

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.

GENERAL POSTAL UNION.

In accordance with the provisions of an international treaty concluded at Berne in 1876, the whole of the States of Europe, the United States of America, the Argentine Confederation, and Egypt were formed into a General Postal Union for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence, and adopted low and uniform rates of correspondence dispatched from one State to another. These provisions extend to letters, post cards, newspapers and other printed papers, patterns of merchandise, and legal and commercial documents.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN LETTERS.

Full particulars of the rates of postage on letters to the colonies and foreign countries will be found in the British Postal Guide, published quarterly, price Sixpence.

To some countries prepayment of the postage is compulsory. In others the whole of the postage cannot be prepaid.

A letter posted unpaid, or paid only in part, directed to go by a route by which prepayment is compulsory, is returned to the writer, unless there is another route by which prepayment is not required, in which case the letter is sent by the latter route. Letters, however, for Australia and New Zealand, if prepaid as much as one rate (even though the prepayment be insufficient), are not detained, but are forwarded charged with the deficient postage and an additional rate.

A letter posted insufficiently prepaid for a place to which prepayment is optional is sent forward charged; the value of the stamps, however, being, as a rule, taken into account.

The same rates are chargeable in this country upon unpaid or insufficiently paid letters received from the above-named places.

No letter for any colony or foreign country may be above two feet in length or one foot in width or depth.

Letters, &c., for Brazil, Montevideo, Peru, Bolivia, and Chili, if specially directed "By Supplementary Mail, via Bordeaux," and posted in time for dispatch from London by the Day Mail of Friday, will in due course overtake, at Bordeaux, the packet dispatched from Liverpool on the previous Wednesday.

Letters for such places in Turkey and Asia Minor as have no Austrian post office should be addressed to the care of an agent residing in the nearest port at which an Austrian post office has been established. Letters for places on the Persian Gulf are forwarded via Bombay, if specially directed by that route and prepaid the rates of postage for Bombay.

Letters for Russia should have the name of the town added in either English, French, or German; and they should bear as a part of their address the name of the province or government in which they are situated. In addressing all letters, &c., for Russia the name of the place of destination, as well as the government in which such place is situated, must be correctly given; and, further, the address must be plainly written. If these conditions be not complied with, the Russian Post Office declines to undertake the delivery of the correspondence.

No letters containing gold or silver money, jewels, or precious articles, or anything liable to Customs duties, can be sent, even if registered, to any country of the General Postal Union.

INLAND BOOK POST.

The postage is one halfpenny for every 2oz. or part of that weight.

A packet posted wholly unpaid is charged with double the book postage; and if posted partially prepaid, with double the deficiency.

A book packet may contain any number of separate books or other publications, photographs (when not on glass or in cases containing glass or any like substance), drawings, prints, or maps, and any quantity of paper, or any other substance in ordinary use for writing or printing upon; and the books or other publications, prints, maps, &c., may be either printed, written, engraved, lithographed, or plain, or any mixture of these. Further, 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 the case of prints or maps, markers (whether of paper or otherwise) in the case of books, pens, or pencils, in the case of pocket-books, &c.; and, in short, whatever, is necessary for the safe transmission of such articles, or usually appertains thereto, but the binding, rollers, &c., must not be sent as a separate packet.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN BOOK POST.

The limit of size for a book-packet addressed to any place abroad is 24 in. in length and 12 in. in width or depth.

Whatever is allowed to be sent in an inland book-packet may be sent in a book-packet to places abroad, except that water-colour drawings are not allowed to be sent in a book-packet to France or Algeria.

No writing or manuscript mark, however, beyond the name and address of the person to whom it is sent is admissible in or upon a packet forwarded via France to the Argentine Confederation, Bolivia, Chili, Ecuador, Hayti, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, St. Thomas, Uruguay, United States of Colombia, or Venezuela.

FOREIGN CARD POST.

Foreign post-cards may be sent to Canada and to all the countries comprised in the General Postal Union, with the exception of British India.

The postage of a card is in every case one half the rate for a single letter.

Foreign post-cards with an impressed stamp of 1½d. each are sold at that rate, and are transmissible to the majority of the countries of the Union without extra charge.

PAYMENT OF POST-OFFICE ORDERS THROUGH BANKERS.

Any money order made payable to any person or persons whomsoever at a post office in any city, town, or place within the United Kingdom may be presented for payment by or through any banker or bankers, either at such post office at which the same is made payable or at the chief money-order office in London, notwithstanding that the form of receipt on such money order may not bear any signature purporting to be the signature of the person or persons to whom such money order is made payable, provided that the name of the banker or bankers by or through whom such money order is presented for payment be written or stamped upon the face thereof, and the name of such banker or bankers so written or stamped as aforesaid shall be accepted at such post office or chief money-order office as a sufficient receipt for the amount of such money order.

