POSTAL CONVENTION

Signed at México December 11, 1861
Senate advice and consent to ratification February 10, 1862
Ratified by the President of the United States February 17, 1862
Ratified by Mexico May 20, 1862
Ratifications exchanged at México May 20, 1862
Entered into force May 20, 1862
Proclaimed by the President of the United States June 20, 1862
Terminated July 1, 1887, by convention of April 4, 1887 [1]

12 Stat. 1205; Treaty Series 211 [2]

POSTAL CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES

The United States of America and the United Mexican States, being desirous of drawing more closely the friendly relations existing between the two countries and of facilitating the prompt and regular transmission of correspondence between their respective territories, have resolved to conclude a Postal Convention, and have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say: the President of the United States of America has appointed Thomas Corwin, a citizen of the United States and their Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary near the Mexican Government, and the President of the United Mexican States has appointed Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada, a citizen of the said States and a deputy of the Congress of the Union, who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following articles:

ARTICLE I

There shall be charged upon all letters, newspapers, reviews, or other periodical publications, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter, conveyed either by United States or by Mexican vessels, between a port in the United States of America and a port in Mexico, the following sea rates of postage, that is to say:

[1] 25 Stat. 1385.
[2] For a detailed study of this convention, see 8 Miller 661.

1 Upon all letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, the rate of seven cents; and upon all letters weighing more than half an ounce, an additional rate of seven cents for each additional half ounce or fraction thereof.

2. Upon every newspaper, daily or other, the rate of one cent.

3. Upon reviews or other periodical publications, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter, the rate of one cent for every ounce or fraction of an ounce weight.

The said newspapers, reviews, or other periodical publications, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter, shall be sent in narrow bands or covers, open at the sides or ends, so that they may be easily examined, subject to the laws and regulations of each country, respectively.

Article II

There shall be charged by the post office of the United States of America upon all letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter mailed in the United States and forwarded to Mexico by sea, whether by United States or by Mexican vessels, such rates of inland postage as are now or may hereafter be established by the laws of the United States, and the rate of sea postage prescribed in article first, which inland and sea postage shall be combined into one rate and paid always in advance.

Such prepayment shall be certified by the appropriate stamps of the United States post office, and the postage so paid shall belong exclusively to the United States of America.

There shall be charged by the post office of the United Mexican States upon all letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter mailed in Mexico and forwarded to the United States of America by sea, whether by Mexican or by United States vessels, such rates of inland postage as are now or may hereafter be established by the laws of Mexico, and the rate of sea postage prescribed in article first, which inland and sea postage shall be combined into one rate and paid always in advance.

Such prepayment shall be certified by the appropriate stamps of the post office of the United Mexican States, and the postage so paid shall belong exclusively to Mexico.

Article III

Upon all letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter received in the United States of America from Mexico by sea, there will be charged by the United States such rates of inland postage as are now, or may hereafter be, established by the laws of the United States, which shall be collected at the place of destination, and shall belong exclusively to the United States of America, and vice versa, upon all letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter received in Mexico from the United States of America by sea, there will be charged by Mexico such rates of inland post-

age as are now, or may hereafter be, established by the laws of Mexico, which shall be collected at the place of destination, and shall belong exclusively to Mexico.

ARTICLE IV

All letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter mailed in the United States of America, and addressed to any place in the United Mexican States, or vice versa, when not conveyed by sea, shall be charged with the rate of inland postage of the country from which such mail matter is sent, which shall be prepaid, and with the inland postage of the country receiving, which shall be collected at the place of destination.

Such postage shall belong respectively to the country collecting the same.

ARTICLE V

All letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter mailed in the one country for the other, or received in the one country from the other, whether by land or sea conveyance, shall be free from any detention or inspection whatever, and shall in the one case be forwarded by the most speedy means to their destination, and in the other be promptly delivered to the respective persons to whom they are addressed, being subject in their transmission to the laws and regulations of each country, respectively.

ARTICLE VI

So soon as steam or other mail packets, under the flag of either of the contracting parties, shall have commenced running between their respective ports of entry, whether under subvention from the United States or from Mexico, the contracting parties agree to receive at those ports all mailable matter, and to forward it as directed, the destination being to some regular post office of either country, charging thereupon only the rates established by the present convention.

Mails for the United States of America shall be made up at regular intervals by the Mexican post office, and dispatched to ports of the United States; and, in the same manner, mails for Mexico shall be made up at regular intervals by the United States post office, and dispatched to ports in Mexico.

ARTICLE VII

The United Mexican States engage to grant to the United States of America the transit, in closed mails, free from any postage, duties, imposts, detention, or examination whatever, through the United Mexican States, or any of their possessions or territories, of letters, newspapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter, forwarded from the United States of America, or any of their possessions or territories, to any other possession or territory of the United States of America, or to any foreign country, or from any foreign

country, or possession or territory of the United States of America, to the United States of America, their possessions or territories.

A mail agent of the United States of America shall be permitted to accompany the closed mails in their transit.

The United States of America, on their part, engage to grant to the United Mexican States the transit, in closed mails, free from any postage, duties, imposts, detention, or examination whatever, through the United States of America, or any of their possessions or territories, of letters, newpapers, printed pamphlets, or other printed matter, forwarded from the United Mexican States, or any of their possessions or territories, to any other Mexican possession or territory, or to any foreign country, or from any foreign country, or Mexican possession or territory, to the United Mexican States, their possessions or territories.

A mail agent of Mexico shall be permitted to accompany the closed mails in their transit.

Article VIII

The means of making the transit of closed mails, under the stipulations of article seventh of the present Convention, shall be arranged between the general post office department of the two countries, subject to the approbation of each Government, respectively.

Article IX

In case of the misfortune of war between the two nations, the mail service of the two post offices shall continue without impediment or molestation until six weeks after a notification shall have been made on the part of either of the two Governments and delivered to the other, that the service is to be discontinued; and in such case the mail packets of the two countries shall be permitted to return freely, and under special protection, to their respective ports.

Article X

The respective post office regulations and rates of postage of each of the contracting parties shall be communicated to, and all matters of detail arising out of the stipulations of this convention shall be settled between the General Post Office Departments of the two republics as soon as possible after the exchange of the ratifications of the present convention.

It is also agreed that the measures of detail referred to in this article may be modified by the two General Post Office Departments whenever, by mutual consent, those Departments shall have decided that such modifications would be beneficial to the post office service of the two countries; and Mexico proposes, as soon as her means of internal transportation will permit, to reduce her present rates of inland postage.

ARTICLE XI

The present convention shall continue in force until it shall be abrogated by the mutual consent of the two contracting parties, or until one of them shall have given twelve months' previous notice to the other of a desire to abrogate it.

ARTICLE XII

This convention shall be ratified in conformity with the Constitutions of the two countries, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at the city of Mexico within six months from the date hereof, or earlier if possible.

In witness whereof, we, the Plenipotentiaries of the United States of America and of the United Mexican States, have signed and sealed these presents.

Done in the city of Mexico on the eleventh day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, in the eighty-sixth year of the independence of the United States of America, and in the forty-first of that of the United Mexican States.

THOMAS CORWIN [SEAL]
SEB^{n} LERDO DE TEJADA [SEAL]

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