every additional word.

The Honorable J. GAVAN DUFFY seconded.

The Hon. W. COPLEY moved the following Amendment,—

That, with the exception of Western Australia and New Zealand, the rates between any two contiguous Colonies shall be 1s. 6d. for 15 words and 1½d. for each additional word, names and addresses to be paid for. Between any three Colonies the rate shall be 2s. for 15 words and 2½d. for each additional word, names and addresses to be paid for. Similar rates to apply to telegrams to and from Tasmania, plus cable charges, Tasmania being treated as a Colony contiguous to Victoria. Telegrams to and from Western Australia to be dealt with as follows, names and addresses to be paid for:—

Between Western Australia and South Australia—2s. for fifteen words, and 2d. extra per word.

Between Western Australia and Victoria—2s. 6d. for fifteen words, and 3d. extra per word.

Between Western Australia and New South Wales—2s. 6d. for fifteen words, and 3d. extra per word.

Between Western Australia and Queensland—3s. for fifteen words, and 4d. extra per word.

Between Western Australia and Tasmania—3s. for fifteen words, and 4d. extra per word (plus cable charges).

Mr. R. A. SHOLL seconded.

After discussion, the Debate was adjourned.

The Honorable JOHN KIDD moved,—

That, from 1st July next, the local charges for Messages within the several Colonies be uniform; namely,—

Messages not exceeding fifteen words, 6d., and 1d. for each additional word.

Names and addresses to be paid for as in the case of Intercolonial Messages.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL seconded.

Motion put and negatived.

The Honorable JOHN KIDD moved,—

That it be a recommendation to the several Governments that the Inland Postage Rate of each Colony be reduced to One penny per half ounce from 1st July next.

The Honorable J. GAVAN DUFFY seconded.

Motion put and negatived.

The Honorable J. GAVAN DUFFY moved,—

That it is advisable that the system of dealing with letters relating to racing sweeps and betting transactions should be uniform throughout Australasia.

The Honorable JOHN KIDD seconded.

After discussion the Motion was agreed to.

The Honorable B. S. BIRD laid on the Table a copy of a Circular Despatch from the Secretary of State, Lord Knutsford, addressed to the Governors of Colonies not under Responsible Government on the subject of the reduced Postal Rate for letters, and the suggested introduction of a uniform tariff for other mail matter.

Ordered to be printed.

The Honorable W. COPLEY moved,—

That the drafting of a Code of Rules and Regulations for erection of Electric Light and Power Wires be referred to a Committee of Experts, consisting of Messrs. E. C. Cracknell, George Smibert, A. T. Matveieff, R. Henry, and C. Todd, representing the Telegraph Departments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, and South Australia, and Messrs. Haes, Arnott, and Cullender, representing the Electric Light Companies. Mr. Todd to be Convener of the Committee; and the Report to be forwarded to the various Postmasters-General.

The Honorable JOHN KIDD seconded.

After discussion, the Motion was agreed to.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL moved,—

That, in view of the fact of Western Australia having, in conformity with Resolutions passed at the late Adelaide and Sydney Postal and Telegraph Conferences, reduced the rates on all Cable traffic passing through her territory from 1s. 2d. to 5d., it is the opinion of this Conference that Colony should be placed on an equality with South Australia, and similarly guaranteed against the loss that has accrued to her revenue by such reduction.

Hon. WM. COPLEY seconded the Motion.

The Motion was carried, Victoria dissenting. Queensland declined to vote.

The Hon. JOHN KIDD moved,—

That the initial rate for Printed Circulars only be $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 2 ounces inland and intercolonially.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL seconded.

Motion put and negatived.

The Hon. JOHN KIDD moved,—

That the following reduced Rates of Commission on Intercolonial Money Orders, as recommended at the Sydney Conference in March, 1891, be adopted from 1st April next:—

The commission chargeable on Money Orders exchanged intercolonially to be as follows:—

Article 21.

		s.	d.
Not exceeding £2		0	6
” ” 5		1	0
” ” 7		1	6
” ” 10		2	0
” ” 12		2	6
” ” 15		3	0
” ” 17		3	6
” ” 20		4	0

Article 22.

Where one person has occasion to send more than one telegraphic Money Order to the same person he shall only be charged for one message of advice.

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY seconded.

Motion agreed to.

Papers.

Hon. T. UNMACK laid on the Table Correspondence between the Governments of Queensland and New South Wales referring to the Pacific Cable Route, and moved that they be printed.

Carried.

Hon. WM. COPLEY laid on the Table a Return showing Interruptions on the Port Darwin Line during the years 1890–91, and moved that it be printed.

Carried.

The Honorable J. GAVAN DUFFY laid on the Table a letter from the Consul-General of France referring to the adhesion of the Australian Colonies to the Anglo-French Convention of 1890, and moved that it be printed.

Carried.

The Honorable JOHN KIDD tabled a series of Returns referring to the Electric Telegraph lines of New South Wales, and moved that they be printed.

Carried.

The Honorable T. UNMACK tabled a Return as to the Telegraph Lines in Queensland, and moved that it be printed.

Carried.

The Honorable J. GAVAN DUFFY tabled a letter from Mr. George Withers, Superintendent of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., on the question of mail steamers not being allowed to land cargo or do work at Adelaide on Sundays. He moved that this be printed.

Carried.

POSTAL.

1. Free Postage of Newspapers from New South Wales to the other Australian Colonies.

The Honorable J. GAVAN DUFFY moved,—

That the intercolonial postage of newspapers throughout the Australasian Colonies should be uniform.

Hon. WM. COPLEY seconded.

Carried.

2. Communication with Berne Bureau to be carried on by one Colony. Settlement of Accounts by Berne.

The Honorable J. GAVAN DUFFY moved,—

That the Province of South Australia be requested to undertake all communication with the Berne Bureau with reference to the business of the Australasian Colonies in connection with the Universal Postal Union.

Mr. W. COPLEY seconded.

3. Proposal of Great Britain to assimilate Australian Postage Rates (Foreign) to those adopted for the United Kingdom from 1 January, 1892.

Postponed until after consideration of Report of Heads of Departments.

The Honorable B. S. BIRD laid on the Table a Return of the Telegraphic Statistics of Tasmania for the year 1891, and moved that it be printed.

Carried.

4. Reduction of Intercolonial Rate on "Printed Papers" to 1*d.* per 4 ozs. (or to $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per 2 ozs.)

Lapsed.

5. Through-Train from Sydney to Melbourne and from Melbourne to Sydney on Sunday. After discussion the matter lapsed.

6. Question of Mail Steamer not being allowed to land Cargo or do work at Adelaide on Sunday.

The Honorable J. GAVAN DUFFY moved,—

That, with a view to facilitate postal communication, it is desirable that mail steamers of the P. & O. and Orient S. N. Co. should be allowed to land cargo and do general work on Sundays at Adelaide the same as at other parts.

Mr. R. A. SCHOLL seconded.

After discussion, the Resolution was carried.

The Conference adjourned at 4.45 until 8 P.M.

EVENING SITTING.

On resuming, the Conference proceeded to consider the subject relating to—

TELEGRAPHS.

7. Pacific Cable Route.

The Honorable W.M. COPLEY moved,—

That the Notice No. 7 be discharged from the Paper.

Mr. R. A. SCHOLL seconded the Motion.

Carried.

8. Cable Subsidy for reduced Rates, Queensland and New Zealand. Discharged.

9. Electric Light and Power. Laws and Regulations especially in relation to Telegraph and Telephone Wires, and to secure immunity from accident.

Discharged.

10. Intercolonial Telegraph Rates.

Discharged.

INTERCOLONIAL TELEGRAPH CHARGES.

Adjourned Debate.

Discussion was resumed on Honorable Mr. COPLEY's Amendment to Mr. KIDD's Motion.

After discussion,

The Honorable W.M. COPLEY, by leave, withdrew his Amendment.

The original Motion was then put and negatived.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mr. R. HENRY brought up the complete Report of the Sub-Committee of Heads of Departments on questions of detail.

The Honorable J. GAVAN DUFFY moved,—

That the consideration of the Report be adjourned until Monday.

The Honorable JOHN KIDD seconded.

Carried.

The Honorable J. GAVAN DUFFY moved,—

That the Conference adjourn until 10 o'clock on Monday.

Carried.

Conference adjourned accordingly.

B. STAFFORD BIRD, President.

THOS. C. JUST, Secretary.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOBART.

MONDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1892.

THE Conference met at 10 A.M., when the under-mentioned gentlemen, representing the Colonies herein named, were present; viz.—

- New South Wales*: The Hon. JOHN KIDD, M.P., Postmaster-General.
S. H. LAMBTON, Esq., Secretary to the Post Office Department.
E. C. CRACKNELL, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs.
- Victoria*: The Hon. JOHN GAVAN DUFFY, M.P., Attorney-General and Postmaster-General.
JAMES SMIBERT, Esq., Deputy Postmaster-General.
- Queensland*: The Hon. THEODORE UNMACK, M.P., Minister of Railways and Postmaster-General.
JOHN M'DONNELL, Esq., Under Secretary to the Post and Telegraph Department.
- South Australia*: The Hon. WILLIAM COPLEY, M.L.C., Minister of Agriculture and Education.
CHARLES TODD, Esq., C.M.G., M.A., F.R.S., Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs.
- Western Australia*: RICHARD A. SHOLL, Esq., Postmaster-General.
- Tasmania*: The Hon. B. S. BIRD, M.P., Treasurer and Postmaster-General.
ROBERT HENRY, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs.
HENRY BOYES, Esq., Secretary to the Post Office, &c.

Hon. T. UNMACK moved,—

That in the opinion of this Conference the system of Urgent Telegrams at double rates should be adopted intercolonially and inland.

Hon. W. COPLEY seconded.

After discussion,

Hon. T. UNMACK moved,—

For leave to amend the Motion by striking out the words "and inland."

Carried.

The Motion, in its amended form, was put and carried.

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY moved,—

That in the opinion of this Conference the Carriage of Mails over the South Australian Railway Lines should be expedited.

Hon. JOHN KIDD seconded.

Carried.

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY called attention to the letter of the French Consul-General on the subject of the Anglo-French Postal Convention. He moved that the letter be received.

Hon. JOHN KIDD seconded.

Carried.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Conference proceeded to consider the Report of the Sub-Committee of Heads of Departments on questions of detail.

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY moved the adoption of the first recommendation :—

“Post Cards.”—With reference to Post Cards, we are of opinion that the rates at present charged in all the Australian Colonies except Western Australia, of $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ for single card and $3d.$ for reply, should be maintained. To charge the lower rate would place Post Cards for Foreign Countries on the same level as present Inland Rates, and would seriously affect the Revenue, as persons would be induced to substitute Post Cards for letters, and the Revenue has already largely suffered by the reduction of the Letter Rate to $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ ”

Hon. JOHN KIDD seconded.

Carried.

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY moved the adoption of the second recommendation :—

“Newspapers.”—We advise that each Newspaper be charged $1d.$ for every 4 ounces or fraction thereof. It is clear that the practice at present followed in most of the Colonies of sending Newspapers to the United Kingdom at $1d.$ for each paper up to 10 ounces, or, in some instances, irrespective of weight, must be discontinued, being, as shown by the correspondence, repugnant to the provisions of the Union. If the Rules of the Union had permitted, we would have advised the adoption of a minimum rate of $1d.$ for the first 4 ounces and $\frac{1}{2}d.$ for every additional 2 ounces or portion thereof. It is, of course, open to adopt the London Rate of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per 2 ounces; but, for financial reasons, we are unwilling at present to suggest an initial rate of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ for Newspapers, especially as all other printed matter would have to pass at the half-penny rate—that is, one-half the existing Inland and Intercolonial charge—which charge would, therefore, have to be correspondingly reduced.”

Hon. T. UNMACK seconded.

Carried.

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY moved the adoption of the third recommendation :—

“Printed Papers, Patterns, and Samples.”—We recommend that the rate for printed papers, patterns, and samples be continued at $1d.$ per 2 ounces or fraction thereof, this being the same as the present Inland and Intercolonial rate.”

Hon. T. UNMACK seconded.

Carried.

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY moved that No. 5 recommendation be adopted :—

“Commercial Papers.”—We find that our present practice, with one exception (Western Australia), of charging $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ up to 5 ounces is contrary to the Union Regulations, and in order to conform thereto we recommend that the following be the rates :—

$2\frac{1}{2}d.$ for 4 ozs. or under.
 $3d.$ for 4 ozs. to 6 ozs.
 $4d.$ for 6 ozs. to 8 ozs.
 $5d.$ for 8 ozs. to 10 ozs.
 And $1d.$ for every additional 2 ozs.”

Hon. T. UNMACK seconded.

Carried.

The Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY moved the adoption of No. 5 recommendation :—

“Registration Fee.”—We recommend that our present Registration Fee of $3d.$ be adhered to, this being the charge inland and intercolonially.”

Hon. T. UNMACK seconded.

Carried.

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY moved the adoption of the eight recommendations on the Vienna Convention :—

Recommendations.

1. Article 5. The limits of weight and size of packets of samples of merchandise are fixed as follows :—

	Weight 250 grammes	(8 oz.)
Size...	Length 30 centimetres	(say, 12 inches)
	Breadth 20 do.	(say, 8 do.)
	Depth 10 do.	(say, 4 do.)

Or if they be in the form of a roll ;—

	Length 30 centimetres	(say, 12 inches)
	Diameter 15 do.	(say, 6 do.)

but limits of weight or size greater than the above may be adopted, by common consent, by Administrations wishing to do so.

2. Article 6. The maximum registration fee is fixed at 2½d., but, in clause 1 of the Final Protocol, the States outside Europe may charge a registration fee not exceeding 5d.

3. Article 7. Administrations agreeing thereto may exchange registered correspondence marked with trade charges up to 500 francs (say £20) to be collected on delivery—the proceeds (less charges of collection, &c.) to be remitted to the senders of such correspondence.

4. Article 9. Where the legislation of a country permits, the sender of a letter or other article can have it withdrawn from the post, or have its address altered, so long as such article has not been delivered to the addressee.

5. Article 13. In countries which consent to undertake the service in their reciprocal relations, a system may be adopted under which, at the request of the senders, and on their paying in advance a sum of 3d. for each article, all classes of correspondence are sent to the addressees by a special messenger immediately on arrival in the country of destination.

6. Final Protocol (clause 2). Countries whose laws are opposed to responsibility respecting the loss of registered articles are excused, as a temporary measure, from the provisions contained in Article 8, entailing such responsibility.

7. Regulation 15. Administrations whose inland Regulations do not admit of the use of labels (R) in connection with registered articles may postpone their introduction into use.

8. Regulation 19. By mutual consent between two Administrations packets of liquids, oils, fatty substances, dry powders, whether dyes or not, as well as packets of live bees, may be transmitted through the post, provided they be packed in the manner indicated in such Regulation.

1. That the Colonies agree to adopt a maximum weight of 350 grammes (12 ozs.) by arrangement with such other administrations as may agree, which has already been done with regard to France—measurements to remain as at present.

2. Already dealt with ; we do not advise that the registration fee be increased beyond 3d., as at present.

3. We cannot recommend that this be agreed to, and Great Britain has refused to adopt the system.

4. We consider that our present practice, under which a letter can be returned to sender by warrant of the Governor or Minister, as the case may be, answers every purpose.

5. We cannot advise that the system be adopted, as the cost of the proposed Express Service will not be met by the charge of 3d. ; and moreover, in the case of our small country offices it would be impracticable. It has not been adopted by Great Britain except locally.

6. The colonies have already declined to adopt the provisions of Article 8, which provides for responsibility to the extent of £2 in case of the loss of a registered letter. We think this decision should be adhered to.

7. We consider this unnecessary, as the present practice of marking registered letters with a blue or red cross and impressed with the letter " R " answers every purpose.

8. We recommend that this be not adopted. Great Britain has refused.

Mr. Tonn moved the addition of the following words to recommendation No. 1 :—

" Since this Report was signed, a letter from London dated 12th February, has reached us, and is printed as Appendix F., in which it is suggested that sample packets exchanged between the United Kingdom and the Colonies be allowed up to the following dimensions and weight, viz., 2 feet in length, 1 foot in width and depth, and 5 lbs. in weight. We recommend that the extended dimensions should be allowed, but, with regard to the weight, that all packets of whatever kind exceeding 1 lb. be sent by Parcel Post."

Hon. WM. COPLEY seconded.

Carried.

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY moved the adoption of items 3 to 28 :—

Settlement of Accounts—part of Item 3.

With reference to part of Item No. 3 on the Memorandum submitted to the Conference, and to the Berne letters of 9th and 14th January, we are of opinion that it will be more satisfactory if the Australian Colonies do not avail themselves of the offer of the Berne office as regards liquidation of accounts, as the present system works well.

Item 4.—Transmission through the Post of Articles liable to Customs Duty.

Has reference to a letter from Berne under date 10th November, 1891, containing a very long list of articles the transmission of which is objected to by various countries of the Postal Union. We think it unnecessary that the public be fully advised of all the different articles enumerated in the list, which, the Berne Bureau states, is not yet complete.

Item 7.—Uniform classification of Correspondence, Inland as well as Foreign, on lines of Postal Union.

Is dealt with under Item 13 (Intercolonial Postal Convention).

Item 9.—Minimum Charge for Parcels.

This has been dealt with under item 13.

Item 11.—Uniformity of practice in dealing with surcharged Letters.

We recommend that the practice of charging double the deficient postage be adopted uniformly.

Item 14.—Australian Territorial Transit Rates for conveyance of Mails, and mode of settlement, &c.

Under the Postal Union Rules provision is made for settlement of accounts for Territorial Transit Rates being made on the basis of statistics of the weight of mail matter each country despatches during the first four weeks of November, 1893. The statistics so taken to apply in settling accounts for the three years 1892–3–4. The United States has already intimated its intention of settling with the Colonies for their respective transit rates in this manner, and unless objection is raised France, Italy, and Germany may desire to adopt the same practice. As this will very seriously delay the settlement of accounts, we recommend that the present practice, of paying for the actual weight of mail matter carried, should be insisted upon.

Item 15.—Application of such Rates to Intercolonial Mails.

The question of one Colony charging another for the carriage of its Intercolonial mail matter was discussed, but we are not prepared to make any recommendation at present.

Item 16.—Consolidation of Postal and Telegraph Acts with view to uniformity.

Queensland last year passed a Consolidated Postal and Telegraph Act providing, *inter alia*, for the several matters referred to at past Conferences. South Australia has passed an amending Act containing the same provisions. Victoria and New South Wales have prepared amending Bills in the same direction, and there is every probability of Western Australia also amending its laws.

Local circumstances may of course prevent perfect uniformity; but we venture to suggest that any departure from uniformity should only be to meet local requirements, as the exchange of correspondence between the Colonies and foreign countries should conform to the Intercolonial Postal Convention or the Universal Postal Union.

Item 18.—Statistics.

The statistics required under Clause 34 of the detailed Regulations of the Union are in our opinion of an unnecessarily voluminous character, and will entail a large amount of clerical labour; and we suggest that at the next Quinquennial Congress the Australian Delegates be instructed to press for an amendment in the direction of simplicity; in the meantime they should be supplied.

Item 19.—Re-direction Charge; also charge for return of Dead Letters.

We recommend the adoption of the Postal Union practice in its entirety—that is, to make no charge for re-direction if the article is fully prepaid to the country or colony to which it is re-directed. We are aware that under the existing Postal Laws of some of the Colonies the re-direction charge is compulsory, although inoperative as regards Foreign Countries.

With regard to charge for return of Dead Letters, although in the Draft Australian Convention submitted to a previous Conference, provision was made for charging a fee for their return, the Colonies have since joined the Union, under which no provision is made for such a charge. We therefore advise that the existing practice of making no charge be continued, except in the case of those Colonies whose laws specially provide for a charge.

Item 20.—Late Fees.

We do not recommend any change in the present practice.

Item 21.—Postal Notes, Currency, &c.

We recommend that where it is necessary to affix stamps to a Postal Note in order that the remitter may forward broken sums of pence, such stamps should be affixed to the face of the Note, the additional stamps for extra commission on Intercolonial Notes to be affixed to the back of the Note. The currency of Intercolonial Postal Notes to be limited to Six months.

We also recommend that the London office be invited to adopt an exchange of Postal Notes with the Australasian Colonies on the same lines as those now existing between some of the Colonies.

Item 22.—Unclaimed Letters—Dead Letter List.

We think the publication of Unclaimed Letter Lists is unnecessary, and advise that future legislation of the different Colonies should provide for the discontinuance of the same, and for the more speedy return of unclaimed letters.

Item 23.—Part of.—Registration of Newspapers.

A newspaper registered, or passed as such, in Great Britain or any of the Colonies may be posted in any Colony at ordinary rates of postage. (Queensland dissenting.)

Item 24.—Parcels Post, Insurance, Compensation, Transit Rates by Sea.

We advise that at present the systems of insurance and compensation be not adopted inland, intercolonially, or internationally; and that as regards transit rates by sea, we recommend that negotiations be opened up with the steam companies with a view to a reduction of the rate to one penny per lb., or less.

Item 27.—Special Trains, France and Italy.

We recommend that the question of further pressing for a reduction of the European overland transit rates be deferred until the next Conference, when the matter of entering into fresh ocean contracts will probably receive consideration.

Item 28.—Money Orders, Allowance in Account.

That in the event of the reduced rates of commission for Intercolonial Money Orders, as recommended at last Conference, being adopted, we advise that in the settlement of accounts the paying colony be allowed ten shillings per cent. on the amount of the issue, in lieu of half the commission as at present, this being in accordance with the practice in all countries outside Australasia, and entailing less labour than the present system.

Hon. T. UNMACK seconded.

Carried.

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY moved Item 30:—

Item 30.—Universal Stamp for Colonies.

We are of opinion that a system of postage stamps common to all of the Australasian Colonies would be a step in the direction of federation, and would be a great public convenience. Should this system be adopted, we would, however, strongly advise that such stamps should be available only for postage, and not for duty or any other purposes, and that the revenue derivable from these stamps should be apportioned amongst the Colonies on the basis of population.

Hon. JOHN KIDD seconded.

Hon. T. UNMACK moved an Amendment,—

That all the words after “purposes” in the fourth line be struck out.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL seconded.

Hon. T. UNMACK, by leave, withdrew the Amendment, and the Motion was put and negatived.

Item 31.—Surcharges on Postal Notes.

We cannot recommend any alteration in present system.

Agreed to.

TELEGRAPH.

No. 1.—Uniform Telegraph Code.

We are unable to recommend any change from the present system.

Agreed to.

No. 2.—Telegraph Money Orders.

The following Regulations in use in Victoria are recommended for adoption in all the Colonies:—

“At all Post and Telegraph Offices where the Postmaster or Officer in charge is not the sole Operator, the receipt of all Telegraph Money Orders must in future be witnessed and verified by the Postmaster or Officer in charge, and the signature of the Postmaster and Operator affixed to the advice, as attesting the genuineness of the document. The Postmaster will, if necessary for the purpose of verification, obtain a repetition of the telegram from the Office of issue.

“All Telegraph Money Order Advices are to be kept on hand at the transmitting office during the day of issue to enable the repetition to be made when required without unnecessary delay.

“All Payments to the Payees of Telegraph Money Orders must be made by the Postmaster or Officer in charge personally in the presence of a member of the staff of the office or of some other person permanently residing in the town or district in which the Money Order is paid, and the Postmaster and such other person must sign the receipt given by the Payee as witnesses to the payment having been duly made.

“Payments made in contravention of these instructions will in future be disallowed.”

Mr. TODD moved the addition of the following words:—

“It is recommended also that a code be prepared and used for the transmission of the number of Money Orders as ensuring more correctness, and reducing the number of words to be telegraphed.”

Hon. W. COPLEY seconded.

Carried.

The item as amended was agreed to.

No. 3.—Multiple Messages in connection with Press Associations.

We cannot recommend any departure from the system at present in use.

Agreed to.

No. 5.—Zone Hour System.

We recommend that a Conference between the Railway and Telegraph Departments and the Astronomers of the various Colonies be arranged for at an early date to consider this question further.

The item was negatived.

Item 9.—Telephone System.

We regret that at present we are unable to agree on any general rules and regulations which would be applicable in the whole of the colonies, and to which they would consent.

Agreed to.

Item 1.—Underground Wires.

We recommend the consideration of this question be remitted to the proposed Committee on the Electric Light and Power, Item 7, Telegraph, as it forms a kindred subject.

Agreed to.

Item 11.—What Telegraph Lines should be regarded as International.

We recommend that so far as Australia is concerned, the land lines to Port Darwin and Roebuck Bay be so regarded.

The item was negatived.

New Zealand charges of 1s. 6d. per lb. on Packets via San Francisco.

We advise that the New Zealand Post Office be urged to reduce their charges for Packets via San Francisco to 1s. per lb., the same as is charged thence by the Federal Mail Service.

Agreed to.

Signatures to Telegrams.

We recommend that the present system by which signatures are required to all telegrams be adhered to; the omission of the signature would in our opinion be fraught with danger.

Agreed to.

Cypher Messages.

We recommend that the amended definition of a cypher message as contained in the Victorian Postal Guide be adopted; viz.—

Every message consisting wholly or in part of words in secret language, or in words in any admitted language (English, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, and Latin) having no connective meaning, groups of letters or figures, shall be regarded as a cypher message, and every cypher word in such message shall be counted as two words, and the extra charge be added to the minimum rate for a message: provided, that such extra charge shall not in any case exceed 50 per cent. on the ordinary rate which would be payable on account of the said telegram. Groups of five letters or five figures shall count as one cypher word.

Agreed to.

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY moved,—

That the Conference adjourn until half-past 7 to-night.

Hon. JOHN KIDD seconded.

Carried.

Conference adjourned accordingly.

EVENING SITTING.

The Conference re-assembled at 7:30 P.M.

AUSTRALASIAN POSTAL CONVENTION.

The Draft of the Australasian Postal Convention as revised by the Heads of Departments was next considered.

The whole of the Articles from 1 to 23 were agreed to without Amendment.

THANKS.

The Hon. T. UNMACK moved a vote of thanks to the Hon. B. STAFFORD BIRD for the able manner in which he had presided over the proceedings of the Conference, and for the generous hospitality and kindness with which the Delegates had been received on the occasion.

The Hon. JOHN KIDD seconded.

Carried.

The PRESIDENT returned thanks for the compliment paid him.

The Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY proposed a vote of thanks to the Secretary, Mr. T. C. JUST, for the able manner in which he had performed his duties.

The Hon. WM. COPLEY seconded the Motion, which was carried.

Mr. JUST acknowledged the vote.

Hon. JOHN KIDD moved a vote of thanks to the Heads of Departments present for the assistance they had rendered the Conference.

The Hon. WM. COPLEY seconded.

Hon. the PRESIDENT referred to the heavy work the Heads of Departments had to do, and supported the vote of thanks.

The motion was carried.

Messrs. HENRY, TODD, LAMBTON, SMIBERT, BOYES, and SHOLL acknowledged the vote of thanks.

The PRESIDENT acknowledged the services of the representatives of the Press for the publicity given to the reports.

The Conference adjourned at 8:40 P.M., to meet again at Launceston on Tuesday, at an hour to be fixed by the President, to formally close the proceedings.

B. STAFFORD BIRD, President.

THOS. C. JUST, Secretary.

“LAUNCESTON HOTEL,” LAUNCESTON.

TUESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1892.

THE Conference met at 8 P.M., at the *Launceston Hotel*, when the under-mentioned gentlemen, representing the Colonies herein named, were present; viz.—

- New South Wales*: The Hon. JOHN KIDD, M.P., Postmaster-General.
 S. H. LAMBTON, Esq., Secretary to the Post Office Department.
 E. C. CRACKNELL, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs.
- Victoria*: The Hon. JOHN GAVAN DUFFY, M.P., Attorney-General and
 Postmaster-General.
 JAMES SMIBERT, Esq., Deputy Postmaster-General.
- Queensland*: The Hon. THEODORE UNMACK, M.P., Minister of Railways and
 Postmaster-General.
 JOHN M'DONNELL, Esq., Under Secretary to the Post and Telegraph
 Department.
- South Australia*: The Hon. WILLIAM COPLEY, M.L.C., Minister of Agriculture and
 Education.
 CHARLES TODD, Esq., C.M.G., M.A., F.R.S., Postmaster-General and
 Superintendent of Telegraphs.
- Western Australia*: RICHARD A. SHOLL, Esq., Postmaster-General.
- Tasmania*: The Hon. B. S. BIRD, M.P., Treasurer and Postmaster-General.
 ROBERT HENRY, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs.
 HENRY BOYES, Esq., Secretary to the Post Office, &c.

The Secretary submitted the Draft Report of the Delegates on the Proceedings of the Conference, which, after slight amendment, was adopted and signed.

The Conference then adjourned *sine die*.

B. STAFFORD BIRD, President.

THOS. C. JUST, Secretary.

REPORT and Recommendations of Permanent Heads of Departments on Subjects referred to them by the Conference, including Amendments made by the Conference.

In accordance with the instructions of the Conference, we have the honor to report as follows:—

POSTAL.

In order to make the Report more clear we have ventured to deal with the questions relating to the Postal Union generally, which questions embrace Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 17, 25, 26, and 29 of the Memorandum submitted to the Conference.

The first points to which we directed our attention were the objections by the London and Berne offices, as per Appendices A, B, and C, to certain of the rates charged on correspondence posted in the Colonies as not being in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Union.

The annexed table shows the rates which are now charged in Australasia, those which the Berne Bureau considers should be charged, and those which are charged in Great Britain.

Class of Mail-matter.	Postage at present levied in Australia, with exceptions noted below.*	Postage chargeable according to the Letter from Berne.	Rates of Postage now levied in the United Kingdom, and which the Colonies were asked also to adopt.
1. <i>Post Cards</i> (single)	1½ <i>d.</i> each	Berne has raised no objection to these rates.	1 <i>d.</i> each.
2. <i>Ditto</i> (reply)	3 <i>d.</i> each		2 <i>d.</i> each.
2. <i>Newspapers</i>	To the United Kingdom, 1 <i>d.</i> each	1 <i>d.</i> per 4 oz. to all places unless other special arrangements be made with the Country or Countries concerned.	½ <i>d.</i> per 2 oz.
	To other places—1 <i>d.</i> for the first 4 oz. and ½ <i>d.</i> for every additional 2 oz. ..		
3. { <i>Printed Papers</i> (except Newspapers) <i>Patterns and Samples</i>	1 <i>d.</i> per 2 oz.	Berne has not raised any objection to this rate.	½ <i>d.</i> per 2 oz.
	1 <i>d.</i> per 2 oz.	Not exceeding 2 oz., 1½ <i>d.</i> Between 2 oz. and 4 oz., 2 <i>d.</i> and Each additional 2 oz., 1 <i>d.</i>	½ <i>d.</i> per 2 oz. with a minimum charge of 1 <i>d.</i>
4. <i>Commercial Papers</i>	2½ <i>d.</i> for the first 5 oz. or fraction, and 1 <i>d.</i> for each additional 2 oz.	Not exceeding 2 oz., 3 <i>d.</i> Between 2 oz. and 4 oz., 3½ <i>d.</i> " 4 oz. and 6 oz., 4 <i>d.</i> " 6 oz. and 8 oz., 4½ <i>d.</i> " 8 oz. and 10 oz., 5 <i>d.</i> " 10 oz. and 12 oz., 6 <i>d.</i> and Each additional 2 oz., 1 <i>d.</i>	½ <i>d.</i> per 2 ozs., with a minimum postage of 2½ <i>d.</i> , which means 2½ <i>d.</i> for the first 10 ozs. or fraction, and ½ <i>d.</i> for each additional 2 oz.
5. <i>Registration Fee</i> ..	3 <i>d.</i> each article	Berne has not, and cannot raise any objection to this rate.	2 <i>d.</i> each article.

* In Tasmania Newspapers to the United Kingdom and other places are charged ½*d.* each, and in Western Australia Post-cards are charged 1*d.* each; Newspapers, 1*d.* for 4 oz., and ½*d.* for each additional 2 oz.; Commercial Papers, 2½*d.* for 4 oz., and 1*d.* for each additional 2 oz. In Queensland and South Australia each Newspaper for Great Britain is charged 1*d.* for 10 ozs. or fraction thereof.

It may be desirable to explain that what are termed surfaxes are charges which Union countries are permitted to make for the carriage of mails by services which they maintain or use where the distances exceed 300 miles. The charges—which are 25 centimes (2½*d.*) per single rate for Letters, 5 centimes (½*d.*) per Post-card, and 5 centimes (½*d.*) per 50 grammes (2 oz.) for other articles—can be made or not at the option of any Union country under Article 5 of the Paris Convention.

1. *Post Cards*.—With reference to Post Cards, we are of opinion that the rates at present charged in all the Australian Colonies except Western Australia, of $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ for single card and $3d.$ for reply, should be maintained. To charge the lower rate would place Post Cards for Foreign Countries on the same level as present Inland Rates, and would seriously affect the Revenue, as persons would be induced to substitute Post Cards for letters, and the Revenue has already largely suffered by the reduction of the Letter Rate to $2\frac{1}{2}d.$

2. *Newspapers*.—We advise that each Newspaper be charged $1d.$ for every 4 ounces or fraction thereof. It is clear that the practice at present followed in most of the Colonies of sending Newspapers to the United Kingdom at $1d.$ for each paper up to 10 ounces, or, in some instances, irrespective of weight, must be discontinued, being, as shown by the correspondence, repugnant to the provisions of the Union. If the Rules of the Union had permitted, we would have advised the adoption of a minimum rate of $1d.$ for the first 4 ounces and $\frac{1}{2}d.$ for every additional 2 ounces or portion thereof. It is, of course, open to adopt the London Rate of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per 2 ounces; but, for financial reasons, we are unwilling at present to suggest an initial rate of $\frac{1}{2}d.$, especially as all other printed matter would have to pass at the half-penny rate—that is, one-half the existing Inland and Intercolonial charge—which charge would, therefore, have to be correspondingly reduced.

3. *Printed Papers, Patterns, and Samples*.—We recommend that the rate for printed papers, patterns, and samples be continued at $1d.$ per 2 ounces or fraction thereof, this being the same as the present Inland and Intercolonial rate.

4. *Commercial Papers*.—We find that our present practice, with one exception (Western Australia), of charging $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ up to 5 ounces is contrary to the Union Regulations, and in order to conform thereto we recommend that the following be the rates:—

$2\frac{1}{2}d.$ for 4 ozs. or under.
 $3d.$ for 4 ozs. to 6 ozs.
 $4d.$ for 6 ozs. to 8 ozs.
 $5d.$ for 8 ozs. to 10 ozs.
 And $1d.$ for every additional 2 ozs.

5. *Registration Fee*.—We recommend that our present Registration Fee of $3d.$ be adhered to, this being the charge inland and intercolonially.

VIENNA CONVENTION.

We next considered the changes necessary to conform to the amended Convention adopted at Vienna last year, to come into operation on 1st July next. A copy of such Convention is appended, together with circular letter from the London Office, dated 18th December last, detailing the alterations which have been made. The following is a list of provisions of the Vienna Convention, the adoption of which is left to the option of Union Countries. The several items are dealt with *seriatim*, our recommendations being, for the sake of convenience, placed opposite to each. Appendix D.

Recommendations.

1. Article 5. The limits of weight and size of packets of samples of merchandise are fixed as follows:—

Weight 250 grammes (8 oz.)
 Size... Length 30 centimetres (say, 12 inches)
 Breadth 20 do. (say, 8 do.)
 Depth 10 do. (say, 4 do.)

Or if they be in the form of a roll;—

Length 30 centimetres (say, 12 inches)
 Diameter 15 do. (say, 6 do.)

but limits of weight or size greater than the above may be adopted, by common consent, by Administrations wishing to do so.

2. Article 6. The maximum registration fee is fixed at $2\frac{1}{2}d.$, but, in clause 1 of the Final Protocol, the States outside Europe may charge a registration fee not exceeding $5d.$

1. That the Colonies agree to adopt a maximum weight of 350 grammes (12 ozs.) by arrangement with such other administrations as may agree, which has already been done with regard to France—measurements to remain as at present.

NOTE.—Since this Report was signed, a letter from London dated 12th February, has reached us, and is printed as Appendix F., in which it is suggested that sample packets exchanged between the United Kingdom and the Colonies be allowed up to the following dimensions and weight, viz., 2 feet in length, 1 foot in width and depth, and 5 lbs. in weight. We recommend that the extended dimensions should be allowed, but, with regard to the weight, that all packets of whatever kind exceeding 1lb. be sent by Parcel Post."

2. Already dealt with; we do not advise that the registration fee be increased beyond $3d.$, as at present.

3. Article 7. Administrations agreeing there-to may exchange registered correspondence marked with trade charges up to 500 francs (say £20) to be collected on delivery—the proceeds (less charges of collection, &c.) to be remitted to the senders of such correspondence.

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5. Article 13. In countries which consent to undertake the service in their reciprocal relations, a system may be adopted under which, at the request of the senders, and on their paying in advance a sum of 3*d.* for each article, all classes of correspondence are sent to the addressees by a special messenger immediately on arrival in the country of destination.

6. Final Protocol (clause 2). Countries whose laws are opposed to responsibility respecting the loss of registered articles are excused, as a temporary measure, from the provisions contained in Article 8, entailing such responsibility.

7. Regulation 15. Administrations whose inland Regulations do not admit of the use of labels (R) in connection with registered articles may postpone their introduction into use.

8. Regulation 19. By mutual consent between two Administrations packets of liquids, oils, fatty substances, dry powders, whether dyes or not, as well as packets of live bees, may be transmitted through the post, provided they be packed in the manner indicated in such Regulation.

3. We cannot recommend that this be agreed to, and Great Britain has refused to adopt the system.

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5. We cannot advise that the system be adopted, as the cost of the proposed Express Service will not be met by the charge of 3*d.*; and moreover, in the case of our small country offices it would be impracticable. It has not been adopted by Great Britain except locally.

6. The colonies have already declined to adopt the provisions of Article 8, which provides for responsibility to the extent of £2 in case of the loss of a registered letter. We think this decision should be adhered to.

7. We consider this unnecessary, as the present practice of marking registered letters with a blue or red cross and impressed with the letter "R" answers every purpose.

8. We recommend that this be not adopted. Great Britain has refused.

Appendix E.

