ANNO SECUNDO & TERTIO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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C A P. LII.

An Act for the further Regulation of the Duties on Postage until the Fifth Day of *October* One thousand eight hundred and forty.

[17th *August* 1839.]

WHEREAS it is expedient that the present Rates of Inland Postage on Letters should be reduced to one uniform Rate of a Penny charged on every Letter of a given Weight, to be hereafter fixed and determined, with a proportionate Increase for greater Weights, parliamentary Privileges of franking being abolished, and official franking being strictly regulated, and Parliament pledging itself to make good any Deficiency of Revenue which may be occasioned by such Alterations of the Rates of existing Duties: And whereas it is expedient and necessary to give by Law a temporary Authority to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to take the necessary Steps to give effect to such Reduction, and to make Orders and Regulations for the same; which Reductions, Orders, and Regulations shall have Force and Effect to the Fifth Day of *October* One thousand eight hundred and forty, and no longer: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the

Treasury may alter Rates of Postage.

Authority of the same, That it shall be lawful for the Lords of the Treasury, from Time to Time, and at any Time after the passing of this Act, by Warrant under their Hands, to alter, fix, reduce or remit all or any of the Rates of *British* or Inland or other Postage payable by Law on the Transmission of Post Letters, and to subject such Letters to Rates of Postage according to the Weight thereof, and a Scale of Weight to be contained in such Warrant, (without reference to the Distance or Number of Miles the same shall be conveyed,) and to fix and limit the Weight of Letters to be sent by the Post, and from Time to Time, by Warrant as aforesaid, to alter or repeal any such altered or reduced Rates, and make and establish any new or other Rates in lieu thereof, and from Time to Time, by Warrant as aforesaid, to appoint at what Time the Rates which may be payable are to be paid, that is to say, whether on posting the Letter or on the Receipt thereof, or at either of those Times, at the Option of the Sender: Provided always, that all such Warrants shall be inserted in the *London Gazette* Ten Days at least before coming into operation, and shall within Fourteen Days after making the same be laid before both Houses of Parliament (if then sitting), or otherwise within Fourteen Days after Parliament shall meet.

Rates to be charged by Postmaster General.

II. And be it enacted, That the Rates of Postage from Time to Time to be altered or reduced and fixed by any such Warrant shall be charged by and be paid to Her Majesty's Postmaster General, for the Use of Her Majesty, on all Post Letters to which such Warrant shall extend.

Treasury may suspend Power of franking.

7 W. 4. & 1 Vict. c. 35.

III. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Lords of the Treasury, by Warrant under their Hands, to suspend, wholly or in part, any parliamentary or official Privilege of sending and receiving Letters by the Post free of Postage, or any other franking Privilege of any Description whatsoever, as well under an Act passed in the First Year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled *An Act for regulating the sending and receiving of Letters and Packets by the Post free from the Duty of Postage*, as under any other Act or Acts of Parliament now in force, and to make such Regulations for the future Exercise of official Franking as they shall think fit: Provided also, that every Warrant to be issued by the Lords of the Treasury for the Suspension of the parliamentary Privilege of franking shall be inserted in the *London Gazette* Ten Days at least before coming into operation, and shall, within Fourteen Days after making the same, be laid before both Houses of Parliament (if then sitting), or otherwise within Fourteen Days after Parliament shall meet.

Treasury may regulate Twopenny and Penny Posts.

IV. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Lords of the Treasury, by Warrant under their Hands, and inserted in the *London Gazette* Ten Days at least before coming into operation, to

to suspend, wholly or in part, the Regulations and Privileges established and given by Law in respect of Letters sent by the Two-penny Post in *London* and *Dublin*, and also by any Penny Post, and in respect of any other Letters which may be now sent by the Post at a low or reduced Rate of Postage, or free of Postage, and to declare and direct that all and every or any of such Post Letters shall be charged and chargeable with the like Rates of Postage as any other Letters transmitted by the Post, or to make such other Regulations in respect thereof as in any such Warrant shall from Time to Time be expressed.

Stamped Covers.

V. Provided always, and be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Lords of the Treasury, by Warrant under their Hands, to be inserted in the *London Gazette*, (which Warrant may be rescinded, varied, or altered as they shall from Time to Time think fit,) to direct that Letters written on stamped Paper or enclosed in stamped Covers, or having a Stamp affixed thereto, (the Stamp in every such Case being of the Value or Amount in such last-mentioned Warrant to be expressed, and specially provided for the Purpose under the Authority of this Act,) shall, if within the Limitation of Weight to be fixed under the Provisions of this Act, and if the Stamp have not been used before, pass by the Post free of Postage, and also to require that every Letter sent by the Post shall, in the Cases to be specified in any such last-mentioned Warrant, be written on such stamped Paper, or enclosed in such stamped Cover, or have such Stamp as aforesaid affixed, or that in default thereof, or in case the Stamp on which any Letter shall be written, or the Stamp on the Cover in which it shall be enclosed, or to which it shall be affixed, shall be of less Value or Amount than in such Warrant shall be expressed, or shall have been used before, such Letter shall be charged and chargeable with such Rate of Postage as such Warrant shall direct.

Providing Stamps.

VI. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Lords of the Treasury to order and direct the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes from Time to Time to provide proper and sufficient Dies or other Implements for expressing and denoting the Rates or Duties which shall be directed by any such Warrant as aforesaid, and to give any other Orders and make any other Regulations relative thereto they may consider expedient.

Account to be kept of Stamps.

