

(No. 60)



1869.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

P O S T A G E.

REDUCTION OF RATE ON BOOKS AND PATTERNS OF LIGHT
WEIGHT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Despatch from the Secretary of State dated 26th June, 1869.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 3, 1869.



(CIRCULAR 1.)

Downing-street, 26th June, 1869.

SIR,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Post Office, with a Treasury Warrant, authorising a modification from the 1st of July proximo of the rate of Postage chargeable on books and trade patterns of light weight sent by post from the United Kingdom to the British Colonies; and I have to request that you will bring under the consideration of your Responsible Advisers the expediency of adopting a similar arrangement as regards printed papers and patterns forwarded from to the United Kingdom.

You will see that the Postmaster-General proposes to enter into communication with the Post Offices of the several Colonies concerned with regard to the change in the division of the Postage between this country and the Colonies, which will be involved by this alteration in the charges.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

GRANVILLE.

The Officer Administering the Government of Tasmania.

Mr. TILLEY to Sir FREDERIC ROGERS.

General Post Office, London, 9th June, 1869.

SIR,

THE Postmaster-General having received from Chambers of Commerce and other influential bodies in this country representations as to the advantage which would result to commerce from a reduction of the Postage chargeable on books and trade patterns of light weight sent by the Post between the United Kingdom and the Colonies, his Lordship has brought the question under the consideration of the Treasury, and their Lordships have been pleased to approve of such a modification of the existing rates of Postage as will allow of packets of printed papers or patterns, of a weight not exceeding two ounces, to be forwarded at a charge of one penny per ounce in those cases where the charge for a packet up to the weight of four ounces is now threepence or fourpence, and at a charge of twopence per ounce in those cases where the charge for a packet not exceeding four ounces is now sixpence.

Packets of greater weight than two ounces will remain subject to the same rates as are now chargeable.

Under the terms of a Treasury Warrant, dated the 29th ultimo, some copies of which are sent herewith, this alteration will be carried into effect on the 1st July next, so far as regards printed papers and patterns sent from the United Kingdom to the Colonies; and the Postmaster-General, in requesting that Earl Granville will be so good as to communicate this decision to the Governments of the several Colonies named in the Schedules appended to the Warrant, begs that his Lordship will at the same time invite them to adopt a similar arrangement for printed papers and patterns forwarded from the Colonies to the United Kingdom.

It would, in strictness, be right, before making this change, to obtain the acquiescence of the several Colonial Governments concerned, but as this would suspend for a considerable time the operation of the measure, which is one that can hardly meet with objection on their part, the Lords of the Treasury agree with the Postmaster-General in opinion that the change may be made, on this side at least, without their formal consent, leaving them to adopt it or not with respect to books and patterns sent from the Colonies to the United Kingdom. The Government of Canada have already urged the measure upon this Office, so that their acquiescence is certain.

The Straits Settlements are not included in the Warrant, but this is an oversight, and the arrangements referred to will equally apply to books and patterns sent to those Settlements, and it is desirable that the Governor should be communicated with, as proposed in the other cases.

The change in the rates of Postage will involve a corresponding change in the mode of dividing the Postage of books and patterns between this country and the Colonies, and on this point the Postmaster-General proposes to enter into communication with the Post Offices of the several Colonies concerned.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN TILLEY.

Sir FREDERIC ROGERS, *Bart.*

TREASURY WARRANT.

WHEREAS by an Act of Parliament passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her Majesty, chapter 96, for the regulation of the duties of postage, certain scales of weight and rates of postage were fixed and made chargeable and payable upon or in respect of letters, newspapers, Parliamentary proceedings, and printed papers transmitted and forwarded by the post, and various regulations were made for facilitating the transmission of such letters and papers by the post, and by the same Act powers were given to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury from time to time, by Warrant under their hands, to alter and fix any of the rates of postage therein mentioned.

And whereas further powers were given to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, by another Act of Parliament passed in the eleventh year of the reign of Her Majesty, chapter 85, for giving further facilities for the transmission of letters by post, and for the regulating the duties of postage thereon, and for other purposes relating to the Post Office.

And whereas the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in exercise of the powers vested in them, in and by the said before-mentioned Acts, and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, have from time to time, by divers Warrants under their hands, authorised and directed that packets consisting of printed papers, or of books, publications, or works of literature or art, or of patterns or samples of merchandise, might be transmitted by the post between the United Kingdom and Her Majesty's colonies and possessions and certain foreign countries at certain rates of postage, and under and subject to certain conditions, regulations, and restrictions in and by the said several Warrants respectively specified and mentioned.

And whereas it is expedient to reduce the postage now chargeable on certain of the several packets transmitted as hereinbefore respectively mentioned.

Now we, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in exercise of the powers reserved to us in and by the hereinbefore recited Acts of Parliament, and each of them, and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf, do, by this Warrant, under the hands of two of us the said Commissioners (by the authority of the statute in that case made and provided) order, direct, and declare as follows; that is to say:—

1. That all packets consisting of printed papers or of books, publications, or works of literature or art, whether British, Colonial, or Foreign, or of printed votes and proceedings of the Imperial Parliament, or the Colonial Legislatures, or of patterns or samples of merchandize not exceeding two ounces in weight, posted in the United Kingdom addressed to any of the several colonies, countries, and places mentioned and specified in the first schedule hereunder written, and respectively transmitted by the post from the United Kingdom to any of the several colonies, countries, and places mentioned and specified in the first schedule hereunder written, by the respective routes, and in the manner in the said first schedule also mentioned under the authority of any Warrant or Warrants of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury now in force relating thereto, shall, in lieu of being charged with the respective rates of postage payable thereon, under such respective Warrant or Warrants for such transmissions thereof respectively as hereinbefore mentioned, be charged with the rates of postage following; that is to say:—

On every such packet, if not exceeding one ounce in weight, there shall be charged and taken an uniform rate of postage of one penny;

And on every such packet, if exceeding one ounce and not exceeding two ounces in weight, there shall be charged and taken an uniform rate of postage of two pence.

