

## ENGLISH TEXT

*CONVENTION between the British Government and the Government of Bremen, for regulating the Postal Communications with Heligoland.—Signed at Hamburg, May 21, 1867.*

WITH the intention of establishing a regular postal communication between the Bremen territory and the Island of Heligoland, the Government of Her Britannic Majesty has named John Ward, Esquire, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Her Majesty's Minister Resident to the Free and Hanseatic Cities; and the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Bremen has named Julis Hermann Friedrich Bëtge, Director of the Post Office at Bremen, to make the necessary arrangements for that purpose.

Who have agreed upon the following Articles:

ART. I. There shall be sent by the post between the territory of the Free City of Bremen and the Island of Heligoland;

- a. Ordinary letters.
- b. Registered letters.
- c. Articles laid under strips or crossbands.
- d. Patterns or samples of goods.
- e. Newspapers.
- f. Post Office orders for payment of money.
- g. Money advance letters.
- h. Money enclosed in letters.
- i. Ordinary parcels.

II. The transmission shall be made by the steamer of the North-German-Lloyd, running during the summer months between the Weser and Heligoland, and shall be limited to the time during which such voyages take place. The ship will not be accompanied

by an officer of the Post Office, but, on the contrary, the captain of the ship will receive the articles to be sent by post from an officer of the Bremen Post Office at Bremerhaven on board the steamer, and will deliver the same at Heligoland to the Post Office there, whilst the articles received in Heligoland to be sent by post are upon their arrival at Bremerhaven, to be handed to an officer of the Bremen Post Office on board of the ship.

III. The weight of anything sent by post shall not exceed 15 loths, Customs weight. The scale of weight which is now adopted, or shall hereafter be adopted by the German Postal Union, shall be applied to all letters whether registered or not.

Consequently at present a single letter is that which weighs less than 1 loth. The postage of a single letter shall be 2 schillinge, Hamburg currency, if the postage thereon is paid in advance either in money or in stamps attached to the letter, and 3 schillinge, Hamburg currency, if the letter is sent unpaid. For every loth more is at present to be paid a single postage rate more of either 2 or 3 schillinge respectively.

The postage on registered letters is to be charged at the same rate as on ordinary letters. Besides this a registration fee of 3 schillinge, Hamburg currency, is to be taken without reference to the weight of the letter, for which a certificate of the delivery of the letter is to be given to the sender thereof. A declaration of the value is not admissible in the case of registered letters nor of letters in general sent through the post.

If the sender of a registered letter wishes to have an acknowledgment from the person to whom it is addressed, he is at liberty to write upon the address of the letter a request that the receipt to be given by the receiver thereof may be sent to him, and in that case the receipt when signed must be sent back immediately to the place where the letter was posted. For procuring the receipt the sender must pay on delivery of the letter a further sum of 3 schillinge. For returning the receipt no additional fee is to be taken.

There shall be allowed to be sent under strips or crossbands: articles printed, lithographed, metallographed, or otherwise produced by mechanism and suitable for transmission by the post; except writings effected by means of a copying-machine, or by being printed through the paper.

The postage shall be the half of a schilling, Hamburg currency, for a single article up to the weight of 2½ loths, and shall rise by the further sum of the half of a schilling, Hamburg currency, for every further 2½ loths.

The articles sent must be post paid to the place of their destination and must be so placed under bands that their contents are easily discernible. Besides the address of the receiver there must be

written upon them only the signature of the sender and the name of the place and the date. Upon proof-sheets, however, may be written in addition any observations relating to the printing off of the same.

Articles sent under bands which are posted either unpaid, or insufficiently paid, or which do not conform with the conditions prescribed for their transmission, are to be treated and charged as unpaid letters.

Samples and patterns of goods sent by post are subject to a postage of the half of a schilling, Hamburg currency, for the single weight up to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  loths inclusive, and for heavier articles a single postage rate of the half of a schilling is to be charged in addition on every  $2\frac{1}{2}$  loths weight.

