

such altered rates, and to make and establish any new or other rates in lieu thereof.

And whereas it is expedient that regulations should be made for the transmission by the post of the letters hereinafter mentioned.

Now we, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in exercise of the power or authority in us for such purpose vested, in and by the said Act, and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf, do, by this Warrant (under the hands of two of us, the said Commissioners by the authority of the Statute in that case made and provided), order and direct that on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, transmitted by the post, between any place in the United Kingdom and any port in the East Indies (direct or through any other colony or through any foreign country), there shall be charged and taken in lieu of any rates of British postage now payable by law on such letters, a uniform British rate of sixpence.

And we do further order and direct that on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, transmitted by the post between any port in the East Indies and any other of Her Majesty's colonies, or any foreign country through the United Kingdom (whether through any colony or foreign country, or not), there shall be charged and taken, in lieu of any rates of British postage now payable by law on such letters, the rates of British postage following (that is to say).

For the conveyance of every such letter between the East Indies and any part of the United Kingdom, a rate of sixpence, and for the conveyance of every such letter between the port in the United Kingdom of the departure or arrival of the packet or ship conveying the same, and the colony or foreign country to or from which the same shall be forwarded, such a further or additional rate of postage as shall from time to time be charged and payable for British postage on letters posted or delivered at the port in the United Kingdom of the departure or arrival of the packet or ship conveying the same, and transmitted direct between such port and any such colony or foreign country.

And we do further order and direct that on every letter transmitted as is mentioned in this Warrant, exceeding half an ounce in weight, there shall be charged, taken, and paid, progressive and additional rates of postage as follows (that is to say):—

On every such letter exceeding half an ounce in weight, and not exceeding one ounce in weight, two rates of postage.

On every such letter exceeding one ounce, and not exceeding two ounces in weight, four rates of postage.

On every such letter exceeding two ounces, and not exceeding three ounces in weight, six rates of postage.

And on every such letter exceeding three ounces, and not exceeding four ounces in weight, eight rates of postage.

And for every ounce in weight above the weight of four ounces, there shall be charged and taken two additional rates of postage, and every fraction of an ounce above the weight of four ounces shall be charged as one additional ounce, and each progressive and additional rate chargeable under this clause shall be estimated and charged at the sum which any such letter would be charged with under this Warrant, if not exceeding half an ounce in weight.

And we direct that in all cases in which any letter, in respect of which any rate of postage is

chargeable by this Warrant, shall pass through a foreign country, any foreign postage payable thereon shall be charged and paid thereon in addition to the British postage.

And we do further order and direct that nothing in this Warrant contained shall in any wise prejudice or affect the privilege granted by the said recited Act in favour of petitions and addresses forwarded to Her Majesty by the post; nor the privilege granted by the same Act to Members of each House of Parliament to receive by the post petitions and addresses to Her Majesty, and petitions addressed to either House of Parliament, not exceeding thirty-two ounces in weight, exempt from postage; nor shall anything in this Warrant contained in any wise prejudice or affect the privilege which seamen and soldiers, employed in Her Majesty's service, and seamen and soldiers employed in the service of the East India Company, now by law enjoy, of sending and receiving by the post letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, subject to the regulations and restrictions in respect of the same.

And we do further order and direct that nothing in this Warrant contained shall be deemed or construed to extend to any letters or packets posted in or addressed to France, or any foreign country through France, and transmitted between France, or foreign countries through France, and the East Indies; all which last-mentioned letters and packets shall be charged and chargeable with the same rates of postage as if this Warrant had not been signed.

And we do further order and direct that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or construed to repeal, alter, or affect any of the rates of postage fixed on books, publications, or works of art, by a certain Warrant under the hands of two of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, bearing date the 23d day of January 1855, which respective rates shall continue payable and in force as if this Warrant had not been signed.

And we do further order and direct that the term "by the Post," used in this Warrant, shall, as to the sea conveyance, include the conveyance by any British or Colonial or Foreign packet-boat, (packet-boats belonging to, or employed by or under the Government or Post-Office of the United States of America, and French Mediterranean packet-boats excepted,) and also the sea conveyance by any private ship; and that the term "East Indies," used in this Warrant, shall be construed to mean every port or place in Asia within the limits of the Charter of the East India Company (China, the Mauritius, Java, Borneo, and Australia excepted); and that the several other terms and expressions used in this Warrant shall be construed to have the like meaning in all respects as they would have had if inserted in the said recited Act.

And we further direct that this Warrant shall come into operation on the 1st day of February 1856.

Provided lastly, and we hereby declare and direct, that it shall be lawful for the Commissioners for the time being of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any two of them, by Warrant under their hands, at any time hereafter to alter or repeal any of the rates hereby altered, or the regulations hereby made, and to make and establish any new or other rates or regulations in lieu thereof, and from time to time to appoint at what time the rates that may be payable are to be paid.

Whitehall, Treasury-Chambers, the fourteenth day of November 1855.

DUNCAN.

H. BRAND.