With the exceptions above stated we have no objection to offer to the adoption of the changes enumerated in the London letter of the 18th December before referred to, and appended hereto, and which, if not objected to, will become obligatory on 1st July.

We would point out that the decisions on the various questions involved should reach the Vienna office by the 1st June next.

Settlement of Accounts—part of Item 3.

With reference to part of Item No. 3 on the Memorandum submitted to the Conference, and to the Berne letters of 9th and 14th January, we are of opinion that it will be more satisfactory if the Australian Colonies do not avail themselves of the offer of the Berne office as regards liquidation of accounts, as the present system works well.

Item 4.—Transmission through the Post of Articles liable to Customs Duty.

This has reference to a letter from Berne under date 10th November, 1891, containing a very long list of articles the transmission of which is objected to by various countries of the Postal Union. We think it unnecessary that the public be fully advised of all the different articles enumerated in the list, which, the Berne Bureau states, is not yet complete.

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This is dealt with under Item 13 (Intercolonial Postal Convention).

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Local circumstances may of course prevent perfect uniformity; but we venture to suggest that any departure from uniformity should only be to meet local requirements, as the exchange of correspondence between the Colonies and foreign countries should conform to the Intercolonial Postal Convention or the Universal Postal Union.

Item 18.—Statistics.

The statistics required under Clause 34 of the detailed Regulations of the Union are in our opinion of an unnecessarily voluminous character, and will entail a large amount of clerical labour; and we suggest that at the next Quinquennial Congress the Australian Delegates be instructed to press for an amendment in the direction of simplicity; in the meantime they should be supplied.

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We recommend the adoption of the Postal Union practice in its entirety—that is, to make no charge for re-direction if the article is fully prepaid to the country or colony to which it is re-directed. We are aware that under the existing Postal Laws of some of the Colonies the re-direction charge is compulsory, although inoperative as regards Foreign Countries.

With regard to charge for return of Dead Letters, although in the Draft Australian Convention submitted to a previous Conference, provision was made for charging a fee for their return, the Colonies have since joined the Union, under which no provision is made for such a charge. We therefore advise that the existing practice of making no charge be continued, except in the case of those Colonies whose laws specially provide for a charge.

Item 20.—Late Fees.

We do not recommend any change in the present practice.

Item 21.—Postal Notes, Currency, &c.

We recommend that where it is necessary to affix stamps to a Postal Note in order that the remitter may forward broken sums of pence, such stamps should be affixed to the face of the Note, the additional stamps for extra commission on Intercolonial Notes to be affixed to the back of the Note. The currency of Intercolonial Postal Notes to be limited to Six months.

We also recommend that the London office be invited to adopt an exchange of Postal Notes with the Australasian Colonies on the same lines as those now existing between some of the Colonies.

Item 22.—Unclaimed Letters—Dead Letter List.

We think the publication of Unclaimed Letter Lists is unnecessary, and advise that future legislation of the different Colonies should provide for the discontinuance of the same, and for the more speedy return of unclaimed letters.

Item 23.—Part of.—Registration of Newspapers.

We recommend that a newspaper registered, or passed as such, in Great Britain or any of the Colonies may be posted in any Colony at ordinary rates of postage. (Queensland dissenting.)

Item 24.—Parcels Post, Insurance, Compensation, Transit Rates by Sea.

We advise that at present the systems of insurance and compensation be not adopted inland, intercolonially, or internationally; and that as regards transit rates by sea, we recommend that negotiations be opened up with the steam companies with a view to a reduction of the rate to one penny per lb., or less.

Item 27.—Special Trains, France and Italy.

We recommend that the question of further pressing for a reduction of the European over-land transit rates be deferred until the next Conference, when the matter of entering into fresh ocean contracts will probably receive consideration.

Item 28.—Money Orders, Allowance in Account.

That in the event of the reduced rates of commission for Intercolonial Money Orders, as recommended at last Conference, being adopted, we advise that in the settlement of accounts the paying colony be allowed ten shillings per cent. on the amount of the issue, in lieu of half the commission as at present, this being in accordance with the practice in all countries outside Australasia, and entailing less labour than the present system.

*Item 30.—Universal Stamp for Colonies.**

We are of opinion that a system of postage stamps common to all of the Australasian Colonies would be a step in the direction of federation, and would be a great public convenience. Should this system be adopted, we would, however, strongly advise that such stamps should be available only for postage, and not for duty or any other purposes, and that the revenue derivable from these stamps should be apportioned amongst the Colonies on the basis of population.

Item 31.—Surcharges on Postal Notes.

We cannot recommend any alteration in present system.

TELEGRAPH.

Item 1.—Uniform Telegraph Code.

We are unable to recommend any change from the present system.

Item 2.—Telegraph Money Orders.

The following Regulations in use in Victoria are recommended for adoption in all the Colonies :—

“At all Post and Telegraph Offices where the Postmaster or Officer in charge is not the sole Operator, the receipt of all Telegraph Money Orders must in future be witnessed and verified by the Postmaster or Officer in charge, and the signature of the Postmaster and Operator affixed to the advice, as attesting the genuineness of the document. The Postmaster will, if necessary for the purpose of verification, obtain a repetition of the telegram from the Office of issue.

“All Telegraph Money Order Advices are to be kept on hand at the transmitting office during the day of issue to enable the repetition to be made when required without unnecessary delay.

“All Payments to the Payees of Telegraph Money Orders must be made by the Postmaster or Officer in charge personally in the presence of a member of the staff of the office or of some other person permanently residing in the town or district in which the Money Order is paid, and the Postmaster and such other person must sign the receipt given by the Payee as witnesses to the payment having been duly made.

“Payments made in contravention of these instructions will in future be disallowed.”

It is recommended also that a code be prepared and used for the transmission of the numbers of Telegraph Money Orders, as ensuring more correctness and reducing the number of words to be telegraphed.

Item 3.—Multiple Messages in connection with Press Associations.

We cannot recommend any departure from the system at present in use.

*Item 5.—Zone Hour System.**

We recommend that a Conference between the Railway and Telegraph Departments and the Astronomers of the various Colonies be arranged for at an early date to consider this question further.

Item 9.—Telephone System.

We regret that at present we are unable to agree on any general rules and regulations which would be applicable in the whole of the Colonies, and to which they would consent.

Item 10.—Underground Wires.

We recommend the consideration of this question be remitted to the proposed Committee on the Electric Light and Power (*Item 7, Telegraph*), as it forms a kindred subject.

Item 11.—What Telegraph Lines should be regarded as International.

We recommend that so far as Australia is concerned, the land lines to Port Darwin and Roebuck Bay be so regarded.

OTHER SUBJECTS.

We have the honor to submit the following remarks on matters which concern our respective Departments, though not specially referred to us :—

* Not adopted by the Conference.

New Zealand charges of 1s. 6d. per lb. on Packets viâ San Francisco.

We advise that the New Zealand Post Office be urged to reduce their charges for Packets viâ San Francisco to 1s. per lb., the same as is charged thence by the Federal Mail Service.

Signatures of Telegrams.

We recommend that the present system by which signatures are required to all telegrams be adhered to; the omission of the signature would in our opinion be fraught with danger.

Cypher Messages.

We recommend that the amended definition of a cypher message as contained in the Victorian Postal Guide be adopted; viz.—

Every message consisting wholly or in part of words in secret language, or in words in any admitted language (English, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, and Latin) having no connective meaning, groups of letters or figures, shall be regarded as a cypher message, and every cypher word in such message shall be counted as two words, and the extra charge be added to the minimum rate for a message: provided, that such extra charge shall not in any case exceed 50 per cent. on the ordinary rate which would be payable on account of the said telegram. Groups of five letters or five figures shall count as one cypher word.

Australian Postal Convention.

We have carefully revised this Convention with the object of bringing it as far as possible into conformity with the provisions of the Universal Postal Union, and submit the revised Draft herewith.

ROBT. HENRY, Superintendent Telegraphs, Tasmania.

H. BOYES, Secretary P.O., Tasmania.

S. H. LAMBTON, Secretary Postal Department, N. S. Wales.

E. C. CRACKNELL, Supt. Telegraphs, New South Wales.

JAMES SMIBERT, Deputy Postmaster-General, Victoria.

CHARLES TODD, Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs, S. Australia.

JOHN M'DONNELL, Under Secretary, Post and Telegraph Department, Queensland.

R. A. SHOLL, Postmaster-General and General Supt. of Telegraphs, Western Australia.

18th March, 1892.



APPENDIX A.

General Post Office, London, 13th November, 1891.

SIR,

I BEG leave to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 28th September last, No. B. 91, enclosing a printed Notice, in which particulars are given of the rates of Postage chargeable in New South Wales on correspondence for all countries outside Australasia since the 1st of last month, the date on which the Australasian Colonies entered the Universal Postal Union.

It is naturally a matter of some regret to the Imperial Post Office that so exceptional and complex a tariff has been adopted in New South Wales, more especially as it is understood that the other Australian Colonies concur generally in that tariff.

The moderate, simple, and uniform tariff which it is proposed shortly to adopt in the United Kingdom, for correspondence addressed to all parts of the world, is as follows :—

- 2½d. per ½-ounce for letters ;
- 1d. each for post cards ;
- 2d. each for reply-paid post-cards ;
- ½d. per 2 oz. for newspapers, books, printed papers, patterns, and samples, with the Postal Union proviso of a minimum payment of 2½d. for a packet of commercial papers, and of 1d. for a packet of patterns or samples ;
- 2d. registration fee ;
- 2½d. fee for acknowledgment of delivery of a registered article.

It would have been a satisfaction to the Postmaster-General to know that the same rates commended themselves to the Australasian Colonies, and were about to be adopted in those Colonies.

The abandonment of surtaxes in the case of letters, and not in the case of post-cards, appears somewhat anomalous, as letters and cards are subject to the same transit rates.

With regard to newspapers it would appear that new rates of postage have been established in New South Wales for newspapers addressed to Postal Union countries, and that those rates are not in conformity with the provisions of Article XXVI. of the Detailed Regulations. In that Article, it is true, permission is given to States which are unable to adopt the decimal metrical system of weight, to substitute for it the ounce avoirdupois, and to raise, if needful, the limit of the single rate of postage of newspapers to four ounces, but only under the express condition that, in the latter case, the postage on newspapers be not less than 10 centimes (1d.) per 4 ounces, and be charged upon each newspaper even though several newspapers be included in the same packet.

The last-mentioned condition does not seem to be complied with by the Australian newspaper rate of ½d. per 2 ounces after the first four ounces.

It is not improbable that this divergence from the Union practice, and also the difference between the rate to Europe and the rate to England *via* Europe, will provoke adverse criticism on the continent ; but perhaps, on reconsideration of the matter in the light of the foregoing observations, the Post Offices of New South Wales and the other Australasian Colonies may see the way clear to adopt before long the simpler postal tariff about to be adopted in the United Kingdom.

The British Delegates to the Vienna Congress are gratified at the appreciation expressed in your letter of any services which they were enabled to render in connection with the entry of New South Wales and the other Australasian Colonies into the Universal Postal Union. The Imperial Post Office feels sure that the adhesion of those Colonies to the Union will be to the ultimate advantage of all concerned.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

EDW. H. REA.

The Postmaster-General, Sydney.

APPENDIX B.

No. 3747.

Berne, 12th November, 1891.

MR. SECRETARY,

THE Tariff No. III. on the table which accompanied your letter gives for newspapers from your country for the United Kingdom a rate of 1d. per paper (1d. each) without regard to weight, and for newspapers from your country for other Union countries a rate of 1d. up to 4 ounces, and above that of ½d. for every 2 ounces or fraction of 2 ounces.

I consider it necessary to point out to you on this subject that the weight of newspapers, in the Union Service, progresses by single rate of 50 grammes, with the right, for countries which do not have the decimal metrical system of weight, to raise the limit of the single rate to 100 grammes, or 4 ounces. (Art. XXVI. of the Regulations for the execution of the Convention of 1st of June, 1878.)

By the terms of the Article cited, the Administrations availing themselves of this right are obliged to charge a rate of 10 centimes (1*d.*) per single rate of 4 ounces, and, in cases where several numbers of the same paper or of different papers are grouped together in the same package, one entire rate, that is to say a charge of 10 centimes (1*d.*) for 4 ounces or fraction of 4 ounces *for each number*, or the same rate as if each paper was forwarded separately. Consequently, your Administration is obliged to levy for newspapers from your country for the United Kingdom, as well as for those addressed to other countries of the Union, a charge of 1*d.* for 4 ounces or fraction of 4 ounces, unless an alteration is effected in this general rule by special arrangements concluded with one or the other of the Administrations interested.

I deem it necessary to furnish you with the above explanations in order that you may take the measures your Union tariff requires on this head, if the case is as stated.

As regards Tariff No. II. on the table in question, I should be much obliged if you would be good enough to let me know whether the reduced rates therein indicated are levied by virtue of special arrangements (2nd paragraph of Article 15 of the above-mentioned Convention) concluded with those colonies which, mentioned at the head of this tariff, amount to countries forming part of the Union.

If, as I think, this is so, I will notify to the Union offices the rates which are applicable in your relations with these colonies after receipt of your reply.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary, the assurance of my high esteem.

The Director,

(Signed) EUGENE BOREL.

APPENDIX C.

No. 3900.

Berne, 19th November, 1891.

MR. SECRETARY,

By the terms of Article 5 of that Convention, the rate for commercial papers and samples of merchandise is 5 centimes for each article or packet bearing a particular address, and for every weight of 50 grammes or fraction of 50 grammes. Further, 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. I beg to add that *that exception to the general rule concerns exclusively the Union rate on these Articles, and not this rate combined with the surcharge.*

Applying these provisions, the calculations of the amount to collect in your service on commercial papers and samples of merchandise gives the following results, taking due account of the surcharge of $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per single rate adopted by your Administration:—

Rate-table for Commercial Papers.

Up to	Union Rate.	Surcharge.	Total.
2 ounces	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	3 <i>d.</i>
4 „	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	1 <i>d.</i>	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>
6 „	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	4 <i>d.</i>
8 „	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	2 <i>d.</i>	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>
10 „	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	5 <i>d.</i>
12 „	3 <i>d.</i>	3 <i>d.</i>	6 <i>d.</i>

and so on, always adding $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* as the Union rate and $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* as surcharge, say together 1*d.* for two ounces (single rate) or fraction of two ounces over and above.

Rate-table for Samples of Merchandise.

Up to	Union Rate.	Surcharge.	Total.
2 ounces	1 <i>d.</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>
4 „	1 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>d.</i>
6 „	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	3 <i>d.</i>
8 „	2 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>d.</i>	4 <i>d.</i>

and so on, always adding $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* Union rate and $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* surcharge, say together 1*d.* for 2 ounces (single rate) or fraction of two ounces over and above.

Referring to your letter of the 28th September last, No. B. 91/10796, I think it necessary to call your attention to these *two items* of your tariff in order that you may be in a position to rectify them in conformity with the above information. Modifications in these indications can only take place by special arrangement with one or the other of the Administrations interested.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary, the assurance of my high esteem.

For the Director,

(Signed)

THE 1st SECRETARY.

APPENDIX D.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION concluded between Germany and the German Protectorates, United States of America, Argentine Republic, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chili, Republic of Colombia, Congo Free State, Republic of Costa Rica, Denmark and Danish Colonies, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ecuador, Spain and Spanish Colonies, France and French Colonies, Great Britain and various British Colonies, British Colonies of Australasia, Canada, British India, Greece, Guatemala, Republic of Hayti, Kingdom of Hawaii, Republic of Honduras, Italy, Japan, Republic of Liberia, Luxemburg, Mexico, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Netherlands and Dutch Colonies, Peru, Persia, Portugal and Portuguese Colonies, Roumania, Russia, Salvador, Servia, Kingdom of Siam, South African Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Regency of Tunis, Turkey, Uruguay, and United States of Venezuela.

The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the above-named countries, being assembled in Congress at Vienna, by virtue of Article XIX. of the Universal Postal Convention concluded at Paris on the 1st June, 1878, have by common consent, and subject to ratification, revised the said Convention, as well as the additional Act relative thereto concluded at Lisbon on the 21st March, 1885, in conformity with the following stipulations:—

ARTICLE I.

The countries between which the present Convention is concluded, as well as those which may adhere to 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, both single and with reply paid, printed papers of every kind, commercial papers and samples of merchandise, originating in one of the countries of the Union and intended for another of those countries. They also apply to the exchange by post of the articles above mentioned between the countries of the Union and countries foreign to the Union, whenever the services of two of the contracting parties at least are used for that exchange.

ARTICLE III.

1. The Postal Administrations of neighbouring countries or countries able to correspond directly with each other, without availing themselves of the services of a third administration, determine, by common consent, the conditions of the conveyance of the mails which they exchange, across the frontier, or from one frontier to the other.

2. In the absence of any contrary arrangement, 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 medium of sea or territorial services maintained by another country, is regulated by the stipulations of the following Article.

ARTICLE IV.

1. The right of transit is guaranteed throughout the entire territory of the Union.

2. Consequently, the several Postal Administrations of the Union may send reciprocally through the medium of one or of several of them, either closed mails or correspondence *à découvert*, according to the needs of the traffic and the requirements of the postal service.

3. Correspondence exchanged, whether *à découvert* or in closed mails, between two Administrations 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 transits, 2 francs per kilogramme of letters or post-cards, and 25 centimes per kilogramme of other articles;

(2) For sea transits, 15 francs per kilogramme of letters or post-cards, and 1 franc per kilogramme of other articles.

4. It is, however, understood—

(1) That in all cases where the transit is already gratuitous at present, or subject to more advantageous conditions, such state of things is maintained, except in the case provided for in paragraph 3 following;

(2) That in all cases where the sea transit charges are fixed at present at 5 francs per kilogramme of letters or post-cards, and at 50 centimes per kilogramme of other articles, those rates are maintained;

(3) That every sea transit not exceeding 300 nautical miles is gratuitous if the Administration concerned is already entitled, on account of mails or correspondence benefiting by this transit, 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 charges payable for the entire transit cannot exceed 15 francs per kilogramme of letters or post-cards,

and 1 franc per kilogramme of other articles; the charges in question are, in such case, shared between those 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 condition of these two categories of conveyance are regulated by mutual consent between the Administrations concerned.

5. The expenses of transit are borne by the Administration of the country of origin.

6. The general accounting for those charges takes place on the basis of statements prepared every three years, during a period of 28 days, to be determined on in the Detailed Regulations referred to in Article XX, hereafter.

7. Correspondence between Postal Administrations, the reply halves of double post-cards returned to the country of origin, articles re-directed or mis-sent, undelivered articles, acknowledgments of delivery, post-office money orders, and all other documents relative to the postal service, are exempt from all charges for territorial or sea transit.

ARTICLE V.

1. 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 addressees in the countries of the Union where a delivery is or shall be organised, are fixed as follows:—

- (1) For letters, 25 centimes in case of pre-payment, 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 for single cards or for each of the two halves of cards with reply paid.

Unpaid post-cards are charged as unpaid letters.

- (3) For printed papers of every kind, commercial papers, and 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 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.

2. In addition to the rates fixed by the preceding paragraph, there may be levied,—

- (1) For every article subject to the sea transit charges of 15 francs per kilogramme of letters or post-cards and 1 franc per kilogramme of other articles and in all the relations to which these transit charges are applicable, a uniform 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;
- (2) For every article conveyed by means of services maintained by Administrations foreign to the Union, or of extraordinary services in the Union, giving rise to special expenses, a surcharge in proportion to those expenses.

3. In case of insufficient pre-payment, correspondence of every kind is liable to a charge equal to double the amount of the deficiency, to be paid by the addressees;* but that charge may not exceed that which is levied in the country of destination on unpaid correspondence of the same nature, weight, and origin.

4. Articles other than letters and post-cards must be prepaid at least partly.

5. Packets of samples of merchandise may not contain any article having a saleable value; they must not exceed 250 grammes in weight, or measure more than 30 centimetres in length, 20 centimetres in breadth, and 10 centimetres in depth, or, if they are in the form of a roll, 30 centimetres in length, and 15 centimetres in diameter. Nevertheless, the Administrations of the countries concerned are authorised to adopt by common consent, for their reciprocal exchanges, limits of weight or size greater than those fixed above.

6. Packets of commercial papers and printed papers may not exceed 2 kilogrammes in weight, or measure more in any direction than 45 centimetres. Packets in the form of a roll may, however, be allowed to pass through the post provided they do not exceed 10 centimetres in diameter and 75 centimetres in length.

ARTICLE VI.

1. The articles specified in Article V. may be registered.

2. 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 most, including a receipt given to the sender.

3. 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 most.

* The Lisbon Congress decided to regard this Article as meaning that in all cases of non-prepayment, as of insufficient prepayment, the whole deficit should be doubled, whether such deficit be in the fundamental rate or in the surcharge. The Vienna Congress did not rescind that decision, although the case contemplated by the words after "addressees" (which were added at Vienna) can only arise by ignoring the Lisbon decision.

ARTICLE VII.

1. Registered correspondence may be sent marked with trade charges up to 500 francs to be collected on delivery between countries of which the Administrations agree to introduce this service. These articles are subject to the same regulations and rates as registered articles.

2. The amount collected from the addressee is to be transmitted to the sender by means of a money order, after deducting the rate chargeable for ordinary money orders, and a commission of 10 centimes for the service of collection.

ARTICLE VIII.

1. In case of the loss of a registered article, and except in cases beyond control, the sender, or, at the request of the sender, the addressee, is entitled to an indemnity of 50 francs.

2. The obligation of paying the indemnity rests with the Administration to which the despatching Office is subordinate. To that Administration is reserved a remedy against the Administration responsible, that is to say, against the Administration on the territory or in the service of which the loss took place.

3. Until the contrary be proved, the responsibility rests with the Administration which, having received the article without making any observation, cannot establish the delivery to the addressee or the regular transfer to the following Administration, as the case may be. For articles addressed "Poste Restante," the responsibility ceases on delivery to a person who has proved, according to the rules in force in the country of destination, that his name and description correspond to those indicated in the address.

4. The payment of the indemnity by the despatching Office ought to take place as soon as possible, and at the latest within a year of the date of the application. The responsible Office is bound to refund to the despatching Office, without delay, the amount of the indemnity paid by the latter. In a case where the responsible Office has given notice to the despatching Office not to effect payment, the former must repay to the latter Office any costs which the nonpayment may entail.

5. It is understood that the application for an indemnity is only entertained if made within a year of the posting of the registered article; after this term the applicant has no right to any indemnity.

6. If the loss has occurred in course of conveyance without its being possible to ascertain on the territory of what country the loss took place, the Administrations concerned bear the loss in equal shares.

7. The Administrations cease to be responsible for registered articles for which the owners have given a receipt on delivery.

ARTICLE IX.

1. The sender of a letter or other article can have it withdrawn from the post or have its address altered, so long as such article has not been delivered to the addressee.

2. The request for such withdrawal is sent by post or by telegraph at the expense of the sender, who must pay as follows:—

1. For every request by post, the amount payable for a registered single letter;

2. For every request by telegraph, the charge for a telegram according to the ordinary tariff.

3. The stipulations of this Article are not obligatory for countries of which the legislation does not permit the sender to dispose of an article in its course through the post.

ARTICLE X.

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 the foregoing Articles V. and VI. Such countries have the option of rounding fractions in conformity with the Table inserted in the Detailed Regulations mentioned in Article XX. of the present Convention.

ARTICLE XI.

1. 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. Nevertheless, reply post-cards bearing postage stamps of the country in which these cards were issued are likewise considered as duly prepaid.

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

3. Correspondence posted on the high seas in the letter-box on board a Packet or placed in the hands of the commanders of ships may be prepaid by means of the postage stamps, and according to the tariff, of the country to which the said Packet belongs or by which it is maintained. If the posting on board takes place during the stay at one of the two extreme points of the voyage or at any intermediate port of call, prepayment can only be effected by means of the postage stamps, and according to the tariffs, of the country in the waters of which the Packet happens to be.

ARTICLE XII.

1. Each Administration keeps the whole of the sums which it collects by virtue of the foregoing Articles V., VI., VII., X., and XI., except the credit due for the money orders referred to in paragraph 2 of Article VII.

2. Consequently, there is no necessity under this head for any accounts between the several Administrations of the Union, excepting always the credit referred to in paragraph 1 of the present Article.

3. Neither the senders nor the addressees of letters and other postal packets can be 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 XIII.

1. At the request of the senders, all classes of correspondence are sent to the addressees by a special messenger immediately on arrival in those countries of the Union which consent to undertake this service in their reciprocal relations.

2. Such correspondence, which is called "express," is subject to a special charge for delivery; this charge is fixed at 30 centimes, and must be fully paid in advance by the sender, in addition to the ordinary postage. It belongs to the Administration of the country of origin.

3. When an article is destined for a place where there is no Post Office, the Postal Administration of the country of destination can levy an additional charge up to the amount of the price fixed for delivery by express in its inland service, less the fixed charge paid by the sender, or its equivalent in the money of the country which levies this additional charge.

4. "Express" letters, &c., upon which the total amount of the charges payable in advance has not been prepaid are delivered by the ordinary means.

ARTICLE XIV.

1. No supplementary postage is charged for the re-direction of postal packets within the Union.

2. Undelivered correspondence does not, when returned, give rise to the repayment of the transit charges due to intermediate Administrations for the previous conveyance of such correspondence.

3. Unpaid letters and post-cards and insufficiently paid articles of every description, which are returned to the country of origin as re-directed or as undeliverable, are liable, at the expense of the addressees or senders, to the same rates as similar articles addressed directly from the country of the first destination to the country of origin.

ARTICLE XV.

1. Closed mails may be exchanged between the Post Offices of any one of the contracting countries and the commanding officers of naval divisions or ships of war of the same country stationed abroad, through the medium of the sea or land services maintained by other countries.

2. Correspondence of every description enclosed in these mails must consist exclusively of such as is addressed to or sent by the officers and crews of the ships to or from which the mails are forwarded; the rates and conditions of despatch applicable to them are determined, according to its internal regulations, by the Postal Administration of the country to which the ships belong.

3. In the absence of any arrangement to the contrary between the Offices concerned, the Post Office which despatches or receives the mails in question is accountable to the intermediate Offices for transit charges calculated in accordance with the stipulations of Article IV.

ARTICLE XVI.

1. There shall not be forwarded—

(a) Commercial papers, samples, and printed papers, which are not prepaid at least partly, or which are not made up in such a manner as to admit of an easy examination of the contents;

(b) Articles of the same categories which exceed the limits of weight and size prescribed by Article V.;

(c) Samples of merchandise having a saleable value.

2. If occasion arise, the articles mentioned in the preceding paragraph should be sent back to the Post Office of origin and returned, if possible, to the sender.

3. It is forbidden—

(1) To send by post—

(a) Samples and other articles which, from their nature, may expose the postal officials to danger, or soil or damage the correspondence;

(b) Explosive, inflammable, or dangerous substances; animals or insects, living or dead, except in the cases contemplated in the Detailed Regulations.

(3.) To insert in ordinary or registered correspondence consigned to the post—

(a) Current coin;

(b) Articles liable to Customs duty;

(c) Gold or silver bullion, precious stones, jewellery, and other precious articles, but only in case their insertion or transmission is forbidden by the legislation of the countries concerned.

4. Packets falling under the prohibitions of the foregoing paragraph 3, which have been erroneously admitted to transmission, should be returned to the Post Office of origin, except in cases where the Administration of the country of destination is authorised by its laws or by its internal regulations to dispose of them otherwise.

5. The right is, moreover, reserved to the Government of every country of the Union to refuse to convey over its territory, or to deliver, articles passing at reduced rates in regard to which the laws, ordinances, or decrees which regulate the conditions of their publication or circulation in that country have not been complied with, or correspondence of any kind bearing obviously inscriptions, designs, &c. forbidden by the legal enactments or regulations in force in the same country.

ARTICLE XVII.

1. Offices of the Union which have relations with countries situate outside the Union admit all the other offices of the Union to take advantage of these relations for the exchange of correspondence with the said countries.

2. Correspondence exchanged *à découvert* between a country of the Union and a country foreign to the Union, through the medium of another country of the Union, is treated, as regards the conveyance beyond the limits of the Union, in conformity with the conventions, agreements, or special provisions governing the postal relations between the latter country and the country foreign to the Union.

3. With regard to the charges for transit within the limits of the Union, correspondence originating in or addressed to a country foreign to the Union is assimilated to that from or for the country of the Union which maintains the relations with the aforesaid country.

4. With regard to the charges for transit outside the limits of the Union, correspondence addressed to a country foreign to the Union is subject to the under-mentioned transit charges, which are credited to the Union country maintaining the relations with the country foreign to it:—

- (a) For sea transits outside the Union, 20 francs per kilogramme of letters or post-cards, and 1 franc per kilogramme of other articles;
- (b) For territorial transits outside the Union, if any, the charges per kilogramme notified by the country of the Union which maintains the relations with the intermediate country foreign to the Union.

5. In the case of sea conveyance effected by two or more Administrations, the charges for the total sea transit, within and without the Union, may not exceed 20 francs per kilogramme of letters or post-cards and 1 franc per kilogramme of other articles; these charges are divided between such Administrations in proportion to the distances traversed, without prejudice to other arrangements between the parties concerned.

6. The above-mentioned charges for transit outside the Union are payable by the Administration of the country of origin. They apply to all correspondence despatched, whether *à découvert* or in closed mails. But in the case of closed mails sent from a country of the Union to a country foreign thereto, or from a country outside the Union to a country within it, an arrangement concerning the mode of payment of the transit charges must be concluded beforehand between the Administrations concerned.

7. The general accounting for the transit charges on correspondence exchanged between a country of the Union and a country foreign to it, through the medium of another country 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 the foregoing Article IV., for determining the charges for transit within the Union.

8. The rates to be levied in a country of the Union on correspondence addressed to or coming from a country foreign to the Union, and using the services of another country of the Union, can never be lower than the normal Union tariff. These rates belong entirely to the country which levies them.

ARTICLE XVIII.

The high contracting parties undertake to adopt, or to propose to their respective Legislatures, the necessary measures for punishing the fraudulent use of counterfeit postage stamps, or stamps already used, for the prepayment of correspondence. They also undertake to adopt, or to propose to their respective Legislatures, the necessary measures for prohibiting and repressing the fraudulent manufacture, sale, hawking, or distribution of embossed and adhesive stamps in use in the postal service, forged or imitated in such a manner as to be mistakable for the embossed and adhesive stamps issued by the Administration of any one of the contracting countries.

ARTICLE XIX.

The services concerning letters and boxes of declared value, postal money-orders, postal parcels, collection of bills and drafts, certificates of identity, subscriptions to newspapers, &c., form the subject of special arrangements between the various countries or groups of countries composing the Union.

ARTICLE XX.

1. The Postal Administrations of the various countries composing the Union are competent to draw up, by common consent, in the form of Detailed Regulations, all the measures of order and detail which are judged necessary.

2. 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 do not derogate from the present Convention.

3. The Administrations concerned are, however, permitted to come to mutual arrangements for the adoption of lower rates of postage within a radius of 30 kilometres.

ARTICLE XXI.

1. The present Convention does not involve alteration in the legislation of any country as regards anything which is not provided for by the stipulations contained in this Convention.

2. 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 XXII.

1. Under the name of the *International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union*, is maintained a central Office, which is conducted under the supervision of the Swiss Postal Administration, and the expenses of which are borne by all the Administrations of the Union.

2. This Office is 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, an opinion upon questions in dispute; of making known proposals for modifying the acts of the Congress; of notifying alterations adopted; and, in general, of taking up such studies and labours as may be confided to it in the interest of the Postal Union.

ARTICLE XXIII.

1. In case of disagreement between two or more members of the Union as to the interpretation of the present Convention, or as to the responsibility of an Administration in case of the loss of a registered article, 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.

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

3. 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.

4. The stipulations of the present Article apply equally to all the Agreements concluded by virtue of the foregoing Article XIX.

ARTICLE XXIV.

1. Countries which have not taken part in the present Convention are admitted to adhere to it upon their demand.

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

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

4. It devolves upon the Government of the Swiss Confederation to determine, by common consent with the Government of the country concerned, 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 with the foregoing Article X.

ARTICLE XXV.

1. Congresses of plenipotentiaries of the contracting countries, 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.

2. A Congress shall, however, be held at least once in five years.

3. Each country may be represented either by one or by 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.

4. In the deliberations each country has one vote only.

5. Each Congress settles the place of meeting of the next Congress.

6. For Conferences, the Administrations settle the places of meeting on the proposal of the International Bureau.

ARTICLE XXVI.

1. 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 medium of the International Bureau, proposals concerning the régime of the Union.

2. Every proposal is subject to the following procedure:—

A period of five months is allowed to the Administrations of the Union to examine the proposals and to furnish to the International Bureau their observations, amendments, or counter-proposals, as the case may be. The answers are tabulated by the International Bureau and communicated to the Administrations with an invitation to declare themselves for or against. Those who have not furnished their vote within a period of six months, counting from the date of the second circular of the International Bureau notifying to them the observations which have been received, are considered as abstaining.

3. In order to become binding, the proposals must obtain—

(1) Unanimity of votes if they involve the addition of new articles or any modification of the stipulations of the present Article or Articles II., III., IV., V., VI., VII., VIII., IX., XII., XIII., XV., and XVIII.

(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., VII., VIII., IX., XII., XIII., XV., XVIII., and XXVI.

(3) Simply an absolute majority if they affect the interpretation of the stipulations of the Convention, except in the case of dispute contemplated by the foregoing Article XXIII.

4. Resolutions duly adopted are 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.

5. No modification or resolution adopted is binding until at least two months after its notification.

ARTICLE XXVII.

For the application of the foregoing Articles XXII., XXV., and XXVI. the following are considered as forming one 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 British Colonies of Australasia.
- (4) The whole of the Danish Colonies.
- (5) The whole of the Spanish Colonies.
- (6) The whole of the French Colonies.
- (7) The whole of the Dutch Colonies.
- (8) The whole of the Portuguese Colonies.

ARTICLE XXVIII.

The present Convention shall come into operation on the 1st of July, 1892, and shall remain in force for 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 XXIX.

1. From the date on which the present Convention comes into effect, all the stipulations of the Treaties, Conventions, Agreements, 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 the foregoing Article XXI.

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

3. In faith of which the Plenipotentiaries of the above-named countries have signed the present Convention at Vienna, on the fourth of July, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-one.

For Germany and the German Protectorates	{ DR. V. STEPHAN. SACHSE. FRITSCH.
„ the United States of America	{ N. M. BROOKES. WILLIAM POTTER.
„ the Argentine Republic	CARLOS CALVO.
„ Austria.....	{ OBENTRAUT. DR. HOFMANN. DR. LILIENAU. HABBERGER.
„ Hungary	{ P. HEIM. S. SCHRIMPF.
„ Belgium	LICHTERVELDE.
„ Bolivia.....	
„ Brazil	LUIZ BETIM PAES LEME.
„ Bulgaria	P. M. MATTHEEFF.
„ Chili.....	
„ the Republic of Columbia	G. MITCLELSEN.
„ Congo Free State	{ STASSIN. LICHTERFELDE. GARANT. DE CRAENE.
„ the Republic of Costa Rica	
„ Denmark and the Danish Colonies	LUND.
„ the Dominican Republic	
„ Egypt	Y. SABA.
„ Ecuador	
„ Spain and the Spanish Colonies	FEDERICO BAS.
„ France	{ MONTMARIN. J. DE SELVES. ANSAULT.
„ the French Colonies	G. GABRIE.
„ Great Britain and various British Colonies	{ S. A. BLACKWOOD. H. BUXTON FORMAN.
„ the British Colonies of Australasia	
„ Canada.....	
„ British India	H. M. KISCH.
„ Greece	J. GEORGANTAS.
„ Guatemala	DR. GOTTHELF MEYER.
„ the Republic of Hayti	
„ the Kingdom of Hawaii	EUGENE BOREL.
„ the Republic of Honduras.....	
„ Italy.....	{ EMIDIO CHIARADIA. FELICE SALIVETTO. INDO.
„ Japan	{ FUJITA. BN. DE STEIN.
„ the Republic of Liberia	{ W. KOENTZER. C. GOEDEL.
„ Luxemburg	MONGENAST.
„ Mexico.....	L. BRETON Y VEDRA.
„ Montenegro.....	{ OBENTRAUT. DR. HOFMANN. DR. LILIENAU. HABBERGER.
„ Nicaragua	
„ Norway	THB. HEYERDAHL.
„ Paraguay.....	
„ the Netherlands	{ HOFSTEDE. BARON VAN DER FELTZ.
„ the Dutch Colonies.....	JOHS. J. PERK.
„ Peru.....	D. C. URREA.
„ Persia	GENL. N. SEMINO.
„ Portugal and the Portuguese Colonies.....	GUELHERMINO AUGUSTO DE BARROS.

For Roumania	{ COLONEL A. GORJEAN. S. DIMITRESCU.
„ Russia	{ GENERAL DE BESACK. A. SKALKOVSKY.
„ Salvador	LOUIS KEHLMANN.
„ Servia	{ SVETOZAR J. GVOZDITCH. ET. W. POPOVITCH.
„ the Kingdom of Siam.....	{ LUANG SURIYA NUVATR. H. KEUCHENIUS.
„ the South African Republic	
„ Sweden	E. VON. KRUSENSTJERNA.
„ Switzerland	{ ED. HÖHN. C. DELESSERT.
„ the Regency of Tunis	MONTMARIN.
„ Turkey.....	{ E. PETACCI. A. FAHRI.
„ Uruguay	{ FEDERICO SUSVIELA GUARCH. JOSE G. BUSTO.
„ the United States of Venezuela.....	CARLOS MATZENAUER.

The I. and R. Minister of Foreign Affairs certifies that this is a correct copy of the original deposited in the archives of the Department.

Vienna, 7th July, 1891.

The Director of the Chancellerie of the I. and R. Minister of Foreign Affairs.

(Signed) MITTAG.

FINAL PROTOCOL.

At the moment of proceeding to sign the Conventions, settled by the Universal Postal Congress of Vienna, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have agreed as follows:—

I.

In modification of the stipulation of Article VI. of the Convention, which fixes a maximum registration fee of 25 centimes, it is agreed that the States outside Europe are authorized to maintain this maximum at 50 centimes, including a receipt given to the sender.

II.

