

*Postal Regulations and Rates.***No. 40.—1884.****An Ordinance to amend the Postal Ordinance, 1878.****ARTHUR GORDON.**

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Law relating to the Post Office and the Rates of Postage: Be it therefore enacted by the Governor of Ceylon, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows :—

1. This Ordinance, so far as is consistent with the tenor thereof, shall be construed and read as one with Ordinance No. 2 of 1878, intituled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Law relating to the Post Office and the Rates of Postage," and in this Ordinance referred to as "the principal Ordinance," and this Ordinance and the principal Ordinance may be cited together as the "Postal Ordinances, 1878 and 1884," and this Ordinance may be cited separately as "The Postal Ordinance, 1884."

2. The ninth paragraph of section 3 of the principal Ordinance, which defines a "postal packet," and sections 38 and 83 of such Ordinance, are hereby repealed. Provided that such repeal shall be without prejudice to anything previously done or suffered, or to any right or objection previously acquired, incurred or accrued, and any legal proceeding or remedy in respect of any such right or obligation may be had in like manner as if such repeal had not been made.

3. The expression "postal packet" in this Ordinance and in the principal Ordinance means a letter, post card, newspaper, book packet, pattern or sample packet, circular, legal and commercial document, packet of photographs, and every packet or article which is not for the time being prohibited by this or the principal Ordinance from being sent by post.

The expression "unstamped" shall include "insufficiently stamped."

4. If any question arises whether any postal packet is a letter, post card, newspaper, supplement, book packet, circular or other description of postal packet, within the meaning of this Ordinance, the decision thereon of the Postmaster-General shall be final, save that the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, may, on the application of any person interested, reverse or modify the decision, and order accordingly.

5. The rate of postage on inland letters and post cards shall be as follows :—

On every letter not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight	...	5 cents
On every letter exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not exceeding 1 oz.	10 "	
Do. 1 oz. do. $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	15 "	

and so on, an additional 5 cents being charged for every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or part of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

On every post card	2½ cents
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	----------

6. Section 32 of the principal Ordinance is hereby amended by substituting the words "fifteen cents" for the words "sixteen cents."

Preamble.

Construction of Ordinance and short title.

Repealing clause.

Interpretation clause.

Decision as to postal packets.

Postal rates.

Amendment of section 32 of principal Ordinance.

Postal Regulations and Rates.

Amendment of section 33 of principal Ordinance.

7. Section 33 of the principal Ordinance is hereby amended by substituting the words "thirty cents" for the words "thirty-two cents."

Amendment of section 42 of principal Ordinance.

8. Section 42 of the principal Ordinance is hereby amended by substituting the words "five cents" for the words "six cents."

Amendment of section 46 of principal Ordinance.

9. Sub-section *b* of section 46 of the principal Ordinance is hereby amended by substituting the words "five cents" for the words "four cents."

10. Section 64 of the principal Ordinance is hereby repealed, and instead thereof it is enacted that no letter or letters shall be conveyed by any railway train, stage coach, conveyance, vehicle, or vessel regularly performing trips at stated periods, otherwise than as part of the mail, except such letter or letters relate to some part of the cargo of such vessel or to some article carried at the same time by such train, stage coach, conveyance or vehicle, unless the person conveying such letter or letters be expressly authorized in writing by the Postmaster-General to convey the same, and every person who shall knowingly take part or be concerned in the conveying of any letter or letters contrary to the provisions of this section, shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred rupees.

Power to compel senders to pay postage of packets which addressee refuses to accept or where addressee cannot be found.

11. In all cases in which the proper postage of any unstamped postal packet has not been paid by the sender thereof, and such postal packet has been refused by the addressee, or the addressee be dead or cannot be found, it shall be lawful for the Postmaster-General to charge double the postage due in respect of such unstamped postal packet to the sender thereof, and in every such case the sender of such unstamped postal packet shall pay such double postage.

Post Office stamps to be evidence of postal packets being refused or rejected.

12. Upon any trial or hearing of any action or proceeding for the recovery of any postage under this or the principal Ordinance, the production of any postal packet in respect of which such postage shall be sought to be recovered, having thereupon a post office stamp denoting that such postal packet had been refused or rejected, or that the party to whom any such postal packet had been addressed was dead or could not be found, shall be *prima facie* evidence of the refusal or rejection of such postal packet, or that such person was dead or could not be found according to the import and meaning of the said post office stamp thereon.

In suit for postage the apparent writer to be deemed the sender.

13. In any suit or other proceeding for the recovery of any postage payable under or by virtue of this or the principal Ordinance, the person from whom any postal packet, in respect of which any postage shall be sought to be recovered, shall purport to have come, shall be deemed to be the sender thereof, and the onus shall lie upon the party proceeded against to prove that such postal packet did not come from and was not sent by him.

Official mark of any sum on postal packet to be evidence of

14. The official mark of any sum on any postal packet as due to the post office in respect of that packet shall be received as evidence of the liability of such packet to the sum so marked,

and such sum shall be recoverable as postage due to Her Majesty in the manner prescribed by section 84 of the principal Ordinance.

liability of packet to the sum so marked.

Extra rate to be charged on packets posted after closing of mail.

15. Whenever a postal packet is tendered at any post office after the hour fixed for the closing of any particular mail, but before the actual despatch of such mail, and the sender desires such postal packet to be forwarded by such mail, it shall be lawful for the postmaster in charge of such office, after stamping on such postal packet the words "after mail closed," to charge in addition to the ordinary rate of postage an extra rate, which rate shall be as follows in respect of the postal packets herein enumerated :—

	cta.
Inland letters, an additional rate of ...	5
India letters ...	10
Foreign ...	25

16. This Ordinance shall come into operation on and from the first day of January, 1885.

Passed in Council the Nineteenth day of December, One thousand Eight hundred and Eighty-four.

R. H. SINCLAIR,
Acting Clerk to the Council.

Assented to by His Excellency the Governor the Nineteenth day of December, One thousand Eight hundred and Eighty-four.

JOHN F. DICKSON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.
