

POST OFFICE REGULATIONS.

RATES OF POSTAGE ON INLAND LETTERS.

The rates of postage to be prepaid are as follow, viz:—

For a letter not exceeding 1 oz.	1d.
Exceeding 1 oz., but not exceeding 2 oz.	1½d.
" 2 oz., and less than 4 oz.	2d.
" 4 oz., and less than 6 oz.	2½d.
" 6 oz., and less than 8 oz.	3d.
" 8 oz., and less than 10 oz.	3½d.
" 10 oz., and less than 12 oz.	4d.

A letter exceeding the weight of 12 oz. is liable to a postage of 1d. for every ounce, beginning with the first ounce. A letter, for example, weighing between 14 oz. and 15 oz. must be prepaid 1s. 3d.

All inland letters must be prepaid in stamps. A letter posted unpaid is chargeable on delivery with double postage; and if insufficiently prepaid is chargeable with double the deficiency.

SUBURBAN DELIVERIES.

There are seven despatches daily to the suburban districts. The first is at 6.30 a.m. to all places within the London district limits; and includes the correspondence by the night mails from the provinces, and by any colonial or foreign mails arriving in sufficient time. This delivery is generally completed in the nearer suburbs by 9 a.m., and at the more distant places between 9 and 10 a.m. The second despatch is at 9.30 a.m. to the nearer suburban districts. The third is at 11.30 a.m., and comprises, with a few exceptions, every part of the London district. The fourth despatch, at 2.30 p.m., is to most of the suburban districts, isolated localities excepted. The fifth despatch, at 4.30 p.m., extends to the whole of the suburban districts, and, except in the remoter rural places, the letters are delivered the same evening. The sixth despatch, at 6 p.m. is also to the nearer suburbs. The seventh despatch is at 7 p.m. Letters for this despatch posted at the town receiving houses and pillar boxes by 6 p.m., or at the chief office of the district to which they are addressed by 7.30 p.m., are delivered the same evening at all the principal places within about six miles of the General Post Office. At the more distant places the letters are delivered early the following morning.

THE NEWSPAPER HALFPENNY POSTAGE

applies to any publication consisting wholly or in great part of political or other news, or of articles relating thereto, or to other current topics, with or without advertisements, and published at intervals of not more than seven days; and for each newspaper, whether posted singly or in a packet, the prepaid postage is one halfpenny. Every newspaper must be so folded as to admit of the title being read. No packet of newspapers must exceed 14lb. weight nor 2ft. in length.

Book Post.—A Book-Packet may contain not only books, paper, or other substance in ordinary use for writing or printing, whether plain or written or printed upon (to the exclusion of any written letter or communication of the nature of a letter); photographs, when not on glass or in frames containing glass or any like substance, and anything usually appertaining to such articles in the way of binding and mounting, or necessary for their safe transmission by post, but also Circulars, when these are wholly or in great part printed, engraved, or lithographed. The postage is one halfpenny for every 2 oz., or fraction of that weight. A packet posted wholly unpaid will be charged with double the book-postage; and, if posted partially prepaid, with double the deficiency. Every book-packet must be posted either without a cover or in a cover open at both ends, and in such a manner as to admit of the contents being easily withdrawn for examination; otherwise it will be treated as a letter. No book-packet may contain anything sealed or otherwise closed against inspection; nor must there be any letter, nor any communication of the nature of a letter, whether separate or otherwise, unless the whole of such letter or communication be printed. It must not exceed 5lb. in weight and 18in. in length.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

The charge for telegrams throughout the United Kingdom, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, but excepting the Scilly, Orkney, and Shetland Islands, is 1s. for the first twenty words, and 3d. for every additional five words—i.e., for every additional group of not more than five words; the names and addresses of the sender and receiver not being counted.

MONEY ORDERS

are issued at the chief district offices and at the branch office, Lombard-street and Charing-cross, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.; on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.; at other branch offices and receiving-houses in the town districts between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.; at branch offices in the suburban districts between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.; and at receiving-houses in the suburban districts between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. On Saturdays savings bank deposits are received at all receiving-offices until 8 p.m. The commission on inland money orders is:—For sums under 10s., 1d.; of 10s and under £1, 2d.; and for every additional pound or fraction of a pound, 1d. No order is allowed to contain a fractional part of a penny, and the printed forms only should be used which are supplied gratuitously.

INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.—Offices have been selected in all the States and territories. No single order will be issued for more than 50 dols., but persons desiring to remit larger sums can obtain additional money orders. The rates of commission on these money orders will range from 0.25 on orders not exceeding 10 dols., to 1 dol 25c. for over 40 dols. and not exceeding 50 dols.

The scale of commission for orders payable abroad is as follows:—

For sums not exceeding	£2	£5	£7	£10				
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.				
If payable in Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Egypt, or at Malta, Gibraltar, or Constantinople ...	0	9	1	6	2	3	3	0
If payable in any other place abroad (including most of the colonies) authorised to transact money-order business with this country ...	1	0	2	0	3	0	4	0

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Deposits of One Shilling, or of any number of shillings, or of pounds and shillings, may be made by any person at the Post-Office Savings Banks, provided that such depositor shall not make deposits amounting to more than £30 in any year ending Dec. 31, or make any further deposit when the amount standing in his name exceeds £150, exclusive of interest. When any depositor's principal and interest amount together to £200, all interest will cease.