In modification of the stipulations of Article VIII. of the Convention, it is agreed that, as a temporary measure, the Administrations of countries outside Europe, whose legislation is at present opposed to the principle of responsibility, retain the option of postponing the application of that principle until they shall have been able to obtain from the Legislature authority to introduce it. Up to that time the other Administrations of the Union 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.

III.

Bolivia, Chili, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Hayti, Honduras, and Nicaragua, which form part of the Postal Union, not having been represented at the Congress, the protocol remains open to them in order that they may adhere to the Conventions which have been concluded at it or only to one or other of them.

The protocol also remains open to the British Colonies of Australasia whose delegates to the Congress have declared the intention of those countries to enter the Universal Postal Union on the 1st October, 1891.

It also remains open to the South African Republic, whose delegate to the Congress has declared the intention of that country to adhere to the Universal Postal Union, reserving the fixture hereafter of a date for its entry into that Union.

Finally, with the view of facilitating the entry into the Universal Postal Union of other countries which are still outside it, the protocol remains equally open to them.

IV.

The protocol remains open to those countries whose representatives have signed to-day the principal Convention only, or only a certain number of the Conventions settled by the Congress, in order to admit of their adherence to the other Conventions signed this day, or to one or other of them.

V.

The adhesions contemplated in the foregoing Article III. must be notified to the Imperial and Royal Government of Austria-Hungary by the respective Governments in diplomatic form. The term accorded to them for that notification will expire on the 1st of June, 1892.

VI.

In case one or more of the contracting parties to the Postal Conventions signed to-day at Vienna shall not ratify one or other of those Conventions, that Convention shall be none the less valid for the States which shall have ratified it.

In faith of which the under-mentioned plenipotentiaries have drawn up the present final protocol, which shall have the same force and value as if its provisions were inserted in the text itself of the Conventions to which it relates, and they have signed it on a single copy which shall remain in the archives of the Austrian Government, and of which a copy shall be handed to each party.

Done at Vienna, the 4th of July, 1891.

For Germany and the German Proctectorates.....	{ DR. V. STEPHAN. SACHSE. FRITSCH.
„ the United States of America.....	{ N. M. BROOKS. WILLIAM POTTER.
„ the Argentine Republic	{ CARLOS CALVO. OBENTRAUT.
„ Austria.....	{ DR. HOFMANN. DR. LILIENAU. HABBERGER.
„ Hungary	{ P. HEIM. S. SCHRIMPF.
„ Belgium	{ LICHTERVELDE.
„ Bolivia.....	
„ Brazil	LUIZ BETIM PAES LEME.
„ Bulgaria	P. M. MATTHEFF.
„ Chili.....	
„ the Republic of Columbia.....	G. MICHELSEN.
„ Congo Free State	{ STASSIN. LICHTERVELDE. GARANT. DE CRAENE.
„ the Republic of Costa Rica	
„ Denmark and the Danish Colonies.....	LUND.
„ the Dominican Republic.....	
„ Egypt.....	Y. SABA.
„ Ecuador	
„ Spain and the Spanish Colonies.....	FEDERICO BAS.
„ France.....	{ MONTMARIN. J. D. SELVES. ANSULT.
„ the French Colonies	{ G. GABRIE.
„ Great Britain and various British Colonies	{ S. A. BLACKWOOD. H. BUXTON FORMAN.
„ the British Colonies of Australasia.....	
„ Canada	
„ British India	H. M. KISCH.
„ Greece	J. GEORGANTAS.
„ Guatemala	DR. GOTTHELF MEYER.
„ the Republic of Hayti	
„ the Kingdom of Hawaii.....	EUGENE BOREL
„ the Republic of Honduras.....	
„ Italy	{ EMIDIO CHIARADIA. FELICE SALIVETTO.
„ Japan.....	{ INDO. FUJITA.
„ the Republic of Liberia	{ BN. DE STEIN. W. KOENTZER.
„ Luxemburg	{ C. GOEDEL.
„ Mexico	{ MONGENAST. L. BRETON Y VEDRA.
„ Montenegro.....	{ OBENTRAUT. DR. HOFMANN. DR. LILIENAU. HABBERGER.
„ Nicaragua.....	
„ Norway.....	THB. HEYERDAHL.
„ Paraguay.....	
„ the Netherlands.....	{ HOFSTEDE. BARON VAN DER FELTZ.
„ the Dutch Colonies	{ JOHS. J. PERK.
„ Peru	{ D. C. URREA.
„ Persia	{ GENL. N. SEMINO.
„ Portugal and the Portuguese Colonies.....	GUELHERMINO AUGUSTO DE BARROS.
„ Roumania.....	{ COLONEL A. GORJEAN. S. DIMITRESCU.
„ Russia.....	{ GENERAL DE BESACK. A. SHALKOVSKY.
„ Salvador.....	{ LOUIS KEHLMANN.

For Servia.....	{ SVETOZAR J. GVOZDITCH
„ the Kingdom of Siam.....	{ ET. W. POPOVITCH.
„ the South African Republic.....	{ LUANG SURIYA NUVATR.
„ Sweden.....	{ H. KEUCHENIUS.
„ Switzerland.....	{ E. VON KRUSENSTJERNA.
„ the Regency of Tunis.....	{ ED. HÖHN.
„ Turkey.....	{ C. DELESSERT.
„ Uruguay.....	{ MONTMARIN.
„ the United States of Venezuela.....	{ E. PETACCI.
	{ A. FAHRI.
	{ FEDERICO SUSVIELLA GUARCH.
	{ JOSE G. BUSTO.
	{ CARLOS MATZENAUER.

The I. and R. Minister of Foreign Affairs certifies that this is a correct copy of the original deposited in the archives of the Department.

Vienna, 7th July, 1891.

The Director of the Chancellerie of the I. and R. Minister of Foreign Affairs.

(Signed) MITTAG.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.

DETAILED REGULATIONS.*

DETAILED REGULATIONS for the execution of the Convention concluded between Germany and German Protectorates, United States of America, Argentine Republic, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chili, Republic of Colombia, Congo Free State, Republic of Costa Rica, Denmark and Danish Colonies, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ecuador, Spain and Spanish Colonies, France and French Colonies, Great Britain and various British Colonies, British Colonies of Australasia, Canada, British India, Greece, Guatemala, Republic of Hayti, Kingdom of Hawaii, Republic of Honduras, Italy, Japan, Republic of Liberia, Luxemburg, Mexico, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Netherlands and Dutch Colonies, Peru, Persia, Portugal and Portuguese Colonies, Roumania, Russia, Salvador, Servia, Kingdom of Siam, South African Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Regency of Tunis, Turkey, Uruguay, and United States of Venezuela.

The undersigned, having regard to Article XX. of the Universal Postal Convention concluded at Vienna on the 4th of July, 1891, have, in the name of their respective Administrations, settled by common consent the following measures for insuring the execution of the said Convention :—

I.—*Route of the Correspondence.*

1. Each Administration is bound to forward, by the most rapid routes at its disposal for its own mails, the closed mails and the correspondence *à découvert* which are delivered to it by another Administration.
2. Administrations which avail themselves of the option to levy supplementary charges, as representing the extraordinary expenses pertaining to certain routes, are free not to forward by those routes, when other means of communication exist, any insufficiently paid correspondence for which the employment of the said routes has not been expressly prescribed by the senders.

II.—*Exchange in Closed Mails.*

1. The exchange of correspondence in closed mails between the Administrations of the Union is regulated by common consent between the Administrations concerned, and according to the necessities of the service.
2. If an exchange of correspondence is to take place through the medium of one or more countries, due notice must be given to the Administrations of those countries.
3. It is, moreover, obligatory, in this latter case, to make up closed mails whenever the amount of correspondence is such as to hinder the work of an intermediate Administration, according to the declaration of that Administration.
4. In case of alteration in a service of closed mails established between two Administrations through the medium of one or several other countries, the Administration which has originated the alteration gives notice thereof to the Administrations of the countries through the medium of which this exchange is maintained.

* Of the various Forms, Tables, &c., referred to in the Detailed Regulations, only those generally used by Postmasters will be found appended, it being considered unnecessary to include the others with this reprint.

III.—*Extraordinary Services.*

The extraordinary services of the Union giving rise to special charges, the fixing of which is reserved by Article IV. of the Convention for arrangement between the Administrations concerned, are exclusively:—

- (1) Those which are maintained for the accelerated conveyance by land of the Indian Mail;
- (2) That which the Postal Administration of the United States of America maintains upon its territory for the conveyance of closed mails between the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean;
- (3) That which is established for the conveyance of mails by railway between Colon and Panama.

IV.—*Fixing the Rates of Postage.*

1. In execution of Article X. of the Convention, the Administrations of the countries of the Union which have not the franc for their monetary unit levy their rates of postage according to the following equivalents:—

Countries of the Union.	25 centimes.	10 centimes.	5 centimes.
Germany	20 pfennig.	10 pfennig.	5 pfennig.
German Protectorates:			
Territory of Cameroons, German New Guinea, Territory of Togo, German Territory in South-West Africa, German Territory in East Africa, Marshall Islands	20 pfennig.	10 pfennig.	5 pfennig.
Argentine Republic	8 centavos.	4 centavos.	2 centavos.
Austria-Hungary	10 kreuzer.	5 kreuzer.	3 kreuzer.
Bolivia	5 centavos.	2 centavos.	1 centavo.
Brasil	100 reis.	50 reis.	25 reis.
Canada	5 cents.	2 cents.	1 cent.
Chili	5 centavos.	2 centavos.	1 centavo.
Colombia	5 centavos.	2 centavos.	1 centavo.
Costa Rica	5 centavos.	2 centavos.	1 centavo.
Denmark	20 öre.	10 öre.	5 öre.
Danish Colonies:			
Greenland	20 öre.	10 öre.	5 öre.
Danish West Indies	5 cents.	2 cents.	1 cent.
Dominican Republic	5 centavos.	2 centavos.	1 centavo.
Egypt	1 piastre.	5 thousandths of a pound.	2 thousandths of a pound.
Ecuador	5 centavos.	2 centavos.	1 centavo.
Spanish Colonies:			
Cuba, Porto Rico, Philippine Islands and Dependencies, and Establishments on the Gulf of Guinea	5 centavos.	2 centavos.	1 centavo.
United States of America	5 cents.	2 cents.	1 cent.
Great Britain	2½ pence.	1 penny.	½ penny.
British Colonies:			
Antigua, Bahama Islands, Barbados, Bermuda, Gold Coast, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Gambia, Grenada, Jamaica, Lagos, Malta, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Sierra Leone, Tobago, Trinidad, Turk's Islands, and Virgin Islands	2½ pence.	1 penny.	½ penny.
British Guiana, Hong Kong, Labuan, Straits Settlements, and Newfoundland	5 cents.	2 cents.	1 cent.
British North Borneo	6 cents of a dollar.	3 cents of a dollar.	1 cent of a dollar.
British Honduras	6 cents.	3 cents.	1 cent.
Mauritius and its Dependencies	10 cents of a rupee.	4 cents of a rupee.	2 cents of a rupee.
Cyprus	2 piastres or 80 paras.	1 piastre or 40 paras.	½ piastre or 20 paras.
Ceylon	14 cents of a rupee.	5 cents of a rupee.	2½ cents of a rupee.
Australasia	2½ pence.	1 penny.	½ penny.
Guatemala	5 centavos.	2 centavos.	1 centavo.
Hayti	5 centavos of a piastre.	2 centavos of a piastre.	1 centavo of a piastre.
Hawaii	5 cents.	2 cents.	1 cent.
Republic of Honduras	5 centavos.	2 centavos.	1 centavo.
British India	2 annas.	½ anna.	¼ anna.
Japan	5 sen.	2 sen.	1 sen.
Liberia	5 cents.	2 cents.	1 cent.
Mexico	5 centavos.	2 centavos.	1 centavo.
Montenegro	10 soldi.	5 soldi.	3 soldi.
Nicaragua	5 centavos.	2 centavos.	1 centavo.
Norway	20 öre.	10 öre.	5 öre.
Paraguay	5 centavos de peso.	2 centavos de peso.	1 centavo de peso.
Netherlands and Dutch Colonies	12½ cents.	5 cents.	2½ cents.
Peru	5 centavos.	2 centavos.	1 centavo.
Persia	7 shahis.	3 shahis.	1 shahi.
Portugal and Portuguese Colonies, except Portuguese India	50 reis.	20 reis.	10 reis.
Portuguese India	2 tangas.	10 reis.	5 reis.
Russia	10 kopeks.	4 kopeks.	2 kopeks.
Salvador	5 centavos de peso.	2 centavos de peso.	1 centavo de peso.
Siam	7½ atts.	3 atts.	1½ att.
Sweden	20 öre.	10 öre.	5 öre.
Turkey	40 paras.	20 paras.	10 paras.
Uruguay	5 centavos of a piastre.	2 centavos of a piastre.	1 centavo of a piastre.

2. In case of alteration in the monetary system of any one of the countries above mentioned, the Administration of that country must come to an understanding with the Swiss Postal Administration in order to modify the above equivalents; it devolves upon this latter Administration to notify the change to all the other Offices of the Union through the medium of the International Bureau.

3. Any Administration, if it deems it necessary, may have recourse to the understanding contemplated by the preceding paragraph in case of an important modification in the value of its money.

4. The monetary fractions resulting either from the complement of the charge applicable to insufficiently paid correspondence, or from the fixing of the charges for correspondence exchanged with countries foreign to the Union, or from the combination of the Union charges with the surcharges contemplated by Article V. of the Convention, may be rounded by the Administrations which levy the payments. But the sum to be added on this account must, in no case, exceed the value of one-twentieth of a franc (five centimes).

V.—*Correspondence with Countries foreign to the Union.*

Offices of the Union which have relations with countries foreign to the Union furnish to the other Offices of the Union a list of those countries, indicating the conditions of transmission to which the correspondence is subject in the relations in question.

VI.—*Application of the Stamps.*

1. Correspondence despatched from countries of the Union is impressed with a stamp indicating the place of origin and the date of posting.

2. On arrival, the Office of destination applies its date-stamp on the back of letters and on the front of post-cards.

3. The application of stamps on correspondence deposited on board packets in the movable boxes or in the hands of the commanders devolves, in the cases contemplated by paragraph 3 of Article XI. of the Convention, upon the postal agent on board, or, if there be none, of the Post Office to which the correspondence is delivered.

4. Correspondence originating in countries foreign to the Union is marked, by the Office of the Union which first receives it, with a stamp indicating the place and date of entry into the service of that Office.

5. Unpaid or insufficiently paid correspondence is, in addition, impressed with the stamp "T" (tax to be paid), the application of which devolves upon the Office of the country of origin in the case of correspondence originating in the Union, and upon the Office of the country of entry in the case of correspondence originating in countries foreign to the Union.

6. Articles to be sent by express are impressed with a stamp bearing in large letters the word "Express." The Administrations are, however, authorised to replace that stamp by a printed label or by a written inscription underlined with a coloured pencil.

7. Every article of correspondence which does not bear the stamp "T" is considered as paid and treated accordingly, unless there be an obvious error.

VII.—*Indication of the Number of Rates.*

1. When a letter or other article of correspondence is liable, by reason of its weight, to more than a single rate of postage, the Office of origin or of entry into the Union, as the case may be, indicates in the upper left-hand corner of the address, in ordinary figures, the number of rates levied or to be levied.

2. This procedure is not essential in the case of correspondence fully prepaid.

VIII.—*Insufficient Prepayment.*

1. When an article is insufficiently prepaid by means of postage stamps, the despatching Office indicates in black figures placed by the side of the postage stamps the amount of the deficiency, expressing it in francs and centimes.

2. According to this indication, the Office of exchange of the country of destination taxes the article with double the deficiency noted.

3. In case postage stamps not available for prepayment have been employed, no account is taken of them. This circumstance is indicated by the figure naught (0) placed by the side of the postage stamps.

IX.—*Acknowledgments of Delivery.*

1. Articles for which the sender requires an acknowledgment of delivery must be marked very clearly with the inscription "Avis de réception," or be stamped with the letters A.R.

2. Acknowledgments of delivery must be prepared by the Offices of destination on a form in accordance with or analogous to the pattern A annexed, and sent by those Offices to the Offices of origin, whose duty it is to deliver the acknowledgments to the senders of the articles to which they relate. Acknowledgments of delivery must be drawn up in French, or must bear a sublineary translation in that language.

X.—*Letter Bills.*

1. The letter bills which accompany the mails exchanged between two Administrations of the Union are in conformity with the pattern B appended to the present Regulations. They are placed in coloured envelopes marked distinctly "Feuille d'avis" ["Letter Bill"].

In cases of exchanges by sea which, although periodical and regular, are not daily or on fixed days, the despatching Offices must number their letter bills in an annual series for each Office of origin and for each Office of destination, mentioning, as far as possible, in the letter bill the name of the Packet or vessel which carries the mail.

2. The registered articles are entered in Table No. I. of the letter bill with the following details: the name of the Office of origin and the number given to the article at that Office: or the name of the Office of origin, the name of the addressee, and the place of destination.

In the column headed "Observations" the word "Remb." is added against the entry of registered articles marked with trade charges.

Articles to be sent by express are entered numerically in Table No. I. of the letter bill.

Acknowledgments of delivery are entered in the above-named Table, either individually or collectively, according as they are more or less numerous.

The part of the letter bill headed "Recommendations d'office" ["Official Registrations"] is intended for the entry of verification certificates, of open letters on service addressed by one Office of exchange to another, and of communications from the despatching Office.

3. When the number of registered articles usually sent from one Office of exchange to another requires it, a special and separate list may be used to take the place of Table No. I. of the letter bill.

The number of registered articles inscribed on that list and the number of packets or bags containing those articles must be entered on the letter bill.

4. In Table No. II. are to be entered, with such details as the Table requires, the closed mails contained by the direct mail to which the letter bill relates.

5. The number of separate packets or bags composing each despatch for a single destination is indicated in the right-hand top corner of the letter bill.

6. When it is deemed necessary for certain exchanges to make new tables or headings in the letter bill, the necessary steps may be taken after an understanding between the Administrations concerned.

7. When an Office of exchange has no correspondence to forward to a corresponding Office, it must, nevertheless, make up in the usual form a mail consisting simply of the letter bill.

8. When closed mails are sent by one Administration to another, to be conveyed by means of private ships, the number of letters or other articles is indicated in the letter bill or on the address of the mails.

XI.—*Transmission of Registered Articles.*

1. Registered articles, acknowledgments of delivery, express letters, and, if there be one, the special list contemplated in paragraph 3 of Article X., are made up in a separate packet, which is to be suitably enclosed and sealed so as to preserve the contents.

2. To the outside of this packet the special envelope containing the letter bill is attached with string tied across and across. The packet is then placed in the centre of the mail.

3. The presence in the mail of a packet of registered articles, of which the description is given upon the special list mentioned in paragraph 1 above, is to be announced by the application at the head of the letter bill, either of a special entry, or of the registration label or stamp in use in the country of origin.

4. It is understood that the mode of packing and forwarding registered articles, prescribed by paragraphs 1 and 2 above, applies only to ordinary exchanges. For important exchanges it is for the Offices concerned to prescribe by common consent special arrangements, subject in the one case as in the other to exceptional measures to be taken by the heads of the Offices of exchange, when they have to insure the transmission of registered articles which, from their nature, form, or size, would not be capable of being enclosed in the principal mail.

In such case, however, the despatching Offices indicate at the head of the letter bill the number of registered articles sent in the principal mail outside the special packet or bag, among the ordinary correspondence, and insert in the "Observations" column of the list the inscription "en dehors" ["outside"] against the entry of each of those articles.

The above-mentioned articles are made up as far as possible in packets tied with string and having labels affixed to them bearing in plain characters the words "Recommandés en dehors" ["Registered—outside"] preceded by figures indicating the number of articles which each packet contains.

5. Acknowledgments of delivery are placed in an envelope by the Office delivering the registered articles to which those acknowledgments relate. These envelopes, bearing the inscription "Avis de réception; Bureau de pose de (Paye)" ["Acknowledgment of delivery: Post Office of (Country)"] are submitted to the formalities of registration and despatched to their destination as ordinary registered articles.

XII.—*Indemnity for the loss of a Registered Article.*

When the indemnity due for the loss of a registered article has been paid by one Administration, on behalf of another Administration which is responsible for the loss, the latter is bound to repay the amount within three months after receiving notice of the payment. This repayment is effected either by means of a postal money order or a draft, or in specie current in the country to which payment is due. When the repayment of the indemnity involves expenses, they are always borne by the indebted Office.

XIII.—*Making up the Mails.*

1. As a general rule, the articles of which the mails consist must be classified and tied up according to the nature of the correspondence, the prepaid correspondence being separated from the unpaid and insufficiently prepaid.

2. Every mail, after having been tied with string, is enclosed in strong paper sufficient in quantity to prevent damage to the contents, then tied again with string on the outside, and sealed with wax, or fastened by means of a gummed paper label bearing an impression of the seal of the Office. The mail is furnished with a printed address bearing, in small characters, the name of the despatching Office, and in larger characters the name of the Office of destination: "from for"

3. If the size of the mail requires it, it is placed in a bag properly closed, sealed with wax or with lead, and labelled.

4. The packets or bags containing articles to be sent by express must bear on the outside an inscription calling the attention of the postal officials to those articles.

5. When paper labels are used, they must be pasted on blocks.
6. No bag must exceed 40 kilogrammes in weight.
7. The bags must be returned empty to the despatching Office by the next mail, in the absence of other arrangements between the corresponding Offices.

XIV.—*Verification of the Mails.*

1. The Office of exchange which receives a mail ascertains whether the entries in the letter bill and in the registered letter list, if there be one, are correct.

The mails must be delivered in good condition. Nevertheless, the receipt of a mail cannot be refused on account of its bad condition. In the case of a mail for an Office other than that which has received it, it must be packed up afresh, but the original packing should be preserved as far as possible. The re-packing is preceded by a verification of the contents, if there is reason to suppose that they are not intact.

2. When the Office of exchange detects errors or omissions, it immediately makes the necessary corrections on the letter bills or lists, taking care to strike out the erroneous entries with a pen in such a manner as to leave the original entries legible.

3. These corrections are made by two officers. Except in the case of an obvious error, they are accepted in preference to the original statement.

4. A verification certificate, in conformity with the pattern C annexed to the present Regulations, is prepared by the receiving Office, and sent without delay, officially registered, to the despatching office. At the same time a duplicate of the verification certificate is sent by the receiving Office to the Administration to which the despatching Office is subordinate.

In the case contemplated in paragraph 1 of the present Article, a copy of the verification certificate is inserted in the re-packed mail.

5. The despatching Office, after examination, returns the verification certificate with any observations to which it may give rise.

6. In case of the failure of a mail, of a registered article, of the letter bill, or of the special list, the fact is immediately reported, in such form as may be desired, by two officers of the receiving Office, and notified to the despatching Office by means of a verification certificate. If needful, the latter Office may also be advised thereof by telegram, at the expense of the Office which sends the telegram.

7. In case of the loss of a closed mail, intermediate Offices become responsible for the registered articles contained in the mail, within the limits of Article VIII. of the Convention, provided that the non-receipt of such mail shall have been notified to them as soon as possible.

8. In case the receiving Office shall not have forwarded by the first mail to the despatching Office a verification certificate reporting errors or irregularities of any kind, the absence of that document is to be regarded as evidence of the due receipt of the mail and its contents, until the contrary be proved.

XV.—*Stipulations respecting Registered Articles.*

1. Correspondence addressed to initials or in pencil is not admitted to registration.

2. No special conditions as to form or fastening are prescribed for registered articles. Each Office has the right to apply to such articles the regulations in force in its inland service.

3. Registered articles should bear labels in conformity with or analogous to the pattern D annexed to the present Regulations, indicating the name of the Office of origin and the number under which the article is entered in the records of that Office.

Nevertheless, Administrations whose inland regulations do not at present admit the use of labels may postpone the introduction of this arrangement, and continue to use stamps for the indication of registered articles.

4. Registered articles marked with trade charges must bear a manuscript inscription, or the impression of a stamp or a label bearing the word "Remboursement." ["Recovery of trade charges."]

5. Unpaid or insufficiently paid registered articles are forwarded to the addresses without charge, but the Office which receives an article in these conditions is bound to report the case to its Administration, in order that it may inform the Administration to which the Office of origin is subordinate. That Administration proceeds in accordance with the rules followed in its inland service.

XVI.—*Post-Cards.*

1. Post-cards must be sent unenclosed. The face is reserved for the postage stamps, for indications relating to the postal service (registered, acknowledgment of delivery, &c.) and for the address, which may be written in manuscript or be shown upon a gummed label not exceeding two centimetres by five.

Moreover, the sender has the option of indicating his name and address on the face or on the back, either in writing, or by means of a stamp, autograph-stamp, or any other typographical process.

Engravings or advertisements may be printed on the back.

Except stamps for prepayment and the labels mentioned in paragraph 1 and paragraph 6 of the present Article, it is forbidden to join or attach to post-cards any article whatsoever.

2. Post-cards may not exceed the following dimensions:—Length, 14 centimetres; width, 9 centimetres.

3. As far as possible, post-cards issued for circulation in the Postal Union must bear on the face, in the French language, or with a sublineary translation in that language, the following superscription:—

POST-CARD.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.

(Side reserved for the address.)

4. The postage stamp representing prepayment appears in one of the top corners of the face; as should also any supplementary stamp which may be added.

5. As a general rule, post-cards with reply paid must bear on the face the printed superscription, on the first half, "Post-card with reply paid;" on the second half, "Reply post-card." Each of the two halves must, moreover, fulfil the other conditions laid down for single post-cards; one-half is doubled over the other, and they must not be closed up in any manner whatsoever.

6. The sender of a post-card with reply paid may indicate his name and address on the face of the "Reply" half, either in writing or by sticking a label on to it.

7. The prepayment of the "Reply" half by means of the postage stamp of the country which has issued the card is valid only if it is attached to the address of that country. In the contrary case, it is charged as an unpaid letter.

8. Post-cards, both single and with reply paid, emanating from private industry, are admitted to international circulation, if agreeable to the laws of the country of origin, and if they be in conformity with the post-cards issued by the Post Office of that country, at all events in regard to size and the substance of the paper.

9. Post-cards not fulfilling, so far as regards dimensions, external form, &c., the conditions laid down by the present Article for this class of correspondence, are treated as letters.

XVII.—*Commercial Papers.*

1. The following are considered as commercial papers, and allowed to pass as such at the reduced postage specified in Article V. of the Convention:—All papers and all documents, whether writings or drawings, produced wholly or partly by hand, not having the character of an actual and personal correspondence, such as papers of legal procedure, deeds of all kinds drawn up by public functionaries, way-bills or bills of lading, invoices, the various documents of insurance companies, copies of or extracts from Acts under private signature, written on stamped or unstamped paper, musical scores or sheets of music in manuscript, the manuscripts of works or of newspapers forwarded separately, &c.

2. Commercial papers are subject, so far as regards form and conditions of transmission, to the regulations prescribed for printed papers (Article XVIII. following).

XVIII.—*Printed Papers of every kind.*

1. The following are considered as printed papers and allowed to pass as such at the reduced postage sanctioned by Article V. of the Convention:—Newspapers and periodical works, books, stitched or bound, pamphlets, sheets of music, visiting cards, address cards, proofs of printing, with or without the manuscript relating thereto, papers impressed with points in relief for the use of the blind, engravings, photographs, pictures, drawings, plans, maps, catalogues, prospectuses, announcements, and notices of various kinds, printed, engraved, lithographed, or autographed, and in general, all impressions or copies obtained upon paper, parchment, or cardboard, by means of printing, engraving, lithography, autography, or any other mechanical process easy to recognise, except the copying press and the type-writer.

The mechanical processes called chromography, polygraphy, hectography, papyrography, velocigraphy, &c., are considered as easy to recognise; but, in order to pass at the reduced postage, reproductions obtained by means of these processes must be brought to the Post Office counter and must number at least 20 copies, precisely identical.

2. Stamps for prepayment, whether obliterated or not, and all printed articles constituting the sign of a monetary value, are excluded from transmission at the reduced postage.

3. Printed papers of which the text has been modified after printing, either by hand or by means of a mechanical process, or bears any mark whatever of such a kind as to constitute a conventional language, cannot be sent at the reduced rate.

4. The following exceptions to the rule laid down by the preceding paragraph 3 are allowed:—

- (a) To indicate on the outside of the missive the name, commercial standing, and address of the sender;
- (b) To add in manuscript, on printed visiting cards, the address of the sender, his title, as well as conventional initials (p., f., &c.);
- (c) To indicate or to alter in a printed paper, in manuscript or by a mechanical process, the date of despatch, the signature and the commercial standing or profession, as well as the address of the sender;
- (d) To make manuscript additions to corrected proofs and to make in those proofs alterations and additions which relate to correction, form, and printing. In case of want of space these additions may be made on separate sheets;
- (e) To correct also errors in printing in printed documents other than proofs;
- (f) To erase certain parts of a printed text in order to render them illegible;
- (g) To make prominent by means of marks passages of the text to which it is desired to draw attention;
- (h) To insert or correct in manuscript, or by a mechanical process, figures, as well as the name of a traveller and the date of his visit, in prices current, tenders for advertisements, stock and share lists, and trade circulars;
- (i) To indicate in manuscript, in advices of the departures of ships, the dates of those departures;
- (k) To indicate in cards of invitation and notices of meetings the name of the person invited, the date, the object, and the place of the gathering;

(l) To add a dedication on books, sheets of music, newspapers, photographs, and engravings, as well as to enclose the invoice relating to any such work ;

(m) In requisitions sent to libraries (printed and open, and intended as orders for books, newspapers, engravings, pieces of music), to indicate on the back, in manuscript, the works required or offered, and to erase or underline on the front the whole or part of the printed communications ;

(n) To paint fashion plates, maps, &c.

5. Additions made in manuscript or by means of a mechanical process, which would deprive a printed paper of its general character and give it that of individual correspondence, are forbidden.

6. Printed papers must be either placed in wrappers, upon rollers, between boards, in covers open at both sides or at both ends, or in unclosed envelopes, or simply folded in such a manner as not to conceal the nature of the packet, or lastly, tied with a string easy to unfasten.

7. Address cards, and all printed matter of the form and substance of an unfolded card, may be forwarded without wrapper, envelope, fastening, or fold.

8. Cards bearing the inscription " Post-Card " are not allowed to go at the rate for printed matter.

XIX.—*Samples.*

1. Samples of merchandise are only allowed to pass at the reduced postage which is allotted to them by Article V. of the Convention, under the following conditions :—

2. They must be placed in bags, boxes, or removable envelopes, in such a manner as to admit of easy inspection.

3. They must possess no saleable value, nor bear any writing, except the name of the sender or that of his firm, the address of the addressee, a manufacturer's or trade mark, numbers, prices, and indications relative to weight or size, or to the quantity to be disposed of, or such as are necessary to determine the origin and the nature of the goods.

4. By common consent between the Administrations concerned, that is to say, between the Administrations of the country of origin and of the country of destination, and of the country or countries, if any, performing the transit *à découvert* or in closed mails, packets of liquids, oils, fatty substances, dry powders, whether dyes or not, as well as packets of live bees, may be admitted to transmission as samples of merchandise, provided that they be packed in the following manner :—

(1) Liquids, oils, and fatty substances easily liquefied must be enclosed in glass bottles hermetically sealed. Each bottle must be placed in a wooden box adequately furnished with sawdust, cotton, or spongy material, in sufficient quantity to absorb the liquid in case the bottle be broken. Finally, the box itself must be enclosed in a case of metal, of wood with a screw-top, or of strong and thick leather.

(2) Fatty substances which are not easily liquefied, such as ointments, soft-soap, resin, &c., the transmissions of which offers less inconvenience, must be enclosed in an inner cover (box, linen bag, parchment, &c.), which itself must be placed in a second box of wood, metal, or strong and thick leather.

(3) Dry powders, whether dyes or not, must be placed in cardboard boxes, which themselves are enclosed in a bag of linen or parchment.

(4) Live bees must be enclosed in boxes so constructed as to avoid all danger and to allow the contents to be ascertained.

XX.—*Articles grouped together.*

It is permitted to enclose in one and the same packet samples of merchandise, printed matter, and commercial papers, but subject to the following conditions :

(1) That each article taken singly does not exceed the limits which are applicable to it as regards weight and size ;

(2) That the total weight does not exceed 2 kilogrammes per packet ;

(3) That the minimum charge be 25 centimes if the packet contains commercial papers, and 10 centimes if it consists of printed matter and samples.

XXI.—*Re-directed Correspondence.*

1. In execution of Article XIV. of the Convention, and subject to the exceptions specified in paragraph 2 following, correspondence of every kind circulating in the Union, addressed to persons who have changed their residence, is treated by the delivering Office as if it had been addressed directly from the place of origin to the place of the new destination.

2. With regard to inland letters or packets of one country of the Union, which enter, in consequence of re-direction, into the service of another country of the Union, the following Rules are observed :

(1) Articles unpaid or insufficiently paid for their first transmission are treated as international correspondence and subjected by the delivering office to the charge applicable to articles of the same nature addressed directly from the country of origin to the country in which the addressee may be ;

(2) Articles regularly prepaid for their first transmission, and on which the complimentary postage pertaining to the further transmission has not been paid before their second despatch, are subjected, according to their nature, by the delivering Office, to a charge equal to the difference between the amount of postage already prepaid and that which would have been chargeable if the articles had been originally despatched to the new destination. The amount of this difference must be expressed in francs and centimes by the side of the stamps by the re-directing Office.

In both cases the charges above referred to are leviable from the addressees, even if, owing to successive re-directions, the articles should return to the country of origin.

3. When correspondence originally addressed from one part to another of a country of the Union, and prepaid in money, is re-directed to another country, the re-directing Office must indicate on each article the amount of the postage levied in money.

4. Mis-sent correspondence of all kinds is re-forwarded without delay, by the quickest route, to its destination.

5. Correspondence of all kinds, ordinary or registered, which being wrongly or insufficiently addressed, is returned to the senders in order that they may rectify or complete the address, is not, when re-posted with the direction rectified or completed, regarded as re-directed correspondence, but as being really fresh correspondence; and it is consequently liable to a fresh postage.

XXII.—*Undelivered Correspondence.*

1. Correspondence of all kinds which is not delivered, from whatever cause, must be returned, as soon as possible after the period for keeping it required by the regulations of the country of destination, and at latest at the expiration of six months in relations with countries beyond sea, and at the expiration of two months in other relations, through the medium of the respective Offices of exchange, and in a special bundle labelled "*Rebuts*" and bearing indication of the country where the correspondence originated. The periods of two months and six months count from the end of the month in which the correspondence has reached the Office of destination.

2. Nevertheless, undelivered registered correspondence is returned to the Office of exchange of the country of origin, as if it were registered correspondence addressed to that country, except that, opposite the nominal entry in Table No. 1. of the letter bill, or in the separate list, the word "*Rebuts*" is entered in the column of observations by the returning Office.

3. As an exception, two corresponding Offices may, by mutual consent, adopt a different mode of returning undelivered correspondence, and may also dispense with the reciprocal return of certain printed papers considered as destitute of value.

4. Before returning to the office of origin correspondence which for any reason has not been delivered, the Office of destination must indicate in a clear and concise manner in the French language, on the back of such articles, the cause of the non-delivery in the following form:—"not known" ("*inconnu*"), "refused" ("*refusé*"), "gone away" ("*parti*"), "not claimed" ("*non réclamé*"), "deceased" ("*décédé*"), &c. This indication is furnished by the application of a stamp or by affixing a label. Each office has the option of adding a translation, in its own language, of the cause of non-delivery, and any other useful particulars.

XXIII.—*Statistics of Transit Charges.*

1. The statistics to be taken once every three years, in execution of Articles IV. and XVII. of the Convention, for the settlement of transit charges within the Union and outside the limits of the Union, are prepared according to the stipulations of the following Articles, during the first 28 days of the month of May or of November alternately, of the second year in each triennial period, to take effect retrospectively from the first year.

2. The statistics of November, 1892, will apply to the years 1892, 1893, and 1894; the statistics of May, 1896, will apply to the years 1895, 1896, and 1897, and so on.

3. If during the period to which the statistics apply a country having important relations should enter the Union, the countries of the Union whose situation with regard to the payment of transit dues might be modified in consequence of this circumstance have the option of demanding special statistics relating exclusively to the country which has lately entered.

4. The charges falling upon the despatching Office under the head of territorial transit and sea conveyance are fixed invariably in accordance with the statistics for the whole period which they embrace, except in the case contemplated in the preceding paragraph.

But when an important modification takes place in the flow of correspondence, and provided that that modification affects a period of six months at least, the intermediate Offices come to an understanding for settling among themselves the division of those charges in proportion to the part taken by the said Offices in the conveyance of the correspondence to which the charges relate.

XXIV.—*Correspondence à découvert.*

1. The office serving as the medium for the transmission of correspondence exchanged *à découvert*, either between two countries of the Union, or between a country of the Union and a country foreign to it, prepares beforehand, for each of its correspondents of the Union, a table according to the pattern E annexed to the present Regulations, in which it indicates, distinguishing, if needful, the different routes of transmission, the rates of payment by weight due to it for the conveyance within the Union of the two categories of correspondence by means of the services at its disposal, as well as the rates of payment by weight to be allowed by the Office itself to any other Offices of the Union for the further conveyance of the said correspondence within the Union. If necessary, it communicates in due time with the Offices of the countries to be traversed as to the route which the correspondence should take and as to the rates to be paid upon it.

2. When several routes, each involving different transit charges applicable to the routes which the intermediate Offices uses, are available for the transmission of correspondence to one and the same country the despatching Office pays the intermediate Office according to a single rate based upon the average of the several transit rates.

3. A copy of the Table E. is forwarded by the said Office to the corresponding Office interested, and serves as the basis of a special account to be established between them with reference to the intermediate conveyance of the correspondence in question. This account is prepared by the Office which receives the correspondence, and is submitted to the examination of the despatching Office.

4. The despatching Office prepares, according to the particulars given in the Form E furnished by its correspondent, Tables in conformity with the pattern F hereto annexed, intended to show, for each mail, the charges for intermediate conveyance of the correspondence, without distinction of origin, sent in the mail for transmission by the medium of the said corresponding Office. With this view the despatching Office of exchange enters in a Table F, which it sends with its despatch, the total weight, according to its nature, of the correspondence of this class, which it delivers *à découvert* to the corresponding Office of exchange; and the latter, after verification, accepts such correspondence, and sends it to its destination, mixed with its own correspondence in respect of which the charges (if any) for further conveyance are the same.