The samples or patterns sent by the post must be prepaid to the place of their destination, or laid under bands, or otherwise so placed that no doubt whatever can exist of what they really are; they must be of no mercantile value, and must be conformable to the conditions prescribed by the Customs laws of both countries. No letters can accompany such articles when so sent, nor is anything allowed to be written on them beyond the address of the receiver, the mark of the manufactory or trade, and the firm of the sender with the numbers and prices.

Samples or patterns of goods sent by post which are posted either unpaid or insufficiently paid, or which are otherwise not conformable to the preceding conditions, are to be treated and charged as unpaid letters.

Upon newspapers which are procured by way of subscription from the postal districts of the Free and Hanseatic City of Bremen and of Heligoland respectively, there shall be charged as postage duty an additional 25 per cent. upon the cost price thereof. Upon newspapers, which by the instrumentality of the State Post Office of Bremen, are procured by way of subscription from more distant places, the profit which the Post Office in question derives according to the existing Treaties for procuring such newspapers, is to be considered as the postage duty.

During the term of subscription, newspapers may, if desired by the subscriber, be forwarded on to another place than that for which the newspapers were ordered. For being so forwarded on, there shall be levied a transmission fee of 13 schillinge, to be divided equally between the Post Offices.

It shall be allowed at the Bremen Post Offices, as well as at the Post Office in Heligoland, to make payments of money up to the amount of 125 marks, which shall be paid out again at the Post Office of the place of destination. The payment is to be made by means of a Post Office order of which the Post Office will issue the proper forms. No other communications than those to which the

printed Post Office order has reference can be made in the latter. The sender of a Post Office order will thereupon receive a certificate of delivery without any further fee.

The fee upon payments up to  $62\frac{1}{2}$  marks inclusive, shall be 3 schillinge, Hamburg currency, and up to the amount of 125 marks inclusive, 4 schillinge, Hamburg currency. The amount of the fee is to be paid when a Post Office order is sent, by affixing postage stamps to the same, unless the postal administration should prefer to proceed, by marking the value upon the form of the Post Office order, and to issue the same upon ascertainment of the value.

In like manner any one shall be allowed at the Post Offices on both sides to secure to himself the payment of a sum of money up to the amount of 125 marks, by the transmission of a money advance letter.

For that purpose the amount of the money advanced must be stated upon an ordinary letter in the following form:

"Here upon an advance of . . . marks . . . schillinge."

The receipt of the sum advanced will be effected at the Post Office of the place of destination, and advice thereof will be given without delay to the Post Office at the place of transmission whereupon the latter will make payment to the sender on his giving back a legitimation issued to the sender on delivery of the order.

The payment of the amount cannot be made before the arrival of the requisite advice, and if the latter does not come within 8 days at latest, exclusive of the day of arrival, then the money advance letter must be sent back, which is then to be returned to the sender on his giving up the legitimation. The fee upon sums advanced up to  $62\frac{1}{2}$  marks, shall be 3 schillinge, Hamburg currency, and up to the amount 125 marks, 4 schillinge, Hamburg currency, besides the ordinary postage of the letter. Remittances of money can only be received and forwarded when contained in letters not exceeding the weight of 15 loths. The postage of such money letters forwarded between the Bremen and Heligoland postal districts shall be up to, inclusive, 125 marks, Hamburg currency, equal to 8 schillinge, Hamburg currency; 250 marks, Hamburg currency, equal to 12 schillinge, Hamburg currency; 500 marks, Hamburg currency, equal to 24 schillinge, Hamburg currency; and so on for 250 marks, or a part thereof, 12 schillinge.

The postage for parcels sent will be fixed at 1 schillinge, Hamburg currency, per pound, but the minimum of charge will be 6 schillinge.

IV. The senders of articles by the post may, in order to the prepayment of the same, make use of the postage-stamps, or stamped envelopes, which are in circulation in the country from which they are sent.

