

[No Report.]

DECEMBER 19, 1844.

Mr. HARDIN, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported the following bill; which was read, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

JANUARY 20, 1845.

Recommitted to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

JANUARY 24, 1845.

Mr. HARDIN, from the same committee, reported the following amendatory bill; which was read, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

A BILL

To reduce the rates of postage, and to prevent frauds on the Post Office Department.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 from and after the first day of July next, the following shall be
4 the rates of postage charged upon all letters and packets (except-
5 ing such as are allowed by this act to be sent free of charge)
6 which are conveyed in the mail of the United States, to wit:
7 For every letter or packet composed of a single sheet of paper,
8 conveyed not exceeding three hundred miles, five cents; over
9 three hundred miles, ten cents; and for every letter or packet
10 composed of two pieces of paper, or other article or thing, double
11 those rates; and for every letter or packet composed of three
12 pieces of paper, or other article or thing, treble those rates; and
13 for every letter or packet composed of four pieces of paper, or
14 other article or thing, or which weighs one ounce avoirdupois,

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 15, 1847.

Mr. NILES, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported the following bill; which was read, and passed to a second reading.

A BILL

In amendment of an act entitled "An act to reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the Post Office Department."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That
from and after the first day of July next the tariff of postage shall be as follows: On all letters not weighing more than one-third of one ounce, five cents; if weighing more than one-third and not exceeding one-half of an ounce, ten cents; and five cents for every additional half ounce or fraction thereof; but it shall not be lawful to deposite in any post office, to be conveyed in the mail, two or more letters directed to different persons and enclosed in the same envelope or packet; and every person so offending shall forfeit the sum of ten dollars, to be recovered by action quitam, one-half for the use of the informer, and the other half for the use of the Post Office Department. And all newspapers conveyed in the mail shall be subject to postage; and

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 8, 1845.

Agreeably to notice, Mr. MERRICK asked and obtained leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, and ordered to be printed.

A BILL

To provide for the transportation of the mail between the United States and foreign countries.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 the Postmaster General of the United States be, and he is
4 hereby, authorized, under the restrictions and provisions of
5 the existing laws, to contract for the transportation of the
6 United States mail between any of the ports of the United
7 States and a port or ports of any foreign Power, whenever, in
8 his opinion, the public interest will thereby be promoted; and
9 it shall be his duty to report, to the next ensuing Congress,
10 a copy of said contract, with a statement of the amount of
11 postage derived under the same, as far as the returns of the
12 department will enable him to do.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That all such con-*
2 *tracts shall be made with citizens of the United States, and*
3 *the mail to be transported in American vessels, owned, in*
4 *whole or in part, by American citizens. Each contract en-*

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 16, 1845.

Ordered to be printed.

AMENDMENT

Proposed by Mr. NILES to the bill (S. 46) "to reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the revenues of the Post Office Department."

Strike out all the first section after the enacting clause, and insert the following :

1 That, from and after the passage of this act, all letters
2 conveyed in the mail shall be rated and charged with post-
3 age, as follows: Each letter or packet conveyed, according
4 to the usual course of the mail, any distance not exceeding
5 one hundred miles, shall be rated and charged five cents
6 postage; and each letter or packet conveyed a greater dis-
7 tance than one hundred miles shall be rated and charged
8 ten cents postage. And each letter or packet, whether com-
9 posed of one or more pieces, or containing an enclosure or
10 not, which shall not exceed one-half ounce in weight, shall
11 be considered a single letter, and rated and charged accord-
12 ingly; if weighing more than a half and not exceeding three-
13 quarters of an ounce, it shall be considered as a double let-
14 ter, and charged twice the aforesaid rates of postage; if
15 weighing more than three-quarters and not exceeding one
16 ounce, it shall be considered a treble letter, and charged

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 19, 1844.

Agreeably to notice, Mr. MERRICK asked and obtained leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

[JANUARY 6, 1845.

Reported with amendments.

FEBRUARY 7, 1845.

Amended, ordered to be engrossed, and to be printed as amended.

A BILL

To reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the revenues of the Post Office Department.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That,*
- 3 *from and after the passage of this act, in lieu of the rates of*
- 4 *postage now established by law, there shall be charged the*
- 5 *following rates, viz: For every single letter, in manuscript,*
- 6 *or paper of any kind by or upon which information shall be*
- 7 *asked for or communicated in writing, or by marks and signs,*
- 8 *conveyed in the mail, five cents; and for a double letter, there*
- 9 *shall be charged double this rate; and for a treble letter,*
- 10 *treble this rate; and for a quadruple letter, quadruple this*
- 11 *rate; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce*
- 12 *in weight, shall be deemed a single letter; and every addi-*

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 19, 1844.

Agreeably to notice, Mr. MERRICK asked and obtained leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

JANUARY 6, 1845.

Reported with amendments, viz: Strike out the words within [brackets,] and insert those printed in *italics*.

