THE POST OFFICE.

From the twenty-ninth report of the Postmaster-General it appears that the estimated number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom during the twelve months was 2,190,656,800, showing an increase of 8 per cent.; the number of parcels amounted to 54,966,400, an increase of 13 per cent; the number of book packets and circulars, 588,506,420, an increase of 6 per cent.; and the number of newspapers, 130,903,150, an increase of slightly less than last year. The number of letters received in the returned letter offices was 5,014,428, an increase of 106,588; of post cards, 79,847, an increase of 37,887; of book packets, 308,767, an increase of 122,897; of newspaper packets, 42,789, an increase of 6,516. Of the letters, 262,231 were unreturnable: 26,230 bore no stamp, and 236,240 were stamped, the average rate of payment amounting to £0.012, of which the whole of, with the exception of about £15, has already been returned to the senders. Notwithstanding repeated warnings to the public, nearly £70,000 of letters were received lose and covered, owing to the weak and flimsy naturer of the wrappers used, and the insecure mode of packing. Reply post cards, both inland and foreign, are now sent by the public in an increasing number; and the Post Office is not availed to themselves to any great extent of the facility thus offered. The number of post offices in Great Britain, as compared with January 1, 1861, was 3,086,870, and the number of letters registered at the close of the year was 2,995,821, showing an increase of £2,413,266. The number of accounts remaining open at the close of the year was 2,666,915 as against 2,672,015 in the previous year, an increase of 251,914. The savings bank business in Ireland again showed a large increase. The total amount, including interest (drastic parcels, and currency, is £290,925, which does not include the amount of Government stock standing to the post office, or other institutions, and £21,485, before the close of the year. This sum by these means of others, within the year, and no less than 7,598,208 were used. The gross revenue for the year was £9,441,813, and the net revenue £9,007,272, as compared with £8,969,272 on the previous year.

THE PARCELS POST.

Mr. Fawcett has brought one of the greatest extensions of the Post Office which has taken place since Rowland Hill introduced uniformity and simplicity of charge. It is difficult to attempt to predict what is the effect of the extension of the General Post Office. It is estimated that 15,000 of new wire would have to be used before the new charge could come into operation; but it is expected that the change would come into operation on or about the 1st of January. The introduction of the new charge into England leads to a comparison between the rates fixed in this country and elsewhere. This cannot be done owing to the varying general circumstances and the varying distance, whereas in England it is uniform. This also necessitates a double comparison—namely, that of the charge and the material and the latter. The first new scale of charges established by the London Post Office is as follows with some observations regarding extra charge for foreign Frank France: England: 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., 2s., 6d., 1s., 1s., 2s., 3d., 4d., and 6d. The rate for 7d. in France is £1, and for 6d. in Holland, Belgium, and Switzerland. The following table gives the rates charged by foreign countries as well as by the weight. The weight in pounds and ounces, and the Dutch of post office in the Netherlands, and the German of post office in Germany, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Postage</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>1d.</td>
<td>1d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>2d.</td>
<td>4d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>3d.</td>
<td>6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>4d.</td>
<td>1s.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No parcel shall be charged for being conveyed by post consisting of or containing any of the following articles:—

(a) Any parcel consisting of or containing any article which is any kind whatsoever, which might come in the course of transmission through the post, be received in or conveyed by the Postmaster-General or his officers, likely to injure the person in the course of transmission of the parcel through the post, or any parcel in or by which such person is likely to injure any other person or any article in or by which such parcel may be conveyed by post, or any other person or any article or any other person who may deal with such parcel, or to any bag, basket, box, or other receptacle in or by which such parcel may be conveyed by post, or to any other person or any article or any other person who may deal with such parcel or to any bag, basket, box, or other receptacle in or by which the parcel may be conveyed by post.

(b) Any parcel consisting of or containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(c) Any parcel containing any animal of any kind whatsoever.

(d) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(e) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(f) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(g) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

Prohibitions.

No parcel shall be conveyed by post consisting of or containing any of the following articles:

(a) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(b) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(c) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(d) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(e) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(f) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(g) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(h) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(i) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(j) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(k) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(l) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(m) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(n) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(o) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(p) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(q) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(r) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(s) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(t) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(u) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(v) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(w) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(x) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(y) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

(z) Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

AA. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

BB. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

CC. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

DD. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

EE. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

FF. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

GG. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

HH. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

II. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

JJ. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

KK. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

LL. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

MM. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

NN. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

OO. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

PP. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

QQ. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

RR. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

SS. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

TT. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

UU. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

VV. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

WW. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

XX. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

YY. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

ZZ. Any parcel containing any article which is likely to injure any other person.