If the postage-stamps affixed to a letter, or other article, sent by post, represent a smaller value than the amount of postage which ought to be paid to the place of destination, what is sent shall be treated as an unpaid letter, allowing, however, the value of the postage-stamps affixed to it.

V. The correspondence, on strictly Government affairs, which may be carried on by the authorities on both sides with each other, shall be forwarded postage free, when the official letter, for which freedom from postage is claimed, shall be marked as such, and sealed with an official seal.

VI. A guarantee will be given for money sent, according to the amount of the declared value, for ordinary parcels on which a declaration of value may not be admissible, at the rate of 20 shillinge per pound, which amount will be paid, not only for a total loss, but also in case of damage; for registered letters 35 marks, Hamburg currency.

This guarantee has to be paid in so far as the loss or injury during the passage by water, by the directors of the North German Lloyd in Bremen, exclusively. The latter company is, therefore, to receive an assurance premium of one-eighth per cent. of the value to be paid by the two Post Offices in equal parts, which premium, however, is to be paid, not for each particular transmission, but for the total value of the articles sent yearly during the season.

Each of the two Contracting Post Offices is only required to guarantee such losses or damages as may arise within the distance for which such Post Office effects the transmission, it being understood that each party remains responsible for the unfaithfulness, fault, or neglect of its own officers, or of the persons employed in its postal service.

In so far as the loss may arise out of the postal districts of the contracting administrations, an indemnity can only be required in so far as the postal administration in whose district the loss arises is bound by Treaty to make good the same.

VII. The sums which may be levied for postage for the distance of transmission between the Bremen postal districts and Heligoland, according to the rates fixed in Article III, shall be divided as follows:

- a. Ordinary letters,
- b. Registered letters,
- c. Articles laid under strips or crossbands,
- d. Patterns or samples of goods,
- e. Money advance letters,
- f. Money inclosed in letters; and,
- g. Ordinary parcels,

in three equal parts, of which the two Post Offices and the Company of the North-German Lloyd shall each receive one-third. On the

other hand, the payments for newspapers and Post Office orders, as well as the procuration-fee for money advance letters, shall be divided into two equal parts, which shall belong to the two Post Offices.

The fees for the registration of letters, viz., 3 schillinge per letter, and for the sending back, when demanded, of a receipt for a registered letter, viz., 3 schillinge, shall belong entirely to the Post Office within whose district the letter shall be posted.

VIII. The Bremen Post Office undertakes to conclude a binding agreement with the directors of the North German Lloyd, fixing the respective relations according to the stipulations contained in Articles II, VI, and VII.

IX. Articles sent by post, of the kind described in Article I, except Post Office money orders and money advance letters, the use of which will, for the present, be limited to the intercourse between the Bremen postal district and Heligoland, may be forwarded from and to Heligoland by way of Bremen, in conformity with the Treaties entered into by the postal administration of the Free and Hanseatic City of Bremen with other postal administrations. They will be charged with the postage which is to be levied from Bremen according to the rates fixed by subsisting Treaties.

The objects used as materials for fixing the rates of postage will, so far as shall be necessary, be communicated to the Post Office at Heligoland by the City Post Office at Bremen.

X. The forms of the technical despatch-service, and of the accounts to be made up, and the treatment of return applications in respect of articles delivered to the post (running bills), of articles which cannot be forwarded, or of those to be sent afterwards, shall be agreed upon, without delay, between the City Post Office at Bremen and the Post Office at Heligoland, as soon as the ratification of this Convention shall have taken place.

XI. The settlement of accounts between the Contracting Parties, which, on the part of Bremen, will be effected only through the City Post Office, shall take place at quarterly periods.

XII. The Convention, after it shall have been approved by the Government of Her Britannic Majesty and by the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Bremen, shall come into immediate operation.

The Convention shall remain in force until 12 months after either of the Contracting Parties shall have given notice to the other of its intention to terminate the same.

Done at Hamburg, the 21st day of May, in the year of Our Lord, 1867.

(L.S.) JOHN WARD.

(L.S.) HERMANN BETGE.

