

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.

Letters for the Country posted in London or the London Districts on Saturday too late for the ordinary Evening Mails, but in time for the last Evening Collections are delivered next morning, if for places within the range of the Midnight despatches; if for places beyond that range, they are delivered on Monday. The late fee charged for posting inland ordinary letters, after the time of closing the boxes for the dispatch of a mail, is reduced to a uniform rate of a halfpenny.

All Post Offices in the London District are closed on Sundays, with some few exceptions, which are open for the receipt and dispatch of telegrams during the hours stated in Postal Guide.

On Bank Holidays the Postal and Telegraph arrangements in London are of an exceptional character, and due notice is given of them by means of Notices to the public exhibited at Metropolitan Post Offices.

Inquiries for Missing Letters, &c., should be made at the Secretary's Office, New Building, between ten a.m. and four p.m. (Saturdays between ten and one).

The Returned Letter Office is in Telegraph-street, Moorgate-street. The Money Order Office is at No. 1, Aldersgate-street. The Post-Office Savings Bank is in Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

LETTERS "TO BE CALLED FOR."

There is a Poste Restante both at the General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, and at the Charing-cross Post Office, where letters "to be called for" can be obtained between the hours of nine a.m. and five p.m. No letters (except communications from the Savings Bank Department) are taken in "to be called for" at the other district or branch offices, and any so directed are sent to the Returned Letter Office to be returned to the writers.

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.

No letter for any colony or foreign country may be above two feet in length or one foot in width or depth. Neither must it contain 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 2 oz. 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 1d. and 1½d. each are sold at that rate, and are transmissible to the majority of the countries of the Union without extra charge, but reference should be made for exceptional rates to the Post Office Guide.

REGISTRATION (INLAND AND FOREIGN.)

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

The fee chargeable for registration to Colonies and Foreign Countries will be found in the Post Office 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.

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, are charged 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 bona 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.

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 naval officers, marines, and seamen serving abroad, which, if posted in the ship's bag, must be prepaid by means of British postage-stamps.

POST-OFFICE MONEY ORDERS.

The regulations which came into operation Oct. 1, 1880, with respect to postal orders enacts that the following poundage be paid:—1s., 2d.; 2s. 6d., 5s., or 7s. 6d.; 10s., 12s. 6d., 15s., 17s. 6d., or 20s., 2d.

The postmaster may require the person to sign his name on the order before payment is made, although it has been already signed. A postal order may be crossed to a particular banker, and the banker to whom it is crossed may cross it to another banker or agent for collection; and when so crossed specially a postmaster shall refuse to pay it, except to the banker to whom it is crossed.

If three months shall have expired before the order is presented for payment a commission equal to the amount of the original poundage will be charged; and if the order contains any erasure or alteration, or is cut or defaced, the postmaster may refuse payment and refer the same to the Postmaster-General. The payment of the amount of a postal order shall discharge the Postmaster-General and his officers from all liability whatsoever in respect of the order. The new regulations apply to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

POST-OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

This department of the Post Office has been removed to a new building in Queen Victoria-street, and which is designed to accommodate the large number of officials and their 3560 ledgers, containing more than 2,000,000 of depositors' current accounts. The average daily issue of warrants during the past year was 4654; the greatest number issued on any one day was 3060 for the repayment of £34,200. In the course of the year more than 80,000 letters were received and answered. The total number of offices open for the transaction of Savings Bank business was at the end of the year 5831.

The average balance to the credit of each open account at the close of the year was £16 1s. 4d., or an increase of 5½d. upon the average balance, and the relative proportion for England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland being £16 1s. 11d., £10 1s. 3½d., and £19 6s. 3½d., as compared with £16 1s. 5½d., £10 1s. 1½d., and £19 6s. 0½d. respectively.

The total amount of interest allowed to depositors from the establishment of Post-Office Savings Banks to the end of 1878 was £5,937,033, of which £699,603 accrued during the year 1878, being an increase of £38,144 above the amount which accrued during the previous year.

By an Act which came into operation in November, 1880, an alteration was made in the rate of interest payable to depositors, which shall not exceed £2 15s. per cent per annum. On a request made to the Postmaster-General a depositor may have his savings invested, provided the sum shall not be less than ten pounds, or the current price of ten pounds stock; and the amount of stock credited in any savings bank year shall not exceed one hundred pounds stock. The whole amount of stock credited to any one's account shall not exceed five hundred pounds stock.

SAVINGS IN POSTAGE-STAMPS.—The Postmaster-General, with a view of affording facilities to the public for collecting, by means of postage-stamps, sums of one shilling, that being the smallest amount received by the Post-office Savings Bank, ordered that:—"Any person desirous of saving 1s., by means of penny contributions, for deposit in the Post-office Savings Bank, may do so by purchasing with every penny so saved a penny postage-stamp and affixing it to a form to be obtained at the Post-Office. When twelve such stamps have been so affixed, the form may then be taken to any post-office savings bank in the United Kingdom, where it will be received by the postmaster either as the first deposit in a new account then to be opened, or as an ordinary deposit if the owner of it has already opened an account. The stamps affixed to this form must not be defaced or in any way damaged, or they cannot be received by a postmaster.