

**TREASURY MINUTE for regulating the RATES of POSTAGE.**

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the last session of Parliament, intituled "An Act for the further regulation of the Duties on Postage, until the 5th day of October 1840," power is given to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any three of them, by warrant under their hands, to alter, fix, reduce, or remit all or any of the rates of British or Inland or other Postage payable by law on the transmission of Post Letters, and to subject such letters to rates of postage according to the weight thereof, and a scale of weight to be contained in such warrant (without reference to the distance or number of miles the same may be conveyed), and to fix and limit the weight of letters to be sent by the Post; and, from time to time, by warrant as aforesaid, to alter or repeal any such altered or reduced rates, and make and establish any new or other rates in lieu thereof; and, from time to time, by warrant as aforesaid, to appoint at what time the rates which may be payable are to be paid, that is to say, whether on posting the letter or on the receipt thereof, or at either of those times, at the option of the sender; provided, that all such warrants should be inserted in the London Gazette ten days, at least, before coming into operation, and should, within fourteen days after making the same, be laid before both Houses of Parliament (if then sitting), or otherwise, within fourteen days after Parliament should meet:

And whereas an Act was passed in the first year of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter 34, intituled "An Act for the regulation of the Duties of Postage;" and another Act was passed in the same session, chapter 76, intituled "An Act to impose rates of Packet Postage on East India Letters, and to amend certain Acts relating to the Post Office;" and another Act was passed in the first and second years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter 97, intituled "An Act for imposing rates of Postage on the Conveyance of Letters by Packet Boats, between places in the Mediterranean, and other parts."

Now, we the undersigned (being three of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury), do, in exercise of the power or authority in us for such purpose vested in and by the said first-mentioned Act, and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf, by this warrant, under our hands, order and direct, that this present warrant shall come into operation on the 5th day of December next, and that all Letters (not being by law specially exempted from Postage), which, on or after that day shall be posted in any town or place within the United Kingdom, or within any of the Islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, and Man, or shall be brought from parts beyond the seas to any port or place within the United Kingdom, or the said Islands, by any packet boat or private vessel, shall be subject to the several regulations and rates hereinafter contained.

And we further order and direct, that, on and after the said 5th day of December next, the present practice of charging the rates of Postage on Letters transmitted by the General Post,

consisting of more than one sheet of paper, or containing any enclosure, shall be wholly discontinued; and thenceforth all Letters, of whatever description, transmitted through the General Post, and legally chargeable with Postage, shall be charged by weight, as hereinafter mentioned.

And we hereby fix and limit the following scale of weight of Letters to be transmitted through the General Post, and we subject such Letters, on and after the said 5th day of December next, to the following rates of Postage (that is to say):

On every Letter, not exceeding half an ounce in weight, there shall be charged and taken one rate of postage.

On every Letter, exceeding half an ounce, and not exceeding one ounce in weight, there shall be charged and taken two rates of postage.

On every Letter, exceeding one ounce, and not exceeding two ounces in weight, there shall be charged and taken four rates of postage.

On every Letter, exceeding two ounces, and not exceeding three ounces in weight, there shall be charged and taken six rates of postage.

And on every Letter, exceeding three ounces, and not exceeding four ounces in weight, there shall be charged and taken 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 we order and direct, that no Letter exceeding sixteen ounces in weight shall, in any case, be forwarded by the General Post between places within the United Kingdom and the said Islands, or from the said United Kingdom and the said Islands to parts beyond the seas, except Letters franked, or by law specially exempted from postage, or Letters posted as Franks, although chargeable with postage, and except Letters forwarded by, or addressed to, some Public Office or Department, or Letters arriving in the United Kingdom, or the said Islands, from parts beyond the seas, or plantation accounts, patterns and samples of goods, deeds, books, pamphlets, and other printed papers, forwarded by Post in conformity with the regulations, from time to time, in force respecting the same, between the United Kingdom or the said Islands, and the British Colonies or Foreign parts, and except bankers' parcels forwarded pursuant to the regulations of the said Act of the first year of Her present Majesty, cap. 34.

And we hereby fix and limit the following rates of postage to be paid to Her Majesty's Postmaster-General for the use of Her Majesty, on and after the fifth day of December next, on the Letters next hereinafter mentioned; and we order and direct the same to be charged and paid accordingly (that is to say):

*Inland Letters.*

On all Letters not by law specially exempted from postage, and not exceeding half an ounce in weight, transmitted by the General Post between