THE POST OFFICE.

LETTER POST.

Letters posted at any branch office, receiving-house, pillar-post, or wall letter-box in the town districts of London up to 7 p.m. are in time for delivery the same night in the districts in which posted, and in certain adjoining districts. All the night mails for the provinces share in the extension of posting time. Thus, in the town districts the posting is as under:—In any letter-box, 6 p.m.; ditto, with fee of ½d., 7; at head district offices, with fee of ½d., 7.30; at St. Martin's-le-Grand, with fee of ½d., 7.45; at the railway stations, with fee of ½d., up to the time of the departure of the trains. For some towns the payment of a late fee is not required, as the night mail letters are forwarded by late trains.

In addition to the outward dispatch from the metropolis, an equally elaborate series of trains conveys the mails southwards, permitting of a much earlier delivery. There is practically no restriction as to the size of letters. The scale of postage applicable to letters between 2 oz. and 12 oz. in weight is continued without limit. The letter postage advances as follows:—For the first ounce, 1d.; for 2 oz., 1½d.; for all greater weights, ½d. for every 2 oz., plus a penny. Consequently, letters weighing over 12 oz. will be accepted at the following rates of postage:—Above 12 oz., under 14 oz., 4½d.; above 14 oz., under 16 oz., 5d.; above 16 oz., under 18 oz., 5½d.; above 18 oz., under 20 oz., 6d.; above 20 oz., under 22 oz., 6½d.; above 22 oz., under 24 oz., 7d.; and so on at the rate of ½d. for every additional 2 oz. The parcel post is extended to places abroad, at the same rates as for India, Gibraltar, and Egypt, and the insurance of registered postal packets, and also of parcels. The West India mails are dispatched regularly every two weeks—i.e., on each alternate Thursday, commencing at the end of July.

INLAND TELEGRAMS.

The charge is 6d. for the first twelve words, and ½d. for every additional word. Addresses are charged for.

Postage stamps are used for payment, and the public are required to affix them to the message forms just as they are required to affix them to letters.

A receipt for the charges can be obtained at a cost of 2d.

The telegram forms are of two kinds, the "A 1" form, embossed with a stamp, and the "A" form (given gratis), with no stamp. The "A 1 forms" may be purchased singly. They may also be had in books of twenty, interleaved, and with a sheet of carbonic paper; price 10s. 2d. each book.

When the terminal office—i.e., the office nearest to the address—is a Head Post Office, the amount paid for transmission covers the cost of delivery within one mile or within the town postal delivery when that extends for more than a mile. When the address is beyond the free delivery, porterage is charged at the rate of 6d. per mile or part of a mile, provided the whole distance does not exceed three miles; but the charge is calculated from the boundary within which no porterage is levied. For instance, if the address is a mile and a quarter from the terminal office, and also beyond the town postal delivery, the charge for porterage would be 6d.; if the distance is above two miles and under three, 1s.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.

The rates vary very much, but full information can be obtained on application to the Secretary, General Post Office. Foreign telegrams are divided into three classes:—Ordinary, composed of words and figures; Code, also composed of words, but the context of which is not intelligible; and Cypher, containing groups of letters or figures, having a secret meaning. Each of the three classes are charged on a definite scale; and at the International Telegraph Conference, held at Berlin, July 1886, the following alterations were made:—

Words of more than ten letters will not be allowed in code telegrams, whether European or extra-European; but in both classes of code telegram words drawn from more than one language may be used.

The sender of a telegram can have it repeated from office to office during transmission by paying an additional quarter rate, instead of a half rate as at present.

If the sender of a European telegram prepays a reply, and the reply form is not used by the addressee, the amount prepaid for a reply will not be refunded to the sender, as hitherto.

If the addressee of a telegram has it repeated and it then proves that only a portion of the telegram was inaccurately transmitted, only a proportionate part of the charges will be refunded.

The charges for any word, or words, omitted during the transmission of an extra-European telegram will be refunded.

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.

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. The postage is 1s. a pound.

FOREIGN CARD POST.

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 all Continental countries of the Postal Union.

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.

POSTAL ORDERS.

Postal orders, for certain fixed sums from 1s. up to £1, are issued to the public at all post offices at which money-order business is transacted.

The following are the amounts for which postal orders are issued, together with the poundage payable in respect of each order:—

Amount of Order.	Poundage.	Amount of Order.	Poundage.
1s. 0d.	½d.	7s. 6d.	1d.
1s. 6d.	½d.	10s. 0d.	2d.
2s. 6d.	1d.	20s. 0d.	2d.

The person to whom a postal order is issued must, before parting with it, fill in the name of the money-order office at which the amount is to be paid.

MONEY ORDERS.

The commission on Inland Money Orders is:—

For sums not exceeding £1, 2d.; exceeding £1 and not exceeding £2, 3d.; exceeding £2 and not exceeding £4, 4d.; exceeding £4 and not exceeding £7, 5d.; exceeding £7 and not exceeding £10, 6d.

POST-OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

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 and for the transaction of Government Stock business daily during the hours appointed for money-order business.

THE PARCEL POST.

