

*Postage.***No. XVII.****An Act further to amend the Postage Act. [30th September, 1854.]** POSTAGE

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Postage Act of 1851 in various particulars as hereinafter provided Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof as follows:—

1. It shall be competent to the Governor by and with the advice of the Executive Council from time to time to enter into such arrangements with Her Majesty's Imperial Government as may be deemed expedient touching the rates of postage to be charged upon letters packets and newspapers transmitted by post from any part of this Colony to and through the United Kingdom or therefrom to and through this Colony and also touching the transmission through the Post Office in London of letters and packets between this Colony and places out of the United Kingdom and the rates of postage thereon and also touching the mode and place of payment of such rates of postage respectively and the distribution thereof amongst the several Post Offices concerned in the transmission of such letters packets and newspapers and every such arrangement shall during the continuance thereof have the force and effect of law.

Governor and Executive Council authorized to make arrangements with Imperial Government as to postage to from and through United Kingdom.

2. It shall be competent to the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council to make or cause arrangements to be made with the Governments of the neighbouring British Colonies or any of them for the mutual exemption from inward postage of all letters packets books or other parcels conveyed by post between this Colony and such neighbouring Colonies respectively.

Power given to arrange with neighbouring Colonies for mutual exemption from inward postage.

3. The rate of outward postage upon all letters and packets posted in any part of this Colony for transmission beyond seas except such as shall come within the arrangements to be made under the first section of this Act shall be such sum not exceeding sixpence as the Governor with the advice of His Executive Council shall determine.

Rate of outward postage on ship letters except those within section 1.

4. The provisions of section eight of the Postage Act of 1851 shall apply to parcels open at each end containing any proof sheets or revises of any publication or manuscripts for publication addressed to or by any printer or publisher or containing any printed matter of whatsoever description.

M.SS. and printed matter to be charged with reduced rates.

5. And whereas the accumulation of unclaimed newspapers in the Post Office is found to be very inconvenient notwithstanding the provision already made for the destruction thereof after the expiration of three months Be it enacted That it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to cause to be sold or destroyed all newspapers which shall have remained in any Post Office unclaimed for the period of two months.

Destruction of unclaimed newspapers expedited.

6. And whereas it is found impracticable without great and unreasonable expense to keep a list of all unclaimed and undelivered letters and packets shewing the date and address and the writer's name and place of writing every such letter and packet as required by the proviso contained in the twenty-ninth section of the said Postage Act of 1851 Be it therefore enacted That no such list shall be required to be kept in respect of any letters or packets whatsoever except such as shall upon examination be found to contain money or other valuable contents and in respect of all such last-mentioned letters and their contents the provisions of the second section of the Act of

Lists with particulars of address &c. of letters &c. destroyed under Act of 1851 required only in cases of letters &c. containing valuables.

Council

Jury Laws.

Council passed in the Session of 1852 to amend the Postage Act of 1851 shall be applicable and shall be duly observed and kept.

Power to open and examine letters &c. suspected to be irregular.

7. It shall be lawful for any Postmaster to open and examine any parcel posted as containing patterns or samples of merchandise for the purpose of ascertaining whether the same be *boná fide* within the provision authorizing the charge of a lower rate of postage on such parcels.

Weekly newspapers from abroad stitched in monthly parts transmitted on the charge of one penny.

8. Weekly newspapers coming from abroad though stitched in monthly parts shall be considered newspapers within the meaning of the Postage Acts of 1851 and 1852 and when posted in the Colony shall be transmitted by the mail to all parts thereof at the charge of one penny for each weekly number included in each such monthly part provided that not more than one monthly part shall be forwarded under one cover.

Masters of vessels to give notice of departure.

9. The master commander or other person having the charge of any vessel bound to take a mail shall give timely notice to the Postmaster nearest to the port harbour or place of such vessel's intended departure so as to enable him to be prepared to dispatch any mail on board such vessel and if any such master commander or other person as aforesaid shall refuse fail or neglect to give such notice he shall for every such offence forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds.

No payment to masters for inward letters where payments made at port of departure.

10. No payment shall be made to the master or other person in charge of any vessel arriving from parts beyond the Colony for the conveyance of any letters packets or newspapers on which payments have already been made at the port of departure.

Penalty for obstructing conveyance and delivery of mails.

11. If any person shall wilfully obstruct the conveyance or delivery of any mail he shall for such offence upon conviction thereof before any two Justices of the Peace forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds.