

THE AMERICAN PARCEL POST WARRANT, 1902, DATED
AUGUST 25, 1902.

1902. No. 689.

Whereas the Postmaster-General has entered into an Agreement with the American Express Company for the interchange of parcels between the British Islands and the United States of America.

Now, we, the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, in exercise of all powers given to us by the Post Office Acts or any of them, and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf, do, by this Warrant, made on the representation of His Majesty's Postmaster-General (testified by his signing the same) and under the hands of two of us, the said Commissioners, order, direct, and declare as follows:—

Preliminary.

- Short title. 1. This Warrant may be cited as "The American Parcel Post Warrant, 1902."
- Schedule to be deemed part of Warrant. 2. The Schedule to this Warrant shall be deemed part of this Warrant.

Definitions.

- "Parcel." 3. In this Warrant—
- (1.) The expression "parcel" means a postal packet transmitted by post as a parcel in accordance with the provisions of this Warrant, or any Warrant amending the same.
- "Outgoing." (2.) The expression "outgoing" applied to a parcel means transmitted by post from the British Islands to the United States.
- "Incoming." (3.) The expression "incoming" applied to a parcel means received in the British Islands through the post from the United States.
- "British Islands." (4.) The expression "British Islands" means the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.
- "United States." (5.) The expression "United States" means the United States of America.
- "Bullion." (6.) The expression "bullion" means uncoined and unmanufactured gold or silver.
- "Coin." (7.) The expression "coin" means coin of all kinds, whether or not current in the British Islands or elsewhere, except such as is used or designed for purposes of ornament.

- (8.) The expression "jewellery" means—
- (a) gold or silver in a manufactured state; that is to say, "Jewellery." a state in which value is added to the raw material by skilled workmanship, and in this definition are included any coins used or designed for purposes of ornament;
 - (b) diamonds and precious stones;
 - (c) watches entirely or mainly composed of gold or silver; and
 - (d) any article of a like nature which, apart from workmanship, has an intrinsic or marketable value.
- (9.) The expression "insured parcel" means a parcel in "Insured Parcel." respect of which a compensation fee is paid.
- (10.) The expression "Express Company" means the "Express Company." American Express Company of New York.

Places between which Parcels may be Transmitted.

4. From and after the date when this Warrant comes into operation, parcels may, subject to the provisions of this Warrant, be transmitted by post between the British Islands and the United States.

Rates of Postage and other charges on Parcels.

5. (1.) On parcels transmitted by post under this Warrant between the British Islands and the United States there shall be charged and paid the following rates of postage, that is to say:—

On every parcel not exceeding 3 lb. in weight, 6*d.*

On every parcel exceeding 3 lb. in weight, but not exceeding 7 lb. in weight, 1*s.*

On every parcel exceeding 7 lb. in weight, but not exceeding 11 lb. in weight, 1*s.* 6*d.*

- (2.) On every outgoing parcel there shall also be charged and paid such sums as the Postmaster-General may from time to time specify by notice in respect of the services of the Express Company in relation to such parcel.

Maximum Weight and Dimensions.

6. Except with the special permission of the Postmaster-General, there shall not be forwarded, conveyed, or delivered by post under this Warrant any parcel which exceeds:—

(a.) In weight 11 lbs.

(b.) In dimensions, 3 ft. 6 ins. in length, or 6 ft. in length and girth measured together (such girth being measured round the thickest part of such parcel).

Mode of Posting.

7. Subject to the provisions of this Warrant, the following provisions shall apply to the posting of outgoing parcels, that is to say:—

- (a.) The parcel must bear the name and full address of the addressee, and must be packed in such manner and form and in accordance with such directions as the Postmaster-General may from time to time prescribe in that behalf. The parcel must also be accompanied by or have affixed to it one or more declarations of such kind, and stating the nature and value of the contents of the parcel in such manner and form and with such other particulars as the Commissioners of Customs and the Postmaster-General may prescribe.
- (b.) The sender may also be required to fill up a despatch note giving his name and address, the name and address of the addressee, and other particulars.

Payment of Foreign Customs, and other Charges, by Sender.

8. Where the sender of an outgoing parcel desires that such parcel may be delivered to the addressee free of all Customs Duties payable in the United States and other charges thereon, the following rules shall apply to such parcel:—

- (a.) The parcel shall be posted at a Post Office prescribed by the Postmaster-General for that purpose.
- (b.) There shall be charged and paid on such parcel, in addition to all other postage payable thereon, the amount of the Customs Duties payable in the United States, and of all other charges payable on the delivery of such parcel, and a further rate or fee of sixpence.
- (c.) The sender shall sign an undertaking (in such form as the Postmaster-General may from time to time prescribe) to pay on demand the amount of such Customs Duties and other charges as aforesaid
- (d.) The sender shall also, if so required, pay, by way of deposit, at the time of posting the parcel, such sum as the Postmaster-General may prescribe in respect of such Customs Duties and other charges.

Treatment of Parcels posted in Letter Boxes.