The rates of postage are—	s.	d.
For a parcel not exceeding 1 lb. in weight	0	3
For a parcel exceeding 1 lb. in weight and not exceeding 2 lb.	0	4½
,, ,, 2 ,, ,, ,, ,, 3 ,,	0	6
,, ,, 3 ,, ,, ,, ,, 4 ,,	0	7½
,, ,, 4 ,, ,, ,, ,, 5 ,,	0	9
,, ,, 5 ,, ,, ,, ,, 6 ,,	0	10½
,, ,, 6 ,, ,, ,, ,, 7 ,,	1	0
,, ,, 7 ,, ,, ,, ,, 8 ,,	1	1½
,, ,, 8 ,, ,, ,, ,, 9 ,,	1	3
,, ,, 9 ,, ,, ,, ,, 10 ,,	1	4½
,, ,, 10 ,, ,, ,, ,, 11 ,,	1	6

No parcel is accepted which weighs more than 11 lb., or is not sufficiently paid. The postage must, in all cases, *be paid in advance*, and, as a rule, by ordinary postage stamps, which should be affixed by the sender before tendering a parcel for transmission by Parcel Post at a Post Office.

Parcels not exceeding 3 lb. weight can be sent to almost any part of the world. Parcels sent to the Australian Colonies must not exceed 11 lb. in weight, and the rate of postage is, for a parcel not exceeding 2 lb., 2s.; and for any fraction of a pound or additional pound, 1s.

INSURANCE AND COMPENSATION.

The Postmaster-General will, as an act of grace, give compensation for loss and damage of inland parcels according to the following scale—viz.:

Where no fee except postage is paid, the Postmaster-General will give compensation to an amount not exceeding £1.

Where in addition to the postage an insurance fee of one penny is paid, the Postmaster-General will give compensation to an amount not exceeding £5

Where in addition to the postage an insurance fee of twopence is paid, the Postmaster-General will give compensation to an amount not exceeding £10.

In no case will a larger amount of compensation than £10 be paid. The compensation given in case of damage will be in proportion to that which would have been given had the parcel been lost.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL PARCEL POST.

Parcels within certain dimensions may now be sent to India and the Colonies, as well as most European countries; but they will be liable to the Customs duties and regulations of each country, and the sender will be required to make a declaration on a special form provided for the purpose.

Pattern and Sample Post to foreign countries is restricted to trade patterns or samples of goods for sale, and not for the execution of an order; and no article liable to Customs duties can be sent as a sample or pattern.

APPROXIMATE TIME OCCUPIED IN COURSE OF POST FROM LONDON TO SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT PLACES OF THE WORLD.

Name of Place.	Days.	Hours.	Name of Place.	Days.	Hours.
Adelaide	38	—	Madras	20	—
Aden	11	—	Madrid	2	—
Alexandria	5	12	Malta	4	12
Algiers	4	—	Marseilles	1	6
Amsterdam	—	15	Melbourne	40	—
Antigua	15	8	Milan	1	12
Antwerp	—	11	Monte Video	26	—
Ascension	28	—	Montserrat (West Indies)	15	—
Athens	5	—	Moscow	3	12
Auckland, viâ San Francisco	39	—	Mozambique, viâ Brindisi	26	—
Bahamas	16	—	Munich	1	10
Bâle	1	—	Naples	2	20
Barbadoes	13	—	Natal	26	—
Bayonne	1	6	Newfoundland (St. John's)	8	—
Berlin	1	2	New York	10	—
Bermuda, viâ Halifax	15	—	Nice	1	13
,, ,, New York	16	—	Nova Scotia (Halifax)	9	—
Bombay	18	—	Nuremberg	1	8
Bordeaux	—	22	Odessa	3	20
Brindisi	2	18	Oporto	4	—
Brisbane, viâ Torres Straits or Melbourne	44	—	Panama	22	—
British Columbia	23	—	Paris	—	10
Brussels	—	10	Penang	26	—
Buenos Ayres	29	—	Pernambuco	16	—
Cadiz	3	12	Quebec	10	—
Cairo	6	—	Rangoon	25	—
Calcutta	21	—	Riga	2	15
Cape Coast Castle	24	—	Rio de Janeiro	21	—
Cape Town	21	—	Rome	2	18
Cologne	—	15	Rotterdam	—	13
Constantinople, viâ Varna	5	—	St. Helena	18	—
,, ,, Brindisi	8	—	St. Petersburg	3	—
Copenhagen	2	—	San Francisco	16	—
Dresden	1	12	Senegal	18	—
Falkland Islands	35	—	Sierra Leone	17	—
Florence	2	—	Singapore	28	—
Frankfort-on-Maine	1	8	Stockholm	3	10
Geneva	1	4	Strasbourg	1	—
Genoa	1	17	Stuttgart	1	6
Gibraltar	4	—	Suez	6	12
Grenada	14	—	Sydney	43	—
Hague, The	—	16	Tours	—	16
Hamburg	1	8	Trieste	3	—
Havana	16	—	Trinidad	14	13
Hong-Kong	37	—	Turin	1	10
Interlaken	1	16	Valparaiso, viâ Magellan	39	—
Jamaica	18	—	,, ,, Panama	43	—
Kurrachee	21	—	Venice	2	4
Lagos (Africa)	31	—	Vienna	1	20
Lisbon	3	—	Vigo	3	—
Lucerne	1	12	Wellington, viâ San Francisco	42	—
Lyons	—	22	Yokohama	43	—
Madeira	5	—	Zanzibar	21	—
			Zurich	1	6