2. That all packets consisting of printed papers, or of books, publications, or works of literature or art, whether British, colonial, or foreign, or of printed votes and proceedings of the Imperial Parliament or the Colonial Legislatures, or of patterns or samples of merchandize, not exceeding two ounces in weight, posted in the United Kingdom, addressed to any of the several colonies, countries, and places mentioned and specified in the second schedule hereunder written, and respectively transmitted by the post from the United Kingdom to any of the several colonies, countries, and places mentioned and specified in the second schedule hereunder written by the respective routes, and in the manner in the said second schedule also mentioned, under the authority of any

Warrant or Warrants of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury now in force relating thereto, shall, in lieu of being charged with the respective rates of postage payable thereon under such respective Warrant or Warrants for such transmission thereof respectively as hereinbefore in this clause mentioned, be charged with the rates of postage following; that is to say:—

On every such packet, if not exceeding one ounce in weight, there shall be charged and taken an uniform rate of postage of two pence;

And on every such packet, if exceeding one ounce and not exceeding two ounces in weight, there shall be charged and taken an uniform rate of postage of fourpence.

3. All such packets as are mentioned in this Warrant shall remain subject in every respect (save as is in this Warrant mentioned) to the several orders, regulations, conditions, and restrictions now in force and applicable thereto, and the several Warrants hereinbefore referred to shall (save in so far as the same are respectively altered or affected by this present Warrant) continue in full force and effect.

4. The Commissioners for the time being of Her Majesty's Treasury may, by Warrant under their hands, duly made at any time hereafter, alter, repeal, revoke, or modify the rates of postage hereby fixed or altered, or the regulations hereby made, and may make and establish any new or other rates or regulations in lieu thereof.

5. This Warrant shall come into operation on the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

The FIRST SCHEDULE above referred to.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------|
| Canada | } | By Packet Boat direct, or viâ Halifax, or viâ the United States of America. | | |
| Nova Scotia | | | | |
| New Brunswick | | | | |
| Prince Edward Island | | | | |
| Bermuda | | | | |
| British Columbia | | | | |
| Vancouver's Island | | | | |
| Newfoundland | | | | |
| Falkland Islands | | | | |
| Turks Islands | | | | |
| Barbadoes | | | | |
| Tobago | | | | |
| Antigua | | | | |
| Montserrat | | | | |
| St. Christopher | | | | |
| Nevis | | | | |
| Virgin Islands | | | | |
| Dominica | | | | |
| Carriacou | | | | |
| St. Croix | | | } | By British Packet Boat. |
| St. Eustatius | | | | |
| St. Martins | | | | |
| St. Domingo | | | | |
| Sierra Leone | | | | |
| Gambia | | | | |
| Gold Coast—British and Foreign | | | | |
| Lagos | | | | |
| Cape of Good Hope | | | | |
| Natal | | | | |
| St. Helena | | | | |
| Ascension | | | | |
| Badagry | | | | |
| Fernando Po | | | | |
| Liberia | | | | |
| Chili | | | | |
| Peru | | | | |
| Bolivia | | | | |
| Costa Rica | } | Direct or viâ the United States of America. | | |
| Ecuador | | | | |
| Guatemala | | | | |
| Mosquito Territory | | | | |
| Nicaragua | | | | |
| Salvador | | | | |
| United States of Columbia | | | | |
| Bahamas | | | | |
| British Honduras | | | | |

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|-------------------------|---|--|
| Jamaica | } | By British or French Packet Boat. |
| British Guiana | | |
| Trinidad | | |
| St. Vincent | | |
| St. Lucia | | |
| Cayenne | | |
| Martinique | | |
| Guadaloupe | | |
| Hayti | | |
| Porto Rico | | |
| St. Thomas | | |
| Venezuela | | |
| Goree | | |
| Senegal | | |
| Brazil | | |
| Argentine Confederation | } | By British or French Packet Boat ; or partly by British and partly by Netherland Packet Boat ; or partly by French and partly by Netherland Packet Boat. |
| Paraguay | | |
| Uruguay | } | By British or French Packet Boat or viâ the United States of America. |
| Surinam | | |
| Curaçoa | } | Viâ Southampton or viâ France. |
| Cuba | | |
| Mexico | } | By British Packet Boat viâ Southampton |
| Morocco | | |
| East Indies | | |
| Ceylon | | |
| Hong Kong | | |
| China | | |
| Java | | |
| Japan | | |
| Borneo | | |
| Philippine Islands | | |
| Victoria | | |
| New South Wales | | |
| South Australia | | |
| Western Australia | | |
| Queensland | | |
| Tasmania | } | Viâ the United States of America |
| New Zealand | | |
| China | | |
| Japan | } | Viâ the United States of America |
| Sandwich Islands | | |

The SECOND SCHEDULE above referred to.

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| East Indies | } | By British or French Packet Boat viâ Marseilles. |
| Ceylon | | |
| Hong Kong | | |
| China | | |
| Java | | |
| Japan | | |
| Borneo | | |
| Philippine Islands | | |
| Victoria | | |
| New South Wales | | |
| South Australia | | |
| Western Australia | | |
| Queensland | | |
| Tasmania | | |
| New Zealand | | |
| Mauritius | | |
| Madagascar | | |
| Réunion | } | By French Packet Boat viâ Marseilles |

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, the twenty-ninth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

James Stansfeld, Jr.
W. P. Adam.