

Act of 13 May 1861

Statute I, Chapter XIII. — An Act to amend "An act to prescribe the rates of postage in the Confederate States of America, and for other purposes," approved February 23, 1861.

Source: *The Statutes at Large of the Provisional Government of the Confederate States of America*, pages 109-110.

Published: Richmond, 1862.

Admended the following postage rates:

Circulars, pamphlets and periodicals

Newspapers

Books

Packages

Extended franking privilege to the chief clerk and the chiefs of the bureaus in the Post Office Department and the auditor of the Treasury to the Post Office Department

Postmaster General authorzied to provide ten cent stamps and stamp envelopes.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That so much of the first section of an act entitled "An act to prescribe the rates of postage in the Confederate States of America, and for other purposes," approved February twenty-third, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, as relates to sealed packages, containing other than printed or written matter, including money packages, be and the same is hereby so amended as to require that such packages shall be rated by weight, and charged the rates of letter postage.

Act of Feb. 23d, 1861, ch. 13, relating to postage on certain sealed packages, amended.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the second section of said act be amended as follows, to-wit: That all newspapers published within the Confederate States, not exceeding three ounces in weight, and sent from the office of publication to actual and *bona fide* subscribers within the Confederate States, shall be charged with postage as follows, to-wit: The postage on the regular numbers of a newspaper published weekly shall be ten cents per quarter; papers published semi-weekly, double that amount; papers published thrice a week, treble that amount; papers published six times a week, six times that amount; and papers published daily, seven times that amount. And on newspapers weighing more than three ounces there shall be charged on each additional ounce, in addition to the foregoing rates, on those published once a week, five cents per ounce or fraction of an ounce per quarter; on those published twice a week, ten cents per ounce per quarter; on those published three times a week, fifteen cents per ounce per quarter; on those published six times a week, thirty cents per ounce per quarter; and on those published daily, thirty-five cents per ounce per quarter. And periodicals published oftener than bi-monthly, shall be charged as newspapers. And other periodicals, sent from the office of publication to actual and *bona fide* subscribers, shall be charged with postage as follows, to-wit: The postage on the regular numbers of a periodical published within the Confederate States, not exceeding one and a half ounces in weight, and published monthly, shall be two and a half cents per quarter, and for every additional ounce or fraction of an ounce, two and a half cents additional; if published semi-monthly, double that amount; and periodicals published quarterly or bi-monthly, shall be charged two cents an ounce; and regular subscribers to newspapers and periodicals shall be required to pay one-quarter's postage thereon, in advance, at the office of delivery, unless paid at the office where published. And there shall be charged upon every other newspaper, and each circular not sealed, hand-bill, engraving, pamphlet, periodical and magazine, which shall be unconnected with any manuscript or written matter, and not exceeding three ounces in weight, and published within

Amendment of 2d section of the above act.

Postage on certain newspapers.

On periodicals.

On other newspapers, circulars, hand-bills, engravings, pamphlets, periodicals and magazines.

Prepayment of the Confederate States, two cents; and for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce, two cents additional; and in all cases the postage shall be prepaid by stamps, or otherwise, as the Postmaster General shall direct.

Books deemed And books, bound or unbound, not weighing over four pounds, shall be deemed mailable matter, and shall be charged with postage, to be prepaid by stamps or otherwise, as the Postmaster General shall direct, at two cents an ounce for any distance. And upon all newspapers, periodicals and books, as aforesaid, published beyond the limits of the Confederate States, there shall be charged postage at double the foregoing specified rates. The publishers of newspapers or periodicals within the Confederate States may send and receive to and from each other, from their respective offices of publication, one copy of each publication free of postage. All newspapers, unsealed circulars, or other unsealed printed transient matter, placed in any postoffice not for transmission but for delivery only, shall be charged postage at the rate of one cent each.

Publishers of newspapers, etc., may send and receive them to and from each other, free of postage. Postage on newspapers, etc., placed in postoffice for delivery only.

SEC. 3 *And be it further enacted*, That the third section of the above recited act be and the same is hereby so amended, as to authorize the Postmaster General to provide and furnish ten cent stamps and stamped envelopes; and that the provisions, restrictions and penalties prescribed by said section of said act for violations of the same in relation to two, five, and twenty cent stamps and stamped envelopes, shall, in all respects, apply to the denomination of stamps and stamped envelopes herein provided for.

Third section of the act of 2d February, 1861, ch. 13, amended.

Postmaster General to provide ten cent stamps and stamped envelopes.

Proviso in the fifth section of the above act amended, by extending to the chiefs of the bureaus the franking privilege therein conferred on the Postmaster General and others.

SEC. 4 *And be it further enacted*, That the proviso contained in the fifth section of the said act be so amended as to extend to the chiefs of the contract, appointment and finance bureaus of the Postoffice Department the privilege therein conferred upon the Postmaster General, his chief clerk, and the auditor of the treasury for the Postoffice Department, of transmitting through the mails, free of postage, any letters, packages, or other matters relating exclusively to their official duties or to the business of the Postoffice Department, subject to the restrictions and penalties prescribed by the said proviso; and that this act take effect and be of force from and after its passage.

APPROVED May 13, 1861.