

## POST OFFICE.

6 OF 1881.<sup>(1)</sup>

FOR THE BETTER REGULATION OF THE DUTIES ON POSTAGE AND FOR  
THE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE POST OFFICE.

ROBERT BIDDULPH.]

[June 27, 1881.

## INTERPRETATION.

## Definitions.

1. In this Law:—

- “Inland” when used in relation to any postal packet or any description thereof means posted within the Island and addressed to some place in the Island;
- “Postal packet” means a letter, post-card, newspaper, book-packet, pattern or sample packet, circular, legal and commercial document, packet of photographs, and every packet or article which is not for the time being prohibited from being sent by the post;
- “Mail” means and includes any one of the bags, boxes, or packages whereof any mail consists;
- “Fictitious stamp” means any facsimile or imitation or representation, whether on paper or otherwise, of any stamp for denoting any rate of postage in Cyprus or the United Kingdom or of any of Her Majesty’s possessions or of any foreign country;
- “Post Office” means any house, building, room, or place where postal packets as defined by this Law, or any of them, are under the authority of the Island Postmaster, received, delivered, sorted, or made up, or from which such packets or any of them are by the authority of the Island Postmaster despatched, and includes any Post Office letter-box;
- “Post Office letter-box” includes any pillar-box, wall-box, or other box or receptacle provided under the authority of the Island Postmaster for the purpose of receiving postal packets, or any of them, for transmission by or under the authority of the Island Postmaster.

## ESTABLISHMENT.

Appointment  
of Officers.

2. The High Commissioner may appoint an Island Postmaster and so many other postmasters and inferior officers as shall be necessary for the purposes of this Law.

(1) Ss. 5-12 were formerly ss. 6-13, and ss. 13-47 were formerly ss. 15-49.

3. The High Commissioner may from time to time appoint one General Post Office and so many branch post offices throughout the Island as he may deem expedient, and may from time to time abolish any of such offices and appoint others in lieu thereof, as he may deem necessary.

High Commissioner  
may establish  
Post Offices.

#### EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGE OF POST OFFICE.

4.—(1.) The Island Postmaster shall by himself or by his deputies and their servants and agents have the exclusive privilege of conveying from one place to another in this Island, wheresoever posts now are or hereafter may be established, all letters, except as hereinafter provided; and shall also within this Island have the exclusive privilege of performing all the incidental services of receiving, collecting and delivering all letters, except as hereinafter provided.

Exclusive  
privilege.

(2.) There shall be excepted from the exclusive privilege of the Island Postmaster all letters of the following descriptions, that is to say:—

Exceptions.

(a.) Letters sent by a private friend on his way, journey or travel, so as they are delivered by him to the person to whom they are directed;

(b.) Letters sent by a messenger on purpose concerning the private affairs of the sender or receiver thereof;

(c.) Commissions or returns thereof and affidavits or writs, process or proceedings or returns thereof, issuing out of a Court of Justice;

(d.) Letters of merchants, owners of vessels of merchandise or the cargo or loading therein, sent by such vessels and delivered to the persons to whom they are directed, so that no hire or reward is given or received for the same in anywise;

(e.) Letters concerning goods sent by common known carriers or muleteers to be delivered with the goods which the letters concern without hire or reward or other profit or advantage for receiving or delivering the letters.

(3.) But nothing herein contained shall authorize any person to make a collection of such excepted letters for the purpose of sending them in the manner hereby authorized; and the following persons are expressly forbidden to carry a letter, or to receive or

Special prohibitions.

collect or deliver a letter, although they shall not receive hire or reward for the same:—

- (a.) Common known carriers and muleteers and their servants or agents, except a letter concerning goods in their carts or wagons, or on their pack-horses, camels, mules, or asses; and owners, drivers, or guards of public conveyances;
- (b.) Owners, masters or commanders of ships, vessels or steamboats, sailing or passing coastwise or otherwise between ports or places within the Island, their servants or agents, except in respect of letters of merchants, owners of ships or goods on board;
- (c.) Passengers or other persons on board any such ships, vessels or steamboats.

#### POSTAL CONTRACTS, RATES, ETC.

Power to  
Postmaster  
to make  
contracts, etc.

5. The Island Postmaster in his own name with the approval of the High Commissioner may enter into any contract in writing for the conveyance of mails within or from the Island, and may also employ mail carriers for the conveyance of mails, or forward mails by any other mode of conveyance that he may deem best, and may appoint letter carriers for the delivery of letters at private houses in any town or village of the Island.

Power to  
High Com-  
missioner to  
fix rates of  
postage.

