

TREASURY WARRANT.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her Majesty, intituled "An Act for the regulation of the duties of postage," certain scales of weight and rates of postage were fixed and made chargeable and payable upon, for, and in respect of letters, newspapers, parliamentary proceedings, and printed papers, transmitted and forwarded by the post, and various regulations were made for facilitating the transmission of such letters and papers by the post.

And whereas by an Act passed in the eleventh year of the reign of Her Majesty, intituled "An Act for giving further facilities for the transmission of letters by post, and for the regulating the duties of postage thereon, and for other purposes relating to the Post Office," the provision concerning the maximum weight of letters to be sent by the post as fixed in and by the said first-mentioned Act is repealed, and in order to prevent packets of an unwieldy bulk, or an inconvenient size, being transmitted by the post, power is given to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, at any time or times thereafter, by Warrant under their hands, to fix a maximum weight of letters to be sent by the post, and from time to time to repeal or revoke such maximum weight wholly or in part, and declare any other maximum weight in lieu thereof, and all letters are to be forwarded, conveyed, and delivered by the post in conformity with any such Warrant; and also in conformity with, under, and subject to, all such orders, conditions, limitations, regulations, and restrictions, as to the form, size, or dimensions thereof, whether in proportion to the weight or otherwise as the Postmaster-General, with the consent of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, shall from time to time direct; and by the said Act power is also given to the Postmaster-General to collect and receive the foreign and colonial postage charged or chargeable on any letters sent by the post, and also with the consent of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to require the postage, British, colonial, or foreign, of any letters sent by the post, to be prepaid either in money or in stamps as he may think fit, on the same being put into the Post Office; and also with such consent to abolish or restrict the prepayment in money of postage on letters sent by the post, either altogether or on certain letters, and to require the prepayment thereof to be in stamps, and to refuse to receive or send by the post any letters tendered contrary to any regulations thereby made; and it is also declared and enacted that it shall be lawful for the Postmaster-General, and any officer of the Post Office, to detain any letters which shall be posted or sent by the post contrary to the regulations of that Act, or of the first-mentioned Act, or contrary to any regulations made under the authority of that Act, or the said first-mentioned Act, or contrary to the regulations of any Treasury Warrant to be issued under or by virtue of that Act, or which had been or should be issued under or by virtue of the said first-mentioned Act, and to open such letters, and either to return them to the senders thereof, or to forward them to the places of their destination, charged in either case with such rates of postage as the Postmaster-General, with the consent of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, shall from time to time direct.

And whereas the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, by divers Warrants under their hands, have fixed and limited the dimensions of letters and packets transmissible by the post within the United Kingdom, and it is expedient to

alter the same in the manner hereinafter mentioned.

Now we, the undersigned, being two of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, do, in exercise of the powers reserved to us, in and by the said before-mentioned Acts, or either of them, and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf, by this Warrant under our hands, order and direct as follows:--

1. That (except in the cases hereinafter mentioned) no letter or packet of any description whatever, which in length shall exceed two feet, or in breadth or depth one foot, shall be forwarded by the post between any places within the United Kingdom, nor by the post of any post town in the United Kingdom.

2. That the preceding clause shall not extend or apply to petitions or addresses forwarded to Her Majesty, or to petitions or addresses to Her Majesty, or petitions to either House of Parliament forwarded to any Member of either House of Parliament, or to printed votes or proceedings of Parliament, or to letters or packets of any description whatever to or from any of the Government offices or departments, or to or from any public officer to whom the Postmaster General shall, from time to time, direct that the exemption hereby granted shall be extended, but so that the petitions and addresses forwarded to any Member of either House of Parliament, and printed votes and proceedings of Parliament be sent without covers, or in covers open at the sides, and so that if any such petitions or addresses to Her Majesty, or petitions to either House of Parliament forwarded to any Member of either House of Parliament, shall exceed thirty-two ounces in weight, according to the provisions of the said Act passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her Majesty, the whole of such respective petitions and addresses shall be chargeable as heretofore with the full letter rates of postage.

3. That every letter sent or tendered, or delivered, in order to be sent by the post between any places in the United Kingdom, or by the post of any post town in the United Kingdom, which shall in length exceed two feet, or in breadth or depth one foot (except as hereinbefore is provided) shall and may be detained and opened, (and at the option of the Postmaster General) shall be either returned or given up to the sender thereof, or be given up to the person to whom it shall be addressed, or be forwarded to the place of its destination under and subject to the following regulations (that is to say), if the postage of such letter shall have been prepaid in money, or if such letter shall bear a stamp or stamps equal in value or amount to the rates of postage to which it shall be liable, such letter may be returned or given up or forwarded (at the option of the Postmaster General) as aforesaid, free of any further or additional charge for postage; but if any such letter shall be posted without any stamp thereon, and without the postage thereof being prepaid, the same on being so returned, given up, or forwarded, shall be chargeable with a postage of double the amount to which it would have been liable if the postage thereof had been prepaid when posted; and if any such letter shall have thereon or affixed thereto any stamp or stamps the value or amount of which shall be less than the rate of postage to which such letter would be liable if prepaid, or if the sum prepaid shall be less than the postage to which the letter was liable as prepaid, there shall be charged thereon a postage of double the amount of the difference between the value of such stamp