[...]
THE POST OFFICE.

From the twenty-ninth report of the Postmaster-General it appears that the estimated number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom during the twelvemonth was 1,280,866,200, showing an increase of 4½ per cent.; the number of letters mailed and registered was 64 per cent.; the number of book packets and circulars, 588,206,450, an increase of 6½ per cent.; and the number of newspapers, 140,694,688, an increase of nearly 1 per cent. The number of letters received in the returned letter offices was 5,014,413, an increase of 196,881; of post cards, 506,014, an increase of 7,265; of book packets, 25,863, an increase of 225; of newspapers, 6,027,876, an increase of 63,104. Of the letters, 982,291 were unanswerable; 23,293 bore no stamps; 101,000 were taxed; 120,800 were refused; and 574,000 were returned to the senders, amounting to £2,010, the whole of which, with the exception of about £150, has already been returned to the senders. Notwithstanding repeated warnings to the public, nearly 300,000 letters were received lost and overcharged, owing to the weak and flimsy nature of the wrappers used and the insecure mode of packing. Reply post cards, both inland and foreign, are in constant demand by the public at large, but it is not until they are availed of themselves to any great extent of the facility thus offered. The number of telegrams was 3,941,572, an increase of 42 per cent. as compared with 1,303,570 in 1861-2. The business of the savings banks shows satisfactory progress. The total amount due to depositors, including interest (at 3½ per cent.), was £2,309,756; the amount due to depositors in the form of £5 notes was £2,005,921, showing an increase of £2,943,386. The number of accounts remaining open at the close of the year was 2,356,896 as against 2,670,613 in the previous year, an increase of 251,614. The savings bank business in Ireland again showed a large increase. The total amount, including interest, due to depositors at the close of the year was £299,321, showing an increase of £26,133,328. This does not include the amount of Government stock standing to the credit of depositors in Ireland, which is estimated at £243,609. The total amount of Government stock standing to the credit of depositors in the United Kingdom at the close of the year was £1,431,717. The postal order returns show a large increase during the year over 1862: 2,920,000 orders were issued, 2,080,000 were paid by means of postal orders, and 730,000 orders were used. The gross revenue for the year was £5,443,812, and the net revenue £5,000,000, being £475,727 greater than the previous year.

THE PARCELS POST.

Mr. Favant has brought about one of the greatest extensions of the Post Office which has taken place since Rowland Hill introduced uniformity and simplicity in charge. It is difficult to attempt to predict what the Parcels Post will do to the communication of articles as an incident of the intercourse which is now reduced to a minimum of trouble, expense, and inconvenience. Contracting with these advantages is the introduction among us of a social reform of an ordinary kind. The revolutions are sufficiently wide as to be beyond the character and extent of the articles which may be sent by the Parcels Post. The general conditions in regard to weight, dimensions, rates, and time of postage follow:

FOR AN INLAND POSTAL PARCEL of a weight of:

The rate of postage, to be paid in ordinary post office stamps, will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not exceeding 1 lb.</td>
<td>8s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb. and not exceeding 3 lb.</td>
<td>Os. 6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 lb. and not exceeding 5 lb.</td>
<td>5s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 lb. and not exceeding 8 lb.</td>
<td>12s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 lb. and not exceeding 15 lb.</td>
<td>21s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DIMENSIONS.
The dimensions allowed for an Inland Postal Parcel will be:

Maximum length: 3 ft. 6 in.
Maximum breadth and depth combined: 3 ft.

The most convenient mode of measuring will be by means of a tape 6 ft. long, having the length of 3 ft. 6 in. marked thereon. So much of the tape as is not used in measuring the length will be the measure of the maximum breadth and depth combined. The parcel must not be marked in any colour other than black, and the portion remaining in another colour.

TIMES OF DELIVERY AND COLLECTION IN LONDON.

Delivery: 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Intermediary: 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
Intermedial: 12.30 and 5.30 p.m.
Intermediary: 12.30 and 5.30 p.m.

PROHIBITIONS.