In all cases, where a money order is presented, in manner aforesaid, for payment at the chief money-order office in London, by or through any banker or bankers having an account at the Bank of England, payment of such money order may be forthwith made by means of a transfer of the amount of such money order from the account of her Majesty's Postmaster-General at the Bank of England to the account at the same bank of such banker or bankers, by or through whom such money order is presented for payment as aforesaid; but such payment shall nevertheless be subject to the subsequent verification of such money order, and shall be made upon the express condition that if, upon examination, it shall appear to her Majesty's Postmaster-General that payment of the amount, or any part of the amount, of such money order has been incorrectly or improperly made or allowed to such banker or bankers as aforesaid, the amount so incorrectly or improperly paid or allowed may be deducted by her Majesty's Postmaster-General from any moneys which may thereafter become payable to such banker or bankers for or on account or in respect of any post-office money orders.

In every case where payment is made under the foregoing regulations of any money order so presented for payment by or through a banker or bankers in manner aforesaid such money order and all liability to pay the same shall be absolutely, and to all intents and for all purposes, discharged by such payment, notwithstanding any fraud, error, mistake, or loss which may have been committed or have occurred in reference to such money order, or the procuring or obtaining the payment thereof.

INDIAN PARCEL POST.

1. Persons wishing to send parcels to any part of British India can do so through the Indian Parcel Post Agency—established under authority of the Director-General of the Post Office of India—at 122, Leadenhall-street, E.C.; and (Branch Office) at 25, Cockspur-street, S.W.

2. The charge for parcels is 1s. per lb. or fraction of a lb. (prepayment optional), covering transit from London to destination in India. Insurance may be effected, if desired, at the rate (to be prepaid) of 1s. up to £3 value, 2s. 6d. up to £10 value, and 5s. up to £20 value. Indian Customs duty (if chargeable) will be realised from the addressee.

N.B.—Parcels containing books, or articles treated as books under the British Inland Book Post Rules, will be charged at half rates—viz., 6d. per lb.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN PATTERN AND SAMPLE POST.

There is a Pattern and Sample Post to certain colonies and foreign countries, but it is restricted to bonâ fide trade patterns or samples of merchandise.

Goods sent for sale, or in execution of an order (however small the quantity may be), or any articles sent by one private individual to another which are not actually patterns or samples, are not admissible. The rates of postage are the same as for Book Packets.

ARTICLES NOT ALLOWED TO BE SENT BY POST.

It is forbidden to forward by post any obscene print, painting, photograph, book or card, or other article, or any letter, newspaper, publication, packet, or card having thereon any words, marks, or designs of a libellous or grossly offensive character; glass bottles, gunpowder, lucifer-matches or anything liable to combustion, razors, scissors, or other sharp instrument, game, fish, fruit, or other perishable article.

Postmasters are instructed not to receive any letter which there is good reason to believe contains anything likely to injure the contents of the mail bag, or to do bodily harm to any officer of the Post Office. If such a packet be posted without the Postmaster's knowledge, or if at any time before its dispatch he should discover any such packet, he is directed not to forward it, but to report the case, with the address of the packet, to the Secretary.

MODES OF PREPAYMENT.

Inland letters, newspapers, and book-packets cannot be prepaid in money but must be prepaid by means of stamps, either adhesive or embossed or impressed. This rule applies also to registered letters.

Exceptions.—At the Chief and District Post Offices, and at the Charing-cross and Lombard-street Post Offices in London, as well as at the Head Offices in Edinburgh and Dublin, letters and book-packets may, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., be prepaid in money, provided the amount be never less than £1, and that the letters and book-packets be tied in bundles representing a postage of 5s. each, with the addresses arranged in the same direction.

Letters to places abroad must be prepaid wholly in stamps. Newspapers, book-packets, and sample-packets for places abroad can also be prepaid only by means of stamps; the prepayment being compulsory.

British postage-stamps, though available for all letters, &c., going out of this country, are not, as a general rule, available for letters, &c., coming into it; the principal exception being in the case of letters posted by sea-vial officers, marines, and seamen serving abroad, which, if posted in the ship's bag, must be prepaid by means of British postage-stamps.

REGISTRATION (INLAND AND FOREIGN.)

The fee for registering a letter, newspaper, or book-packet passing between any two places in the United Kingdom is twopence.

The fee chargeable for registration to places abroad will be found in the British Postal Guide.

Every letter to be registered should be presented at the counter, and a receipt obtained for it, and should on no account be dropped into the letter-box. If, contrary to this rule, a letter marked "Registered," be dropped into the letter-box, it will, if directed to any place in the United Kingdom or the British Colonies, be liable to a registration fee of 4d., instead of the ordinary fee of 2d.