If required by the Offices concerned, it is necessary to distinguish on the Table F the origin of the correspondence subject to the sea transit charges of 15 francs a kilogramme for letters and post cards and 1 franc a kilogramme for other articles, to be shared among several Administrations.

5. Any error in the statement of the Office of exchange which has despatched the Table F is immediately communicated to that Office by means of a verification certificate, notwithstanding the correction made in the Table itself.

6. If there be no correspondence liable to a charge for intermediate or foreign conveyance, a Table F is not prepared, and the despatching Office enters at the head of the letter-bill the words "No Table F." In case of the erroneous omission of this Table the irregularity is equally reported, by means of a verification certificate, to the Office in fault, and must be immediately rectified by that Office.

XXV.—*Closed Mails.*

1. Correspondence exchanged in closed mails between two Offices of the Union, or between an Office of the Union and an Office foreign to the Union, across the territory or by means of the services of one or more Offices, forms the subject of a Statement in conformity with specimen G annexed to the present Regulations, which is prepared according to the following stipulations:—

2. As regards mails from one country of the Union for another country of the Union, the despatching Office of exchange enters in the letter-bill for the receiving Office of exchange the net weight of letters and post-cards and that of other articles, without distinguishing the origin or destination of the correspondence. These entries are verified by the receiving Office, which prepares, at the end of the statistical period, the Statement above mentioned in as many copies as there are Offices interested, including that of the place of despatch.

3. In the four days which follow the close of the statistical operations, the Statements G are transmitted by the Offices of exchange which have prepared them to the Offices of exchange of the Administration indebted, for acceptance by them. The latter Offices, after accepting these Statements, send them to the central Administration to which they are subordinate, and on which falls the duty of distributing them amongst the Offices concerned.

4. As regards closed mails exchanged between a country of the Union and a country foreign to the Union, by the medium of one or more Offices of the Union, the Offices of exchange of the Union country prepare, for each mail despatched or received, a Statement G, which they send to the Office of departure or entry; this latter prepares at the end of the statistical period a general Statement, in as many copies as there are Offices interested, including itself and the Office of the Union which has to pay. One copy of this Statement is sent to the indebted Office and one to each of the Offices which have participated in the conveyance of the mails.

If required by the Offices concerned, the Offices of exchange must distinguish on the letter-bill the origin and destination of such correspondence as is subject to the sea transit charges of 15 francs and 1 franc, to be shared among several Administrations.

5. After each statistical period, those Administrations which have despatched transit mails send a list of such mails to the several Administrations whose services they have used.

6. The mere warehousing, at a port, of closed mails brought by one Packet and intended to go on by another does not involve payment of territorial transit charges to the Post Office of the place where the mails are warehoused.

XXVI.—*Mails exchanged with Ships of War.*

1. The establishment of an exchange of closed mails between a Post Office of the Union and naval divisions or ships of war of the same nationality must be notified, as far as possible in advance, to the intermediate Offices.

2. The address of such mails should be in the following form:—

From the Post Office of
 For { the (nationality) naval division of (name of the division) at
 { the (nationality) ship (name of the ship) at
 or
 From the (nationality) naval division of (name of the division) at
 From the (nationality) ship (name of the ship) at
 For the Post Office of (Country).

3. Mails addressed to or sent from naval divisions or ships of war are forwarded, unless specially addressed as to route, by the most rapid routes, and in the same conditions as mails exchanged between Post Offices.

4. If the ships are not at the place of destination when mails addressed to them arrive there those mails are kept at the Post Office until fetched away by the addressee or re-directed to another place. Re-direction may be demanded either by the Post Office of origin, or by the commanding officer of the naval division or the ship addressed, or, lastly, by a Consul of the same nationality.

5. Such of the mails in question as bear the inscription "To the care of the Consul at" are delivered at the Consulate of the country of origin. At the request of the Consul they may afterwards be received back into the postal service and re-directed to the place of origin or to another address.

6. Mails addressed to a ship of war are regarded as being in transit up to the time of their delivery to the commanding officer of that ship of war, even when they shall have been originally addressed to the care of a Post Office or to a Consul intrusted with the duty of acting as forwarding agent; they are not, therefore, regarded as having arrived at their address so long as they shall not have been delivered to the ship of war concerned.

7. It is incumbent on the Administration of the country to which the ships of war belong to prepare Tables G for the mails exchanged. During a statistical period these mails must bear on labels the under-mentioned particulars:—

- (a) Net weight of letters and post-cards;
- (b) Net weight of other articles; and
- (c) Route followed or to be followed.

In a case where a mail addressed to a ship-of-war is re-directed during a statistical period, the re-directing Office informs the Office of the country to which the ship belongs.

XXVII.—*Account of Transit Charges.*

1. The Tables F and G are incorporated in a special account, in which is shown, in francs and centimes, the annual amount of transit payment accruing to each Office by multiplying the totals by 13. In case the multiplier does not correspond with the periodicity of the service, or when a question arises as to exceptional despatches made during the statistical period, the Administrations concerned arrange for the adoption of another multiplier. The duty of preparing this account devolves upon the Office to which payment is due, which transmits it to the indebted Office. The multiplier agreed upon holds good on each occasion for the three years of one and the same statistical period.

2. The payment which results from balancing the reciprocal accounts between two Offices is made in hard cash (francs) by the indebted Office to the Office to which payment is due, by means of bills drawn upon a place in the creditor country at the option of the indebted Office. The costs of payment, including the discount charges, when there happen to be any are borne by the indebted Office.

3. The preparation, transmission, and payment of the accounts of the transit charges pertaining to a particular year must be effected with as little delay as possible, and at the latest before the expiration of the first six months of the following year. In any case, if the Office which has sent the account has not received in that interval any notes of correction, that account is regarded as duly accepted. This stipulation applies equally to uncontested observations made by one Office on the accounts furnished by another. When this term of six months is passed, the amounts due from one Office to another Office are subject to interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, dating from the day of the expiration of the said term.

The payment of transit charges for the first year in each triennial period, and at need for the second year, are made provisionally at the end of such year, on the basis of the previous statistics, subject to an eventual adjustment of the accounts in accordance with the results of the new statistics.

4. Nevertheless the option is reserved to the Offices concerned to make by common consent other arrangements than those which are set forth in the present Article.

XXVIII.—*Exceptions in the Matter of Weight.*

As an exceptional measure it is agreed that States which, by reason of their internal regulations, are unable to adopt the decimal metrical system of weight, have the option of substituting for it the ounce *avoirdupois* (28·3465 grammes), assimilating a half-ounce to 15 grammes and 2 ounces to 50 grammes, and of raising, if needful, the limit of the single rate of postage of newspapers to 4 ounces; but under the express condition that, in the latter case, the postage on newspapers be not less 10 centimes, and that an entire rate of postage be charged for each copy of the newspaper even though several newspapers be included in the same packet.

XXIX.—*Applications for ordinary Articles which have failed to reach their destination.*

1. Every application respecting an ordinary article of correspondence which has failed to reach its destination gives rise to the following procedure:—

- (1) A form in conformity with the pattern H annexed hereto is handed to the applicant, who is requested to fill up as exactly as possible the portion which concerns him.
- (2) The Office at which the application originates transmits the form direct to the corresponding Office. It is transmitted officially without any written communication.
- (3) The corresponding Office causes the form to be handed to the addressee or sender (as the case may be), with the request that particulars on the subject may be furnished.
- (4) With these particulars added, the form is sent back officially to the Office which prepared it.
- (5) When the application proves to be well founded it is transmitted to the central Administration, in order to serve as a basis for further investigations.
- (6) In the absence of any understanding to the contrary, the form is drawn up in French or bears a French translation.

2. Any Administration can demand, by notification addressed to the International Bureau, that the exchange of applications, so far as such Administration is concerned, shall be effected through the medium of the central Administrations or of an Office specially designated.

XXX.—*Withdrawal of Correspondence and Correction of Addresses.*

1. For requests to have correspondence returned or re-directed, as well as for requests to have addresses corrected, the sender must use a form in accordance with the specimen I annexed to the present Regulations. In handing this application to the Post Office the sender must establish his identity and produce the certificate of posting if there be one. The Administration of the country of origin assumes the responsibility in regard to identity, and after its establishment the course is as follows:—

- (1) If the request is meant to be sent by post the form, together with a perfect fac-simile of the envelope or address of the missive, is despatched in a registered letter direct to the Office of destination ;
 - (2) If the request is to be made by telegraph the form is handed over to the telegraph service, which is intrusted with the transmission of its terms to the Office of destination.
2. On receipt of the Form I. or of the telegram taking its place the Office of destination searches for the correspondence in question, and takes such steps as may be necessary.
- If, however, the case be one of an alteration of address requested by telegraph, the Office of destination only retains the letter, and awaits the arrival of the necessary fac-simile before complying with the request.
- If the search is fruitless, or if the article has already been delivered to the addressee, or if the request by telegraph is not so explicit that the article indicated can be recognised with certainty, the fact is at once communicated to the Office of origin, which informs the applicant accordingly.
3. In the absence of any understanding to the contrary, Form I. is drawn up in French, or bears a sublineary translation in that language ; and in case the telegraph is used, the telegram is sent in French.
4. A simple correction of address (without modification of the name or description of the addressee) can also be claimed directly from the delivering Office—that is to say, without fulfilling the formalities prescribed for the alteration of address properly so-called.
5. Any Administration can require, by notification addressed to the International Bureau, that the exchange of applications, so far as such Administration is concerned, shall be effected through the medium of the central Administrations or of an Office specially designated.
- In cases where the exchange of applications is effected through the medium of the central Administrations, requests sent directly by the Offices of origin to the Offices of destination must be taken into account to the extent that the correspondence concerned shall be withheld from delivery until the arrival of the application from the central Administration.
- The Administrations which avail themselves of the option accorded by the first paragraph of the present clause bear the charges involved by the transmission, in their inland service, by post or by telegraph, of the communications to be exchanged with the delivering office.

XXXI.—Use of Postage Stamps presumed to be fraudulent for the prepayment of Postage.

1. Subject to the regulations laid down by the laws of each country, even in cases where this reservation is not expressly stipulated in the provisions of the present Article, the undermentioned procedure is followed for detecting the use of fraudulent postage stamps for the prepayment of postage :—
 - (a) When the presence of a fraudulent postage stamp (counterfeit or already used) on any article whatever is detected at the time of despatch by the Post Office of a country whose law does not require the immediate seizure of the article, the stamp is not altered in any way, and the article, enclosed in an envelope addressed to the delivering Office, is forwarded officially registered.
 - (b) This formality is notified without delay to the Administrations of the countries of origin and destination by means of an advice in conformity with specimen K annexed to the present Regulations. A copy of that advice is, moreover, transmitted to the delivering Office in the envelope which encloses the article bearing the supposed fraudulent postage stamp.
 - (c) In order to establish the contravention, recourse is had to the addressee.
The delivery of the article takes place only in case the addressee or his representative consents to make known the name and address of the sender, and to place at the disposal of the Post Office, after having taken cognizance of the contents, the entire article, if it is inseparable from the offence itself, or else the part of the article (envelope, wrapper, portion of letter, &c.) which contains the address and the stamp stated to be fraudulent.
 - (d) The result of the representations made is set forth in a formal report in conformity with the specimen L annexed to the present Regulations, in which report are recorded the incidents that have happened, such as failure to appear, refusal to receive the article or to open it, or to make known the sender, &c. This document is signed by the postal official and by the addressee of the article or his representative ; if the latter refuses to sign, the refusal is recorded in place of the signature.

The formal report is transmitted, with the relative vouchers, through the medium of the Administration of the country of destination, to the Postal Administration of the country of origin, which, with the aid of those documents, takes proceedings, if necessary, to repress the infringement, according to its internal laws.

XXXII.—Division of the Expenses of the International Bureau.

1. The ordinary expenses of the International Bureau must not exceed the sum of 125,000 francs annually, irrespective of the special expenses to which the meeting of a Congress or of a Conference gives rise.
2. The Swiss Postal Administration supervises the expenses of the International Bureau, makes the necessary advances, and prepares the annual account, which is communicated to all the other Administrations.
3. For the apportionment of the expenses, the countries of the Union are divided into seven classes, each contributing in the proportion of a certain number of units ; viz.—

1st class	25 units.
2nd „	20 „
3rd „	15 „
4th „	10 „
5th „	5 „
6th „	3 „
7th „	1 „

4. These co-efficients are multiplied by the number of countries of each class, and the total of the products thus obtained furnishes the number of units by which the whole expense is to be divided. The quotient gives the amount of the unit of expense.

5. The countries of the Union are classified as follows, in view of the division of expenses :—

1st class : Germany, Austria-Hungary, United States of America, France, Great Britain, British India, British Colonies of Australasia, the whole of the other British Colonies and Protectorates (except Canada), Italy, Russia, Turkey.

2nd class : Spain.

3rd class : Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Netherlands, Roumania, Sweden, Spanish Colonies or Provinces beyond sea, French Colonies, Dutch East Indies.

4th class : Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Portuguese Colonies.

5th class : Argentine Republic, Bulgaria, Chili, Colombia, Greece, Mexico, Peru, Servia, Tunis.

6th class : Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, German Protectorates, Guatemala, Hayti, Republic of Honduras, Luxemburg, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Persia, Salvador, Kingdom of Siam, Uruguay, Venezuela, Danish Colonies, Colony of Curaçoa (or Dutch West Indies), Colony of Surinam (or German Dutch Guiana).

7th class : Congo Free State, Hawaii, Liberia, Montenegro.

XXXIII.—*Communications to be addressed to the International Bureau.*

1. The International Bureau serves as the medium for regular notifications of a general kind concerning international relations.

2. The Administrations belonging to the Union must communicate to each other specially through the medium of the International Bureau ;—

(1.) The particulars of the surcharges which, by virtue of Article V. of the Convention, they levy in addition to the Union rate, whether for sea postage or for expenses of extraordinary conveyance, as well as a list of the countries in relation to which these surcharges are levied, and, if needful, the designation of the routes giving rise to the surcharges :

(2.) Five complete sets of their postage stamps :

(3.) Notice whether they mean to use the option left to Administrations to apply or not to apply certain general stipulations of the Convention and the present Regulations.

3. Every modification adopted hereafter, in regard to one or other of the three points above-mentioned, must be notified without delay in the same manner.

4. The International Bureau receives besides from all the Administrations of the Union two copies of all the documents which they publish, whether relating to the inland service or to the international service.

5. Correspondence addressed by the Administrations of the Union to the International Bureau, and *vice versa*, is assimilated, as regards freedom from postage, to correspondence exchanged between Administrations.

XXXIV.—*General Statistics.*

1. Every Administration sends to the International Bureau at the end of the month of July in each year, as complete a series as possible of statistical returns relating to the preceding year, arranged in Tables in conformity with or analogous to the patterns M and N annexed.

2. Those services in which each transaction is recorded are dealt with in periodical statements based upon the entries made.

3. All other transactions are counted during one week at least for daily exchanges and during four weeks for exchanges other than daily, each Administration having the option of counting separately the correspondence belonging to each category.

4. To each Administration is reserved the right of counting the correspondence at those periods in which the postal business approaches most nearly to the average.

5. To the International Bureau is entrusted the duty of printing and distributing the statistical forms to be filled up by each Administration, and of furnishing to any Administration on application all necessary information as to the rules to be followed, in order to insure as far as possible uniformity of practice in taking the statistics.

XXXV.—*Duties of the International Bureau.*

1. The International Bureau prepares general statistics for each year.

2. It publishes, by the aid of the documents which are put at its disposal, a special journal in the German, English, and French languages.

3. All the documents published by the International Bureau are distributed to the Administrations of the Union, in the proportion of the number of contributing units assigned to each by the foregoing Article XXXII.

4. Any additional copies and documents which may be applied for by these Administrations are paid for separately at prime cost.

5. The International Bureau must, moreover, hold itself always at the disposal of the members of the Union for the purpose of furnishing them with any special information they may require upon questions relating to the international postal service.

6. The International Bureau makes known demands for the modification or interpretation of the stipulations which regulate the Union. It notifies the results of each application, and no modification or resolution adopted is binding until two months at least after its notification.

7. The International Bureau effects the balance and liquidation of accounts of every description between the Administrations of the Union which declare their wish to use that Bureau as a medium under the conditions laid down by Article XXXVI. following.

8. The International Bureau prepares the business to be submitted to Congresses or Conferences. It undertakes the necessary copying and printing, the editing and distribution of amendments, minutes of proceedings, and other information:

9. The Director of the International Bureau attends the sittings of the Congresses or Conferences, and takes part in the discussions, but without the power of voting.

10. On the subject of his proceedings he makes an annual report, which is communicated to all the Administrations of the Union.

11. The official language of the International Bureau is the French language.

12. It is the duty of the International Bureau to publish an alphabetical dictionary of all the Post Offices of the world, with special indications of such of those Offices as undertake services which have not yet become general. That dictionary is kept up to date by means of supplements or in any other manner which the International Bureau shall consider suitable.

The dictionary mentioned in the present paragraph is delivered at prime cost to the Administrations which apply for it.

XXXVI.—Central Office of Accounting and Liquidation of Accounts between the Administrations of the Union.

1. It is the duty of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union to effect the balance and liquidation of accounts of every description relative to the international postal service between Administrations of countries of the Union which have the franc for their monetary unit, or which are agreed on the rate of conversion of their money into francs and centimes (specie).

The Administrations which intend to claim for this service of liquidation the assistance of the International Bureau arrange accordingly with each other and with the Bureau.

Notwithstanding its adhesion each Administration retains the right of preparing at will special accounts for different branches of the service, and of effecting the settlement of them at its own convenience with the corresponding Administrations, without employing the medium of the International Bureau, to which, according to the tenor of the preceding paragraph, it merely indicates for what branches of the service and in respect of what countries it applies for the help of the Bureau.

At the request of the Administrations concerned, telegraph accounts can also be notified to the International Bureau, to be included in the setting off of balances.

Administrations which shall have used the medium of the International Bureau for the balancing and liquidation of accounts may cease to use that medium three months after giving notice to the said Bureau to that effect.

2. After having checked and accepted their accounts, the Administrations furnish to each other reciprocally acknowledgments of their Debit, made out in francs and centimes, stating therein the nature, the period, and the result of the account.

3. Each Administration addresses monthly to the International Bureau a table showing the total Credit due to it on the individual accounts, as well as the total of the sums which are due to it from each of the contracting Administrations; each credit appearing in this table must be substantiated by an acknowledgment from the indebted Office.

This table should reach the International Bureau not later than the 19th of each month; otherwise its liquidation is liable to be deferred until the following month.

4. The International Bureau ascertains, by comparing the acknowledgments, if the tables are correct. Every correction that is necessary is notified to the Offices concerned.

The Debit of each Administration to another is carried forward into a summary; and in order to arrive at the total amount owing by each Administration, it suffices to add up the different columns of this summary.

5. The International Bureau combines the tables and the summaries in one general balance sheet showing—

- (a) The total of the Debit and of the Credit of each Administration;
- (b) The balance against or in favour of each Administration, representing the difference between the total of the Debit and the total of the Credit;
- (c) The sums to be paid by some of the members of the Union to a single Administration, or, reciprocally, the sums to be paid by the latter to the former.

The totals of the two categories of balances under (a) and (b) must of necessity be equal.

It shall be arranged as far as possible that each Administration, in order to liquidate its debts, shall have to make only one or two distinct payments.

Nevertheless, an Administration which habitually finds a sum exceeding 50,000 francs due to it from another Administration has the right to claim remittances on account.

These remittances on account are entered, both by the creditor Administration and by the debtor Administration, at the foot of the tables to be forwarded to the International Bureau (see § 3).

6. The acknowledgments (see § 3) transmitted to the International Bureau with the tables are classified according to the different Administrations.

They serve as the basis for settling the accounts of each of the Administrations concerned. In this settlement there should appear—

- (a) The sums relating to the special accounts concerning the different exchanges;
- (b) The total of the sums resulting from all the special accounts with respect to each of the Administrations concerned;
- (c) The totals of the sum due to all the creditor Administrations on account of each branch of the service, as well as their general total.

This total should be equal to the total of the Debit which appears in the summary

At the foot of the liquidation account, the balance is prepared between the total of the Debit and the total of the Credit resulting from the tables forwarded by the Administrations to the International Bureau (see § 3). The net amount of the Debit or of the Credit should be equal to the debit balance or to the credit balance carried into the general balance-sheet. Moreover, the liquidation account determines the manner of settlement—that is to say, it indicates the Administrations to which payment must be made by the Administration indebted.

The liquidation accounts must be transmitted to the Administrations interested by the International Bureau not later than the 22nd of each month.

7. Debit or credit balances not exceeding 500 francs can be carried forward to the settlement of the following month, provided, however, that the Administrations concerned are in monthly communication with the International Bureau. The amount brought forward is entered in the summaries and in the liquidation accounts in respect of the creditor and debtor Administrations. The debtor Administration furnishes in such case to the creditor Administration an acknowledgment of the sum due, to be carried into the next table.

XXXVII.—*Language.*

1. The letter-bills, tables, statements, and other forms used by the Administrations of the Union in their reciprocal relations must, as a general rule, be drawn up in the French language, unless the Administrations concerned arrange otherwise by direct agreement.

2. As regards official correspondence, the present state of things is maintained, unless any other arrangement should subsequently be agreed upon by common consent between the Administrations concerned.

XXXVIII.—*Scope of the Union.*

The following are considered as belonging to the Universal Postal Union :—

- (1.) The German Post Offices established at Apia (Samoa Islands) and Shanghai (China), as subordinate to the Postal Administrations of Germany.
- (2.) The Principality of Lichtenstein, as subordinate to the Postal Administration of Austria.
- (3.) Iceland and the Farøe Islands, as forming part of Denmark.
- (4.) The Spanish possessions on the North Coast of Africa, as forming part of Spain; the Republic of Andorra, and the postal establishments of Spain upon the West Coast of Morocco, as subordinate to the Postal Administration of Spain.
- (5.) Algeria, as forming part of France; the Principality of Monaco and the French Post Offices established at Tangiers (Morocco), at Shanghai (China), and at Zanzibar, as subordinate to the Postal Administration of France; Cambodia, Annam, and Tonquin, as assimilated, so far as regards the postal service, to the French Colony of Cochin China.
- (6.) The postal agencies which the Postal Administration of Gibraltar maintains at Tangiers, Larache, Rabat, Casablanca, Saffi, Mazagan, and Mogador (Morocco).
- (7.) The Post Offices which the Administration of the English Colony of Hong Kong maintains at Hoihow (Kiung-Schow), Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foo-Chow, Ningpo, Shanghai, and Hankow (China).
- (8.) The Indian postal establishments of Aden, Zanzibar, Muscat, the Persian Gulf, and Guadur, as subordinate to the Postal Administration of British India.
- (9.) The Republic of St. Marino and the Italian Post Offices at Tunis and Tripoli in Barbary, as subordinate to the Postal Administration of Italy.
- (10.) The Post Offices which the Japanese Administration has established at Shanghai (China), Fusanpo, Genzanshin, and Jinsen (Corea).
- (11.) The Grand Duchy of Finland, as forming an integral part of the Empire of Russia.

XXXIX.—*Proposals made in the interval between Meetings.*

1. In the interval which elapses between the meetings, the Postal Administration of every country of the Union has the right of addressing to the other participating Administrations, through the medium of the International Bureau, proposals concerning the present Regulations.

2. Every proposal is subject to the following procedure :—

A period of five months is allowed to the Administrations of the Union to examine the proposals and furnish to the International Bureau their observations, amendments, or counter-proposals (as the case may be). The answers are tabulated by the International Bureau, and communicated to the Administrations with an invitation to express their views. The Administrations which have not declared their votes within a period of six months, counting from the date of the second circular of the International Bureau notifying to them the observations made, are regarded as abstaining.

3. In order to become binding, the proposals must obtain—

- (1.) Unanimity of votes, if they relate to the addition of new articles or to the modification of the stipulations of the present Article and of Articles III., IV., V., XII., XXVII., XXX., XXXI., and XL.;
- (2.) Two-thirds of the votes, if they relate to the modification of the stipulations of Articles I., II., VIII., IX., XI., XIV., XV., XVI., XVIII., XIX., XX., XXI., XXIII., XXIV., XXV., XXVI., XXVIII., XXXIV., XXXVI., XXXVII., and XXXVIII.;
- (3.) Simply an absolute majority, if they relate to the modification of stipulations other than those indicated above, or to the interpretation of the various stipulations of the Regulations, except in the case of litigation as contemplated by Article XXIII. of the Convention.

4. Resolutions adopted in due form are made binding by a simple notification from the International Bureau to all the Administrations of the Union.

5. No modification or resolution adopted is binding until at least two months after its notification.

XL.—*Duration of the Regulations.*

The present Regulations shall be put into execution on the day on which the Convention of the 4th July, 1891, comes into force. They shall have the same duration as that Convention, unless they be renewed by common consent between the parties concerned.

Done at Vienna, the 4th of July, 1891.

For Germany and the German Protectorates.....	{ DR. V. STEPHAN. SACHSE. FRITSCH.
„ the United States of America	{ N. M. BROOKS. WILLIAM POTTER.
„ the Argentine Republic.....	CARLOS CALVO.
„ Austria.....	{ OBENTRAUT. DR. HOFMANN. DR. LILIENAU. HABBERGER.
„ Hungary.....	{ P. HEIM. S. SCHRIMPF.
„ Belgium.....	LICHTERVELDE.
„ Bolivia.....	
„ Brazil.....	LUIZ BETIM PAES LEMM.
„ Bulgaria.....	P. M. MATTHEEFF.
„ Chili.....	
„ the Republic of Columbia	G. MICHELSEN.
„ Congo Free State	{ STASSIN. LICHTERVELDE. GARANT. DE CRAENE.
„ the Republic of Costa Rica.....	
„ Denmark and the Danish Colonies.....	LUND.
„ the Dominican Republic	
„ Egypt.....	Y. SABA.
„ Ecuador	
„ Spain and the Spanish Colonies.....	FREDERICO BAS.
„ France	{ MONTMARIN. J. DE SELVES. ANSAULT.
„ the French Colonies	G. GABRIE.
„ Great Britain and various British Colonies.....	{ S. A. BLACKWOOD. H. BUXTON FORMAN.
„ the British Colonies of Australasia	
„ Canada.....	
„ British India	H. M. KISCH.
„ Greece	J. GEORGANTAS.
„ Guatemala	DR. GOTTHELF MEYER.
„ the Republic of Hayti	
„ the Kingdom of Hawaii.....	EUGENE BOREL.
„ the Republic of Honduras	
„ Italy.....	{ EMIDIO CHIARADIA. FELICE SALIVETTO.
„ Japan	{ IFDO. FUJITA.
„ the Republic of Liberia	{ BN. DE STEIN. W. KOENTZER. C. GOEDEL.
„ Luxemburg	MONGENAST.
„ Mexico.....	L. BRETON Y VEDRA.
„ Montenegro.....	{ OBENTRAUT. DR. HOFMANN. DR. LILIENAU. HABBERGER.
„ Nicaragua	
„ Norway	THB. HEYERDAHL.
„ Paraguay.....	
„ the Netherlands	{ HOFSTEDE. BARON VAN DER FELTZ.
„ the Dutch Colonies.....	JOHS. J. PERK.
„ Peru.....	D. C. URREA.
„ Persia	GENL. N. SEMINO.
„ Portugal and the Portuguese Colonies.....	GUELHERMINO AUGUSTO DE BARROS.
„ Roumania	{ COLONEL A. GORJEAN. S. DIMITRESCU.
„ Russia	{ GENERAL DE BESACE. A. SKALOVSKY.
„ Salvador	LOUIS KEHLMANN.

For Servia	{ SVETOZAR J. GVOZDITCH.
„ the Kingdom of Siam.....	{ ET. W. POPOVITCH.
„ the South African Republic	{ LUANG SURIYA NUVATR.
„ Sweden.....	{ H. KEUCHENIUS.
„ Switzerland.....	{ E. VON KRUSENSTJERNA.
„ the Regency of Tunis.....	{ ED. HÖHN.
„ Turkey.....	{ C. DELESSERT.
„ Uruguay	{ MONTMARIN.
„ the United States of Venezuela	{ E. PETACCI.
	{ A. FAHRI.
	{ FEDERICO SUSVIELA GUARCH.
	{ JOSE G. BUSTO.
	{ CARLOS MATZENAUER.

The I. and R. Minister of Foreign Affairs certifies that this is a correct copy of the original deposited in the archives of the department.

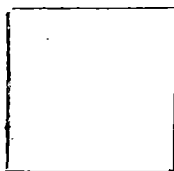
Vienna, 7th July, 1891.

The Director of the Chancellerie of the I. and R. Minister of Foreign Affairs.

(Signed) MITTAG.

A.

Timbre d'affranchissement.



Stamp of the value of 2½d. to be affixed here.

Administration de la
Post Office of Victoria.

AVIS DE RECEPTION

Acknowledgment of Delivery

d'un objet recommandé adressé à
of a Registered Article addressed to

M _____

Timbre du Bureau d'origine.



Stamp of Office of origin.

Le soussigné declare qu'un objet recommandé a l'adresse susmentionnée

The undersigned acknowledges that a Registered Article addressed as above

et provenant de* } M _____
and sent by* } _____

a été dûment livré le _____ 189

was duly delivered the _____ 189

Signature†

du destinataire
of the addressee

Signature†

du Chef du Bureau distributeur.
of the Chief of the Delivering Office.

* Le nom et l'adresse complète de l'expéditeur de l'objet recommandé doivent être inscrits sur cette feuille par le Bureau d'origine.

* The name and full address of the sender of the Registered Article must be entered in this form at the Issuing Office.

† Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le Chef du Bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et renvoyé sous recommandation par le premier courrier.


† This acknowledgment must be signed by the addressee, or, if the postal regulations of the Country of destination permit, by the Postmaster of the Delivering Office. It should then be enclosed in an envelope and returned, registered, by first Mail, to the Office of origin.

CORRESPONDANCE AVEC L'OFFICE

DE _____

Dépêche du bureau d'échange britannique de _____

pour le bureau d'échange _____



Départ du _____ 189____, à ____ h ____ m. du _____

Arrivée le _____ 189____, à _____ h _____ m. du _____

Nombre des objets recommandés _____

Bureau d'origine.	Bureau de destination.	Nombre des dépêches closes.		Bureau d'origine.	Bureau de destination.	Nombre des dépêches closes.	
		En dehors.	En-trante.			En dehors.	En-trante.

L'employé du bureau expéditeur,

L'employé du bureau destinataire,

ADMINISTRATION DES
POSTES DE LA VICTORIA.

C.

CORRESPONDANCE AVEC L'OFFICE

D. _____

BULLETIN DE VÉRIFICATION.

Pour la rectification et la constatation des erreurs et irrégularités de toute nature reconnues
dans la dépêche du bureau d'échange d'_____ pour le bureau
d'échange d'_____

Expédition du _____ 189 __, à _____ h. _____ m. du _____

Erreurs ou Irrégularités Diverses.

(Manque de la dépêche, manque d'objets recommandés ou de la feuille d'avis, dépêche spoliée, lacérée,
ou en mauvais état, etc.)

ERREURS DE COMPTE DANS LA STATISTIQUE.

Numéros distinctifs des tableaux erronés.	Désignation des correspondances ou dépêches sur lesquelles porte l'erreur.	Déclaration du bureau d'échange expéditeur.	Vérification du bureau d'échange destinataire.	Causes de la rectification.

Vu et accepté

À _____ le _____ 189 __.

À _____ le _____ 189 __.

Les employés du bureau d'échange destinataire.

Le Chef du bureau
d'échange expéditeur.

APPENDIX E.

General Post Office, London, 18th December, 1891.

Col. No. 318 R.

SIR,
I BEG leave to send herewith for your information a copy of a circular which has been prepared by this Department for the guidance of the British Colonies which it represents in the affairs of the Postal Union, with the view of bringing to their notice in a convenient form the principal changes of practice which will be necessary when the Convention of Vienna, and the detailed regulations for its execution, come into force on the 1st of July, 1892.

Although this circular would not, in the ordinary course, be sent hence to the Australasian Colonies, which, like India and Canada, are regarded as separate states in the affairs of the Union, it is thought that the circular may be useful to the Australasian Post Offices as a summary of the principal changes agreed to at Vienna, and it is hoped that the particulars given may be of some assistance to your Office.

I am, &c.

EDW. H. REA.

The Postmaster-General, Sydney.

[Circular.]

General Post Office, London, 18th December, 1891.

SIR,
I SEND herewith for your information copies of the new Convention, Final Protocol, and Detailed Regulations, signed on the 4th of July, 1891, at the close of the recent Congress of the Universal Postal Union held at Vienna.

In regard to the leading features of the Postal Union no change of principle has been introduced; and some of the alterations made merely give formal effect to changes already in force, as the result of votes taken by means of circulars from the International Bureau.

It may, however, be useful to call your attention to the several changes of practice which will be necessary when the Convention of Vienna, and the detailed regulations for its execution, come into force on the 1st of July, 1892.

On reference first to the Convention itself, it will be seen that the changes of practice involved are as follows:—

1. By the omission of the second paragraph of Article 2 of the Convention of Paris, as modified at Lisbon, the issue of reply-paid post-cards by every country of the Union will become obligatory. Art. 2.
2. Unpaid post-cards (such as post-cards posted in one country bearing the stamps of another country) are to be treated as unpaid letters. Art. 5.
3. Countries electing to levy the sea surtax must levy it uniformly on correspondence sent to all destinations in identical conditions. Attention is called to the foot-note at page 6.
4. The limits of size for sample packets are to be extended, with the option to arrange for an increased limit of weight.
5. The limits of size for book packets in the form of a roll are to be extended.
6. The maximum registration fee of 50 centimes chargeable in countries outside Europe, although not specified in the new Convention, will still be permitted temporarily under the Final Protocol (paragraph 1). Art. 6.
7. The new Article 7 does not at present concern the British Empire, as it is not in contemplation to take part in the "reimbursement," or trade charges collection system. Art. 7.
8. For registered articles addressed to the Poste Restante, responsibility is to cease on delivery to a person who, according to local regulations, shall have satisfied the office of destination that his name and description are those on the letter. Art. 8.
9. If the office responsible for the loss of a registered article notifies the office of origin not to pay the indemnity, any expenses consequent on non-payment must be met by the country sending such notification.
10. In cases of loss where the blame cannot be localised, transit countries, as well as the countries of origin and destination, are to share in the cost of indemnifying the sender or the addressee.
11. Although not specified in the new Convention, it is still provided by the Final Protocol (paragraph 2) that countries whose legislation does not admit the principle of responsibility for loss may adjourn the acceptance of the obligations imposed by the Convention in regard to indemnities for the loss of registered articles.
12. The posting of letters on board Mail Packets on the high seas, or in port, has been regularised in such a way that it will be allowable to prepay them by means of stamps of the country to which the packet, or the port, as the case may be, belongs. Art. 11.
13. Unpaid and insufficiently prepaid correspondence, when not deliverable in the country of destination, will be chargeable, on return to the country of origin, with the postage which has not been recovered from the addressee. Art. 14.
14. The new Article 15 provides for the exchange of closed mails with ships of war on foreign stations. Art. 15.
15. Article 16 contains a list of articles not allowed to be sent by post, including some not specified in the Convention of Paris. Art. 16.

- Art. 17. 16. The new Article 17 establishes on a simple and sound basis the relations of Union countries with each other in regard to correspondence originating in or addressed to countries outside the Union. The complex and troublesome system of piece accounting for the transit of such correspondence will give place to the simple Union system of accounting by weight on the basis of triennial statistics; and uniform rates will be chargeable for the sea conveyance of correspondence outside the limits of the Union.
- Art. 18. 17. By the new Article 18 the contracting parties undertake to adopt, or to propose to their respective Legislatures, the necessary measures for punishing the fraudulent use of forged stamps or of stamps which have been used before and cleaned.

The changes of practice involved in the detailed Regulations are as follows :—

- Art. 5. 1. The new brief Article 5 is the complement of the new Article 17 in the Convention. The application of the Union system of accounting to non-union correspondence will admit of the abolition of Table C.
- Art. 6. 2. Letters originating in Union countries are to be stamped by the delivering officer on the back, and postcards on the face.
- Art. 7. 3. Correspondence posted on board Mail Packets is to be stamped by the Postal Agent on board, or if there be no Agent, by the Post Office which first receives the correspondence.
4. The disappearance of paragraph 3, Article 7, of the detailed Regulations appended to the Paris Convention is consequent on the provisions of the new Article 17 of the Vienna Convention respecting non-union correspondence.
- Art. 9. 5. A change of practice is to be adopted in regard to acknowledgments of the delivery of registered articles. The despatching Office will not make out a form, but will indicate on the registered article (in the manner specified in paragraph 1, Article 9) that an acknowledgment of delivery has been paid for; and the delivering Office will make out the form and send it to the Office of origin when signed.
- Art. 10. 6. The Letter Bill (*Feuille d'avis*), which was Form A. under the Paris Convention, will be Form B. under the Vienna Convention. Letter Bills are to be placed in coloured envelopes distinctly marked "*Feuille d'avis*" (Letter Bill).
7. Verification Certificates and other official communications are to be entered in the part of the Letter Bill headed "*Recommandations d'Office*" (Official Registrations).
8. When a separate Registered Letter List is forwarded, the total number of registered articles inscribed on such list, and the number of packets or bags containing them, must be entered on the Letter Bill.
- Art. 11. 9. The special envelope containing the Letter Bill is to be tied with a string (across and across) to the outside of the packet of registered articles.
10. Special directions are given as to advising and making up any registered articles which may be sent outside the special packet or bag of such articles, and among the ordinary correspondence contained in the Mail.
- Art. 12. 11. It is provided that if the repayment of an indemnity by the responsible Office to the Office which has paid the sender gives rise to expenses (of remittance), they shall be borne by the responsible Office.
- Art. 13. 12. The new Regulation set forth in paragraph 4, Article 13, as to marking bags or packets of articles sent by "express," does not at present concern the British Empire.
13. When paper labels are used for addressing Mails, they must be stuck on blocks.
14. No International Mail-bag must exceed 40 kilogrammes in weight.
- Art. 14. 15. Certain provisions are made for repacking damaged Mails, and verifying the contents if necessary.
16. When a Verification Certificate (*Bulletin de Verification*, Form B. under Paris Convention, but Form C. under Vienna Convention) is sent by the delivering Office to the despatching Office, a duplicate is to be sent to the Administration to which the latter is subordinate.
17. When a damaged Mail is repacked, a copy of any Verification Certificate relating to it is to be enclosed in it.
18. The new paragraph 7 of Article 14 is the complement of paragraph 6 Article 8 of the Convention, referred to above in paragraph 10, page 2.
- Art. 15. 19. The new plan of marking registered articles, being optional, will not at present be adopted by this Department; and it is not thought desirable that it should be adopted in the colonies.
20. Paragraph 4, Article 15, relating to registered articles marked with trade charges does not concern the British Empire.
21. Registered articles, if received (by any chance) unpaid or insufficiently paid, are to be delivered without charge, and the attention of the despatching Office should be called to the matter.
- Art. 16. 22. On the front of Post-cards may appear postage stamps, postal directions (such as "registered," "acknowledgment of delivery," &c.), and the name and address of the recipient in writing, or on a gummed label.
23. The sender may indicate his name and address either on the front or on the back of Post-cards, in writing or by means of a hand-stamp, or any typographical process, but not by means of a label.
24. Engravings of the character of advertisements may be printed on the back of Post-cards, but must not be printed separately and stuck on.
25. The sender may indicate his name and address on the front of the reply half of a double Post-card, either in writing or by gumming a label on to it.
26. The prepayment of the reply half by means of the postage stamp of the country of origin only holds good if the reply half be sent to that country; otherwise it is charged as an unpaid letter.