GENERAL POSTAL UNION.

In accordance with the provisions of an international treaty concluded at Berne on Oct. 9 last, the whole of the States of Europe, the United States of America, and Egypt formed themselves into a General Postal Union for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence, and agree to adopt low and uniform rates of correspondence dispatched from one State of the Union to another. These provisions extend to letters, post cards, newspapers and other printed papers, patterns of merchandise, and legal and commercial documents.

The following are the charges to the undermentioned places (otherwise than via France):—Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Heligoland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Servia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Malta, Turkey, Canary Islands—Letters, per ½ oz., 2½d.; post-cards, each, 1½d.; newspapers, per 4 oz., 1d.; printed papers, &c., per 2 oz., 1d. Upon letters posted unpaid double the above rates will be charged on delivery.

REGISTRATION.—Letters, post cards, newspapers and other printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents addressed to any of the above countries may be registered. The registration fee will be 4d. in all cases, which, in addition to the postage, must be prepaid. The transmission of letters containing gold or silver money, jewels or valuable articles, or anything liable to Customs duties, through the post to any of the countries and places named in the table is prohibited.

FOREIGN POST-CARDS.—The post-cards which have been manufactured for use in this country bear an impressed stamp of the value of 1½d. The additional postage, therefore, required in those cases where they will be forwarded via France must be prepaid by means of adhesive stamps to be affixed to the cards. On the front or stamped side of a post-card nothing must be written or printed except the address.

NEWSPAPERS.—The ordinary charge on a newspaper addressed to any country of the Union is 1d. per 4 oz. But, for the present, the charge on newspapers sent through France, except to Belgium, will be 2d. per 4 oz. In all cases the postage must be prepaid.

PRINTED PAPERS.—Under the term "Printed Papers" are comprehended stitched or bound books, pamphlets, music, visiting-cards, circulars, catalogues, prospectuses, announcements, and notices of various kinds, whether printed, engraved, or lithographed, as well as photographs. Printed papers must, as a rule, contain no writing, manuscript figure or mark whatever, beyond a simple stroke marking a particular passage of the text to which it is desired to call attention. But proofs of printing or of music may have corrections upon them made with a pen, and may have manuscripts not of the nature of a letter annexed to them, the corrections or manuscripts to relate exclusively to the text or the execution of the work. Circulars, notices, &c., may bear the signature of the sender, with his trade or profession, and may also indicate the place of origin and the date. In the case of books, a manuscript dedication or a complimentary inscription from the author will be allowed. Stock or share-lists, prices current, and market reports, printed or lithographed, may have the prices added in writing or by means of any impression whatever.

LEGAL AND COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS.—Legal and commercial documents may be forwarded at the same charge as printed papers. Under the term "legal and commercial documents" are comprised Acts or deeds of all kinds drawn up by public functionaries and invoices, copies, or extracts.

PATTERNS OF MERCHANDISE.—Patterns or samples of merchandise may be forwarded at the same charges as printed papers to any part of the countries of the Union under the following conditions:—1. They must be placed in bags, or boxes, or in envelopes the fastenings of which are removable so as to admit of an easy examination. 2. The patterns and samples must not have any saleable value nor bear any MS. writing other than the name or the trade or profession of the sender, the address of the person for whom the packet is intended, a trade mark, numbers, and prices.

NEW STAMP OF THE VALUE OF TWOPENCE-HALFPENNY.—For the convenience of persons corresponding with the countries of the Union, a new adhesive postage-stamp of the value of 2½d. has been issued, and may be procured at all post-offices.

Consequent on the conclusion of the postal union treaty and the general reduction of postage which that treaty authorises, the postage of correspondence addressed to the undermentioned countries, and which is almost exclusively forwarded through a State of the Union, is reduced as follows:—Hawaiian Islands—letters, 4d. per ½ oz.; newspapers, 2d. per 4 oz.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. per 2 oz. Tunis, via Belgium and Italy—letters, 3½d.; newspapers, 1d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 1d.; via France and Italy—letters, 5d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Montenegro—letters, 3d.; newspapers, 1½d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 1½d. Morocco, via Southampton and Gibraltar—letters, 2½d.; newspapers, 1d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 1d.; via France and Gibraltar—letters, 6d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Further, all letters, &c., for the following countries and places, when specially addressed, to be forwarded via the United States, or via Russia, will be liable to the reduced rates of postage here specified in each case:—Via the United States. Colon—letters, 5d. per ½ oz.; newspapers, 2d. per 4 oz.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. per 2 oz. Panama—letters, 5d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Costa Rica—letters, 5d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Nicaragua—letters, 5d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Cuba—letters, 3½d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Guatemala—letters, 7½d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Mexico—letters, 6d.; newspapers, 1½d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 1½d. Japan—letters, 10d.; newspapers, 3d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 3d. China—letters, 6d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Via Russia.—China (Kulzau, Pekin, and Tien-Tsin)—letters, 1s. 2½d.; newspapers, 4d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2½d. (Patterns cannot be sent to China via Russia.) China (Urga)—Letters, 6d.; newspapers, 2½d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Letters or other packets for Tunis, Montenegro, Colon, Panama, or Japan may be registered. On registered letters for Japan a fee of 9d. must be prepaid; on those for Colon or Panama a fee of 8d.; and on those for the other places mentioned a fee of 4d., in addition to the postage.