

## Miscellaneous.

## FOREIGN POSTAGE.

RESULTS OF THE LATE POSTAL CONVENTION BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Aug. 28.

The following has been prepared at the Post-office Department, namely:

Whereas, Article 5 of the new Postal Convention concluded between the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, on the 8th day of July, A.D. 1867, (including printed papers of all kinds, maps, plans, prints, engravings, drawings, photographs, lithographs, sheets of music, &c.) and patterns and samples of merchandise, (including seeds and grain,) shall be transmitted by either office at such charges, not less than threepence, in the United Kingdom, or six cents in the United States, per four ounces on books, packets and patterns, or samples of merchandise, and under such regulations as the dispatching office may from time to time lay down; and

Whereas, The provisions of the said article are to be carried into effect in each country on the 1st of October, A. D. 1867.

It is hereby ordered, That the rates of postage to be levied and collected in the United States on and after the 1st day of October, 1867, upon international newspapers, printed matter, and other postal packets, enumerated in the said article, posted in the United States and addressed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall be as follows, viz:

Newspapers and unsealed circulars, two cents each.

Pamphlets and periodicals over two ounces in weight, and other printed matter, (except books,) including printed papers of all kinds, maps, plans, prints, engravings, drawings, photographs, lithographs, sheets of music, &c., four cents per four ounces or fraction of four ounces.

Books, six cents per four ounces, or fraction of four ounces.

Patterns and samples of merchandise, eight cents per four ounces, or fraction of four ounces.

And it is further ordered, That the regulations to be observed and enforced in the United States with respect to the printed papers of all kinds and other postal packets enumerated in the said article, shall be the following, viz:

1. The postage charges herein established must in all cases be fully prepaid at the office of mailing in the United States, by means of United States postage stamps affixed outside the package or its cover. If not so prepaid, the package cannot be forwarded.

2. Newspapers, circulars, pamphlets, periodicals, books, or other printed papers, including maps, plans, prints, engravings, drawings, photographs, lithographs, sheets of music, &c., must be wrapped or enveloped in covers open at the sides or ends, so as to admit of the inclosures being removed for examination.

3. No newspaper, pamphlet, periodical, or article of printed matter (other than book packets) may contain any word or communication, whether by writing, printing, marks or signs, upon the cover or wrapper thereof, except the name and address of the person to whom it is sent, the printed title of the publication, the printed name of the publisher or vender who sends it, or, in case of newspapers or other regular publications, when sent direct to subscribers from the office of publication, the printed date when subscription expires. It must not contain a letter or any communication in writing in other inclosure.

4. No book-packet may contain anything that is sealed or otherwise closed against inspection, nor must there be any letter, nor any communication of the nature of a letter, whether separate or otherwise, unless the whole of such letter or communication be printed; but entries merely stating from whom or to whom the packet is sent shall not be regarded as a letter.

5. No book-packet must exceed two feet in length, or one foot in width or depth.

6. Any book-packet which is not open at the sides or ends, or has any letter or communication in the nature of a letter written in it or upon its cover, cannot be received or forwarded in the mail,

and it is the duty of the Postmasters, whenever they have ground for suspecting an infringement of any of the above conditions, to open and examine book packets, patterns, samples or other postal packets posted at or passing through their offices.

7. Patterns or samples of merchandise must not be of intrinsic value, which rule excludes from the mails all articles of a saleable nature, or whatever may have a market value of its own, apart from its mere use as a pattern or sample, or where the quantity of any material sent ostensibly as a pattern or sample is so great that it could be fairly considered as having on this ground no intrinsic value.

8. No packet of patterns or samples must exceed 24 inches in length or 12 inches in breadth or depth, or 25 ounces in weight.

9. Patterns or samples must not bear any writing other than the address of the persons for whom they are intended, except the address of the sender, a trade mark and numbers, and the price of the articles.

10. There must be no inclosures other than the patterns or samples themselves. The particulars which are allowed to be furnished under the preceding resolution must in all cases be given, not on loose pieces of paper, but on small labels attached when patterns or samples, or the bags containing them.

11. Patterns or samples must be sent in covers, open at the ends, so as to be of easy examination. Samples, however, of seeds, &c., which cannot be sent in open covers may be enclosed in bags of linen or other material, fastened in such a manner that they may be readily opened for examination.