27. Post-cards not fulfilling the prescribed conditions, as regards size, form, &c., are to be treated as letters.
 28. The revision of the Regulations as to printed matter, &c., leaves them a little less stringent than before. They still forbid, in general terms, the transmission by Book-post of communications having the character of an actual and personal correspondence; but certain exceptions are made, such as those in favour of printed visiting cards bearing either the written address or title of the sender, or conventional initials, such as "P.P.C.," and in favour also of printed circulars bearing manuscript corrections and insertions as to names of commercial travellers, dates of their journey, dates of departure of ships, names of persons invited to meetings, and place, date, and agenda of the meetings, &c., &c. Art. 18.
 29. The option accorded to Administrations of exchanging with each other, by common consent, packets containing liquids, oils, &c., and live bees, will not affect the British Empire. Such articles will not, of course, under any circumstances, be allowed to pass through the post to or from any British Colony. Art. 19.
 30. Undelivered letters, &c., before being returned to the country of origin, are to be kept for two months in the case of countries comparatively close together, and for six months in the case of countries separated by the ocean, in each case not counting the month of arrival. Art. 22.
 31. The reasons for non-delivery are to be indicated upon returned correspondence by means of hand-stamps or labels.
 32. The periodical statistics are to apply to non-Union correspondence as well as to Union correspondence. Art. 23.
 33. When an important alteration takes place in the flow of correspondence, affecting a period of six months or more, the intermediate Offices may arrange with each other to share the transit charges proportionately.
 34. The Table E. referred to in this Article corresponds with the Table D. mentioned in the detailed Regulations appended to the Paris Convention. The weight both of Union and of non-Union correspondence sent *à découvert* must be entered, during a statistical period, on Form F. (formerly Form E). Art. 24.
 35. The weight of closed Mails exchanged with Union or non-Union countries must be entered, during a statistical period, on Form G. (formerly Form F). Art. 25.
 36. The new Article 26 is the complement of the new Article 15 in the Convention, providing for the exchange of closed Mails with ships of war on foreign stations. Art. 26.
 37. The multiplier, which any two Administrations agree to apply to the statistics for the purpose of regulating their reciprocal accounts will hold good for the whole period of three years covered by the relative statistics. Art. 27.
 38. Bills of Exchange in payment of balances due may be drawn on any place in the creditor country at the option of the debtor country. Expenses of payment, including discount charges, if there happen to be any, are borne by the indebted Office.
 39. Article 30 does not concern the British Empire. Art. 30.
 40. The new Article 31 is the complement of the new Article 18 in the Convention respecting the adoption of measures for punishing postage stamp frauds. Art. 31.
 41. The authorised maximum for the annual expenses of the International Bureau will be raised from 100,000 to 125,000 francs. Art. 32.
 42. Five complete sets of specimens of postage stamps, &c., are to be distributed. In future, therefore, whenever new stamps, post cards, wrappers, or stamped envelopes are issued, 581 specimens, instead of 351, should be sent to the Imperial Post Office for distribution through the International Bureau. Art. 33.
 43. The International Bureau is to publish a dictionary of all the Post Offices in the world, specifying the services performed by each Office. Administrations requiring copies are to be supplied with them at cost price. Art. 35.
 44. Under the new Article 36 Postal Administrations may use the International Bureau as a medium for the settlement of any or all of their accounts with each other. Art. 36.
- All Postage and Money Order Accounts between the Imperial Post Office and the Post Offices of British Colonies will continue to be settled directly between the Offices concerned, as at present; but the Post Offices of British Colonies will be at liberty to settle their accounts with foreign Post Offices through the medium of the International Bureau, if they wish to do so.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

S. A. BLACKWOOD, *Secretary.*

APPENDIX F.

General Post Office, London, 12th February, 1892.

SIR,

As you are aware, the present Postal Union limits of size for sample packets are 20 centimetres (8 inches) in length, 10 centimetres (4 inches) in width, and 5 centimetres (2 inches) in depth, while the limit of weight prescribed is 250 grammes (8 ounces).

Under the Convention of Vienna the limits of size will be extended from the 1st of July next to 30 centimetres (12 inches) in length, 20 centimetres (8 inches) in width, and 10 centimetres (4 inches) in depth, with the option of increasing the limit of weight by mutual agreement between the countries concerned.

To sample packets exchanged between the United Kingdom and the Australasian Colonies the limits of size and weight prescribed by the Postal Union Regulations should, in strictness, be applied, as they must of course be applied to such packets exchanged between Australasia and foreign countries in the Union; but, in the interests of the trade and commerce both of the mother country and of the Australasian Colonies, and for the convenience of the public, it seems to this Department highly desirable not to withhold from transmission sample packets posted in the United Kingdom for Australasia, or *vice versa*, merely because they happen to exceed the Union limits of size and weight, provided that they do not exceed those in force before the entry of the Australasian Colonies into the Union.

It is therefore proposed still to send sample packets forward if they do not exceed the limits of 2 feet in length, 1 foot in width or depth, and 5 lbs. in weight.

This Department already allows such packets to go forward when addressed to other British Colonies in the Postal Union.

It is hoped that, so far as the Colony is concerned, there will be no objection to this course, and that your office will on its side permit similar packets to go forward in the direct Mails to the United Kingdom.

I should add that it is not proposed here to issue any general notice to the public on the subject, but simply to allow the packets in question to pass if posted, so as to avoid as far as possible any practical disadvantage to the public through the adhesion of the Australasian Colonies to the Union.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BUXTON FORMAN, for the Secretary.

The Postmaster-General, Hobart.

APPENDIX G.

DRAFT OF AUSTRALASIAN POSTAL CONVENTION SUBMITTED TO
THE CONFERENCE BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.AGREEMENT regulating the Exchange of Correspondence between the Australasian
Colonies.*Article 1.*

THERE shall be an exchange of correspondence between the Australasian Colonies, one with the other, comprising letters, letter-cards, post-cards, newspapers, printed matter of every kind, packets, as per definition appended to Article 11, parcels and such other postal articles as may be mutually agreed upon, originating in any one Colony and addressed to and deliverable in another.

Article 2.

The rates of postage to be collected in each Colony on intercolonial correspondence shall be as follows, viz :—

Letters	2 <i>d.</i> per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Letter-cards	1 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> per doz., face value 1 <i>d.</i>
Post-cards	1 <i>d.</i> each.
Reply-cards	2 <i>d.</i> each.
Books not exceeding 4 oz.....	1 <i>d.</i>
And for every additional 4 oz. or portion of 4 oz. (up to 3 lb.)..	1 <i>d.</i>
Packets not exceeding 2 oz.....	1 <i>d.</i>
And for every additional 2 oz. or fraction of 2 oz. (up to 1 lb.)...	1 <i>d.</i>
Newspapers, as hereinafter defined, not exceeding 10 oz. in weight, $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i> each, and if over 10 oz., $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i> for each additional 10 oz., or fraction thereof.	
Newspapers—Bulk parcels of newspapers of the same issue, posted by the publisher or news-vendor, and which have been registered or accepted by the Postmaster-General, 1 <i>d.</i> per lb.; no parcel containing less than four newspapers to pass at bulk rates.	
Registration fee, 3 <i>d.</i> in addition to ordinary postage. Acknowledgment of receipt, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	
Parcel Post—For each parcel not exceeding 1 lb.	8 <i>d.</i>
Each additional lb., or fraction thereof	6 <i>d.</i>

but any two or more Colonies may make special arrangements amongst themselves.

Article 3.

Wholly unpaid and insufficiently prepaid letters may be forwarded from one Colony to another; also packets insufficiently prepaid, but wholly unpaid packets and unpaid or insufficiently prepaid newspapers shall not be sent.

Article 4.

Correspondence forwarded as fully prepaid from one Colony to another shall be delivered free of all charge whatsoever, but wholly unpaid where allowed and insufficiently prepaid correspondence so forwarded shall be charged on delivery with double the deficient postage due thereon.

Article 5.

No accounts shall be kept between the postal departments of the several Colonies enumerated, on the intercolonial letters, post-cards, &c., &c., exchanged between them, but each shall retain to its own use the whole of the postage and fees which it may collect.

Article 6.

On correspondence despatched to places beyond Australasia the despatching Colony shall pay to each Colony through which such correspondence shall be conveyed by rail the sum of 4*d.* per pound of letters, and 4*s.* per cwt. of other articles.

Article 7.

Prepayment of postage on every description of correspondence shall be effected only by means of postage stamps valid in the country of origin, or (in cases where the despatching postmaster is out of stamps) by money, except where the laws or regulations of any Colony permit the payment in money of the postage on large numbers of circulars or newspapers forwarded by one person.

Article 8.

Letters which from any cause cannot be delivered shall be mutually returned, tied in a separate bundle labelled "Dead letters," to the respective Colonies of origin, without charge, monthly, or as frequently as the regulations of the respective Colonies will permit. But newspapers and all other articles of printed matter, which from any cause cannot be delivered, shall be retained at the disposition of the receiving Colony.

Article 9.

Wholly unpaid and insufficiently prepaid correspondence shall be stamped in black ink on the address side with the letter T, and the amount of postage chargeable under Article 4 shall also be expressed in plain figures in black ink on the face thereof, and such sum shall be collected on delivery.

Article 10.

The following shall be considered as a newspaper, and be allowed to pass as such, viz. :—

- (a) A publication consisting wholly or in great part of political or other news, or other articles relating thereto, or to other current topics, with or without advertisements.
- (b) It must be printed and published in numbers at intervals not exceeding one month.
- (c) The full title and date of publication must be printed at the top of the first page, and the whole or part of the title and the date at the top of every subsequent page. This regulation applies also to "Tables of Contents" and "Indices."
- (d) A supplement must consist wholly or in great part of matter like that of a newspaper, or of advertisements, printed on paper stitched or unstitched; or wholly or in part of engravings, prints, or lithographs illustrative of articles in the paper. It must in every case be published with the paper, and have its title and date printed at the top of every page; or, if it consists of engravings, prints, or lithographs, at the top of every sheet or side. Handbills or advertisement sheets are not supplements.
- (e) Collected numbers of any publication registered as a newspaper shall not be transmitted through the post as a single newspaper, but postage will be charged on each number of issue comprised therein.
- (f) Every newspaper may be sent with or without a cover, and must be open at both ends; and there shall not be in or upon any such newspaper or the cover thereof any communication, character, figure, letter, or number (other than the words "newspaper only," or a mark to indicate any report, article, or paragraph therein, the printed title of such newspaper, the printed names, occupations, and places of business of the printer, publisher, and vendor thereof, the name, occupation, and address of the person to whom it is sent, and the name of the person who sends the same); nor shall anything be enclosed in or with or accompany such newspaper or cover, otherwise such newspaper shall not be transmitted or delivered.

Any publication fulfilling the above conditions can, upon payment of a fee of 5s., be registered at the General Post Office of the several administrative parties to this Convention for circulation as a newspaper, and also for transmission to places abroad, and unless so registered it cannot be transmitted as a newspaper: Provided, however, that any newspaper printed, published, and registered in any colony party to this Convention, may be posted as a newspaper in any of the other Colonies parties to the Convention. Any newspaper registered, or passed as such, in Great Britain or any of the Colonies may be posted in any Colony (except Queensland) at ordinary rates of postage.

When, owing to a great influx of newspapers the transmission or delivery of letters would be delayed, if the whole mail were dealt with without distinction, newspapers may be kept back till the next despatch or delivery.

Article 11.

The following shall be considered as books, and be allowed to pass as such, viz. :—

Printed books, pamphlets, magazines, and reviews, and all other periodical publications that do not come within the definition of newspapers. Printed music (bound or loose); photographs, &c., and, generally, anything printed and bound and published in book form.

The following shall be considered as packets, and allowed to pass as such, viz. :—

Acceptances.

Accounts receipted or unreceipted (remarks such as "With thanks," "A cheque will oblige," or printed or written communications in the nature of a letter render them chargeable as letters.)

Affidavits.

Balance-sheets and reports (printed) of public societies and companies.

Bankers' packets, containing bank-notes, cheques, cheque-books, drafts, or orders sent by or to any bank.

Bank passbooks may be sent from or to any bank at packet rates, provided they are enclosed in covers with the ends sufficiently open to admit of postal officials seeing that "passbooks" only are being transmitted. The packet must be indorsed "Passbook only."

Bills of exchange.

Bills of lading and ships' manifests.

Bottles containing fluid, &c., very securely corked so that their contents cannot escape, and packed in boxes sufficiently strong so as to prevent breakage of the bottles and damage to the mails.

Briefs.

Cards (other than Birthday, Christmas, Easter, or New Year Cards), either plain or bearing printed matter, or pictures, or both (the name only of the addressee may be written on the face of such cards).

Cards.—Birthday, Christmas, Easter, or New Year Cards may have written on them complimentary, or such like, remarks, together with the names and addresses of the senders, and of the person for whom the cards are intended, also the date of sending. (For example: "To John Smith, with best wishes, from Mary Smith. Christmas, 1891.") But cards having Messages or other communications written on them, such as "Hoping to see you shortly," "Be sure to write soon," will be liable to letter rate of postage.

Catalogues, printed (prices in figures may be written).

Circulars, *i.e.*, letters wholly printed, engraved, lithographed, chromographed, or produced by other mechanical process (except the copying press and type writer or imitations thereof), bearing internal evidence that they are intended for transmission in identical terms to several persons (the name of the addressee may, however, be added in writing); but in the case of circulars not wholly printed in ordinary type or engraved or lithographed, that is, circulars produced by other mechanical process, such as chromography, &c., at least twenty copies of such circular must be submitted to the Post Office and be posted in order to constitute it a circular, otherwise every copy will be charged letter rates.

Deeds, or copies thereof. Depositions. Drafts. Drawings.
 Engravings. Examination Papers (corrections allowed, but nothing in the nature of a letter).
 Fashion Plates, or similar publications.
 Insurance documents, not being in the nature of a letter.
 Invoices (an invoice may be receipted and may advise when or how goods are forwarded, but may contain no other written matter).
 Legal documents, not being in the nature of a letter.
 Manuscript for printing.
 Maps.
 Merchandise.
 Mineral specimens.
 Music (written).
 Notices of meetings, of subscriptions, calls, or premiums due, printed, engraved, lithographed, or produced by other mechanical process (names, dates, amounts, &c., only to be inserted in writing).
 Paintings.
 Paper.
 Parchments or vellum.
 Passbooks or cards connected with any society.
 Patterns (manufacturers' or trade mark and prices may accompany them).
 Pay-sheets.
 Photographs (not on glass, except in cases of leather or other strong material).
 Pictures.
 Placards.
 Plans.
 Policies of insurance.
 Powers of attorney.
 Prices current, printed (prices of articles included therein may be filled in in writing).
 Printed matter.
 Printer's proofs.
 Prints.
 Prospectuses, printed.
 Queen bees, &c. (see definition next page).
 Receipts (see Accounts).
 Recognizances.
 Reports (printed) of societies or public companies.
 Returns or periodical statements on Government Service, if so indorsed on the cover.
 Samples (manufacturers' or trade mark and price may accompany them).
 Scrip.
 Seeds.
 Specifications.
 Stock-sheets.
 Valentines (printed).
 Way-bills.
 Wedding-cake (securely packed).
 Other articles similar to above can also be forwarded as packets.

Book and Packet Regulations.

All packets containing bank-notes, coin, jewelry, or articles of high value, must be registered, or they will be officially registered, and charged double registration fee on delivery.

None of the articles mentioned in the above list will be forwarded as packets beyond the limits of the Colony, if the law or postal regulations of the Colony or Country to which they may be addressed prohibit their reception into such Colony or Country as packets.

If any articles, which can only be sent if paid as letters, are posted bearing the packet rate of postage they will be treated as insufficiently-paid letters, and no packet must contain anything of an epistolary character, except as herein provided for.

Officers of the post office may examine the contents of any package for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are in accordance with these regulations, but such officers must securely refasten any packet so opened.

Books and packets may be sent through the post without a cover (but not fastened with anything adhesive such as gum, sealing-wax, &c.), or in a cover entirely open at one end or side, or with the flap left unsealed, or fastened with a binder; if the cover be slit the opening must be to the full extent of the end or side, and the contents must be easy of withdrawal. For the greater security of contents the packets may be tied with string, but in such cases postal officials are authorised to cut or untie the string, but if they do so they must securely tie up the packets. Officers will however, if possible, satisfy themselves as to contents without withdrawing them.

Samples of seeds, drugs, &c., which cannot be sent as open packets, may be enclosed in bags or boxes (fastened so as to be easily undone and refastened) except where disallowed by the regulations of the foreign countries.

[Note.—If the above conditions be not complied with the packets will be regarded as insufficiently paid letters and charged accordingly.]

Postal officials may refuse to receive any packet exceeding 16 ozs. in weight.

No packet to exceed 2 feet in length, 1 foot in depth or breadth, or, if in a roll, 2 ft. 6 in. in length, or to be of inconvenient form.

Rules regarding dimensions of packets not to apply to packets "On Her Majesty's Service."

Books may have on the title page complimentary or such like remarks, as per regulation in the case of Christmas, Easter, and New Year cards, and passages in a book to which it is desired to call attention may be marked with a single stroke.

When owing to a great influx of books and packets the transmission or delivery of letters would be delayed if the whole mail were dealt with without distinction, books and packets may be kept back till the next despatch or delivery.

Prints, maps, &c., may be either printed, *written*, engraved, lithographed, or plain, or a mixture of them.

All legitimate binding, mounting, or covering of a book, &c., or of a portion thereof is allowed, whether such binding, &c., be loose or attached, as also rollers in case of prints or maps. Markers, whether of paper or otherwise, in the case of books, or whatever is necessary for the safe transmission of such articles, or usually appertains thereto.

Articles liable to injury by stamping or being pressed in mail-bags, should not be sent through the post, unless securely packed.

Articles not allowed to be sent as Packets.

Gold or silver money, jewels, or precious articles, or anything liable to Customs duty, addressed to any country in the Postal Union, except the United Kingdom, unless specially permitted by the regulations of such country, in which cases they may be forwarded if paid letter rate and registered.

Glass, and perishable substances such as game, fish, flesh, fruit, vegetables, &c.

Anything liable to injure the person of any officer of the post office or the contents of a mail.

Photographs on glass, when not in strong cases.

Anything sealed or fastened against inspection.

Packets bearing on the outside or containing any profane, obscene, or libellous address, signature, picture, or thing.

Packets posted in fraud or violation of the Postal or Customs laws.

Transmission of Queen Bees, &c., by Post.

Queen bees, and live but harmless entomological specimens, will be transmitted by post to any place in South Australia, and to any country or colony where allowed by local regulations.

All live specimens must be secured in strong, safe, and properly ventilated boxes or cages of wood or metal. Specimens enclosed in cardbox or other fragile material will not be forwarded.

Size of box or cage not to exceed 12in. x 6in. x 4in. Each box or cage to bear a label, securely attached, giving name and address of sender and particulars of contents.

Boxes, &c., posted in violation of these conditions, or *addressed beyond the colony*, except where allowed by local regulations, or containing poisonous or dangerous live specimens, or improperly or insecurely packed, will not be transmitted.

Article 12.

The despatching Colony shall pay to the forwarding Colony whatever sums may be payable to masters of vessels under the regulations of the forwarding Colony on any correspondence to be sent on to another Colony or country by sea; it being understood that these rates shall not apply to correspondence conveyed by mail vessels under contract with any Australasian Colony or Colonies.

Article 13.

Each mail despatched from one Colony to another shall be accompanied by a letter-bill, on which shall be stated the contents of the mail, and if registered correspondence be enclosed the same shall be plainly stated. If correspondence to be forwarded on to destination by sea be sent in closed transit mails, the total number of letters and packets for each office of destination shall be stated in black ink on the labels of the bags.

Article 14.

The receipt of a mail at the office of exchange in one Colony from that of another shall be acknowledged by return mail on the prescribed form, in which shall be pointed out any discrepancies which may occur.

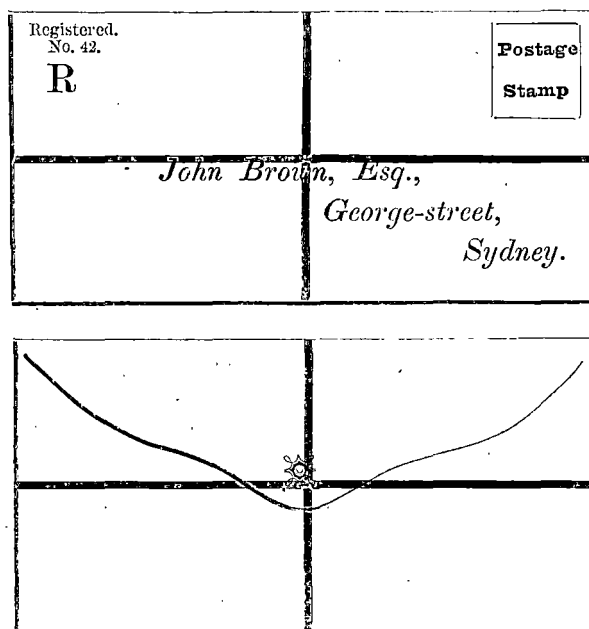
Article 15.

The cost of special trains employed to convey mails through any Colony shall be borne by the Colonies for which such mails are intended, according to and on the basis of the respective estimated populations each year of those Colonies; and the Colony furnishing the special train shall credit such Colonies with the transit rates due by the respective offices of origin for the conveyance of such correspondence through its territory in the same proportion as the cost of employing the special trains is borne by the respective Colonies of destination.

Article 16.

Registered articles must bear the impression of a stamp reproducing conspicuously the capital letter R in Roman type, such impression to be placed on the address side of the letter or packet. By each mail containing registered correspondence shall be forwarded a registered letter-list, on which shall be entered the following particulars respecting every such articles, viz.:—The name of the office of origin, the name of the addressee, and number given to the article by office of origin.

In order that registered letters, packets, &c., may be readily distinguished from those unregistered, each registered letter or packet shall be marked with *red or blue pencil* (in imitation of tape) in the following manner:—



Article 17.

Registered articles shall be made up in a separate packet from ordinary correspondence, and shall be suitably enclosed and sealed so as to preserve the contents. The post departments of the respective Colonies undertake no liability with respect to any correspondence, registered or otherwise, which may be lost in transmission.

Article 18.

Articles containing money or other valuable enclosures must be registered, except those containing money orders, postal notes, crossed cheques, or non-negotiable enclosures; and where articles supposed to contain money, &c. are observed passing through the post unregistered, the same shall be officially registered, and the addressee shall be subjected to a charge equal to double the ordinary registration fee upon delivery of such article.

Article 19.

When an acknowledgment of receipt of a registered article is required from the addressee in another Colony, the Post Office of such Colony will obtain the necessary acknowledgment duly filled up and transmit it to the Post Office of the Colony in which the sender resides.

Article 20.

No supplementary postage is charged for the re-direction of letters or packets from one Colony to another.

Article 21.

Intercolonial Parcel Post.

The following are the Regulations under which parcels will be accepted from the public:—

1. Limit of weight—11 lb., except where otherwise stated in Table B of Postal Guides of the several Colonies.
2. Limit of size—3 ft. 6 in. in length, or 6 ft. in length and girth combined, unless otherwise specified in Table B.
3. The postage must be fully prepaid by stamps affixed to the parcels.
4. Parcels to be received at and delivered from parcel post offices only.
5. The sender of any parcel to be required to sign a declaration, on a form provided for the purpose (to be obtained free of charge at any parcel post office), furnishing an accurate statement of its contents and the value thereof, address of the addressee, as well as the sender's signature and place of abode.
6. Parcels with regard to which a false declaration shall have been made may be confiscated.
7. A certificate of posting may be obtained, if desired and applied for at the time, by the person posting a parcel, on payment of a fee of 3d.
8. No parcels will be received or delivered which contain articles of an explosive, combustible, dangerous, or offensive character, or articles likely to injure other parcels, or live animals, or articles the admission of which is not authorised by the Customs or other Laws and Regulations of the countries to which such articles may be addressed. All prohibited articles may be forthwith confiscated.
9. No parcel may contain any letter or communication of the nature of a letter; and should any letter or communication be enclosed, such letter or communication will be treated as an unpaid letter, and charged for accordingly.
10. No parcel may consist of or contain two or more parcels addressed to different persons at different addresses. If such parcel be discovered each of its contents will be treated as a separate parcel and be charged for accordingly.
11. In the case of parcels from the United Kingdom, or any other country or colony, their contents will be examined by the Customs officers employed in the post office; and where duties are payable, the same must be paid or remitted before the parcels are delivered.

12. The necessary Customs entries will be passed free of cost to the addressees of parcels received.

13. **MODE OF DELIVERY.**—Parcels will be delivered, in accordance with the Inland Parcel Post Regulations of the several Colonies, as addressed, in the suburbs, and certain of the larger towns in the Colony where letter carriers are employed. In special cases, when the ordinary duties of the letter-carriers will prevent the prompt delivery of a parcel, notice will be given to addressee, who will have the option of taking immediate delivery from the office, or of allowing the parcel to remain until business will admit of its delivery. Where there are no letter-carriers employed, delivery must be taken at the post-office. In all cases senders should advise addressee by post of despatch of parcels, so as to ensure prompt delivery.

14. In the event of any parcel being addressed to a place beyond the limits for the transmission of parcels, the addressee, on being advised of the arrival of the parcel at the General Post Office, must state to what parcel post-office he wishes the parcel to be forwarded.

15. Parcels will be retained at the post-office to which they are sent for delivery for a period of three months, when, if unclaimed, they may be returned to the sender through the Colony or country from which they were received, subject to surcharge specified in clause 16. Should any parcel be refused by the addressee, it may be forthwith returned to the sender, subject, however, to fresh postage and any other charges to which it may become liable.

16. Parcels addressed to a post-office "to be called for," after they have remained in the office seven clear days (excluding Sundays and holidays) shall be charged demurrage at the rate of 1*d.* a day. No demurrage, however, shall be charged on parcels addressed to persons on vessels to arrive.

17. If a parcel cannot be delivered from any cause, the sender will, if possible, be consulted as to its disposal.

18. Parcels returned to another country at the request of the sender will be surcharged with the ordinary parcel postage. Such surcharge, together with any other charges to which the parcel has become liable, will be collected on delivery, unless remitted by the sender or the addressee of the parcel.

19. At the written request of either the sender or addressee, or the authorised agent of either, a parcel can be redirected to another country with which arrangements have been made for the exchange of postal parcels, but will be subject to fresh postage, and any other charges to which it may have become liable, which must be either prepaid or collected on delivery.

20. Parcels which cannot be delivered, or redirected, or returned to the sender, will be sent back to the country from whence they came.

21. The contents of parcels returned to the Colony being unclaimed or undeliverable, which cannot be returned to the sender, will be sold or destroyed by the order of the Postmaster-General.

22. The contents of parcels should be securely packed and closed in such a manner as to preserve them from injury.

23. Parcels will only be received and forwarded at the risk of the owners. In no case will the Postmaster-General be responsible for the delay, non-delivery, injury, or loss of any parcel.

24. Parcels may be insured against loss at the following rates :—6*d.* for the first £5, and 6*d.* for every additional £5. The limit intercolonially to be £20, and the limit for Great Britain and Foreign Countries to be £50.

25. No current coin or bullion shall be allowed to be sent by parcel post.

Article 22.

The commission chargeable on Money Orders exchanged intercolonially to be as follows :—

		s.	d.
Not exceeding	£2	0	6
"	" 5	1	0
"	" 7	1	6
"	" 10	2	0
"	" 12	2	6
"	" 15	3	0
"	" 17	3	6
"	" 20	4	0

Article 23.

Where one person has occasion to send more than one telegraphic Money Order to the same person he shall only be charged for one message of advice.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC CONFERENCE, HOBART, 1892.

PAPERS LAID BEFORE THE CONFERENCE, AND ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

1. List of Subjects proposed for consideration, by the Honorable B. S. Bird.
 2. Return showing the Intercolonial Telegraph Traffic during the Ten Months ending February 29th, 1892, compared with the corresponding period in 1889-90 and 1890-91, by the Honorable Wm. Copley.
 3. Report of the Heads of Departments present on questions of detail, by Mr. R. Henry.
 4. Copy of a Circular Despatch from the Secretary of State, Lord Knutsford, addressed to the Governors of Colonies not under Responsible Government, on the subject of the reduced Postal Rate for Letters, and the suggested introduction of a Uniform Tariff for other Mail matter, by the Honorable B. S. Bird.
 5. Correspondence between the Governments of Queensland and New South Wales referring to the Pacific Cable Route, by the Honorable T. Unmack.
 6. Return showing Interruptions on the Port Darwin Line during the years 1890-91, by the Honorable William Copley.
 7. Letter from the Consul-General of France referring to the adhesion of the Australian Colonies to the Anglo-French Convention of 1890, by the Honorable J. Gavan Duffy.
 8. Letter from Mr. George Withers, Superintendent of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, on the question of mail steamers not being allowed to land cargo or do work at Adelaide on Sundays, by the Honorable J. Gavan Duffy.
 9. Particulars as to the New South Wales Telegraph Service, 1891.
 10. Particulars as to the Queensland Telegraph Service, 1891.
 11. Particulars as to the Tasmanian Telegraph Service, 1891.
 12. Particulars as to the South Australian Telegraph Service, 1891.
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PAPERS TABLED BUT NOT ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

1. "An Act to amend 'The Post Office Act, 1876,'" passed by the Parliament of South Australia, by the Honorable Wm. Copley.
 2. "An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Posts and Telegraphs," passed by the Parliament of Queensland, by the Honorable T. Unmack.
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MEMORANDUM of Subjects proposed to be discussed at the Postal and Telegraph Conference at Hobart, March, 1892.

POSTAL.

1. Free Postage of Newspapers from New South Wales to the other Australian Colonies.
2. Limitation of weight of Samples and Patterns. Increase from 250 grammes to 350.
3. Communication with Berne Bureau to be carried on by one Colony. Settlement of Accounts by Berne.
4. Transmission through the Post of Articles liable to Customs Duty.
5. Withdrawal or re-direction by the Sender of Correspondence once posted.
6. Proposal of Great Britain to assimilate Australian Postage Rates (Foreign) to those adopted for the United Kingdom from 1 January, 1892.
7. Uniform classification of Correspondence, Inland as well as Foreign, on lines of Postal Union.
8. Uniformity of practice as regards responsibility on account of Registered Articles.
9. Minimum Charge for Parcels. Adoption generally of the Single 1 lb. Rate, in lieu of the 2 lb. rate, as the first charge.
10. Reduction of Intercolonial Rate on "Printed Papers" to 1d. per 4 ozs. (or to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 2 ozs.)
11. Uniformity of practice in dealing with Surtaxed Letters. To adopt Postal Union practice.
12. Consideration of Article 7 (New) of Vienna Convention relative to Registered Correspondence despatched "*grevée de remboursement*."
13. Intercolonial Postal Convention, still in abeyance, to be revised with a view to conformity, where advisable, with the Universal Postal Union, which the Colonies have since entered.
14. Australian Territorial Transit Rates for conveyance of Mails, and mode of settlement with Foreign Countries under Postal Union régime.
15. Application of such Rates to Intercolonial Mails.
16. Consolidation of Postal and Telegraph Acts with view to uniformity.
17. Express Service.
18. Statistics.
19. Re-direction Charge; also Charge for return of Dead Letters.
20. Late Fees.
21. Postal Notes, Currency, &c.
22. Unclaimed Letters; Dead Letter List.
23. Newspapers, sending unpaid; Intercolonial; arrangements with Railway Authorities. Postage on (Tasmania); Registration, &c.
24. Parcels Post. Insurance, Compensation, Transit Rates by Rail and Sea.
25. Acknowledgment of Receipt of Registered Letters.
26. Post Cards, Reply, &c.
27. Special Trains, France and Italy.
28. Money Orders, allowance in account.
29. Return of Special Request Letters; Taxing and Collection of Postage for Re-direction.
30. Universal Stamps for Colonies.
31. Surcharge Rate on Postal Notes.
32. Through-Train from Sydney to Melbourne and from Melbourne to Sydney on Sunday.
33. Question of Mail Steamer not being allowed to land Cargo or do work at Adelaide on Sunday.

TELEGRAPH.

1. Uniform Telegraph Code.
 2. Telegraph Money Orders.
 3. Multiple Messages in connection with Press Associations.
 4. Pacific Cable Route.
 5. Zone Hour System.
 6. Cable Subsidy for reduced Rates, Queensland and New Zealand.
 7. Electric Light and Power. Laws and Regulations especially in relation to Telegraph and Telephone Wires, and to secure immunity from accident.
 8. Intercolonial Telegraph Rates.
 9. Telephone System, including Rates, Regulations, Collection of Rentals, &c.
 10. Underground Wires.
 11. What Telegraph Lines should be regarded as International.
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RETURN showing the International Telegraphic Traffic during the Ten Months ending February 29th, 1892, compared with the corresponding period in 1889-90 and 1890-91.

Handed in by the Hon. W. Copley, Minister of Agriculture and Education, representing South Australia.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH TRAFFIC.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT showing the increase of business since the Reduced Rates came into operation, from the 1st May, 1891.

TOTAL NUMBER OF MESSAGES.

	1889.	1890.	1891.
May	4882	5590	6749
June	4852	5481	6556
July	5277	5347	7018
August	5155	5526	6941
September	4989	5483	6855
October	5886	5926	7543
November	6065	5975	7235
December	5513	6110	7101
			1892.
January	5468	5758	7892
February	4798	5047	7050
Total.....	52,885	56,243	70,940

Increase on 1889 traffic of 34 per cent. ; increase on 1890 traffic of 26 per cent.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF MESSAGES (TO AND FROM EACH COLONY) DURING THE ABOVE TEN MONTHS OF 1889, 1890, AND 1891.

	1889.	1890.	1891.
South Australia	6950	8682	10,071
Victoria.....	18,188	18,821	26,118
Tasmania	667	730	1294
New South Wales	15,221	15,596	24,078
New Zealand	6901	7202	4961
Queensland	3934	4006	2163
Western Australia	1024	1206	2255
Total.....	52,885	56,243	70,940

TOTAL NUMBER OF WORDS.

	1889.	1890.	1891.
May	67,319	70,057	95,438
June	62,930	67,840	95,390
July	63,915	71,630	101,783
August	62,563	69,004	102,371
September	60,295	68,555	103,356
October	73,928	73,213	112,948
November	79,334	72,525	105,546
December.....	65,846	69,703	105,684
			1892.
January	68,628	66,994	113,144
February	61,926	65,082	104,416
Total.....	666,684	694,603	1,040,076

Increase on 1889 traffic of 56 per cent. ; increase on 1890 traffic of 49 per cent.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF WORDS (TO AND FROM EACH COLONY) DURING THE ABOVE TEN MONTHS OF 1889, 1890, AND 1891.

	1889.	1890.	1891.
South Australia	123,574	149,762	211,950
Victoria	248,542	248,687	428,242
Tasmania	6058	6576	11,874
New South Wales	161,385	165,388	306,924
New Zealand.....	73,936	69,943	39,518
Queensland	45,357	44,369	17,547
Western Australia	7832	9878	24,021
Total	666,684	694,603	1,040,076

GROSS RECEIPTS.

	1889.	1890.	1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
May	26,396 11 7	27,747 10 9	20,586 8 7
June	25,556 11 2	26,952 6 1	20,037 17 2
July	26,418 4 1	28,015 11 2	20,516 9 10
August	25,992 13 0	27,477 19 9	21,158 6 4
September.....	25,185 18 1	26,867 2 10	21,112 13 7
October.....	31,423 12 3	30,229 8 2	23,067 5 1
November.....	32,497 19 10	29,876 8 6	21,397 11 8
December	27,603 5 11	28,842 8 3	21,206 14 2
January.....	27,329 14 10	27,792 13 0	23,077 16 4
February	24,739 9 6	25,729 7 3	20,784 12 7
Total.....	£273,144 0 3	£279,530 15 9	£212,945 15 4

Decrease on 1889 traffic of 22 per cent.; decrease on 1890 traffic of 23 per cent.

SHOWING THE TOTAL RECEIPTS (TO AND FROM EACH COLONY) DURING THE ABOVE TEN MONTHS OF 1889, 1890, AND 1891.

	1889.	1890.	1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
South Australia	33,164 2 6	40,408 1 11	29,079 15 3
Victoria	101,834 12 6	100,152 7 3	84,487 1 9
Tasmania	3015 7 10	3020 16 9	2753 10 7
New South Wales	71,523 19 7	74,716 0 3	63,920 4 1
New Zealand.....	39,197 19 11	36,916 14 0	20,371 8 4
Queensland	21,149 1 6	20,116 12 6	7618 18 6
Western Australia	3258 16 5	4200 3 1	4714 16 10
Total	£273,144 0 3	£279,530 15 9	£212,945 15 4

AUSTRALIAN GUARANTEE FUND.

Amount to be guaranteed the E.E.A.C.T. Co., being the Revenue in 1889, viz., £237,736.