A BILL

To reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the revenues of the Post Office Department.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That,*
3 from and after the passage of this act, in lieu of the rates of
4 postage now established by law, there shall be charged the
5 following rates, viz: For every single letter, in manuscript,
6 or paper of any kind by or upon which information shall be
7 asked for or communicated in writing, or by marks and signs,
8 conveyed any distance not exceeding one hundred miles, five
9 cents; and for all distances exceeding one hundred miles, ten
10 cents; and for a double letter, there shall be charged double
11 these rates; and for a treble letter, treble these rates; and
12 for a quadruple letter, quadruple these rates; and every letter
13 composed of a single piece of paper, or of two or more pieces

[No Report.]

MAY 11, 1846.

Read, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HOPKINS, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported the following bill :

A BILL

To amend the act approved the third of March, eighteen hundred and forty-five, entitled "An act to reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and prevent the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the revenues of the Post Office Department."

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*

2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*

3 the following rates of postage be charged upon all letters and

4 packets conveyed in the mail of the United States, to wit :

5 For every letter or packet weighing one-quarter of an
6 ounce or less, conveyed three hundred miles or less, five cents ;

7 And for any distance over three hundred miles, and less than
8 six hundred miles, ten cents ;

9 And for any distance over six hundred miles, fifteen cents ;

10 And for every additional quarter of an ounce, or fraction

11 less than the quarter of an ounce, an additional postage, except

12 where a letter is written on a single sheet of paper weighing

13 over one-quarter of an ounce and less than one-half an ounce,

[No Report.]

MAY 11, 1846.

Read, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HOPKINS, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported the following bill :

A BILL

To amend the nineteenth section of the act passed the third of March, eighteen hundred and forty-five, entitled "An act to reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the revenues of the Post Office Department."

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 *in all future contracts hereafter to be made for the transporta-*
4 *tion of the mails over railroads or in steamboats, or railroads and*
5 *steamboats, the price to be paid on said lines of the first*
6 *class shall in no case exceed two hundred dollars per mile, when*
7 *all the service is performed in the night; if a majority of ser-*
8 *vice be performed in the night, then the price shall not exceed*
9 *one hundred and eighty-seven dollars and fifty cents per mile;*
10 *and if a majority of the service be performed by daylight, then*
11 *the price to be paid shall in no case exceed one hundred and*
12 *seventy-five dollars per mile; and upon the second and third*
13 *classes, as specified in said section, the maximum as fixed shall*
14 *be regarded for night service, and a similar difference made for*
15 *day and night service, as above specified for the first class.*

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 18, 1846.

Mr. NILES, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported the following bill; which was read, and passed to a second reading.

A BILL

In amendment of an act entitled "An act to reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the Post Office Department."

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 from and after the first day of October next, the tariff of postage
4 shall be as follows: On all letters not weighing more than
5 one-fourth of an ounce, five cents; if weighing more than
6 one-quarter and not exceeding one-half an ounce, ten cents;
7 and five cents for every additional half ounce or fraction
8 thereof: *Provided, That* a letter consisting of one sheet or piece
9 only, and not exceeding in weight one-half ounce, shall be sub-
10 ject to five cents postage; and newspapers, whether conveyed
11 more or less than thirty miles, shall be subject to postage; and
12 newspapers not sent from the office of publication shall pay a
13 postage of three cents, any thing in the act to which this is an
14 amendment to the contrary notwithstanding; and the franking
15 privilege of the members of the two houses of Congress and

[No Report.]

JULY 13, 1846.

Read, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. THOMASSON, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported the following bill :

A BILL

Regulating the rates of postage.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
- 3 the rate of postage for conveyance in the United States mail for
- 4 any distance shall be as follows, viz :
- 5 For a letter or manuscript packet, of one sheet or part of a
- 6 sheet, weighing one quarter of an ounce or less, five cents ;
- 7 For each additional sheet or part of a sheet, or quarter of
- 8 an ounce or less fraction, an additional five cents ;
- 9 For each pamphlet, magazine, or periodical, one cent per
- 10 sheet ;
- 11 For a newspaper from publisher to subscriber, or from
- 12 publisher to one regularly engaged in vending the same, one
- 13 cent ; except newspapers, magazines, and periodicals, regularly
- 14 published and deliverable at or within thirty miles of the place
- 15 of printing, which exceptions shall be conveyed and delivered
- 16 gratis ;

H. R. 691.

FEBRUARY 24, 1847.

Mr. BOWLIN, from the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported the following bill; which was read a first and second time, ordered to be engrossed read a third time, and passed.

A BILL

To amend the act passed the third of March, eighteen hundred and forty-five, entitled "An act to reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the revenues of the Post Office Department."

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*

2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*

3 *in lieu of the commissions allowed deputy postmasters by the*

4 *fourteenth section of the act of the third of March, eighteen*

5 *hundred and forty-five, the Postmaster General may allow on*

6 *the proceeds of their respective offices a commission not exceed-*

7 *ing the following rates on the amount received in any one year,*

8 *or a due proportion thereof for less than a year:*

9 *On a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, forty per*
10 *cent., (present rate, thirty per cent.)*

11 *On a sum over the first hundred and not exceeding four*
12 *hundred dollars, thirty-three and one-third per cent., (present*
13 *rate, twenty-five per cent.)*

14 *On a sum over and above the first four hundred and not ex-*
15 *ceeding two thousand four hundred dollars, thirty per cent.,*
16 *(present rate, twenty per cent.)*