12. Patterns, samples or other packets, containing liquids, poisons, explosive chemicals, or other articles likely to injure the contents of the mail-bags, or the person of any office of the Post-office, are positively excluded from the mail.

13. The laws and regulations of this Department, which exclude obscene books, pamphlets, pictures, prints or other publications of a vulgar and indecent character from the mails of the United States are also to be enforced with respect to books, pamphlets, pictures, prints or other publications of like character, addressed to the United Kingdom or other foreign country.

14. Letters, newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals or books, posted in the United States and addressed to the United Kingdom may be registered at the office of mailing upon payment of a registration fee of eight cents, in addition to the ordinary postage charges, both of which must be prepaid. But the reduced registration fee of eight cents on letters will not take effect until the first of January, 1868.

15. Newspapers or other kinds of printed matter, book packets, patterns and samples of merchandise, originating in the United Kingdom, and addressed to the United States, will be received in the United States fully prepaid, and must be delivered free of charge to the party addressed at the office of distribution in the United States.

Article 5 of the aforesaid Convention also prescribes the following specific regulations to be observed and enforced in each country, viz:

Neither office shall be bound to deliver printed papers the importation of which may be prohibited by the laws or regulations of the country to which they are transmitted.

So long as any Customs duty is chargeable in the United States on the importation from the United Kingdom of any of the articles enumerated above, such Customs duty shall be leviable in the United States, and the proceeds shall accrue to the United States Treasury.

Except as above, no charge whatever shall be levied in the country in which international newspapers, book-packets and patterns or samples of merchandise are delivered.

Postmasters are instructed to levy and collect in advance, on and after the first of October, 1867, the rates of postage as fixed by this order on the different kinds of printed matter and other postal packets herein enumerated, observing strictly the regulations herein established with respect to each classification of the same.

So much of the new Convention as relates to international letters exchanged with the United Kingdom will not take effect until the 1st of January, 1868, and in the meantime the postage charge

on letters will continue, as at present, 24 cents per single rate of half an ounce or under. But on and after the 1st of January, 1868, the single rate of postage on international letters will be reduced to 12 cents.

The offices of exchange on the side of the United States are New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Portland, Detroit, Chicago and San Francisco.

(Signed) ALEX. W. RANDALL,  
Postmaster-General.

## CO-OPERATION.

The co-operative principle has been so frequently referred to of late that it would be thought that the general features which distinguish the system would be so well understood that it would be a work of supererogation to refer to the subject. But although information upon this subject is extending, there is yet sufficient ignorance among persons who might avail themselves of the co-operative plan with advantage, to justify further references to the peculiarities of this method of sharing among many the benefits which, by the usual business arrangements that prevail in society, are confined to a few. The co-operative principle proposes to give to consumers the profits which are taken from them by numerous middlemen who intervene between them and the producer. Where such a system is carried out it has an effect in reducing the prices and furnishing to the members of the associations the supplies which they need upon the most favorable terms. One of these societies, lately established in New York, will furnish us with an appropriate illustration of the plan. It is called "The First Manhattan Co-operative Grocery and Provision Association," and is intended to include among the articles furnished, coal and wood, so that, with the exception of clothing, the members may be supplied with almost everything embraced within the usual meaning of the word "necessaries."

The object is to be gained by purchasing at the lowest price for cash, by selling to the members at rates somewhat in advance of cost, but, nevertheless, more reasonable than the ordinary prices of dealers, and to divide the profits among the members of the association in ratio to their purchases, which may be done by payment of the dividend in cash, or in goods; or by placing the amount to the capital stock of the members. To become a member, a subscription to the stock, which is divided into one thousand shares, of five dollars each, is necessary. The subscriber may take any number of shares, not exceeding thirty. The mode of payment was at first intended to be by weekly payments of one dollar on each share, until the whole amount was paid in, but, by subsequent arrangement, it was decided that it should be five per cent. weekly on each share.