VII. And be it enacted, That the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes shall cause a separate Account to be kept of the Stamp Duties arising under this Act; and it shall be lawful for the Lords of the Treasury and they are hereby empowered, by Warrant under their Hands, from Time to Time to authorize and require the said Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes to direct their Receiver General to pay over such Sum and Sums of Money arising from the said Stamp Duties as the Lords of the Treasury shall think proper, to the Account

of the Receiver General of Her Majesty's Post Office at the Bank of *England*; and all such Sums of Money which shall be so paid over shall be held by the said last-mentioned Receiver General subject to all Annuities and yearly Sums now charged by Law on or payable out of the Post Office Revenue, and all other Charges, Outgoings, and Disbursements to which the Post Office Revenue is at present liable.

Rates on stamped Covers to be deemed Stamp Duties.

VIII. And be it enacted, That the Rates or Duties which shall be expressed or denoted by any such Dies as aforesaid shall be denominated and deemed to be Stamp Duties, and shall be under the Care and Management of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes for the Time being; and all the Powers, Provisions, Clauses, Regulations, Directions, Fines, Forfeitures, Pains, and Penalties contained in or imposed by the several Acts now in force relating to Stamp Duties (so far as the same may be applicable) shall be of full Force and Effect with respect to the Stamps to be provided under or by virtue of this present Act, and to the Paper on which the same shall be impressed or to which the same shall be affixed, and shall be observed, applied, enforced, and put in execution for the raising, levying, collecting, and securing of the Rates or Duties denoted thereby, and for preventing, detecting, and punishing all Frauds, Forgeries, and other Offences relating thereto, as fully and effectually, to all Intents and Purposes, as if such Powers, Provisions, Clauses, Regulations, and Directions, Fines, Forfeitures, Pains, and Penalties had been herein repeated and specially enacted with reference to the said last-mentioned Stamps and Rates or Duties respectively.

Letters to be sent as Postmaster General shall direct.

IX. And be it enacted, That all Post Letters shall be posted, forwarded, conveyed, and delivered under and subject to all such Orders and Directions, Regulations, Limitations, and Restrictions, as the Postmaster General, with the Consent of the Lords of the Treasury, shall from Time to Time direct.

Masters of Outward-bound Vessels required to take Bags of Letters. 7 W. 4. & 1 Vict. c. 36.

X. And be it enacted, That the Penalty which by an Act passed in the First Year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled *An Act for consolidating the Laws relative to Offences against the Post Office of the United Kingdom, and for regulating the judicial Administration of the Post Office Laws, and for explaining certain Terms and Expressions employed in those Laws*, is imposed on every Master of a Vessel outward bound to *Ceylon*, the *Mauritius*, the *East Indies*, or the *Cape of Good Hope*, who shall refuse to take a Post Letter Bag delivered or tendered to him by an Officer of the Post Office, shall henceforth extend and apply to the Master of every Vessel outward bound who shall refuse to take a Post Letter Bag delivered or tendered to him by an Officer of the Post Office for Conveyance; but every such Master shall be en-

titled to the same Gratuities as the Master of any other Vessel, not being a Post Office Packet, conveying Letters for or on behalf of the Post Office.

Treasury may alter Gratuities to Masters of Vessels carrying Bags o Letters.

XI. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Lords of the Treasury to make any Reduction or Alteration they may consider expedient in the Gratuities allowed by Law to Masters of Vessels for Letters conveyed by them, for or on behalf of the Post Office, between Places within the United Kingdom and between the United Kingdom and the Islands of *Man*, *Jersey*, *Guernsey*, *Sark*, and *Alderney*, and to allow any Gratuities for the Conveyance of Letters to Masters of Vessels passing to or from or between any of Her Majesty's Colonies or Possessions beyond the Seas, if they shall think fit, not exceeding the Gratuities payable to Masters of Vessels for the Conveyance of Ship Letters from the United Kingdom to Places beyond the Seas.

The Word "Letter" to be deemed all Papers transmitted by Post.

XII. And be it enacted, That whenever the Word "Letter" or "Letters" is used in this Act, the same shall be held to include Newspapers, and any other Packet, Paper, Article, or Thing transmitted by the Post, but not so as to deprive Newspapers of any Privilege they now legally possess of passing free of Postage; and that the Provisions of this Act shall be construed according to the respective Interpretations of the Terms and Expressions contained in the said Act of the First Year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled *An Act for consolidating the Laws relative to Offences against the Post Office of the United Kingdom, and for regulating the judicial Administration of the Post Office Laws, and for explaining certain Terms and Expressions employed in those Laws*, so far as those Interpretations are not repugnant to the Subject, or inconsistent with the Context of such Provisions.

7 W. 4. & 1 Vict. c. 36.

Quorum of Lords of the Treasury.

XIII. And be it enacted, That wherever the Order, Consent, or Direction, or any other Act of the Lords of the Treasury is prescribed or required by this Act, such Order, Consent, Direction, or other Act may be signified under the Hands of the Lords of the Treasury or any Three of them.

Continuance of Act.

XIV. And be it enacted, That this Act, and all Warrants issued under the Authority of the same, shall absolutely cease and determine on the Fifth Day of *October* One thousand eight hundred and forty, unless Parliament shall declare to the contrary, except in respect of any Postage Duties which may then have become payable under or by virtue of this Act, and of any Proceeding for Recovery of such Duties, and except also as to any Offence committed against the Provisions of this or any other Act, and any Fine or Penalty incurred by reason of any such Offence, and any Proceeding for Recovery of any such Fine or Penalty, or for the Punishment of any Offender.

Act may be amended this Session.

XV. And be it enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed during the present Session of Parliament.

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