There shall not be conveyed or tendered for conveyance by post:

(a) Any parcel containing any kind of liquid or any kind of animal.
(b) Any parcel containing any kind of liquid whatever, which might in the course of transmission through the post, or by other conveyance, cause injury to the Postmaster-General or his officers, likely to injure any person in the course of the conveyance of the parcel through the post, or any receptacle in or by which such parcel may be conveyed by post, or to any other person or to other articles or of such receptacle.
(c) Any parcel containing any kind of vegetable or animal, or any other person who may deal with such parcel, or to any bag, basket, box, or other receptacle in or by which such parcel may be conveyed by post, or to any other person or to other articles or of such receptacle.
(d) Any parcel containing any kind of vegetable or animal, or any other person who may deal with such parcel, or to any bag, basket, box, or other receptacle in or by which such parcel may be conveyed by post, or to any other person or to other articles or of such receptacle.
(e) Any parcel containing any kind of vegetable or animal, or any other person who may deal with such parcel, or to any bag, basket, box, or other receptacle in or by which such parcel may be conveyed by post, or to any other person or to other articles or of such receptacle.
(f) Any parcel containing any kind of vegetable or animal, or any other person who may deal with such parcel, or to any bag, basket, box, or other receptacle in or by which such parcel may be conveyed by post, or to any other person or to other articles or of such receptacle.
(g) Any parcel containing any kind of vegetable or animal, or any other person who may deal with such parcel, or to any bag, basket, box, or other receptacle in or by which such parcel may be conveyed by post, or to any other person or to other articles or of such receptacle.
(h) Any parcel containing any kind of vegetable or animal, or any other person who may deal with such parcel, or to any bag, basket, box, or other receptacle in or by which such parcel may be conveyed by post, or to any other person or to other articles or of such receptacle.

The following table gives the rates charged by distance as well as by weight. The post-rate offices are given for the sake of comparison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Distance in Miles</th>
<th>Post-rate Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Dublin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>The Hague</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Florence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In conclusion, it may be said that the Parcels Post in this country is not only well established but is already proving a great benefit to the public.
THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON AMERICAN FOR 1884

FOREGO CARD POST.

Foreign post-cards may be sent to Canada and to all the countries comporised in the General Postal Union. The postage of a card is in every case one half the rate for a letter. These post-cards with an impressed stamp of 1d. and 1½d. each are sold at the Post Office, and are transmitted 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-halfpenny. However, a charge of one shilling is admissible in the case of foreign countries. See Post Office Guide. 

Letters 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” is dropped in the letter-box, it will be sent as ordinary letter post, in which case the registered charge will be crossed out. 

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 Postal Department of India at 129, Leatherhead-street, E.C., and (Branch Office) at 35, Cockpit-street, S.W. 

2. The charge for parcels is 1s. per lb. or fraction of 1 lb. (prepayment optional), covering transit from London to destination in India. Insurance may be effected, if desired, at the rate (local prepaid) of 1s. per £10 value, 2s. 6d. up to £50 value, and 5s. up to £200 value. Indian Custom duty (if chargeable) will be remitted from India. 

POSTAL ORDERS.

For the purpose of procuring the despatch of parcels and foreign countries, it is restricted to bona fide trade patterns or samples of merchandise.

MODES OF PREPAYMENT.

INLAND LETTERS, newspapers, and book-packages cannot be prepaid in money, may be prepaid by means of a cheque, or endorsed or impressed 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. 

Post orders, for certain fixed sums from 1s. up to £4, are issued to the public at all post offices at which no order business is transacted. The following are the amounts for which postal orders are issued, together with the poundage payable in each case of such orders. 

FPOST-OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

The usefulness of the working classes goes on extending. There are now more than ten millions of depositors. Much has been done during the year to encourage thrift. 

POST-OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS are established at all Money-Order Offices in the United Kingdom, and are open for the receipt and payment of money for the transaction of Government Stock business daily during the hours appointed for Money-Order business. 

The charge for telegrams throughout the United Kingdom is 1½d. for every fifty words, and 1s. for every subsequent part of fifty words. The names and addresses of the sender and receiver are not counted. 

THE CHARGE FOR TELEGRAMS is as follows: For every hundred words or portion of a hundred words under fifty words, 1½d. and for every fifty words or portion of fifty words, 1s. In the case of every seventy-five words or portion of seventy-five words handed in between 11 and 6 p.m., with an additional 3½d. on every seventy-five words, or words, as the case may be, for every additional address. 

The cost of a reply, not exceeding forty words in length, may be prepaid; and a RePLY FORM will then be delivered to the addressee, who will have liberty to send his reply, from any Telegraph Office, at any time within two months after the date of the original telegram.

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