6.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of any treaty or convention with any State binding on the Government of the Island the High Commissioner may by Order in Council from time to time fix the rates of postage or other sums to be charged by or under the Island Postmaster in respect of postal packets or any description thereof conveyed or delivered for conveyance by Post, whether in the Island or elsewhere, and regulate the scale of weights and the circumstances according to which such rates or sums are to be charged.

Proviso as to  
rates for  
soldiers and  
seamen.

(2.) Provided that for every letter not weighing more than half an ounce sent by any non-commissioned officer or private soldier, seaman or marine in Her Majesty's Service to any place beyond the seas there shall be chargeable for its conveyance and delivery a postage of thirty paras and no more; but on every letter so sent there must be written in the handwriting of and signed by the Commanding Officer of the regiment, detachment or ship to which such non-commissioned officer, soldier, seaman or marine belongs,

the words "soldier's letter," "seaman's letter," or "marine's letter," as the case may be, or words to that effect, and every such letter must be prepaid.

7. Where any treaty or convention binding on the Government of the Island has been or hereafter shall be made with any State with respect to the conveyance by Post of any postal packet the High Commissioner may from time to time make such regulations as may be deemed necessary for carrying into effect such arrangement, and as to charges for the transit of postal packets, single or in bulk, and the scale of weights to be adopted, and the accounting for and paying over to any such State of any moneys received by the Island Postmaster.

As to postal arrangements with foreign countries.

8. The High Commissioner may, on the representation of the Island Postmaster, from time to time make regulations with respect to the registration of and giving receipts for any postal packet, and may also by Order in Council from time to time fix the sum to be paid in addition to any other rate of postage for the registration of or giving a receipt for such packet. Provided that the registration of or giving a receipt for a postal packet shall not render the Island Postmaster or the Post Office Revenue in any manner liable for the loss of any such packet or the contents thereof.

Registry of and receipts for postal packets.

9. The High Commissioner may from time to time direct what sums shall be paid to the masters or owners of ships and vessels, not being ships or vessels employed in the conveyance of mails under any contract with Her Majesty's Government or the Government of the Island, in respect of postal packets and every description thereof, whether brought to the Island from ports beyond seas or to be carried from the Island to such ports.

Power to fix sums to be paid for ship letters.

10. All postal packets shall be posted, forwarded, conveyed and delivered subject to such regulations, conditions, prohibitions and restrictions respecting the time and mode of posting and delivery and of the payment of rates of postage and other sums chargeable under this Law, or any Order in Council under this Law, and respecting stamps, covers, forms, dimensions, maximum weight, enclosures, the use of packets (other than letters) for making communications, and otherwise as the High Commissioner may, on the representation of the Island Postmaster, from time to time direct.

Regulations as to postal packets.

11. Every Order in Council to be made under the authority of this Law, shall forthwith be published in the *Cyprus Gazette*; and

Publication of Order in Council.



shall specify a date on and from which the provisions thereof shall take effect, and shall have the like authority as though the provisions thereof had been incorporated in this Law.

Master of vessel to deliver mail and letters.

12. Every mail or loose letter not exempted from the privilege of the Island Postmaster which shall be on board of any vessel arriving at any port within the Island, shall without delay be delivered by the master thereof, or by his accredited agent or deputy, to the postmaster of the port or any person authorized by him to receive it, who is hereby required to give a receipt for it; and the master of the vessel shall not be allowed to enter at the Custom House until he has produced the receipt.

#### GENERAL REGULATIONS.

Decision in case of use of soiled stamps.

13. Whenever any stamp affixed or appearing on any postal-packet for the purpose of defraying the rate of postage chargeable thereon, is so soiled or worn as to render it doubtful whether it has been before used, the decision thereon of the postmaster at whose office the letter is posted as to whether such soiled or worn stamp is to be accepted shall be final and conclusive between him and the person posting.

Decision as to nature of postal-packet.

14. If any question arises whether any postal-packet is a letter, postcard, newspaper, supplement, book-packet, circular or other description of postal-packet within the meaning of this Law or any order or regulation made under this Law the decision thereon of the Island Postmaster shall be final, save that the High Commissioner may, if he thinks fit, on the application of any person interested, review or modify the decision and order accordingly.

Letters arriving with fictitious or used stamps.

15.—(1.) When any letter or postal-packet is sent from abroad to Cyprus, which bears a fictitious stamp, or purports to be prepaid by means of a stamp which has been used before, the Island Postmaster, with the authority of the High Commissioner, but not otherwise, may open it, in the presence of the addressee, for the purpose of discovering the name and address of the sender, and may either retain it or return or give it up to the sender, or deal or dispose of it in such other manner as may be authorized by the High Commissioner.

Letters posted in Cyprus with fictitious stamps.

(2.) Where any letter or postal-package posted in Cyprus, bears a fictitious stamp, or purports to be prepaid by means of a stamp which has been used before, the Island Postmaster may forward