Should the total value of traffic due to the Company for twelve months not equal this, the Company will bear one half the loss, the Colonies the other half. The total amount due to the Company is as follows, for—

1891.	£ s. d.	1891.	£ s. d.
May	14,450 7 9½	November	15,262 17 8
June.....	14,291 19 3	December	15,097 18 9½
July	14,612 6 1	1892.	
August.....	14,986 18 0½	January	16,351 4 11
September	14,981 14 2	February	14,899 14 10
October	16,456 18 2½	Total	£151,391 19 9

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REVENUE.

Revenue to be guaranteed South Australia by the contributing colonies for the reduction of rates over the Port Darwin line, taking revenue in 1889, is viz., £37,551 19s. 9d.

The total amount since the reduction of rates is as follows—

1891.	£ s. d.	1891.	£ s. d.
May	2127 8 9	November.....	2234 2 0
June.....	2106 13 2	December.....	2187 13 0
July	2179 15 8	1892.	
August.....	2187 10 4	January	2424 14 8
September	2235 18 10	February	2178 0 1
October.....	2408 16 3	Total	£22,270 12 9

CHARLES TODD, Postmaster-General and Supt. of Telegraphs.

General Post Office, Adelaide, March 7th, 1892.

COPY of a Circular Despatch from the Secretary of State, Lord Knutsford, addressed to the Governors of Colonies not under Responsible Government, on the subject of the reduced Postal Rate for Letters, and the suggested introduction of a Uniform Tariff for other Mail Matter.

CIRCULAR.

Downing-street, 21st January, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Government, a copy of a Circular despatch which I have addressed to the Governors of Colonies not under Responsible Government, on the subject of the reduced Postal Rate for letters, and the suggested introduction of a uniform tariff for other mail matter.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

KNUTSFORD.

The Officer Administering the Government of Tasmania.

CIRCULAR.

Downing-street, 21st January, 1892.

SIR,

WITH reference to my Circular despatch of the 28th May, 1890, I have the honor to transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter from the General Post Office, setting forth the views and proposals of the Postmaster-General with regard to the Postal rates to be charged on letters, newspapers, &c., sent from the United Kingdom to places abroad, and from the various British Colonies to places outside those Colonies.

It will be observed that there is no longer any objection to extending the reduced letter rate of $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ the half ounce to letters from the British Colonies to places outside those Colonies, whatever their destination, instead of confining it to letters for this country; and that the Postmaster-General suggests the adoption of the general uniform tariff for letters and other mail matter set forth in paragraph 4 of the enclosed letter.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

KNUTSFORD.

The Officer Administering the Government of
Tasmania.

POST OFFICE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

No. 417 R.

General Post Office, London, 30th November, 1891.

SIR,

With reference to previous correspondence, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to request that you will be so good as to lay before the Secretary of State the following statement of the present views of this Department in regard to the rates of postage to be charged upon letters, newspapers, &c., sent hence to places abroad, and also on those sent from the various British Colonies to places beyond such Colonies. It is, of course, as affecting the various parts of Her Majesty's Dominions beyond sea that this question will chiefly concern the Secretary of State for the Colonies; and I am to state at the outset that, in Sir James Ferguson's opinion, the case of those who have advocated in Parliament and elsewhere lower rates to the British Colonies than to other places beyond sea has not by any means been made out.

2. While fully alive to the somewhat restrictive character of the comparatively high rates of postage which were payable on letters, &c., for India, Australia, and other parts of the Empire before the 1st of January, 1891, Sir James Fergusson sees reasons for thinking that a universal rate of $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ the $\frac{1}{2}oz.$ for letters is sufficiently moderate to meet all reasonable demands for the present. It is the rate fixed by the Universal Postal Union for international letters; and, seeing that the Postal Union itself does not and cannot spread over greater distances by sea than the various parts of the British Empire, what is reasonable for the one must be reasonable for the other.

3. Sir James Fergusson desires not to oppose himself to the judgment of the Postal Administrators of the whole world; and he is aware that in some foreign countries and British Colonies the inland or intercolonial letter rates are still too high to admit of further reduction of the general rate to distant places; but he is of opinion that Her Majesty's Government might well accept, eventually, and even advocate, a universal rate of $2d.$ for letters as simpler than a $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate, whenever the rest of the Postal Union might be prepared for such a rate.

4. A moderate and absolutely uniform postal tariff for the whole world outside the United Kingdom has much to recommend it; and the tariff which the Postmaster-General is at present endeavouring, with the consent of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, to generalize is as follows:—

For letters, $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

For postcards, $1d.$ each.

For reply postcards, $2d.$ each.

For newspapers, books, printed papers, commercial papers, patterns and samples, $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per 2 oz., with the Postal Union proviso of a minimum payment of $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ for a packet of commercial papers, and of $1d.$ for a packet of patterns or samples.

Fee for registration of any of the above-named articles, $2d.$

Fee for an acknowledgment of the delivery of a registered article, $2\frac{1}{2}d.$

5. The time has come when there is not only no objection to the adoption of a similar uniform tariff in any British Colony for all outside destinations, but when the Imperial Post Office would view with satisfaction the establishment of such a tariff in any Colony.

6. Taking the items of the tariff *seriatim*, I am to state, for Lord Knutsford's information, that the reduced letter rate of $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. established throughout the greater part of the Empire in January, 1891, has, since the 1st of October, 1891, been applicable to all destinations outside this country except the places in the interior of Africa served by way of the Cape Colony and Natal. With the view of removing certain obstacles to the application of the new tariff to those places in the interior, the Postmaster-General is already in communication with the Post Offices of the Cape and Natal. Should those Colonies join the Postal Union, in pursuance of the invitation which they have under consideration, the matter would be virtually settled, as the interior states would have no interest in remaining outside the Union, and their entry with the Colonies would remove the obstacles referred to.

7. As regards postcards, the general rate of $1d.$ each was adopted on the 1st of October for all destinations to which postcards are transmissible, including the Cape and Natal; but, in order to generalize completely this item of the tariff, it is necessary to make postcards available for all destinations, and there are some parts of Her Majesty's Dominions to which postcards cannot yet be sent. The places in question are the Colonies and Protectorates not included in the Postal Union (with the exception of the Cape Colony and Natal).

8. Sir James Fergusson would feel no hesitation in seeking the sanction of the Treasury to make postcards available to all such places and all other places abroad, and he would willingly cause to be delivered in this country, as fully prepaid, penny postcards emanating from any part of Her Majesty's dominions, even though not in the Postal Union.

9. The extension of the reply postcard system to all destinations is less easy, because this is an essential part of the Union system, under which every country keeps its own postage collections and provides or pays for the conveyance of its own outward mails, and it is assumed that the loss and gain are reciprocal.

10. Here, however, the financial issues are so trifling that, if the consent of the Cape, Natal, St. Helena and the States in the interior of Africa were obtained, no difficulty should arise elsewhere; but an announcement of the readiness of this Department to return free the reply halves of any such cards received from Colonies or Protectorates outside the Union, should suffice to secure the free return of the reply halves of such reply cards as might be sent hence to these outlying places. The number would be excessively small in either direction.

11. There is no financial issue involved that could be of the least significance to any Colony, as regards either single postcards or reply postcards. The experience of this Department shows that, even in large relations, the effect of postcards on letter revenue is so trifling as to be most difficult to track and estimate, while, in such small relations as those chiefly in question at present, the effect on letter revenue may safely be placed at zero.

12. As regards newspapers, books, printed papers, commercial papers, patterns and samples, Sir James Fergusson has obtained the consent of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to apply the proposed uniform scale to all destinations abroad from the 1st of January, 1892; and this will be done. It is probable that many of the Colonies will wish to follow the same course; and it is highly desirable if they do so, they should adopt it in its integrity this the Union scale of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per 2 ounces for all these classes of articles, with the proviso that no packet of patterns or samples shall be chargeable with a less postage than $1d.$, and no packet of commercial papers (that is, papers other than letters, which are wholly or partly in manuscript) with a less postage than $2\frac{1}{2}d.$

13. The Postmaster-General does not desire to press the reduction of postage upon any Colony unprepared for it, but he has reason to believe that, in their relations with the Mother Country, most of the Colonies will wish to adopt the new tariff. As regards their relations with each other and with other parts of the world, I am to point out that, on the 1st of July, 1892, when the Vienna Convention comes into operation, British Colonies belonging to the Union will be enabled under Article XVII. to send correspondence to places outside the Union without incurring the high transit expenses which have in some cases been an obstacle to the general reduction of postage rates. By the Article in question, the payment for the sea conveyance of correspondence from a Union Country to a Non-Union Country is fixed instead of variable, and fixed at the moderate rate of 20 francs a kilogramme for letters and postcards and 1 franc a kilogramme for other articles. The payment of these transit rates would invariably leave a balance of postage under the tariff which is the subject of the present letter.

14. Sir James Fergusson would be much obliged if, in the event of Lord Knutsford's concurring in the views expressed above, his Lordship would communicate to the Governments of the several Colonies, both in the Union and outside it, the details of the tariff which this Department is generalizing as far as possible.

15. In the meantime, there are reasons which make it highly desirable that the new tariff should be applied here as widely as practicable from the 1st of January next. Sir James Fergusson attaches

importance to the institution of penny postcards transmissible everywhere ; because he thinks Her Majesty's Government would be in a strong position if, while resisting further attacks on postal revenue, by insisting upon the advantages of a moderate uniform tariff, they were able also to point to the penny postcard as realizing the idea of "Ocean Penny Postage" or "Imperial Penny Postage" within the limits of what is reasonable.

16. Sir James Fergusson would therefore be glad to learn that, so far as St. Helena and all the outlying places under the British Flag are concerned, Lord Knutsford saw no objection to the immediate adoption of the postcard system here, under a simple notification from this Department to the various Post Offices concerned that such cards would be sent, if posted, and that similar cards would have currency here if issued by the Colonies or Protectorates.

17. In view of what has been stated above as to the small importance of the question from a financial point of view, Sir James Fergusson scarcely doubts that this proposal will commend itself to Lord Knutsford.

18. So far as the places in the interior of Africa are concerned, it will be necessary to await the result of the correspondence which has been opened with the Cape and Natal Post Offices.

I have only to add that the present letter had already been prepared when your letter of the 23rd inst. reached this Department.

I am, &c.

S. A. BLACKWOOD.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

CORRESPONDENCE between the Governments of Queensland and New South
Wales referring to the Pacific Cable Route.

“Grasham Hotel,” Brisbane, 19th February, 1892.

SIR,

REFERRING to our conversation of yesterday on the subject of a Submarine Cable to start from the shores of Queensland, in the Pacific Ocean, to couple up New Caledonia as the first section of the main Pacific Cable that Queensland and Canada are so anxious to have completed, I have the honor to inform you that, after many years' negotiations, I have completed an agreement and found the money (provided a small guarantee of interest can be obtained) to at once make and lay this Cable in the Pacific Ocean.

In compliance with an understanding that I had with you when I visited Queensland in May last year, I saw the Government of New South Wales as I passed through Sydney, and had several interviews with the Prime Minister; and after he had carefully considered the matter, and placed the proposal before his Cabinet, it was decided by them to adopt it, subject to details being arranged with you.

The Prime Minister then telegraphed to your Government about as follows, or words to the same effect, (I have not a copy of the telegram by me)—“Have seen Audley Coote. We are favourable to his proposal, having in view through Cable to England. Coote is on his way to Brisbane to-morrow.”

Please let me now inform you that I have the necessary Power of Attorney authorising me to enter into and complete a binding contract with your Government for the making, laying, working, and maintaining at our own cost a Submarine Telegraph Cable to connect Queensland with New Caledonia, on the following terms, which please let me now quite clearly explain.

It is found to be absolutely necessary that a guarantee of £12,000 a year must be secured to satisfy our bondholders; and as the Government of France are the most interested for the time being, that Government have agreed to give their guarantee of £8000 a year for 30 years; so that now all I have to ask from you is that your Government will join with the Government of New South Wales and give a guarantee of interest of £2000 a year each for a similar term, for which I propose that Queensland and New South Wales shall receive the following concession in return, viz.:—For the whole term of the guarantee the Government of Queensland and the Government of New South Wales shall have the free use of this first section of the Cable (for their own Government messages) up to the extent of their guarantee in each year.

Your Government will also receive in the usual way of business 1*d.* (one penny) per word for all messages passing over your land lines in connection with this cable.

Besides the above, and as soon as the Main Pacific Cable is laid, the guarantee that I now ask shall be re-arranged, and come into and be a part of any joint-purse guarantee given by the other Colonies joining in a guarantee for the Main Pacific Cable.

Of course we undertake to keep the Cable in working order, and if it should become silent and remain so for twenty-one days, then the guarantee shall cease until the cable is in working order again.

The working expenses of the Cable shall not exceed in any one year the sum of £2400, it being understood that the working expenses shall be a first charge against the receipts from messages going over the cable; all the receipts over and above the working expenses are to go towards the annual reduction of the guarantee of £12,000—to be shared at the rate of one-sixth for the Government of Queensland, one-sixth for the Government of New South Wales, and two-thirds for the Government of France.

Will you now please permit me to add that, having for many years this Cable in view, and knowing how anxious Queensland has been to secure this route, I arranged with the Government of Hawaii to pass a special Act of Parliament in my favour, in which they give as their share towards their first section of the cable a subsidy of £5000 a year for 15 years, if extended to Hawaii.

I also arranged with the King of Samoa for the exclusive right, in my own favour, for laying Cables into and out of that Archipelago for 21 years from the time the cables are first landed.

I find the business that is likely to be done over this Cable in a few years will far and away more than cover the guarantee. If these conclusions be correct, and I have gone carefully into the business that is likely to result, permit me to say that a guarantee of interest is only just and equitable, and on the lines of sound public policy for the Governments of the two great Colonies of Queensland and New South Wales to extend a helping hand to this Corporation, who are willing to undertake a work of this magnitude and importance. Although it is, as I have already said, confidently expected that the cable will in a few years yield a fair revenue, still it is not expected the income in the first three or four years will be sufficient to warrant its being laid without Government aid.

As one instance of this, the Colony of Tasmania gave her guarantee of £4200 a year, that is running 40 years, for their short Cable to connect them with Australia, but that cable is earning far and away more than the guarantee, and as a consequence the Government are not called upon to pay anything.

I enclose under cover of this letter copy of my Powers of Attorney, which I trust you will find in proper order.

I shall be glad if you will consider this at your early convenience, as I promised the Government of New South Wales to let them know the result of my negotiations with you on an early day.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

AUDLEY COOTE.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Brisbane.

"Gresham Hotel," Brisbane, 20th February, 1892.

SIR,

REFERRING to the interview I had with you yesterday afternoon, when you drew my attention to the question of time that the Cable should be laid and communication established between Queensland and New Caledonia.

To guide us in this matter, I have since referred to the Tasmanian Government contract with their Cable Company, and I find the Cable Company undertook to manufacture, and within fifteen months from date of agreement to lay the cable (the Tasmanian cable is only 200 miles in length).

As the cable now under review will be about 900 miles in length, allowing ten per cent. for slack, I now, on behalf of the Société Française des Télégraphes Sous-marin, undertake to manufacture, and, within eighteen months from the date of agreement, to lay down a cable for establishing telegraphic communication between the shores of Queensland and New Caledonia. I feel sure you will see this is a reasonable time, although we hope to have communication established well within that time. However, I am bound to add the usual proviso, viz., if after shipping the cable the Société Française des Télégraphes Sous-marin fail to lay the same from any accident or other cause beyond their control, then the time to be further extended.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

AUDLEY COOTE.

The Hon. T. UNMACK, Postmaster-General,
Brisbane.

Post and Telegraph Department, Brisbane, 30th February, 1892.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Postmaster-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 19th and 20th instant, on the subject of a Submarine Cable from Queensland to New Caledonia as a first section of a main Pacific Cable to connect Queensland with Vancouver.

In connection therewith, Mr. Unmack desires me to ask you to be good enough to explain why the original proposal of a fifteen years' guarantee is now extended to one of thirty years? I am also to request you to be good enough to alter the proposed rate for messages passing over our land lines for the Cable as follows:—

Minimum rate per message of ten words (no charge for address and signature), One Shilling, with One Penny extra for every additional word.

Mr. Unmack would further be glad to know, as Queensland is required to guarantee a fixed amount, what would be the minimum rate for messages from Gladstone or other places in this Colony to New Caledonia exclusive or inclusive of the Queensland rate?

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN M'DONNELL, Under Secretary.

The Hon. AUDLEY COOTE, "Gresham Hotel," Brisbane.

"Gresham Hotel," Brisbane, 22nd February, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, in which you have asked me to explain several points.

First, you have been good enough to ask me to explain the reason of my altering the original proposal of a fifteen years' guarantee.

Second, you ask me to alter the proposed rates over your land lines in connection with the cable.

Thirdly, you wish me to name the minimum rate for messages from Gladstone or other places in Queensland to New Caledonia, exclusive or inclusive of the Queensland rate.

To the first question I now reply. In my letter to you of the 5th May, 1891, when asking for a guarantee of interest, I then named 15 years as the term to which the guarantee would have to extend; but, after much correspondence by letter and cable with the leading capitalists of the world interested in cables, I found the money market so altered, and investors so determined to hold out for longer terms, that it was impossible to find the money on the original basis (in fact, some of them required double the amount of guarantee for the shorter term). I then urged upon them, by special cable messages, to accept 21 years, renewable for 9 years by the Governor in Council. Even this did not satisfy them, and I then received a final telegram in reply as follows:—

"It is imperative that the guarantee should extend to 30 years to satisfy our bondholders. The Home Government have acquiesced."

Hence the reason of my being obliged to ask for an extended term.

To your second request, in regard to the proposed rates for messages passing over your land lines in connection with the cables, viz., that the minimum rate for messages of ten words (will have to read), the minimum rate for messages of ten words and under (including address and signature) will be 7s. from Queensland to New Caledonia, made up as follows:—The cable to receive 6s., Queensland 1s.; and for each additional word 7d., of which the cable will receive 6d. and Queensland 1d.

A message of ten words and under from New South Wales will be 8s., divided as above, and a shilling to New South Wales.

In regard to the third and final request contained in that letter, viz., as to the rates to be charged over the cable from your shores to New Caledonia, first, let me explain the cable rates between New South Wales and New Zealand.

The New Zealand cable is 1300 miles in length, and they have now reduced their charges to 9s. 6d. for a ten-word message and under (including address and signature) with one shilling extra for every additional word.

As the New Caledonia cable will be 900 miles in length, a fair rate to be charged over that cable will be 6s. for a ten-word message and under (including address and signature) and 6d. extra for every additional word. This will be a little over one half the rates now charged over the New Zealand cable, and I now undertake that the rates named in this paragraph shall be agreed to.

In conclusion, let me say that we shall be only too glad to reduce the charges directly the business warrants it. In fact, our aim will be to create such a business over the cable that will soon enable it to earn the guarantee.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

AUDLEY COOTE.

The Honorable T. UNMACK, Postmaster-General, Brisbane.

Post and Telegraph Department, Brisbane, 25th February, 1892.

SIR,

REFERRING to previous correspondence and to the proposals contained in your letters of the 19th and 20th instant, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you that the Government of this Colony accepts the proposition which you have made, as Attorney for the Société Française des Télégraphes Sous-marins of Paris, for the laying of a submarine cable from some point in Queensland to New Caledonia upon condition that guarantees be given to the extent of £12,000 per annum for a period of 30 years, divided as follows :—

The Government of France to guarantee £8000 per annum.

The Government of New South Wales to guarantee £2000 per annum.

The Government of Queensland to guarantee £2000 per annum.

The working expenses, not exceeding £2400 per annum, to be the first charge on the revenue from the cable, and all receipts above that amount to go towards the annual reduction of the guarantee of £12,000 in the proportion of the respective guarantees.

As soon as you advise this office of having completed similar arrangements with the New South Wales Government, the Postmaster-General will be prepared to enter into the necessary agreement with you.

Your power of attorney (in French) is returned herewith.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN M'DONALD, Under Secretary.

The Honorable AUDLEY COOTE, "Gresham Hotel," Brisbane.

Hobart, 15th March, 1892.

To the Hon. T. UNMACK, Postmaster-General of Queensland, Hobart.

SIR,

New Caledonia Cable.

REFERRING to our interview with the Honorable the Postmaster-General of New South Wales when in Sydney, and to the verbal understanding entered into at that meeting—viz., that the negotiations for the proposed Cable should be continued at Hobart, as all parties interested were leaving Sydney for that city within 24 hours,—in compliance with your desire, I have now the honor to add to my previous letters, and further assure you of our firm determination of continuing on, and to lay the cables from New Caledonia, section by section, until the northern termini in the Pacific Ocean is reached.

For this special purpose, I herewith enclose the following documents, in which will be seen that I have obtained certain concessions and privileges to enable those with whom I am associated to continue on with the cables from New Caledonia *via* the different islands in the Pacific Ocean to Vancouver.

I need not point out to you that these concessions are of a valuable nature, and that they will by themselves act as a strong incentive towards the prompt construction of the cables.

Enclosures.

- (1.) Copy of Samoan concession, giving the exclusive right to lay the cables.
- (2.) Copy of letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honolulu (W. L. Green) to myself.
- (3.) Special Act of Parliament of Hawaii authorising a subsidy of £5000 a year for their section of the cable.
- (4.) Copy of Memorandum of Association of the "Pacific Ocean Telegraph Company, Limited," now being registered in Paris, with a capital of "50 million francs," in which I am associated, and the advisory representative in Australia and the Pacific, in conjunction with the Société Française Télégraphes Sous-marin, and its own great capital.
- (5.) Copy of letter from the Prime Minister of Canada (Sir John Macdonald) to myself.
- (6.) Copies of Cable Messages to and from the Société Française Télégraphes Sous-marin and myself in plain English from our special codes (one received as late as last night), all of which are registered and bear the stamp of the Hobart, Sydney, and Brisbane Offices, in which you will see that I am authorised to inform you that the Société Française Télégraphes Sous-marin will immediately undertake the construction of the Fiji and Samoa Cables if a guarantee of interest can be obtained.

I have now the honour to inform you, that as soon as the New Caledonian Cable is finished, I undertake, on behalf of the Société Française Telegraphes Sous-marin, to immediately carry on the next section to Fiji, and upon that section being finished to the third section—viz., Samoa—and so on, until Honolulu and Vancouver are reached. Provided, that an equitable guarantee is subscribed by the Australian Colonies and other interested parties, with the understanding, as already mentioned in my previous letters, viz., that the guarantee I now ask shall be re-arranged and come into and form a part of any joint-purse guarantee for the Pacific Cable, so that the Government of Queensland and the Government of New South Wales shall stand on the same ground-floor as all other Governments and parties interested.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

AUDLEY COOTE.

(Copy.)

To all to whom these presents shall come, I, Malietoa, King of Samoa, send greeting:

Know ye, that I do hereby give and grant unto Audley Coote, Esquire, and his assigns, the several exclusive rights and privileges hereinafter mentioned, that is to say:—

1st. The exclusive right for the period of twenty-one years to lay electric cables into and out of Samoa and its Dependencies, and wherever necessary to connect the shore ends of the cables by means of land telegraphs, and to erect and to maintain those also; but this grant shall not be so construed as to infringe upon the vested rights of foreign landowners.

2nd. The right to charge for the transmission of telegraphic messages over any such land lines at rates to be determined upon by the joint concurrence of the Government of Samoa and the projectors.

3rd. If there be any land telegraphs connecting the different sides of the islands, or between the islands belonging to the Government of Samoa, the right of having all cable messages transmitted over such lines at the same price which is usually charged for local messages.

Provided always, That the grant above written is upon the express condition that the said Audley Coote, or his assigns, shall do, perform, and carry out the acts, matters, and things herein-after mentioned.

1st. Shall lay and maintain an electric cable or cables to Samoa for twenty-one years.

2nd, Shall commence the same within eighteen months from the date whenever the rights shall have been obtained for laying the same from the several Governments of Australia and America and the intervening islands.

3rd. Shall complete the same and open for public traffic within two years thereafter.

4th. Shall transmit all cable messages on behalf of any Government at ten per cent. under the usual rates.

Given under my hand and seal at Mulmūn, in Samoa, this 2nd day of May, A.D. 1884.

(Signed) MALIETOA TUPU, King of Samoa.

(Seal.)

(Copy.)

Department of Finance,
Honolulu, H.I., July 8th, 1887.

DEAR SIR,

Act of 1884 as amended by Act of 1886.

His Majesty's Government feel fully committed to the project of securing as soon as possible for Hawaii a place upon the world's telegraphic circuit, and its members pledge themselves to an earnest effort to secure the legislation necessary to enable them to contract in advance for the payment of such subsidy as the Acts above cited provide for. The satisfactory nature of your proposition, as contained in your letter of July 2nd, renders the present legal impediment doubly regrettable; but you may rest assured of the efforts of this Government to incorporate the substance of your propositions into law at the earliest Session of our Legislature, the success of which efforts we do not doubt.

With respect to your proposition to connect the islands of this group by cable as set forth in paragraphs 11 and 12 of your said letter, while they are considered by this Government as satisfactory, yet it is considered advisable to defer definite action thereon until legislation is obtained which will permit this Government effectively to contract for the advantages of a Main Ocean Cable as outlined by you.

Your proposition as to a grant of an exclusive right to land cables upon our shores is not objectionable, providing other conditions are favourable, especially the prospect of an early completion of the cable projected by you. In conclusion, I would state that the entire Cabinet would be prepared to have a contract entered into with you to-day on the terms conveyed in your letter now under reply did the different laws which have been passed allow of it, and to which I have already informed you, and which have also been explained to you at your meeting with the Members of the Cabinet this morning. They will as soon as possible draw up a form of contract with you embodying the different points and forward it to you, and further undertake to introduce a Bill at the first Session of the Legislature, to be called within ninety days, to authorise such contract.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. L. GREEN, Minister of Finance.

AUDLEY COOTE, Esq., Honolulu.

AN ACT to authorise the Hawaiian Government to contract for the Construction and Maintenance of Submarine and Electric Telegraph Cables.

BE it enacted by the King and the Legislature of the Hawaiian Kingdom :

1. The Minister of Finance, with the concurrence of the Cabinet, is hereby authorised to enter into a Contract with any person or corporation for the construction, laying, and maintaining of a Submarine Electric Cable from and between some point within the boundaries of the United States of America or elsewhere and some point upon one or more of the Islands of this Kingdom, in substance as hereinafter provided.

2. Such Contract may by its terms provide for the grant, concession, and confirmation by the Hawaiian Government to any person or corporation (hereinafter named and referred to as the constructors) of the sole and exclusive right and privilege to construct or land a Submarine Electric Telegraph Cable or Cables, which shall reach from any point upon the shores of any Island of the Hawaiian Group to any point within the boundaries of the United States of America or elsewhere for and during a period not exceeding Fifteen years from the First day of January, 1891, in the discretion of the Minister of Finance.

Provided, however, that the Minister of Finance may at any time after the first day of January, 1892, require assurances from such constructors that such cable shall be completed from some point on the North American Continent or elsewhere to some island of the Hawaiian Group not later than the first day of January, 1894, and if the said constructors, upon such request being made, shall fail to give such assurances in that behalf as shall be satisfactory to the Hawaiian Government, then the exclusive right and privilege the grant of which is hereinbefore authorized shall, at the option of the said Cabinet, at once, or at any time thereafter, lapse and become void, upon notice to that effect being given to the said constructors.

And further provided, that the concession and grant hereinbefore authorised shall not be so construed as to disable, prevent, or preclude the Hawaiian Government in its discretion from consenting to the laying or landing through its waters or upon its shores of any submarine telegraph or other electric cable or cables which, during the period of 15 years hereinbefore mentioned, shall be constructed or laid or sought to be constructed or laid or landed upon Hawaiian shores by or on behalf of any foreign government.

3. Such contract may further provide for the payment by the Hawaiian Government to said constructors of an annual subsidy not to exceed Twenty-five thousand Dollars, in legal tender of the Hawaiian Kingdom, for and during a period not to exceed fifteen years from the date of the establishment over such cable of telegraphic communication between the City of Honolulu and some point on the North American Continent or elsewhere:

Provided that such communication shall be established not later than the first day of January, 1894.

MEMORANDUM of Association of the Pacific Ocean Telegraph Company, Limited.

1. The name of the Company is "The Pacific Ocean Telegraph Company, Limited."

2. The Registered Office of the Company is situate in France.

3. The objects for which the Company is established are :—

(a) The establishing, making, maintaining, working, and using of telegraphs, telegraphic, telephonic, or other communication, as well overland as submarine, from, in, and between Australia, New Caledonia, and other islands or places in Australasia or the Pacific Ocean, British America, the United States of America, or any of them, or any section or portion of such communication, or in or between any other countries or places.

(b) To apply for, obtain, purchase, or acquire any concessions, powers, rights, subsidies, or privileges already granted or to be granted by the Legislature of Great Britain or France or any Colonial Legislature or foreign Government or other public Authority, and to undertake and fulfil the conditions or obligations of or incident to any such concessions, powers, rights, subsidies, or privileges.

- (c) To enter into, make, and fulfil any contracts or arrangements with the Home Government of France, the Imperial Government of the United Kingdom, or any Foreign or Colonial Legislature or Government, or other Public Authority, relative to the construction, acquisition, maintenance, letting, hiring, use or working of any telegraphs or other communications used or intended to be used in connection with the objects or purposes of the Company.
 - (d) To acquire, rent, or hold any lands or works in New Caledonia, the United Kingdom of Australia, the United States, British America, Islands in the Pacific, or other places aforesaid, or between any places or points forming or intended to form part or parts of any telegraphic route between those countries or any places therein, or any intermediate or other places, or any of them, or any section or portion or extension of any such telegraphic communication, and to acquire, hire, work, use, and sell or dispose of all or any inventions, patent rights, ships, plant, machinery, goods, merchandise, or other property, and to make any profitable use or disposition of the same respectively when not required for the other purposes of the Company.
 - (e) To enter into agreements and contracts upon any terms for working or using any telegraphic, telephonic, or other communications established by any Governments, companies, or persons; or for any Governments, companies, or persons working or using any such telegraphic, telephonic, or other communications established by this company; or for the interchange, collection, receipt, forwarding, and distribution of messages; or for any combination, partnership, alliance, or joint-purse traffic, working, or other arrangements with any Governments, companies, or persons.
 - (f) To sell, exchange, lease, mortgage, charge, manage, and otherwise deal with or dispose of the Company's undertaking or any part thereof, or any real or personal property of the Company of any kind whatsoever, or any share or interest therein.
 - (g) To purchase the business and property of, or to amalgamate or unite with, sell to, or buy from, or absorb or be absorbed by any company or companies having any objects, purposes, or business similar to or connected with or calculated to aid or promote any of the objects, purposes, or business of the Company.
 - (h) On the occasion of any sale or purchase to or from any Government or company, or of any union with any other company or companies, to enter into any arrangements whereby the shareholders of the selling company, or any of them, may receive in compensation, or part compensation, for the sale of their interest, securities of the purchasing Government, or securities or shares in the purchasing company.
 - (i) To register or incorporate the Company as a joint-stock company or *société anonyme* or other association, according to the Laws of any foreign or colonial State or Dominion.
 - (j) To lend, invest, and deal with the moneys of the Company not immediately required upon such terms and securities, and in such manner as may from time to time be determined.
 - (k) To raise money upon loan or otherwise for the purposes of the Company.
 - (l) Generally to do and perform all such other acts and things as may be necessary for the proper development of the business of the Company, or are or may be incidental or conducive to the attainments of the aforesaid objects, or any one or more of them.
4. The liability of the Members is limited.
5. The capital of the Company is 50,000,000 francs. The shares in the capital, whether original or increased, may be divided into different classes with any preferential, special, or qualified rights or privileges which may be assigned thereto by or in accordance with the regulations and contracts for the time being of the Company.

(Copy.)

Ottawa, Canada, 24th January, 1891.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favour of the 10th December, on the subject of the Pacific Cable. I lose no time in informing you that your communication is very gratifying.

I shall submit it to our Cabinet without delay, and write you more fully hereafter.

Believe me,

Dear Sir, to be,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN M'DONALD.

The Hon. AUDLEY COOTE, M.L.C., Hobart, Tasmania.

COPY OF CABLEGRAMS.

9th March, 1892.

Audley Coote to Société Française Telegraphes Sous-marin.

QUEENSLAND have decided to accept our offer. I am meeting with opposition in New South Wales. They are anxious to know if you will proceed promptly as possible to Fiji and Samoa after New Caledonia cable is finished? Please reply to this and my previous telegrams immediately.

14th March, 1892.

Société Française Telegraphes Sous-marin to Audley Coote.

BOARD decided pursue to end cables Fiji and Samoa with all possible despatch. We authorise you to inform the Governments that we are ready to proceed at the same time as New Caledonia Cable to Fiji, provided you can arrange with them for a guarantee. We will also couple up Hawaiian Archipelago on terms you named that Government.

Hobart, 18th March, 1892.

SIR,

REFERRING to the question of the Pacific Cable, to our several interviews on the subject, to your letters of 7th and 15th instant, and to copies of documents attached thereto, I have the honor, on behalf of the New South Wales Government, to state that we are prepared to give the guarantee of £2000 a year for a cable from Queensland to New Caledonia as the first instalment of the proposed cable across the Pacific to Vancouver, on the terms and conditions submitted by you. On my return to Sydney I will have the necessary agreement prepared by the Crown Law Officers.

I have, &c.

JOHN KIDD,

Postmaster-General of New South Wales.

The Honorable AUDLEY COOTE, M.L.C., Hobart.

RETURN showing Interruptions on the Port Darwin Line during the years
1890-91.

DATE AND TIME OF		LOCALITY.	FAULT.
Interruption.	Restoration.		
Jany. 29th, 1.15 A.M.	Jan. 30th, 6.30 A.M.	1890. Between Alice Springs and Barrow's Creek	Wire fused by lightning 70 miles from Barrow's Creek
Sept. 1st, 8 A.M.	Sept. 2nd, 9.15 A.M.	Between Peake and Charlotte Waters	Piece of wire hanging from line to iron pole caused earth
Sept. 19th, 5.45 A.M.	Sept. 19th, 11.50 A.M.	Between Strangway's Springs and Peake	Line broken by lightning near Bulldog
Dec. 6th, 6.5 A.M.	Dec. 17th, 8 A.M.	Between Daly Waters and Katherine	Man cut wire to obtain relief, was dying of thirst
Nov. 13th, 11.35 A.M.	Nov. 13th, 5.25 P.M.	1891. Between Beltana & Farina	Train pulled down quarter mile of both lines at a crossing
Dec. 24th, 3.4 A.M.	Dec. 26th, 9.30 A.M.	Between Powell's Creek and Daly Waters	Insulator broken by lightning and wire on iron pole, on Sturt's Plains
Dec. 31st, 4.45 A.M.	Dec. 31st, 4.35 P.M.	Between Barrow's Creek and Tenant's Creek	Insulator broken by lightning and wire on iron pole, 52 miles from Tenant's Creek

CHARLES TODD, Postmaster-General and
Superintendent of Telegraphs.

General Post Office, Adelaide,
March 10th, 1892.

LETTER FROM THE CONSUL-GENERAL OF FRANCE.

Consulat Général de France à Melbourne,
Melbourne, le 14 Mars, 1892.

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE,

J'APPRENDs que la dépêche officielle concernant la Convention de Poste Anglo-Française du 30 Août, 1890, que j'ai eu l'honneur d'adresser le 8 du courant à M. le Premier Ministre de Victoria, a été soumise à votre haute appréciation.

Bien que le délai fixé pour l'adhésion des Colonies Australiennes à la dite Convention soit expiré, si la Conférence de Hobart se prononçait en faveur de cette adhésion, il n'est guère probable que la question de l'expiration des délais puisse constituer un empêchement dirimant à la mise en pratique de cette décision.

D'autre part, si vous forgiez bon, Monsieur le Ministre, de recommander aux Ministres vos Collègues, délégués à Hobart, l'adoption d'une mesure conçue dans un esprit aussi équitable et aussi libéral, la question serait, à n'en point douter, résolue affirmativement par les Etats Australiens intéressés.

Permettez-moi donc, Monsieur le Ministre, de vous prier de vouloir bien vous intéresser au succès d'une mesure qui paraît de nature à éviter toute friction entre les Gouvernements du Etats Australiens et celui de la République ?

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Ministre, les assurances de ma haute considération et de mon respect.

P. MAISTRE,
Gérant du Consulat Général de France.

L'Honorable JOHN GAVAN DUFFY,
Ministre des Postes & Télégraphes en Victoria, &c.,
presentment à Hobart.

LETTER from Mr. George Withers, Superintendent of the Peninsular and Oriental
Steam Navigation Company.

Melbourne.
Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company,
25th February, 1892.

SIR,

I MUCH regret having to bring under your notice the detention to which the Company's steamers arriving at Adelaide on Sundays are now subjected. It appears that the authorities at that port have put into force a regulation prohibiting any cargo work on Sundays, in consequence of which steamers arriving there on that day are obliged to remain over till Monday. The *Victoria*, which arrived there on 31st ultimo, and the *Oceana* on 14th instant, were in this way delayed about eight and seven hours respectively.

You will, I feel sure, readily understand that detentions of this kind will prove harrassing to the Company, besides delaying the mails and causing dissatisfaction to the passengers for the other Colonies, who are anxious to get to their destination as speedily as possible; and, in view of the serious nature of the matter, I venture to ask that you will be good enough to bring it forward at the forthcoming Conference at Hobart, in order, if possible, to have the prohibition of Sunday work removed so far as the mail steamers are concerned.

I am given to understand that exception is made in favour of the mail steamers in this particular at Eastern ports.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE WITHERS, Superintendent.

The Honourable the Postmaster-General,
General Post Office, Melbourne.

TELEGRAPHIC RETURNS, NEW SOUTH WALES.

RETURN showing the extent of the Electric Telegraph Lines and the number of Stations in the Colony on the 31st December, 1891 ; also the Revenue and Expenditure of the Department for the Year 1891, as compared with similar information for 1890.