Members who wish to withdraw from the association, can take out their capital, less twenty-five per cent.; this regulation being made in order to prevent a sudden breaking up of the association by the withdrawal of many members. But for the benefit of the families of members who die, there is a stipulation that the widow and survivors shall be repaid the whole amount of the share of the decedent whom they represent. The directors also have a right to compel persons who remove from the city of New York, and, therefore, cease to participate in the working of the association by purchasing, to withdraw their shares, which, otherwise, would become investments earning dividends from the dealings of others with the association, to which the owners of such unused rights would contribute nothing.

This society does not seem to be a very large one in its operations. A capital of five thousand dollars is but a small one, but it is believed to be sufficient to supply the workingmen, who are engaged in the association, with all they want. The capital is to be turned over and over, and it must increase by judicious management rapidly. The Rochdale Co-operative Association of Great Britain, the pioneer in this movement, was started in 1845 with far less capital, the whole stock which the original members clubbed together being \$140, yet upon that small beginning the society has increased so much that it now does a business of over a million of dollars a year, and has many thousand members who participate in the advantages of the plan. For workingmen, this system may be made available, so as to reduce the annual expen-

ses of supporting their families to a very appreciative degree, teaching them at the same time the advantages of thrift and economy. The system is one which should be thoroughly understood and with earnest members of the co-operative societies and faithful officers it cannot fail to be successful.—*Philadelphia Inquirer*.

## CO-OPERATIVE KNIFE FACTORY IN CONNECTICUT.

A correspondent of the *Hartford Courant* gives the following account of a co-operative association of penknife makers which is doing a manufacturing business at Northfield, Conn.:

It seems that some twenty years ago, a number of workmen in the knife factories throughout the State struck for higher wages, feeling sure that their employers received the lion's share of the profits. The demand was not acceded to. Instead of loafing around idle, and combining to prevent others from working, as it is fashionable nowadays to do, these men (mostly English and Scotch) assembled and talked over the "situation," and concluded to go into business for themselves. One of their number reconnoitered, found an unused mill on a little brook in Northfield, and made a bargain for it—\$5 a month, and the farmer who owned it was to take his pay in pocket knives. They counted up their "capital," and found it to consist in an even five dollars apiece, the funds of those who had only two or three dollars being pieced out by those who were the fortunate possessors of seven or eight. They appointed one of their number President of the Company, invested this capital in the machinery required, bought their stock on time, and went earnestly at work. They were generally sober and industrious; those who were otherwise dropping out of their own weight, and giving place to better men. The business succeeded. Dividends were declared. The profits, instead of being absorbed by one, were shared by all. The old shop was enlarged. The workmen-capitalists gathered their families about them, and each built himself a snug white cottage along the road leading to the adjacent hill-side. Some of the past officers have proven unworthy or inefficient, and the Company has met its share of mishaps, but the general result has been prosperity. The stock, largely increased, cannot be had for anything like par. The workmen, driven to think for themselves, form as pleasant a picture of thrift and sobriety and comfort as one would encounter in a weeks travel. Several of the original proprietors are still found at the polishing wheel, and as each man has a personal interest in the excellence of the work, there are in the market no better or handsomer knives than those produced by the Northfield Knife Company. Why should not other workmen, of every craft, profit by this experiment?

RECIPE FOR CLEANSING WOOL.—Take one pound of Saleratus for twelve pounds of wool, dissolved in water not quite boiling hot, then put in the wool and stir occasionally for one hour, take it out and squeeze it thoroughly, or what is better, run through a clothes wringer, rinse in cold water, and spread on grass ground to dry. This process will remove all gum and dirt from any of the wool and make it much better for custom work.—[*Vermont Farmer*.]

THE New Bedford Mercury says that the Workingmen's Co-operative Association of Sandwich appears to be doing well. It has declared a dividend of six per cent. on its stock; made a return on purchases of four per cent. to members, and of two per cent. to outsiders, and its stock is at a premium.

USE OF DISTILLED WATER.—The Pacific coast of South America, between the 18th and 28th parallels of south latitude, is a rainless region. All the seaport towns, for a distance of 600 miles, are supplied with fresh water for drinking and cooking purposes from sea-water which is mostly distilled by means of imported coal. Not only cattle, but locomotives and stationary steam-engines are supplied with distilled water. The few natural springs within from 30 to 50 miles of the ocean contain so much saline matter as to be rendered unfit for quenching thirst.