9. Any outgoing packet transmissible by Parcel Post under this Warrant which, from any words or marks thereon, or other external evidence, appears to have been intended for transmission as a parcel but which has not been tendered for transmission as a parcel, but has been posted in a post office letter

box, or otherwise than according to the manner in this Warrant prescribed for the posting of parcels, may, in the discretion of the Postmaster-General, either be detained and returned or given up to the sender, or if the said packet is fully pre-paid with the letter or open packet rate of postage, and otherwise conforms to the regulations as to the letter or open packet post, may be forwarded as a letter or open packet (as the case may be).

Return and Disposal of Undelivered Parcels.

10. With regard to—

- (a.) incoming parcels which are addressed to a post office to be called for, or to a place beyond the free postal delivery of any town or district, or to a ship at any port, and which are not called for or delivered within such reasonable times as the Postmaster-General may from time to time prescribe, and
- (b.) incoming parcels which cannot be delivered for want of a true direction, or by reason that the addressee is dead, or cannot be found, or has refused the same, or has refused or neglected to pay any charges thereon, or for any other sufficient reason ;

the following provisions shall (subject to the other provisions of this Warrant) apply, that is to say :—

- (1.) the parcel shall, as the Postmaster-General may from time to time direct, be retained at or forthwith forwarded to such place as the Postmaster-General may appoint, and may, if necessary, be there opened and examined.
- (2.) Where the name and address of the sender can be ascertained from the parcel or any form accompanying the same, notice shall be given to the Express Company, who will communicate with the sender of the parcel as to its disposal.
- (3.) Where the name and address of the sender cannot be ascertained as hereinbefore mentioned, notice of the non-delivery of the parcel shall be given to the Express Company.
- (4.) In either case the notice shall state that, in default of the receipt by the Postmaster-General of instructions as to the disposal of the parcel during a period to be specified in such notice from some person who, in the Postmaster-General's judgment, is entitled to give such instructions, the parcel will be returned to the United States.
- (5.) The Postmaster-General may require proof to his satisfaction that an applicant for a parcel is entitled to receive the same.

- (6.) The Postmaster-General may, in his discretion, specify in any such notice or otherwise the periods during which parcels may be returned to the senders thereof, and, in so doing, may have regard to the origin, nature, and contents of parcels.
- (7.) Where, in the case of a parcel which cannot be delivered for want of a true direction, the sender corrects the address of the parcel, the parcel shall be forwarded to the corrected address, subject to the following conditions:—
- (a.) Where the corrected address of the parcel is served from the same post office as the original address, no new charge shall be made with respect to the delivery of the parcel.
- (b.) In any other case there shall be paid a new and distinct rate of postage equal in amount to the rate of postage chargeable for the transmission from the original to the corrected address.
- (8.) Where the sender requests that a parcel may be returned to him by post, there shall be charged upon such parcel such additional rate of postage and other sums as are payable upon an outgoing parcel under this Warrant.
- (9.) A parcel shall not be given up or returned by post to the sender except upon payment by him of all charges for re-direction or otherwise to which the parcel has become liable under the provisions of this Warrant or otherwise by the law of this country, or of any foreign country or British possession.
- (10.) Where no application is made for a parcel within the period specified in any such notice as aforesaid, or an applicant fails to prove to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General that he is entitled to receive the parcel, or refuses or fails to pay the charges to which the parcel has become liable under this Warrant, the parcel may be dealt with or disposed of in such manner as the Postmaster-General may, in his discretion, direct or authorise.
- (11.) Any parcel, the addressee of which has left for a country between which and the British Islands no Parcels Post exists, shall be dealt with as undeliverable.

Express Delivery Fee on Outgoing Parcels.

11. Upon every outgoing parcel marked with the words "express delivery," or with such other words as may indicate the desire of the sender that the parcel may be delivered by special messenger (which words are hereinafter referred to as an "express marking") there shall be charged and pre-paid the fee of fivepence.

Delivery of Incoming Parcels by Special Messenger.

12. (1.) Any incoming parcel marked with an express marking shall, in the United Kingdom, be conveyed and delivered by special messenger, subject to the regulations and conditions for the time being in force with respect to the conveyance of inland parcels in the United Kingdom.

(2.) No express fee shall be payable by the addressee of such parcel unless and in so far as the sum pre-paid thereon for express delivery of such parcel is less than the express fee payable on an inland parcel.

Re-direction.

13. (1.) Any incoming parcel may be re-directed from its original address, or any substituted address, within the British Islands to any country or place with which a Parcel Post from the British Islands is established, and in every case of such re-direction there shall be charged on such parcel in respect of such re-direction a new and distinct rate of postage according to the rates for the time being payable in respect of the transmission of a like parcel from the British Islands to the country or place to which it may be re-directed.

(2.) Any incoming parcel may be re-directed from its original address, or any substituted address within the British Islands, to any other address within the British Islands, and in every case of such re-direction there shall be charged on such parcel in respect of such re-direction, and (if not previously paid) paid by the addressee thereof upon the delivery of such parcel such rate of postage as would in like case be charged upon the parcel were it an inland parcel.