Year ending	Extent of Electric Telegraph in actual use.		Number of Stations.	Messages transmitted during the year.	Revenue.	Expenditure, exclusive of Interest on cost of construction of Lines.
	miles.	chs.				
31 Dec., 1890.....	23,598	8	628	3,592,519	£ 193,706 14 5	£ 194,324 8 1 ^a
31 Dec., 1891.....	24,780	29	674	3,578,807	198,531 8 1	211,314 5 5 ^b
	^c 1182	21	^c 46	^c 13,712	^a 4824 13 8	^a 16,989 17 4

^a Includes £13,583 4s. 10d., British Australian Cable Subsidy.
^b Ditto £13,771 5s. 3d. ditto.
^c Increase. ^d Decrease.

E. C. CRACKNELL, Superintendent.

Electric Telegraph Department,
Sydney, 10th March, 1892.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

RETURN showing the number of Telegraph Stations in New South Wales, the Revenue received for Telegrams during the Year 1891, the number and value of Foreign and Intercolonial Telegrams transmitted from New South Wales, and the places to which they were sent; also the number of Telegrams issued, and the places from whence they came.

Number of Telegraph Stations				674				Revenue received.....				£198,531 8s. 1d.															
TELEGRAMS transmitted from New South Wales.																											
No. of Telegrams	New South Wales.			Foreign.			New Zealand.			Victoria.			Tasmania.			South Australia.			West Australia.			Queensland.			TOTAL.		
	3,111,155			14,982			9523			264,601			10,168			81,423			3292			83,663			3,578,807		
	£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
Value	127,134 14 6			46,192 5 10			5469 4 2			21,224 9 8			1584 0 9			9102 9 6			763 10 1			10,892 12 11			222,363 7 5		

TELEGRAMS issued in New South Wales.									
	New South Wales.	Foreign.	New Zealand.	Victoria.	Tasmania.	South Australia.	West Australia.	Queensland.	TOTAL.
No. of Telegrams	3,111,155	11,587	7714	255,650	10,878	84,055	3944	93,616	3,578,599
Value	£ s. d. 127,134 14 6	£ s. d. 37,093 9 9	£ s. d. 5480 5 5	£ s. d. 21,943 16 7	£ s. d. 1817 3 2	£ s. d. 8661 11 4	£ s. d. 831 7 2	£ s. d. 13,589 7 8	£ s. d. 216,551 15 7

Electric Telegraph Department, Sydney, 10th March, 1892.

E. C. CRACKNELL, Superintendent.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

RETURN showing the extent of Telegraph Lines in the Colony during the Year 1891; also Lines in progress, &c.

COLONY.	Lines erected.				Lines dismantled.				Lines in progress at end of Year.				Total number of Miles at end of Year.				No. of Stations opened.	No. of Stations closed.	No. of Stations at end of Year.
	Line.		Wire.		Line.		Wire.		Line.		Wire.		Line.		Wire.				
New South Wales	m.	chs.	m.	chs.	—	—	m.	chs.	m.	chs.	m.	chs.	m.	chs.	m.	chs.	49	3	674
	466	34	715	67			174	0	923	0	11,697	50	24,780	29					

Electric Telegraph Department, Sydney, 10th March, 1892.

E. C. CRACKNELL, Superintendent.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

RETURN showing Lines of Electric Telegraph constructed and dismantled during the Year 1891.

Line.	Dismantled.		Constructed.		Cost of Construction.		
	Line.	Additional Wire.	Line.	Additional Wire.			
			m. c.	m. c.	£	s.	d.
Grafton to Copmanhurst			16 74	14 8	579	2	6
Noorooma to Punkalla			6 16	—	148	2	0
Hay to Balranald			116 19	60 0	3775	5	11
Balranald to Wentworth.....			—	134 0	1669	15	5
Lawrence-Casino line to Myrtle Creek.....			10 5	10 5	345	0	11
Cooranbong to Morrist and Gosford.....			2 77	26 50	366	15	10
Menindie to Broken Hill			—	80 0	1072	12	3
Scone to Stewart's Brook and Belltrees ...			32 48	—	737	6	5
Penrith to Mulgoa.....			7 16	—	132	7	9
Bourke to Ford's Bridge			38 60	4 0	1175	8	3
Byron Bay to Granuaile			4 64	4 16	162	13	8
Quirindi to Blackville			32 74	—	750	15	11
Broken Hill to Broken Hill South			0 42	1 16	91	0	0
Laurieton to Kendall.....			5 48	1 0	119	11	11
Wingham to Woodside			12 40	—	263	19	5
Windsor to Wilberforce.....			4 0	—	81	4	4
Jerilderie to Mulwala.....			48 0	7 48	1314	10	0
Broken Hill to Tarrawingee			20 20	19 40	1597	19	11
Stewart's Brook to Moonan Brook			5 0	—	189	17	0
Cobargo to Dry River			—	7 0	69	4	7
Main line to Coff's Harbour.....			1 51	1 50	80	15	11
Wyndham to Towamba.....			11 40	—	324	0	1
Berridale to Buckley's Crossing			10 45	—	306	15	11
Lismore to Bexhill.....			—	5 26	40	17	9
Parkes to Trundle			32 61	0 18	708	9	3
Granuaile to Coorabell Creek			2 32	0 60	65	18	9
Nimitybelle to Holt's Flat.....			—	10 10	128	12	2
Minmi to West Mallsend			2 47	13 0	79	9	7
Coorabell Creek to Mullumbimby			4 0	—	108	10	3
Wollombi to Cessnock			—	18 0	206	14	10
Bermagui to Bermagui South			1 40	1 40	45	18	9
City and other Extensions (Telegraph and Telephone)			34 75	296 0	7435	5	10
Line erected			466 34				
Additional wire erected				715 67			
Add line (wire).....				466 34			
Total wire erected during the year.....				1182 21			
Cost of construction for the year					24,174	3	1

Total cost of the whole extent of Telegraphic communication in the Colony on the 31st December (24,780 miles 29 chs.)—£767,871 17s. 11d.

E. C. CRACKNELL, Superintendent.

Electric Telegraph Department,
Sydney, 10th March, 1892.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

RETURN showing the Telegraph Lines in course of construction during the year 1891, and the estimated length thereof.

Line.	Estimated Distance.			
	New Line.		Additional Wire.	
	Miles.	Chains.	Miles.	Chains.
Mungindi to Goondiwindi.....	116	0	—	—
Clarence Town to Tea Gardens	29	0	—	—
Albury to Jennings	—	—	876	0
Werris Creek to Gunnedah	—	—	40	0
Berridale to Jindabyne	14	0	—	—
Rockley to Burruga	15	0	7	0
	174	0	923	0

E. C. CRACKNELL, Superintendent.

Electric Telegraph Department,
Sydney, 10th March, 1892.

RETURN showing the Telegraph Stations opened and closed during the year 1891.

Opened.

Albury Railway	Come by Chance	Mulgoa
Alectown	Cooma Railway	Myrtle Creek
Angledool	Coorabell Creek	Nine Mile
Annandale	Cumnock	North Parramatta
Australia Hotel	Dry River	Oxley
Awaba Railway	Elizabeth-street South	Punkalla
Belltrees	Enfield	South Broken Hill
Bermagui, South	Ford's Bridge	Stewart's Brook
Berrigan	Granuaile	Tarrawingie
Bexhill	Gundy	Towamba
Bibbenluke	Hampton	West Wallsend
Blackville	Hartley Vale	Wilberforce
Buckley's Crossing	Holt's Flat	Willoughby
Burradoo	Kendall	Woodside
Castle Rag	Kew	Woolbrook Railway
Cathcart	Moonan Brook	Woonona
Coff's Harbor		

Closed.

Hexham	Hoskinstown	Lue Railway
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E. C. CRACKNELL, Superintendent.

Electric Telegraph Department,
Sydney, 10th March, 1892.

QUEENSLAND TELEGRAPH SERVICE, 1891.

1st January, 1892.

Number of Telegraph Stations.....	352
Miles of Line-wire.....	17,632 $\frac{3}{4}$
Miles of Line.....	9973
Total Cost of Construction to date, 1-1-92.....	£835,764 0s. 2d.
Approximately { *Number of Messages, "cash"	1,013,976
{ * Ditto, "O.H.M.S."	92,882
{ Revenue	£93,300
Value of O.H.M.S.	£10,694

* Exclusive of International.

JOHN M'DONNELL, Under Secretary Post and
Telegraph Department.

TASMANIAN TELEGRAPH SERVICE, 1891.

19th March, 1892.

Number of Telegraph Stations	149
Miles of Line	1357
Miles of Wire.....	2264
Total Cost of Construction	£64,765
Number of Messages { Paid.....	407,679
{ Free.....	46,354
Revenue { Gross.....	£42,111 15s. 11d.
{ Net	£22,418 16s. 3d.

ROBERT HENRY, Superintendent of Telegraphs.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH SERVICE, 1891.

Number of Telegraph Stations.....	220
Miles of Line.....	5640
Miles of Wire	12,707
Cost of Construction (including all Post and Telegraph Buildings)...	£1,182,058
Number of Messages	985,633
Revenue	95,636

CHARLES TODD, Postmaster-General and Superintendent
of Telegraphs, South Australia.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC CONFERENCE, 1892.

REPORT OF THE DEBATES.

WEDNESDAY, 16th MARCH.

1. *Election of President.*

Hon. J. G. DUFFY (Victoria) moved,—“That the Hon. B. S. Bird, Treasurer and Postmaster-General of Tasmania, take the Chair as President.” It was usual to elect the Postmaster-General of the colony in which the Conference was held to that position, and on this occasion the gentleman they were electing was not only the ablest but the most experienced of the Postmasters-General of them. He had been longer in office than any other Postmaster-General in the Chamber, and none could therefore be better fitted for the office of President. In moving the motion he desired to say that he thought the holding of such conferences did a great deal in more ways than one. They had an influence, from a federal point of view, which was exceedingly potent. As all knew, the partial scheme of Federation submitted to the colonial Parliaments last year had not met with very definite results, and the question had for the time being fallen into the background. However, this Conference might show the necessity of the subject being again brought forward, and he was sorry that some of the other great departments of State in the colonies did not hold conferences with the object of seeing what they could do as a whole. He moved “That the Hon. Mr. Bird take the Chair as President.”

Hon. T. UNMACK (Queensland) had much pleasure in seconding the nomination of the Hon. Mr. Bird. He did not, however, follow Mr. Duffy entirely in the statement that it was usual to select the Postmaster-General of the colony in which the Conference was held, or that their selection was made for that reason. In asking Mr. Bird to take the chair he considered they were conferring honor on themselves. Mr. Bird was one of the oldest Ministers present here, and had a great deal more experience of these Conferences than perhaps any of them. Besides that, his amiable temper, genial disposition, and business ability peculiarly fitted him for the position and entitled him to it. He had much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY put the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Hon. B. S. BIRD (Tasmania) having taken the chair, said he, with becoming modesty, thanked Mr. Duffy and Mr. Unmack for their very kind remarks and expressions regarding his fitness for the position. He also thanked the Conference for electing him to preside over its deliberations. It was a fact, as had been stated, that he had been longer in office than any other Minister present, and had consequently attended more conferences than any of the Postmasters-General during the last four or five years. The experience he had thereby gained perhaps made him better suited for the position than he otherwise would have had, but he doubted not that his duties as President would be light. His first duty was a very pleasant one, to officially tender a cordial welcome to the delegates to Tasmania. It was the first time a conference of the sort had been held in Tasmania, and he was very pleased to be its President. When he first thought of the Conference his intention was simply to call together the heads of the Postal and Telegraphic Departments of the colonies, as that was the understanding arrived at when the last Conference was held, but some of the Ministers of the other colonies thought it better that the Postmasters-General should also attend. When he invited New Zealand, however, he received a reply from the Hon. J. G. Ward, stating that he was rather surprised at a Minister being asked to attend, as it had been agreed that heads of Departments alone should meet. Mr. Ward also wired in reply to further correspondence that it would be impossible for a Minister to attend a Conference before September next, and also that New Zealand would not be represented at this one. But although New Zealand had not found it convenient to attend, he was sure the interests of that colony would be safely guarded, and every consideration paid to her. (Cheers.) With regard to Mr. Duffy's remarks about Federation, he was quite in sympathy with them. The Postal Conference had done much to foster and encourage the federal idea, as through them the colonies had secured federal action in regard to postal matters. They had obtained a federal mail service, and had secured great reduction in the rates of postage, which had done much towards the unification of the colonies, and in strengthening the bonds with the Mother Country. And if, most of all, they would reflect upon the result of the Conferences in reduced telegraph rates—(hear, hear)—everyone must admit they had done great and good work. As a matter of fact they had gone so far in the direction of Federation that they had led the people of the colonies to see the advantage of the unification of their common interests, and had really secured very much that they would expect to secure had they a Federal Post Office under a Federal Government. This year they had not such great questions to deal with as at some former Conference—the reduction of telegraph rates, for instance—but the work was more of a departmental character. Perhaps it would be well after arranging their preliminaries, to have the reports of the heads of departments, and meet again in the afternoon or next day and hold their discussions upon these reports. There were, however, some items on their programme which were more political in character, and it would be well perhaps to separate them. It was not necessary for him to review them, and he thought it best that they should get to work as quickly as possible in order to save time. Mr. Unmack, he knew, had to return to Queensland early, as the Parliament of that colony would be meeting shortly, and Mr. Duffy, in common with his colleagues and the members of the Victorian Parliament, had to embark upon an electoral campaign. The work of the Conference, he therefore hoped, might be concluded by Monday at the latest, if not on Friday night, by sitting late. Before proceeding to business it would be necessary to appoint a Secretary, and also decide whether the Press should be admitted to their meetings. The representatives of the Press had attended at his invitation, and were of course only present on sufferance, but he thought it desirable that full publicity should be given to their deliberations, and, if the other delegates agreed with him, a motion could be made to give the Press the right to attend. He again thanked the Conference for electing him President.

FRIDAY, 18TH MARCH.

Intercolonial Telegraph Charges.

The Hon. JOHN KIDD said that the matter he intended to bring before the Conference that morning was one that was dealt with at the last Conference, where it had been thrashed out and recommended for adoption, with the exception of the inland reductions. He would therefore move—

“That it is desirable that the reduced Intercolonial Telegraph charges, recommended by the Conference at Sydney in March last, be adopted from the 1st July next; namely,—That, with the exception of Western Australia and New Zealand, the rates between any two contiguous Colonies shall be 1s. for fifteen words, and 1½d. for each additional word, names and addresses to be paid for. Between any three Colonies the minimum charge to be 1s. 6d. for fifteen words, and 2d. for each additional word. Similar rates to apply to telegrams to and from Tasmania, plus cable rates—Tasmania being treated as a Colony contiguous to Victoria. Telegrams to and from Western Australia to be dealt with as follows:—

Between South Australia and Western Australia—1s. 6d. for the first fifteen words, including names and addresses, and 2d. for every additional word.

Between New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia—2s. for the first fifteen words, including names and addresses, and 3d. for every additional word.

Between Queensland and Western Australia—2s. 6d. for the first fifteen words, including names and addresses, and 4d. for every additional word.”

He would have very little to say in regard to it, because it was fully discussed at the last Conference, and it would be purely a waste of time to discuss it further. The question simply was, whether the Conference was now, in the light of the recommendation of the previous Conference, going to agree to this resolution? There was no use in the Conference taking a certain course unless that course could be carried out, and it would be very much better for the delegates to agree to a resolution of this character, and make the Telegraph charges as uniform as possible, and he did not think that the revenues of the various Colonies would suffer by the change.

The Hon. JOHN GAVAN DUFFY said that he would second the motion as a matter of courtesy, more for the purpose of inducing discussion than anything else. He was sorry the mover had not given any statistics to show how the change would work out. If it was a business proposition, they would require to look at it from a business point of view, and see how far it would pay the Colonies to adopt it—whether they would suffer or benefit. They should have been provided with figures to show what the loss or advantage would amount to in money. It was a very considerable departure from the present systems, and these hard-and-fast changes were very dangerous things to adopt, especially so in the dark, when no facts or reasons presented themselves why the change should be made. No doubt it had been considered by the permanent heads of the departments at the last Conference, but their report was adopted *in globo*; and, if he recollected rightly, there had been no discussion on this particular point. At all events, two important Colonies, Queensland and New Zealand, had not then seen their way to fall in with the proposition, and that being the case, before the motion was either adopted or allowed to go by default, it would be well if the mover, or any member of the Conference supporting the motion, would give them some facts and figures, because his mind was like wax, and ready to receive any impression, and he would be glad to hear the matter discussed.

The Hon. WM. COPLEY said that he could not see his way clear to support the motion. Regret had been expressed by the previous speaker that some facts and figures had not been laid before them, but he (the speaker) had some figures worked out showing the effect it would have upon South Australia. This did not seem to be the right time to adopt any changes which might result in a loss of revenue. In South Australia finances had been in a fairly satisfactory condition. During the last two years there had been a surplus, and at the present they expected one, but some unfortunate circumstances had occurred in the Colony which had materially affected the Revenue, and he felt that, as the representative of that Colony, he must be very cautious in agreeing to anything which would tend to cause a loss of revenue. If the rates set forth in the motion were adopted South Australia would lose on her intercolonial traffic something over £6000 a year. There was only one line upon which a gain would be made, and that was upon the N.S.W. Barrier Line, and the gain there would amount to £29 3s. 10d. South Australia would lose £3336 12s. 3d. on her traffic with Victoria, £1846 16s. 3d. with New South Wales, £34 0s. 4d. with Tasmania, £434 9s. 10d. with Queensland, and £159 5s. with Western Australia. His colony could not afford to incur those losses at present. He was quite prepared to admit that these estimates were approximate, and that the general experience was that the reduction of Telegraphic charges often led to an increase of business that sometimes made up a great portion of the losses, and, in some cases, the whole of them. If Mr. Kidd would give them estimates and arguments to show that that would be the case, he would be more inclined to fully consider it; but, in the absence of any information beyond that already compiled for himself, he could not support the motion.

The Hon. THEODORE UNMACK said that they had to look upon this question from two different aspects. One was the attitude of the public to so serious an alteration in the present system as to include the address and signature in the telegram. The present system which was in use throughout the Colonies was one that the public were perfectly satisfied with, and one of which he had never heard anyone complain. He could see no reason for voluntarily changing the present system, unless for the sake of adopting a uniform practice with Europe, which would not benefit them in any shape or form. If the address were included he was convinced that it would lead to the adoption of code addresses, increasing the number of words now allowed for transmission, whilst lessening the average number of words in the address and signature. Looking at the motion from a financial point of view, he considered that it was more a question for the Treasurers of the various Colonies than for the Postmasters-General or the heads of the Postal Departments. It would also entail a serious loss upon his Colony, which, under the existing circumstances, they would be quite unable to sanction. In addition to the annual loss his department was already

suffering of £30,000, they would lose at least another £5000 on their intercolonial business; while, if they adopted the proposal in regard to inland traffic, they would lose about £25,000 more. Under these circumstances he saw no reason or justification for any departure from the present system.

Mr. RICHARD A. SHOLL said that this question had been discussed at both the Adelaide and Sydney Conferences, with the result that all the Colonies, except Queensland and New Zealand, under certain conditions, had agreed to make the change. Western Australia was not represented at the Adelaide Conference, and her delegate unfortunately arrived too late to take any part in the discussion at the Sydney Conference; but, in view of the fact that that Colony wished to fall in with the wishes of the majority of the other Colonies in any matter relating to postal affairs, he had recommended his Government to make the change, thinking that it had been agreed to by all the other Colonies, with the exceptions he had mentioned. It was on that understanding that he had replied to the letter of Sir Henry Parkes agreeing to the proposal, and had recommended it to his Ministers. He understood that the real reason why Queensland stood out was that she was not placed in a fair position with regard to the rates, and wished to be placed on all-fours with Western Australia in regard to the 1s. rate, and he must say that he sympathised with Queensland in that respect, because she was in a similar position to Western Australia, and should be allowed the 1s. 6d. rate the same as Western Australia. He would be sorry to enter into any resolution which was not of universal application, and did not think it advisable to adopt this resolution unless all the Colonies agreed to adopt it. His Colony would be perfectly willing, small as their revenue was, to forfeit a portion of it for the sake of working in with the other Colonies. With regard to the statement that charging for names and addresses would lead to code words being used, it was understood, he thought, that code addresses should be prohibited, and the matter was actually dealt with in that direction in the Report of the Heads of Departments at the Sydney Conference. He would like to see the code addresses used himself, at all events intercolonially, because it was the course universally adopted outside of Australia. He did not think that the system of charging for names and addresses would lead to any loss of revenue, as calculations showed that the difference was little or nothing. No doubt the permanent heads of Departments were aware, as he had noticed over and over again, that people did give unnecessarily long names and addresses in their telegrams, entailing a great deal of extra labour on the part of the Telegraph Departments, and he was quite sure that if people had to pay for those names and addresses they would take the same care in curtailing them as they did in curtailing their messages. He would like to see that portion of the resolution carried out, because he was sure that it would lead to a great deal of good and save a great deal of time in the Telegraph Offices. But, while he sympathised with the motion, he was afraid that it would be unwise to adopt it unless the whole of the Colonies were agreeable to do likewise.

The PRESIDENT said that he would avail himself of the privilege that had always been accorded to the President at these Conferences, to express his views upon the subject as the representative of Tasmania. He regretted to find that there appeared to be less unanimity on the question than there was at the Conference in Sydney last year. He was aware that while there was a disposition last year on the part of several members of the Conference to recommend the question to their respective governments, there was a great feeling in the background that it was doubtful if the governments would agree to it or bring it before their Parliaments. So far as Tasmania was concerned she would be very little, if at all, affected by the alteration. In some cases there might be a slight loss of revenue owing to the possibility of shortening the address and lengthening the messages for the same amount of money now paid, but, on the other hand, there would be the increase of 1½d per word on all words over 15 in number, so what was lost in one way would be gained in another. So far as Tasmania was concerned he would be prepared to agree to the motion. Concerning the other Colonies, one could see at once that it was a Treasurer's question, as it appeared to involve a loss of thousands of pounds, as in the cases of South Australia and Queensland. Victoria would be affected comparatively little; but in the greater number of Colonies the loss was likely to be great; and while these Colonies felt that they could not afford to sustain that loss they could hardly bring any pressure to bear (especially in these hard financial times) to make them adopt the change. If the movement towards Federation was not likely to progress faster than now it would be well worth the consideration of the governments of the various Colonies as to whether a special convention should not be called to see if they could bring about a Postal Union. There was no reason why the Colonies should not have all the benefits of a Postal Union without complete federation; however, that was by the way. He would emphasize the opinion of Mr. Sholl, that, whether they agreed to the motion or not, they should agree to the adoption of that system by which the address and signature are charged with the message at a certain fixed rate, as he thought it would be a very good thing, despite the fact that the Colonies had different rates. It seemed to him that that was the only point on which they were likely to get agreement.

The Hon. J. KIDD thanked the Hon. J. G. Duffy for his courtesy in seconding the motion, but was surprised that that gentleman should charge him with not discussing the matter at further length by quoting figures and statistics, inasmuch as the question had been thrashed out for two years in succession, and recommended and agreed to by all the Colonies with the exception of Queensland and New Zealand. The head of the Postal Department had advised him that the increase of business would make up any loss; and certainly uniformity in connection with postal matters in these Colonies was to be desired, even at the risk of some loss. The New South Wales Government had gone so far as to prepare and sign an Executive Minute on the subject, and they had been simply waiting to see if the other Colonies would fall in with it and recommend it to the various governments. He did not see much in the objection raised by Mr. Unmack to charging for names and addresses. The present system entailed a great deal of needless labour and expense to the Telegraph Department, as the senders were generally never satisfied unless they put six or eight words in the signature; however, he thought it was a wiser course not to agree to the motion than to agree to it and then not recommend it, though he would be sorry to see it rejected. Uniformity would never be attained unless some sacrifice was made, and they could not begin too soon.

The Hon. WM. COPLEY said that it was only the financial portion of the motion they could not agree to, and many of them were in favour of charging for names and addresses. He would move the following Amendment as a compromise, and though there would be some loss, it was a loss that he would be able to agree to in the hopes that the increase of business would wipe it out:—

"That, with the exception of Western Australia and New Zealand, the rates between any two contiguous Colonies shall be 1s. 6d. for 15 words and 1½d. for each additional word, names and addresses to be paid for. Between any three Colonies the rate shall be 2s. for 15 words and 2½d. for each additional word, names and addresses to be paid for. Similar rates to apply to telegrams to and from Tasmania, plus cable charges, Tasmania being treated as a Colony contiguous to Victoria. Telegrams to and from Western Australia to be dealt with as follows, names and addresses to be paid for :—

Between Western Australia and South Australia—2s. for fifteen words, and 2d. extra per word.

Between Western Australia and Victoria—2s. 6d. for fifteen words, and 3d. extra per word.

Between Western Australia and New South Wales—2s. 6d. for fifteen words, and 3d. extra per word.

Between Western Australia and Queensland—3s. for fifteen words, and 4d. extra per word.

Between Western Australia and Tasmania—3s. for fifteen words, and 4d. extra per word (plus cable charges)."

According to that, the nett loss accruing to South Australia would be £2235 without allowing for any increase of business. By the adoption of the system locally, he found they would make a gain of £900, but, as it would be unpopular to make a loss on intercolonial business and a gain upon local business, they would perhaps have to modify it in some degree. As it stood, however, he thought that it was a very fair compromise.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL seconded the Amendment as a matter of courtesy. He had not had time to fully consider it, but it appeared to him that Queensland was not dealt with altogether fairly, as she should be placed upon all-fours with Western Australia in regard to rates.

The Hon. J. KIDD moved the adjournment of the Debate until Monday following.

The Hon. T. UNMACK thought it was useless discussing a question of this nature until they had been furnished with facts and figures, and he, for one, would decline to entertain the matter at all, because he did not know how it would affect his Colony.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY was also in favour of postponing the discussion.

The Debate was accordingly adjourned.

Local Telegraph Charges.

The Hon. J. KIDD moved :—

"That, from 1st July next, the local charges for Messages within the several Colonies be uniform; namely,—

Messages not exceeding fifteen words, 6d., and 1d. for each additional word. Names and addresses to be paid for as in the case of Intercolonial Messages."

In this case each Member of the Conference should know if it would suit his own Colony to adopt this resolution. If it had not been adopted in Victoria yet, they were very near it. The rate there was 6d. for six words, and the name and address were not charged for. If they were charged for, the Victorian system would amount to much the same thing as this resolution proposed. He simply submitted the resolution for expression of opinion, actuated by a desire for obtaining uniformity. He looked upon this change as a very proper one, even though on the first appearance the loss of revenue would be considerable. Any increase of business would, however, soon counterbalance the loss of revenue, except perhaps in Western Australia or Queensland, where the lines were very long and the population not so large as in other Colonies.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY seconded the motion, though he hardly thought it lay with him to do so. Victoria had a 6d. rate already, and the carrying of this resolution only meant a little change in her procedure. It would not be a loss to the Colony, which was small, and had a large population, and was in a different position to those Colonies which had immense telegraph lines and few people to use them. At the same time he thought the system they had already adopted in Victoria was the most preferable, and was inclined to think that the public would look upon it as unreasonable and a grievance if the words in the address were to be counted. The best way would be to charge for the words in the message, and at the same time insist that the address and names should not be too lengthy. Most absurdly long names and addresses were often given, which was unfair to the Telegraph Departments, and of no benefit to anyone. The best system they could adopt, if the colonies could see their way to have it, would be to allow six words for sixpence in the message, and let a reasonable name and address go free. He believed telegraphic experts were mostly in favour of charging for names and addresses, but where the other system had been in vogue for so many years it would be looked upon as a hardship if it were altered now.

The Hon. T. UNMACK said that although it was desirable to have a uniform practice where possible, he regretted that he could not support the motion, as in Queensland, where they had such a large extent of territory, they would be unjust to themselves if they did so. Their practice was to charge 1s. for ten words throughout the Colony, and the longest line they had to work at that price ran for 2500 miles. To send fifteen words for sixpence along that line was rather more than they could afford. Provided there was no increase of business, it meant that they were called upon to reduce their charges by half, and it was quite clear Queensland was not going to agree to any proposition of that sort. If the revenue was only reduced by one quarter, it would still represent a loss of £23,000 a year. As regards limiting the names and addresses, it was a suggestion well worthy of consideration, and one that would be of advantage to the Departments, besides, perhaps, bringing a little revenue in. He regretted that on financial grounds he would have to oppose the motion.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL said that he would be unable to support the motion, because it meant a very large decrease to the small revenue of the colony he represented. He was always willing to join with the other colonies in anything reasonable, but this was going too far, as he found from a rough calculation he had that moment made that the loss to his colony would be something like £3000 a year, which was a large sum to its small revenue. They had 3000 miles of line to maintain, and could not do it at the price pro-

posed; in fact, he thought they had more miles of line in proportion to population than any other Colony in Australia. In regard to charging for names and addresses, he did not think there would be any difficulty so far as the public were concerned, as they would soon get accustomed to the change, and would take precious good care to reduce their names and addresses to the proper number of words, and there would be no objection to the system once it was understood. It was the universal practice outside of Australia. It was a small matter, but it was one of those little things that led up to the great question of Federation, and he hoped before the Conference broke up it would be adopted.

The Hon. W. COPLEY thought the matter was one that should be dealt with by each individual Colony, as united action upon it was not so important as upon intercolonial telegraphic matters. He could not agree to the motion on financial grounds. He was anxious to see the system of charging for names and addresses adopted, but not in conjunction with a reduction of rates. Supposing the rate was reduced to ninepence the loss to South Australia would be £2817. They had a sixpenny rate to Port Adelaide and suburbs, and if that was still retained, and names and addresses counted, there would be a small loss, making the total loss £3000. An increase in the business might make up part of the loss, but it seemed to him a matter that could be dealt with locally quite as well as by this Conference.

The PRESIDENT regretted that he would not, as representative of Tasmania, be able to support the motion, for two reasons. One was that it would entail a great loss of revenue, which Tasmania, in common with other Colonies, was not able to afford. The second was more important, as it involved a principle, and that was that these Conferences should deal with questions which affected the Colonies intercolonially or internationally, and not questions which related to the internal policy of governments. This question was one that dealt with the internal policy of the different Colonies, and it might be very well left to them for independent action.

The Hon. J. KIDD was aware that the question was one that could be dealt with by each Colony independently, but had thought that if uniformity could be obtained in each of the Colonies it would be very much better. He had fully considered the question before submitting it, and had struck an average of nine words for address and signature, and did not think they were going to lose any revenue by the change whatever. Many messages were not sent now, and correspondence done by letter, because 1s. for five or six words was looked upon as too high a charge, and a reduction in the charge would lead to very much more business.

The motion was then put and negatived.

Inland Postage Rates.

The Hon. J. KIDD moved:—

“That it be a recommendation to the several Governments that the Inland Postage Rate of each Colony be reduced to One Penny per half-ounce from 1st July next.”

The great contention had been above all things to have the Postage Rates uniform if possible. The Postage Rates were so low now between the different Colonies and other countries that there was an agitation to reduce the $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ postage to $2d.$ Apart from that he thought it would be a wise thing for each Colony to adopt the Penny Postage system. It had been adopted for some time in Victoria, and he had no doubt that the Hon. J. G. DUFFY would be able to tell them that the change had not caused very much loss of revenue. In Victoria the postage was reduced from $2d.$ to $1d.$, so that the revenue certainly must have fallen away for some time. He was not sure what the postage was in other Colonies, but in New South Wales it was $1d.$ within 12 miles of thickly-populated centres, so that that Colony did not anticipate to lose much by the change. If they could get all the Colonies to adopt a Penny Postage Rate they might look forward in the near future to an Intercolonial Penny Postage, and if they were to have Federation it would be unsatisfactory if they had a difference in the Postage Rates between each of the Colonies; in fact, they could not have Federation and a difference in the Postage Rates. They had gone fully into the question, and before long his Colony would adopt it whether the Conference agreed or not. He would be glad to get the other Colonies to take the same view of the question. If the rate on European Postage was reduced to $2d.$ it would not be reasonable to charge $2d.$ in the internal postage of a Colony. For the sake of Federation alone it was worth a little sacrifice to begin with, and if revenue was lost it could be made up, if necessary, from other sources. If this motion was not carried now, he hoped it would be in the near future, intercolonially as well as in each Colony.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY, in seconding the resolution as a matter of courtesy, said that he had, at the last Conference in Sydney, brought forward a resolution a good deal to the same effect as the present one:—

“That, in the opinion of the Conference, the time had arrived when the Postage should be One Penny per half-ounce throughout the whole of Australia,”

And he was sorry the Mover had not couched his resolution in similar terms, or in terms to that effect, so that it would not be an interference with the domestic economy of each Colony, but would take the broader view of Australia as a whole. At that time, parodying the words of Sir Henry Parkes, “One people, one destiny,” he had said “One people, one postage stamp, one penny,” and he hoped that in the near future some change of that sort would take place. If they could not have Federation, they should have a Postal Union, and the best way to bring it about would be to have a uniform postage throughout the Colonies. When they brought this change about in Victoria they did not consider the commercial aspect of the thing altogether, but the convenience of the public. They calculated at the time they would lose £100,000, which then was not a matter of so much moment as it was at present. The business increased more rapidly than was anticipated, but the loss never amounted to more than £79,000. At present it still amounted to £68,000. Besides the loss, there was a corresponding increase in their expenses. There was a wave of depression now passing over the Australian Colonies, and he could not treat the question in the same spirit that he or other delegates were prepared to treat it two years ago, as he felt bound down and restricted on every question that dealt with finance. In view of the fact that his Premier intended next day to propose further taxation, and that the expenditure must be materially reduced, it would not be right for him to enter into any question which would result in a loss of revenue.

The Hon. T. UNMACK said that on this occasion his sympathies were thoroughly with the Mover, because he believed in cheap postage, irrespective of the financial aspect, but when the question was discussed at the last Conference he was bound, as he now felt bound, to pass the question over for financial reasons. In Queensland they had a most extensive mail service, costing over £100,000 per annum for conveyance of mails inland, and supposing there was no increase in business the reduction of the postage to a penny would mean a loss of £32,000. If business increased one-third they would lose £24,000, and if it increased 50 per cent. they would still lose £19,000. In their present financial position he did not think they would be justified in entertaining the proposition. The total reductions proposed by the Mover would mean a loss of £67,000 per annum to Queensland, and, considering that his Department already lost £100,000 per annum, the Conference would sympathise with him in the attitude he had taken.

The Hon. W. COPLEY said that the position he took up was the same as that taken up by Sir John Bray, who represented South Australia at the Conference held last year in Sydney. This motion would mean a loss to his Colony of £25,000 a year, and while he would be proud to introduce a Penny Postage while a member of the Ministry, the position of the Colony rendered it necessary that they should be extremely careful in cutting off any source of revenue. It would be better to retain the system in existence than charge in one direction and have to impose extra taxation in another. If it could be done without increasing taxation he would have no hesitation in adopting a Penny Postage, but under the present circumstances he had no option but to oppose the motion.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL said that the loss to his Colony would also be too great to allow him to entertain any idea of adopting this very desirable resolution, though he was quite in sympathy with it, and wished it could be made general throughout the Colonies.

The PRESIDENT was gratified to find that there was a general feeling that the adoption of a Penny Postage would be a very good thing, but at the same time there was a general feeling that the time was not yet ripe for it. The question had been before the Tasmanian Parliament last year, but they could not settle it without amending their Post Office Act. As far as Tasmania was concerned, the resolution now before them could not possibly be carried out if they were ever so willing, because the Act would have to be amended, and Parliament would not be in Session before 1st July. A strong feeling had been expressed by Members in favour of a Penny Inland Postage, but he had had to take up the position that in the financial condition of the Colony it was undesirable to incur further loss. He had the feeling that such important services as the Post and Telegraph services should be fully paid for by the people who used them. He believed that was correct as a general policy, but there were times when they must be content to suffer loss with a view of inducing business. If they adopted the proposal, however, it would be a long time before the business increased sufficiently to bring them the same amount of revenue as they now received. Though in sympathy with the motion, he regretted that he would have to oppose it.

The Hon. J. KIDD said that if he was an anti-federationist he would be inclined to take advantage of some of the remarks made, as they threw a great deal of light on the financial position of each Colony, and made him doubt if it would be a wise step for his Colony to federate with other Colonies in such a financially crippled condition. He saw no hope of carrying this motion, and thought that each Colony would have to work out its own redemption in the best way it could in the matter, trusting that brighter days would come, and that Penny Postage would soon be uniform and applicable to the whole of Australasia.

The motion was then put and negatived.

Gambling Circulars.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY moved:—

“That it is advisable that the system of dealing with letters relating to racing sweeps and betting transactions should be uniform throughout Australasia.”

The real meaning of this resolution was to induce New South Wales to make some alteration in her laws relating to sweeps. He was not going to pose as a straightlaced moralist, but he thought they must admit that the widespread gambling system now practised, especially in the great metropolis of New South Wales, was a public evil. Some years ago all sorts of sweeps were allowed to be carried on in Victoria, and there was no great harm in it at first, but finally the public fatuity became so great as to surprise even those who were most used to the foolishness of the public. Finally the Legislature had to step in and prohibit all advertising in connection with sweeps, and gave the Postmaster-General powers in regard to it. There was one little legal slip, however, in these powers, as the Postmaster-General was not prohibited from transmitting letters to sweep promoters in the other Colonies, and when these gentry were driven out of Victoria they went to Sydney. One of his predecessors in office, being determined to put a stop to this, took one of the letters addressed to a sweep promoter in Sydney, and used his power the same as if this person resided in Victoria. An application was made to the Supreme Court, and it was held that the Postmaster-General was bound to transmit these letters to persons in New South Wales under the technical construction of the Act. The consequence was that nearly £100,000 of Victorian money went to New South Wales annually to be distributed in sweeps, some of which were *bona fide* and some not. The Colonies to the north and south of New South Wales had legislated on the matter in an advanced moral spirit, and he hoped that Colony would not be behind-hand, so that the evil they all deplored would be put a stop to.

The Hon. J. KIDD seconded the motion. He did not see any use in New South Wales taking any action in the matter unless all the other Colonies were prepared to do the same, because if New South Wales prohibited these sweeps the £100,000 would simply be shifted into South Australia. However, he recognised that there was a great evil in connection with these sweeps, and that they were a great blot on our civilisation, and if in any way he could effect any remedy by embodying a Clause in the new Postal Bill he would only be too glad to do so. All that they could do at present to prevent these evils being carried on was to prevent the Post Office from being used as a medium; but if it could be grappled with in other directions it was the duty of the Colonial Governments to deal with it beyond the mere matter of sweeps.