(3.) No parcel re-directed to the British Islands from a place in the United States shall be delivered to the addressee except upon payment of all charges for re-direction or otherwise to which the parcel has become liable in the United States.

Compensation for Loss or Damage.

14. If any article of pecuniary value, enclosed in or forming part of a parcel, be lost or damaged whilst in the course of conveyance by the post under the provisions of this Warrant, the Postmaster-General may pay to any person or to the Express Company, if, in the opinion of the Postmaster-General, such person or the Express Company establishes a reasonable claim to compensation (having regard to the nature of the article, the care with which it was packed, and other circumstances) such sum as he may think just.

Provided that—

- (1.) In the case of an uninsured parcel the sum paid by way of compensation shall not exceed one pound.
- (2.) In the case of an outgoing insured parcel where, in addition to the postage payable in respect of such parcel, a compensation fee of the amount specified in the first column of the Schedule hereto (and no more) is paid in respect of such parcel, the sum paid by way of compensation shall not exceed the sum specified in the second column of the said Schedule.
- (3.) In the case of an incoming insured parcel the sum paid by way of compensation shall be such a sum, not exceeding a sum equivalent to six hundred dollars in the currency of the United States, as, having regard to the amount of the compensation fee in addition to the postage paid in respect of such parcel, may be from time to time fixed by agreement between the Postmaster-General and the Express Company.

15. (1.) A parcel which contains coin or any article of jewellery or other precious article shall not be conveyed by post between the British Islands and the United States unless the same is insured.

(2.) The following regulations shall apply to any such parcel if posted without insurance:—

- (i.) If such parcel be received in the British Islands—
 - (a.) Such parcel shall be registered, and may be detained for that purpose at any post office.
 - (b.) Such parcel shall be charged with a registration fee of fourpence, in addition to all other postage payable thereon.
- (ii.) If such parcel be posted in the British Islands it shall be returned to the sender.
- (iii.) No compensation shall be payable in respect of the loss or damage of such parcel or the contents thereof.

16. The Postmaster-General may give effect to the provisions of this Warrant as to the loss or damage of articles enclosed in or forming part of parcels, out of such aids or supplies as may be from time to time provided and appropriated by Parliament for that purpose, but nothing contained in, or done under, or in pursuance of, this Warrant, shall render him liable, either personally or in his official capacity, to any action or other legal proceeding in respect of, or in consequence of any such loss or damage whether such loss or damage be occasioned by or arise from any act or neglect of any officer of the Post Office or any other person. And the decision of the Postmaster-General on

all questions arising between him and any person claiming payment in respect of the loss or damage of any article enclosed in or forming part of a parcel shall be final and conclusive.

Prohibitions.

17. There shall not be posted or conveyed or delivered by post under this Warrant—

- (a.) Parcels containing letters or communications in the nature of a letter (except an invoice in its simplest form);
- (b.) Parcels containing live animals (except bees in properly constructed boxes);
- (c.) Parcels containing articles, the admission of which is not authorised by the Customs or other laws or regulations of the British Islands or the United States or any other country of origin, destination, or transit.
- (d.) Parcels containing explosive or inflammable articles, and, in general, articles the conveyance of which is dangerous;
- (e.) Parcels (whether insured or not) containing coin or bullion to a greater value than five pounds unless the coin is clearly designed for ornament.

Non-compliance with Regulations.

18. In any case not in this Warrant expressly provided for, where any parcel shall be posted or tendered for conveyance or transmitted by post under this Warrant, which in any respect infringes or fails to comply with the regulations hereinbefore contained or any of them, such parcel may be dealt with or disposed of in such manner as the Postmaster-General may, in his discretion, direct or authorise.

Customs Regulations.

19. Parcels intended to be transmitted by post under the provisions of this Warrant shall not be posted, forwarded, conveyed, or delivered, except subject to such regulations as are referred to in section 14 of the Post Office (Parcels) Act, 1882.*

Application of Inland Parcel Regulations.

20. Except where otherwise provided in this Warrant, the regulations for the time being applicable to inland parcels shall (so far as the same are applicable) apply to parcels transmissible by post under the provisions of this Warrant.

Remission of Postage.

21. The Postmaster-General may, in any case in which he may consider it just and reasonable so to do, remit any postage or any sum made payable under this Warrant.

* 45 & 46 Vict. c. 74.

Printing of Warrant.

22. This Warrant shall be printed from time to time as amended by all Warrants made prior to the date of such printing.

Commencement of Warrant.

23. This Warrant shall come into operation on the 1st day of September, one thousand nine hundred and two.

Date.

Dated this 25th day of August, one thousand nine hundred and two.

H. T. Anstruther,

Ailwyn E. Fellowes,

Two of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

Austen Chamberlain,

His Majesty's Postmaster-General.

THE SCHEDULE.

Compensation Fee:		Maximum Compensation.		
<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
0	6	12	0	0
1	0	24	0	0
1	6	36	0	0
2	0	48	0	0
2	6	60	0	0
3	0	72	0	0
3	6	84	0	0
4	0	96	0	0
4	6	108	0	0
5	0	120	0	0