The Hon. W. COPLEY said that so far as South Australia was concerned they were endeavouring to carry out the recommendation of last year's Conference in the matter. It was introduced in a Bill in the Legislative Council, but struck out in the Assembly, and that was the reason it was not embodied in their law at the present time. He would have no hesitation in promising to introduce an amending Bill next Session to try and deal with the matter. He did not think it would prevent the evil altogether, but it would place some hindrance in the way.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL said that although his sympathies did not go with the motion, he could not say that he had been instructed by his Government in regard to it in any way. He entirely agreed with the remarks made by the Hon. D. O'Connor at the Adelaide and Sydney Conferences, and it seemed to him monstrous that any Colony should legislate in such an arbitrary manner as to prevent people from investing their money how they pleased. If a person chose to put his money into lotteries or sweeps he had a perfect right to do so, and to instruct the Post Office to intercept letters was a great interference with the liberty of the subject. He did not see how the Post Office could do so—how could they tell what was in a letter?—to say nothing of the trouble that would be given to the staff of the office. He could not help thinking that Victoria was more anxious about her £100,000 than anything else—they did not like to see that sum of money go to New South Wales. During Cup week there was more gambling done in Victoria than in any part of the world. It was the bookmakers who did the real harm; and to put £1 in a sweep did not do the harm it was supposed. He could not afford to go to Flemington to bet as others did, and why should he not have the chance of putting £1 in a sweep? If some measure were introduced to strike at the root of the evil it would have his support and the support of a large number of people in Australia. He did not bet himself to any extent, but he could not help recognising that it was outrageous to prevent people from spending their money as they liked. Was not mining gambling? Why did they not put down the purchase of mining shares,—one was as bad as the other. They knew perfectly well that the rich man could go to his club and gamble to any extent, and why should he be left unrestricted, while the poor man, who could not afford to do so, was interfered with in this fashion. In his report he would submit this matter to his Government, but he sincerely hoped that it would be a long time before any measure of this sort was introduced into his Colony, unless it struck at the root of the evil. He could not support the motion.

The Hon. T. UNMACK said he would not have spoken, as he had shown his *bonâ fide* by passing an Act containing the principle, had it not been for the extraordinary ideas of Mr. Sholl. Surely that gentleman had overlooked the moral aspect of the question altogether. Many a serious evil had been checked by making a small effort in the right direction. It had been said that the Post Office would not know what the letters contained, but he believed they had a very good knowledge of correspondence, especially of these tens of thousands of gambling circulars. They would be doing a good deal to stop the evil by stopping the distribution of these circulars. No one would presume that the intention was to stop gambling, but they wanted to minimise the evil and bring a moral effect to bear, and he was sure they would succeed in doing so. The Post Office should not be the medium for the distribution of these circulars to corrupt the young and supply material for gaols and criminal institutions, and he hoped the measure would be carried in the whole of the Colonies.

The PRESIDENT said that although present on two previous occasions when the matter had been considered, he had not taken any part in the discussion. While he had sufficient sympathy with the Motion to give his vote in favour of it, he confessed that he had also a good deal of sympathy with the remarks made by the Hon. D. O'Connor, the late Postmaster-General of New South Wales. He had considered the matter since, and thought each Colony would do well to pass some measure which would prevent the Post Office from being used to facilitate what they all regarded as a great evil. He would point out that a large number of people who went to Flemington did not go there for the sake of the betting at all, and if they limited their legislation simply to those matters which they knew to be evils, he did not think they would do any harm. It was their duty to minimise those evils as much as possible if they could not prevent them. He could heartily support the Motion, and would not fail to bring the matter before his colleagues, especially the Attorney-General, with a view to having Legislation brought about on the subject.

The motion was put and carried.

Electric Power.

The Hon. W. COPLEY moved :—

“That the drafting of a Code of Rules and Regulations for erection of Electric Light and Power Wires be referred to a Committee of Experts, consisting of Messrs. E. C. Cracknell, George Smibert, A. T. Matveieff, R. Henry, and C. Todd, representing the Telegraph Departments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, and South Australia, and Messrs. O. Haes, A. J. Arnott, and J. Cullender, representing the Electric Light Companies.

It was well known that Electric Lighting and Power was making great progress, and it was also known that there were dangers in connection with it if due precautions were not taken. It was necessary before it made any great advances in the Colonies that some legislation should be adopted in regard to it. It was well known that terrible instances of the danger of these wires had taken place in New York and other places, and it was also well known that they seriously affected the working of telegraph and telephone lines, the instruments in some cases having been destroyed by electric light wires coming in contact with them. The main questions to be considered by the proposed rules and regulations would be—(1) The means to be taken for preventing the electric light wires affecting, by induction or otherwise, the efficient working of the telegraph and telephone wires. (2) The best methods for the protection of these telegraph lines from mechanical injury by the falling of electric light or power cables. (3) The methods to be adopted for the protection of the telegraph and telephone wires in crossing electric light cables. (4) The length of spans and the height of these cables above streets and buildings. (5) To secure proper insulation of cables. (6) To secure proper supports and safe methods of suspension.

The Hon. J. KIDD seconded the motion. It would be quite time enough to discuss the question when the report came up.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY said this question had occupied the attention of the Postal Department in Victoria, and a Bill dealing with it had been introduced last session into Parliament, but had been slaughtered, along with some other innocents, at the end of the session. It was founded on the English legislation; and he recognised that when the Bill, as he trusted it would be, was carried into law next session, they would want all the expert evidence they could get as to the technical and practical details. The Bill would give controlling power to the Post Office Department in the carrying out of the various electric schemes, and it would be well to start on a right basis before the matter had made any very extensive advances.

The Hon. T. UNMACK also supported the motion. Two sessions ago, in introducing an amended Tramway Act, he succeeded in inducing the House to grant power to the Postmaster-General to control the erection of the Tramway Company's wires, and during last session a clause was introduced in the Post and Telegraph Bill which gave similar powers to the Government to control all electric lighting wires, but at the unanimous wish of the House he withdrew it, because it was felt that the matter was too important to be dealt with in that way, and that a general Act should be introduced to deal with the whole subject. By obtaining the united wisdom of these experts they would be one and all greatly assisted.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL supported the motion.

The PRESIDENT also supported the motion, and pointed out the necessity of some member of the Committee being appointed as convener.

The Hon. W. COPLEY said he was willing that Mr. C. Todd should act as convener, and forward the Report to the various Postmasters-General.

The motion was carried.

Intercolonial Cable Guarantee.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL moved:—

“That, in view of the fact of Western Australia having, in conformity with Resolutions passed at the late Adelaide and Sydney Postal and Telegraph Conferences, reduced the rates on all Cable traffic passing through her territory from 1s. 2d. to 5d., it is the opinion of this Conference that Colony should be placed on an equality with South Australia, and similarly guaranteed against the loss that has accrued to her revenue by such reduction.”

This was a very small matter so far as the other Colonies were concerned, but was a matter of some importance to Western Australia. When the proposal from Sir John Pender came before the Adelaide Conference to reduce the telegraphic rates from 9s. 4d. to 4s. South Australia would not agree to that unless she was guaranteed the loss that would accrue to her revenue on the Port Darwin line. Western Australia was not represented on that Conference, and at the Sydney Conference their delegate did not arrive in time, so that this was the first opportunity his Colony had had of moving in the matter. He thought his Colony should be placed in the same position as South Australia, and guaranteed the loss on their traffic from Perth to Broome, in the same way as South Australia was on her traffic from Adelaide to Port Darwin. It was only a small matter, representing a loss to his Colony of from £500 to £600 a year.

The Hon. W. COPLEY seconded the motion, for the sake of discussion, although the case of Western Australia did not seem to be on all-fours with that of South Australia.

The PRESIDENT said that this proposition raised the whole question of the continuance of the guarantee the Colonies had agreed to give the Cable Company for the loss sustained by the reduction of the rates. Speaking generally, he believed that the increase of business had been 63 per cent. on the business done before the reduction. The benefits accruing had been so great that he was sure a return to the old high rates would never be contemplated, and in his mind it had become a question whether they should not take some steps to ensure that these rates should be retained at their present low standard, if not lower, without the Colonies having to continue the liability to guarantee against loss. He had an impression that the Cable Company would be found to be so well satisfied with the increase of business that it would be prepared to bear the whole risk. Of course, not having given notice before the end of February last of the discontinuance of the guarantee they were bound to continue it to the end of February next, and the question arose whether they ought to consider the matter of giving notice of the discontinuance of the guarantee at the present Conference, or hold another one before that date. As far as the motion was concerned, Tasmania was willing to contribute her proportion to guarantee Western Australia against loss.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY thought that the question of the guarantee to the Cable Company was one that would have to be reconsidered, and probably the best course to adopt would be to have the business done in the past and up to December in the present year carefully analysed, so that they could see exactly where they were, and during the month of June call a conference or arrange between the different Colonies who were liable whether it would be advisable to continue the guarantee or not. He had always looked upon the arrangement as a purely temporary one, because it was obvious that if the experiment turned out to be a success the Company would have to continue the lower rates, and make them still lower in the future. As far as the motion was concerned, the wisest course would be to leave things as they were, and reconsider the whole question at the end of the year.

The motion was put and carried.

Postage on Circulars.

The Hon. J. KIDD moved:—

“That the initial rate for Circulars only be $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per two ounces inland and intercolonially.”

They had been asked over and over again to make this alteration in their Colony by large insurance offices and others who were anxious to send out large numbers of printed circulars which would weigh

under two ounces. The same character of printed circulars were sent from England to the Colonies for $\frac{1}{2}d.$, and therefore they could not lose any revenue. With the permission of the Conference he would amend his motion to include the word "printed" before "circulars." The secretary of an insurance office had informed his department that they would send out 10,000 circulars if they could do so at $\frac{1}{2}d.$ There could not be any loss, and he hoped the Conference would see its way to agree to the motion.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL seconded the motion.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY was afraid they could not deal with the question now. It was an axiom in postal matters that no $\frac{1}{2}d.$ matter paid, and just at present he did not wish to do anything to occasion a loss to the revenue of the Victorian Postal Department.

Mr. UNMACK pointed out that the report of the permanent heads of departments recommended unanimously that the rate for printed papers should be continued at $1d.$ for two ounces. He did not see what was to be gained by all these concessions asked for by New South Wales, as he did not believe that the public had demanded a single one of them. The present charge was most reasonable, and he did not see any necessity for altering it.

The Hon. W. COPLEY was sorry that the Hon. J. Kidd should attempt to force their hands so much in reference to these reductions. He would like to support these liberal measures, but he felt that he must be just before he was generous. New South Wales was about to introduce a new system of taxation, and wished to reconcile people to the change, but other colonies were not in that position, and in them these reductions would mean fresh taxation. Although they carried newspapers for $\frac{1}{2}d.$, it must be remembered that newspapers were an educational influence and disseminated information.

The Hon. J. KIDD was sorry that the Conference could not see these matters in the same light as he did, as they were in the direction of uniformity, and were what must come to pass sooner or later. The report quoted by Mr. Unmack referred to the rates between the Colonies and England, and he wished to point out that Victoria indirectly did not mind sending the circulars for $\frac{1}{2}d.$

The motion was disagreed to.

Intercolonial Money Orders.

The Hon. J. KIDD moved :—

"That the following reduced rates of commission on Intercolonial Money Orders, as recommended at the Sydney Conference in March, 1891, be adopted from 1st July next :—

The commission chargeable on Money Orders exchanged intercolonially to be as follows :—

Article 21.

	£	s.	d.
Not exceeding	2	0	6
" "	5	1	0
" "	7	1	6
" "	10	2	0
" "	12	2	6
" "	15	3	0
" "	17	3	6
" "	20	4	0

Article 22.

Where one person has occasion to send more than one telegraphic money order to the same person he shall only be charged for one message of advice."

The rates were the same as before, with the exception that a person would be allowed to send a sum not exceeding £2 for $6d.$ instead of $1s.$ as heretofore.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY seconded the motion.

The Hon. T. UNMACK said that Queensland and two or three of the other Colonies had agreed to levy the charge from the 1st of April next.

The PRESIDENT said that Tasmania had also agreed to bring the charge into operation on the same date.

The motion was agreed to.

Intercolonial Postage of Newspapers.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY moved :—

"That the intercolonial postage of newspapers should be uniform throughout Australia."

At present the postage of newspapers was free in New South Wales and Tasmania, and he would like to learn the views of the delegates of those colonies upon the matter. He would be glad to see newspapers carried free throughout all the Colonies, but unfortunately the rest of the Colonies had had to impose some charge. These Colonies had had to carry thousands of tons of New South Wales papers for nothing, and he was glad to see that Queensland had at last refused to do so. He trusted that the other Colonies would not be forced into the same extreme action that Queensland had taken, and that New South Wales would be prepared to impose a uniform charge. He had often received letters from people on the borders of Victoria complaining bitterly that their newspapers had to pay $1d.$ to go to Melbourne, while newspapers published on the other side of the Murray were taken there for nothing. When they found their own people suffering like that they were bound to interfere, and if the department in New South Wales did not take some steps to put the matter right, Victoria would have to consider the question with a view of protecting herself.

The Hon. W. COPLEY seconded the motion.

The Hon. J. KIDD said that New South Wales could not very well follow the other Colonies until they had legislation on the question, but the power of compelling her to do so was in the hands of the other Colonies, which could give notice that they would charge postage upon New South Wales newspapers. He did not know that he should make any promise in the matter, as if New South Wales chose to circulate newspapers free it simply concerned herself. They did not propose making some charge, but it would not be fair for him to say exactly when, though it would be carried out as soon as possible. Their only desire was, as far as possible, to have uniformity in everything.

The Hon. WM. COPLEY would be glad to see New South Wales fall into line with the other Colonies, and thus secure uniformity, as they wished for all the Colonies to keep on good terms. South Australia was in the same position as Victoria, as there were a number of papers printed on the Barrier and circulated in South Australia without her receiving any benefit. South Australia did not want the revenue, and if a uniform rate was only put on they would be welcome to all that would accrue. He had a sincere desire to act with the other Colonies, and he hoped that New South Wales would obviate the necessity of their taking such an extreme course as Queensland did.

The Hon. J. KIDD said that he had informed a deputation that seeing that all the other Colonies had adopted postage on newspapers, New South Wales would ultimately have to fall in. They could only do so now by arrangement until there was legislation on the subject. He had this matter with others in consideration, and proposed bringing it down next Session.

The PRESIDENT said that there was a strong feeling in Tasmania against postage upon newspapers. However, it was impossible to impose such a postage here without legislation, and he was very much afraid that there would be strong objections to it. He could only leave the matter in the hands of the Conference, and would be guided by the decision they arrived at.

The Hon. T. UNMACK was glad to hear that it was the intention of New South Wales to take action in the matter. Parliament had made it an absolute condition that in the event of New South Wales not imposing a postage her newspapers should not be allowed to come in without postage, in order that Queensland newspaper proprietors might not be unduly handicapped. He had made the promise, and was bound to carry it out. He was glad that New South Wales, as well as Tasmania, had met them in a proper spirit in the matter. He did not see why these questions, which had been deliberately and carefully settled by previous Conferences, should be re-opened. Once a decision had been come to and signed by the Ministers on behalf of their respective Colonies, it should be considered as settled, and it was not reasonable or right that they should be called upon to re-open the whole question at the very next Conference.

The motion was agreed to.

The Berne Bureau.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY moved :—"That the Colony of South Australia be requested to undertake communication with the Berne Bureau in business connected with the Universal Postal Union." A great deal of the telegraphic business had fallen to the lot of South Australia, and had always been done in a most satisfactory manner, as he was sure would be the case in the future if she would accept the responsibility.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL seconded the motion.

The Hon. W. COPLEY, on behalf of South Australia, would not offer any objection. He was pleased that they were satisfied with the manner in which the work had been done.

The Hon. T. UNMACK, while admitting that he was perfectly satisfied with the manner in which South Australia had carried on the work, thought that as long as Berne was willing to communicate directly with each Colony they should adhere to the present system.

The motion was agreed to.

Sunday Trains.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY raised a discussion on the question of Sunday trains upon the Intercolonial mail routes. Upon Sunday all the long lines were stopped so that the mail communication from Adelaide to Brisbane was completely checked, leading to delay in communication between the postal centres of Australia and Europe. He would not make any motion on the matter, but he would like to hear if anything could be done to remedy this state of things.

The Hon. W. COPLEY pointed out that owing to the action of the Government of South Australia in prohibiting the working of cargo on Sunday, the mail steamers always arranged their speed so as to arrive in South Australia on Sunday night or Monday morning. So far as the through-train was concerned, South Australia did not object to running the mails.

The Hon. J. KIDD said that the question was one he had not given much thought to, but if there was any great necessity for running express trains on Sunday he would take the matter into consideration. He did not see any evil in it as regards their mails so long as the necessity was proved.

The subject then dropped.

The Orient and P. & O. Steamers.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY moved :—"That in the opinion of this Conference it is desirable, in order to facilitate postal communication, that the Orient and P. & O. Mail steamers be allowed to land cargo and do work at Adelaide on Sunday the same as at other ports." He had been induced to bring the matter forward by a letter which he had received from Mr. George Withers, Superintendent of the P. & O. Company, in which he complained of the detention of the steamers. An exception ought to be made in the case of communication between Europe and Australia.

Mr. SHOLL seconded the motion.

Mr. CHAS. TODD pointed out that the mail steamers often slowed down, even from Colombo, to avoid arriving in Adelaide on Sunday morning or Saturday night.

The Hon. J. KIDD said that if these mail-boats were allowed to discharge cargo on Sunday it would do away with all objections. He thought it was a proper thing to stop Sunday trade if it could be done without inconvenience to the public.

The Hon. W. COPLEY said that while the question was restricted to the two subsidised contract lines, he believed that the recommendation of the Conference would have weight with his Treasurer, in whose Department the matter was. He would be prepared to waive his personal feelings in a matter where the despatch of Mails was concerned.

The motion was agreed to.

Pacific Cable Route.

The PRESIDENT called upon the Hon. T. Unmack to move the Order of the Day relating to the Pacific Cable Route.

The Hon. T. UNMACK said he had not put the order upon the paper, and would not introduce the subject.

The Hon. W. COPLEY moved that the order be discharged.

Hon. T. UNMACK did not think it fair to deal with a most important subject of this nature in such a cavalier manner. He was sorry that he had been called upon to say anything upon the subject, because only that afternoon he had been in a position to lay upon the table documents and correspondence which had passed between Queensland and New South Wales in regard to the laying of the first section of the cable from Queensland to Vancouver. The attitude taken by Queensland Governments since 1876 in regard to this question had been consistent throughout, as he had stated at the last Conference held in Sydney. That attitude had been, that while they would have no objection to contribute to the working expenses of other cables when necessary, they desired to see a Pacific Cable established in order to do away with monopoly. After many years of waiting, that object seemed now to be within their reach, inasmuch as certain proposals had been made to the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland for the laying of the first section of the Pacific Cable from the Queensland Coast, probably Bundaberg, to New Caledonia. The Governments of Queensland and New South Wales had undertaken, in connection with the Government of France, to pay the guarantee required for the working of that portion of the cable. Queensland and New South Wales had no intention of asking the other Colonies to contribute towards these guarantees at present, but as the line was extended and the proper time come the Colonies would be asked to make up the full guarantee, which would be a fair and reasonable one, as the line was extended section by section. The undertaking was a *bonâ fide* one, as far as they could judge, and the only objection he had heard raised was that the cable was to go to French territory. He did not think they need trouble themselves much about that question because, first of all, they had seen how territories frequently changed hands, and as far back as 1884 they would find a treaty of nations by which they bound themselves that all cables in time of war should be considered as neutral. But whatever route was adopted, the cable would have to pass through some countries where the British Government was not supreme. The route proposed for the Pacific Cable would pass first through New Caledonia, which was a French possession; then Fiji, a British possession; then Samoa, which was under the joint protectorate of Great Britain, America, and Germany; then Honolulu, which was under the joint protectorate of Great Britain, France, and America; and then the Fanning Islands, which were British. Although a paper had been laid on the table by the Hon. W. Copley showing how few interruptions there had been on the Port Darwin line, yet it did not follow that such would always be the case, and under any circumstances two strings to their bow were better than one. Until such time as the whole of the Colonies were called upon to contribute towards the subsidy to this line Queensland would not contribute towards the guarantee to Sir John Pender's Company, and would continue to pay the old rate of 9s. 4d., as they were paying now. He pointed out that the construction of this cable would lead to a still further reduction in the rates without any guarantee at all.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL seconded the motion.

The Hon. W. COPLEY pointed out that the telegraphic business of Queensland had fallen off very largely in consequence of her refusing to take part in the guarantee and accept the lower rates upon the existing cable, and considered that the business she should do fairly and squarely must be done in some other way, in fact the messages must be forwarded to some other Colony to take advantage of the lower rates. He was willing to accept Mr. Unmack's word that the Queensland Government did not descend to such meanness, but he was sorry that that gentlemen could not see where the claim of the other Colonies for justice and equity came in. He could see no reason for a Pacific Cable. If a monopoly was not an injurious one, there was no reason why they should abolish it. The result would be that neither Company would pay. It would be very difficult to lay a cable in the Pacific, as the bottom was covered with coral reefs, and they were cheerfully asked to subsidise section by section a cable that would be of no use to them until it was complete.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY sympathised with the idea of a Pacific cable, and thought it would do the Colonies no harm, and might do a great deal of good, to have two independent services. One feature that commended the Pacific route to his mind was that the cable would pass through hardly any foreign territory. At the same time he did not think that the Hon. T. Unmack had taken the best means of forwarding the scheme he had at heart. If Queensland wanted the help of the other colonies, it would be as well for her to give them some assistance in their cable schemes. If Queensland had taken up that position the present subject of discussion would have had a very much more favourable reception, and he for one would have felt bound to give his warmest assistance. The question, however, did not immediately arise, and he did not see his way to go any further into it at present.

The motion was agreed to.

Intercolonial Telegraph Rates.

The Hon. W. COPLEY said that the object of his amendment had been to give an opportunity for an expression of opinion on the system of charging for names and addresses. It was the best system to adopt, and it was the general opinion of heads of departments that the change was one that ought to be made.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY pointed out that Victoria had two rates at present, 2s. to South Australia and 1s. to New South Wales, which made uniformity rather awkward. There would be a loss of revenue on the South Australian business, while with New South Wales, with which the principal business was done, there would be an increase of 50 per cent. He would require a little more consideration before he agreed to the proposition.

The Hon. T. UNMACK would not make any promise in the dark, as he did not know what effect the proposal would have upon the finances of his Colony.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL thought that the addition of five words to a message, and charging for the names and addresses, really equalised matters, so that it would not make much difference whether they agreed to it or not.

Hon. W. COPLEY withdrew his amendment.

The original motion was put and disagreed to.

The Conference then adjourned until 10 a.m. on Monday.

MONDAY, 21st MARCH.

Urgent Telegrams.

The Hon. T. UNMACK moved:—

“That in the opinion of this Conference the system of Urgent Telegrams at double rates should be adopted intercolonially and inland.”

This was a system that had repeatedly been adopted at various Conferences, but not carried into effect. Several of the Colonies had adopted the system in regard to their inland business, but they had not yet been able to get it adopted between the Colonies.

Hon. W. COPLEY seconded the motion. The system had not yet been adopted by South Australia intercolonially, but Mr. Todd had sent on a Minute dated 3rd March in which he requested it to be submitted for the approval of the Governor-in-Council. He had forwarded it for the signature of the Chief Secretary, but the Government were somewhat reluctant to adopt it, having a feeling that all telegrams were urgent, therefore the Minute was returned to him for further consideration. Personally he thought it was a fair system. He would like, therefore, to hear the views of the Representatives of the other Colonies.

Hon. J. KIDD regretted that he would be unable to support the motion, because he did not think it was a just thing to do. He looked upon all telegrams as of equal importance. Every message should be looked upon as urgent, and should be forwarded as speedily as possible. This proposal would give a monopoly to those who were better able to pay the higher rate, and keep back the equally important telegrams of the poorer people. His department did recognize certain telegrams as urgent—those in cases of sickness and death—and treated them as urgent, but there was no additional pay for them, and he did not think there should be.

Mr. J. G. DUFFY supported the motion. The argument of the previous speaker was very plausible, but it was not borne out by experience. New Zealand, which was the first colony to adopt the “urgent” rates, had three classes of telegrams: the “urgent,” which paid double rates; the “ordinary” and the “delayed,” which paid half-rates, and was not sent until the other classes of message had been all despatched. The last class of telegram, though of not much use in a small Colony, would be of the greatest possible advantage in a large Colony where the mail routes were very long. In regard to the urgent system he could not see any unfairness, and denied that it would lead to any delay in regard to the ordinary messages. No one would pay double rates unless they had an urgent reason for doing so. There was not much use in the other Colonies adopting this system unless New South Wales did so too, and he trusted therefore that the Hon. J. Kidd would reconsider the matter.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL thought that while the arguments of Mr. Kidd appeared to be strong ones, he hoped they would prove to be groundless; as the system worked well in the Colonies where it had been adopted there was no reason why it should not work equally well in the Colonies where it had not been adopted, and on those grounds he would recommend the system to his Government.

Hon. J. KIDD pointed out that in Victoria only 6d. a message had been charged for a long time past, and it would not be too much to double that rate for an urgent message. In New South Wales their internal rate was 1s., and it would cause an immense amount of dissatisfaction if they attempted to impose double rates. They were doing their best now in that Colony to carry on the Telegraph Office so that no message should be delayed for a moment more than was absolutely necessary. If the Conference did carry this system he could not promise to advise his Government to carry it out.

The PRESIDENT said that Tasmania had had this system in operation both inland and intercolonially, and no complaint worthy of notice had been heard of in regard to it. He would have been glad to have seen New South Wales adopt this system, and suggested that the motion might be altered to deal only with intercolonial business, leaving each Colony to do its inland business as they thought fit.

Hon. J. KIDD did not think the suggestion would help them in the least, more especially as New South Wales had erected a line with copper wire to expedite intercolonial messages, which would be finished in about a month.

Hon. T. UNMACK said that the suggestion of the President was one that he was about to make himself. He saw no difficulty in New South Wales allowing urgent messages to pass along her lines upon receiving double pay. The system had been in operation in Queensland since January 1, 1880, and had worked admirably. It had been adopted both by heads of Departments and Ministers at several previous Conferences, and it was a question in his mind whether they should continue these Conferences if there was to be no finality to their proceedings.

Hon. J. KIDD considered that the changes that had taken place in the internal financial condition of the different Colonies had given them a just right to delay action on matters that might have been agreed to by previous Conferences. However, on consideration of the matter he was prepared to agree to the proposal thus far: New South Wales had a copper wire extending from Albury to Wallangarra, and he would be willing to allow urgent messages to go by that line if Queensland would put a line down to Wallangarra. The messages would be treated as urgent, but New South Wales would not be responsible for any delay beyond her borders.

Hon. T. UNMACK asked if the Hon. J. Kidd meant that Queensland should put a copper wire down as far as Wallangarra.

Hon. J. KIDD said he meant an ordinary wire line.

Hon. T. UNMACK accepted the proposal—half a loaf was better than no bread. He asked for leave to amend his motion by omitting the words "and inland."

Hon. W. COPLEY, as seconder, concurred in the Amendment.

Leave to amend was granted, and the motion, as amended, agreed to.

South Australian Mail Lines.

Hon. J. G. DUFFY moved—"That in the opinion of this Conference the carriage of Mails over the South Australian Railway Lines should be expedited." This was a matter arising out of the letter he had received from Mr. Withers, Superintendent of the P. & O. Company. The causes of complaint could be very easily removed if attention were given to the matter. It was of the greatest importance that there should be unfailing punctuality in the despatch of the Mail Steamers. The Victorian Government had done all it could in the matter, but there were often delays for which that Government was not responsible. He trusted the representative of South Australia would take the matter into consideration, and that it would not be necessary to bring it up at another Conference.

The Hon. J. KIDD seconded the motion.

The Hon. W. COPLEY felt sure that no blame could be attached to the Postal Department of South Australia. When the intercolonial train came in the mails had to be taken ten miles to Largs Bay, put in steam launches and taken on board; so that with the most expeditious work it was bound to be afternoon when they were got on board. Unless the train service from Melbourne was altered he did not see how the matter could be remedied.

The motion was agreed to.

Anglo-French Mail Convention.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY stated that he had received a letter from the Acting French Consul to the effect that if the Colonies wish to join in the Anglo-French Mail Convention there would be no difficulty in allowing them to do so, although the legal time in which they could join had expired. When the matter was first brought under the notice of the Australian Governments they had agreed to let it alone, and he would not have introduced it here but that he had been requested to do so by the letter he had received. He moved that the letter from the Acting French Consul be received.

The Hon. W. KIDD seconded. He would be glad to look the matter up on his return to New South Wales.

The Hon. WILLIAM COPLEY thought that as the matter was one that could do no harm and might do some good, they might as well intimate their consent to it. It would be an act of good policy to do so.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL thought it was a matter for the Civil Government to deal with. The Conference should not dabble in matters outside its jurisdiction.

The Hon. T. UNMACK thought the matter one for the discussion of Cabinets.

The motion was agreed to.

Report of the Committee.

The PRESIDENT suggested that it would be better to consider each item in the Report *seriatim*, and the Conference concurred.

Item 1 was agreed to without discussion.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY moved that item 2 be agreed to. He would make a mental reservation, because he could not see his way to agree to it unless forced into doing so by the Imperial Government.

The Hon. T. UNMACK seconded, with the same mental reservation. He thought this was the proper time to offer a few remarks on the various charges they were called upon to adopt. In Australia they were placed in a different position to the more populous districts of Europe. Their scattered territories did not place them in the position to adopt all the charges that Europe might demand they should. It would never do for them to adopt the same rates as were in existence in Europe, and they must be cautious in adopting all these scales of charges, as it would become a serious matter for consideration as to whether they had taken a wise step in joining the Postal Convention at all. It would be three or four years before any Convention was held in Europe, and the sooner the Colonies discussed the question the sooner that Con-

vention would take it into consideration. At all events, the question was worth consideration, and in the meantime, if they gave these rates a fair trial until the next Convention it was only what they were bound to do they should raise their voices against the assimilating of all their charges to those of the Postal Union.

The Hon. W. COPLEY said that it seemed that they would have to adopt this clause, but they might leave it in abeyance until they were forced to do so by the surcharge. Until then they should refuse to alter the system. There was a general repugnance to it, on the part of newspapers especially.

The Hon. J. KIDD said that the question of protecting senders of newspapers brought them back, in his mind, to the fact that it would be better to adopt an initial rate of $\frac{3}{4}d.$ for two ounces. They had already decided that the initial rate should not be more than $1d.$, so that the Colonies would be at the mercy of the London Office whenever they chose to surcharge them, and then other arrangements would have to be made. There was nothing else for them to do than to adopt the clause as it stood at present.

The PRESIDENT felt that if the matter was left until the Imperial Government surcharged them, it might be left so long that the Colonies might be unable to impose the postage of $1d.$ until the end of next year. They had not power to charge more than a $\frac{3}{4}d.$ under the present law, and they would have to make provision for the extra charge by amending their Act this session. If they adopted this clause they would have to get their Act amended, and they might as well do that at once. There was no other course to adopt if pressure was brought to bear upon them by the Imperial Government.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL thought it better to agree to the clause at once, or else throw it out. It would be far better in his opinion to adopt it at once, as it would have to come sooner or later.

The motion was agreed to.

The Hon. T. UNMACK, referring to item six (Vienna Convention) said that a clause to a similar effect had been introduced in the new Postal Act in his colony; viz., that the Government should assume a responsibility of £2 for loss in the case of a registered letter.

The Hon. J. KIDD thought that the Government ought to assume some responsibility, and the provision was a very liberal one to agree to.

The Hon. W. COPLEY said, that as this was one of those matters which were optional, he did not see his way clear to adopt it until some of the other Colonies had had experience of it.

Mr. R. A. SHOLL objected to the Government assuming any liability for registered letters. A very great amount of trouble was gone to in the case of registered letters, and the permanent heads of departments would know well what it meant. If a registered letter was lost it must be through gross carelessness on the part of an officer, who would be always liable. But as a matter of fact they would never hear of a registered letter being lost.

The Hon. J. KIDD pointed out that the provision was merely to give the public increased confidence in regard to their registered letters.

The Hon. T. UNMACK said that he could not consent to item 30. The permanent heads of departments had nothing to do with regulating how revenue should be derived, or anything of that kind. This was a very serious matter, that they could not for a moment see the effect of.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY was afraid that the permanent heads of departments had gone a little too far in this matter at the present time, though before next Conference they might be able to collect some statistics to show how their ideas would work out.

The Hon. W. COPLEY was not prepared to agree to this item at present. While it was a question that might very well be considered in the future, any action upon the matter at present was premature.

The Hon. J. KIDD could not see what harm would be done by adopting this item, as it was simply an expression of opinion.

The Hon. T. UNMACK moved, as an amendment upon the item, that the words "and that the revenue derivable from these stamps should be apportioned amongst the Colonies on the basis of population" be left out.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the distribution of the revenue on the basis of population would necessitate a uniform postal rate. If Victoria was carrying her inland letters at $1d.$ and all the other colonies were charging $2d.$ upon theirs, it was manifest that they could never distribute the revenue fairly and have one stamp. To adopt a uniform stamp, therefore, they would have to have a uniform postage rate. No doubt the object was a good one, but he could not help feeling that it was a little premature.

The Hon. T. UNMACK withdrew his amendment.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY moved that the item be adopted.

The motion was negatived.

The report was adopted after some further discussion.

Australian Postal Convention.

The Draft of the Australian Postal Convention submitted by the Heads of Departments was then considered.

Hon. T. UNMACK stated that he would be unable to comply with the first paragraph under the head "Book and Packet Regulations." In accordance with the recommendations of the previous Conference he had introduced a provision into the Post and Telegraph Act in his Colony providing that all packets containing bank notes should be registered, otherwise they would be registered officially and a double registration fee charged upon delivery, but Parliament had rejected the proposal.

Hon. WM. COPLEY said that he was in the same position, as the proposal had also been rejected by the South Australian Parliament.

Hon. J. KIDD : Then we will deal with them as Queensland does with our newspapers.

The PRESIDENT said he would like to hear the views of the Colonies that had not yet adopted the Intercolonial Parcels Post. His attention had been called to the matter by a resident of Tasmania, who wished to send a small parcel from New South Wales, and could not do it. He would like to know if there was any hope that that Colony would adopt the system.

Hon. J. KIDD said that it could be carried out now by arrangement, but they proposed establishing the system as soon as they could get the necessary legislation. If parcels came from Victoria for Queensland, or *vice versa*, they were forwarded on, but that could not be done with New South Wales parcels until the Act was amended.

The Convention was adopted.

Votes of Thanks.

Hon. T. UNMACK stated that that concluded the business of the Conference, but it still remained for him to move a hearty and cordial vote of thanks to the Hon. B. S. Bird, their President, for the able manner in which he had presided over them, and for the hearty and generous hospitality which he had extended to them during their sojourn in Tasmania. He felt great regret that their stay had been so short, as they would have liked to extend their visit to this beautiful Colony, and become acquainted with its resources and public men.

Hon. J. KIDD seconded the motion, and made reference to the able manner in which the Hon. B. S. Bird had presided over their deliberations, and the generous hospitality shown by him and other members of the Government. Though the labours of this Conference had not been of such an extensive character as those of previous ones, he thought that these meetings had a good influence in cementing the regard of the public men of the different Colonies, not only in regard to the Post and Telegraph Services, but the Public Service generally. He hoped that before they met again the cloud that seemed to hang over the affairs of the different Colonies would have cleared away, and that they would be able to co-operate to a far greater extent than their financial condition permitted them to do now. He looked upon the Post and Telegraph Services not so much as a means of obtaining money, but for giving the greatest possible conveniences to the public without any great loss to the revenue, and he hoped that before long the Colonies would be in such a position that they could afford to make concessions for the sake of obtaining uniformity. Considering the state the Colonies were in he did not blame them for not agreeing to the proposals he had made, and he was content to let them stand over until a more favourable day arrived.

The Hon. T. UNMACK asked that the next Postal Conference held might be held in Queensland.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT thanked the members of the Conference for the manner in which they had recognised his efforts to serve them, but felt that he had not been put to any great strain, for accustomed as the members of the Conference were to the discharge of duties such as these, the burden imposed upon him had been very light indeed. Although they had no great burning questions to consider, he thought that when their work was looked through it would be found that they had done a great deal which would bear very good fruit in the various Colonies. There could be no question that the meeting together of the heads of the Postal and Telegraphic Departments of the various Colonies for the exchange of views was productive of a great deal of good, even if no other work was done. It had been a pleasure to himself and his colleagues to meet the members of the Conference, and if a cordial welcome had been given it was only what had been accorded to the representatives of Tasmania elsewhere. He trusted that the invitation of Mr. Unmack would be acceded to in due course, and would be very glad if the Fates allowed him to be present when the Conference was held in Brisbane.

The Hon. J. G. DUFFY proposed a vote of thanks to the Secretary, Mr. T. C. Just, for the able and courteous manner in which he had discharged his duties.

The Hon. W. COPLEY seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. T. C. JUST briefly responded.

The Hon. J. KIDD moved a vote of thanks to the permanent heads of Departments. So far as the Ministers were concerned the Session had not been a very heavy one, but these gentlemen had had a very heavy week's work. It would be difficult to find officers so well qualified for their positions, or so zealous and conscientious in the discharge of their duties, and he felt that it was the duty of the Ministers assembled to show their appreciation of the great assistance they had been to them.

The Hon. W. COPLEY seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. ROBERT HENRY returned thanks for the hearty manner in which the vote had been accorded, and expressed the hope that in future the work of the permanent heads of Departments could be got through before the Conference met, that they might be prepared beforehand.

Mr. C. TODD also responded, expressing the opinion that the manner in which the Post and Telegraph Offices were conducted was a credit to the Colonies. He also considered that it would be an advantage if the heads of Departments could meet two or three days beforehand to thrash out the various subjects which they would have to bring before their respective Ministers.

Messrs. M'Donnell, Hampton, Smibert, Boyes, and Sholl also responded.

The PRESIDENT thanked the Press for the publicity they had given to the proceedings of the Conference.

The Conference then rose.