

THE PARCEL POST (NATAL) WARRANT, 1896, DATED
OCTOBER 27, 1896.

1896. No. 896.

We, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in pursuance of the Acts relating to Her Majesty's Post Office, and in exercise of all powers enabling us in this behalf, do, by this Warrant, made on the representation of Her Majesty's Postmaster General (testified by his signing the same), order, direct, and declare as follows :—

Short Title.

1. This Warrant may be cited as "The Parcel Post (Natal) Warrant, 1896."

Repeals.

2. From and after the date when this Warrant comes into operation, the Warrants of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, dated respectively the 29th day of September, 1890,* and the 27th day of June, 1895,† relating to the transmission of parcels between the United Kingdom and Natal shall be repealed, revoked, and annulled.

Definitions.

3. In this Warrant—

- (1.) The expression "parcel" means a postal packet which is posted in the British Islands as a parcel in accordance with the provisions of this Warrant, or any Warrant amending the same, or is received in the British Islands from abroad by Parcel Post.
- (2.) The expression "outgoing" applied to a parcel, means posted in the British Islands for transmission to Natal.

* Published in London Gazette, October 7, 1890, p. 5333.

† Published in Statutory Rules and Orders, 1895, p. 645 (No. 293).

- (3.) The expression "incoming," applied to a parcel, means received in the British Islands through the post from Natal.
- (4.) The expression "British Islands" means the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.
- (5.) The expression "British possession" means any part of Her Majesty's dominions exclusive of the British Islands.

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 Natal.

Rates of Postage on Outgoing Parcels.

5. On all outgoing parcels there shall be charged and paid the rates of postage following, that is to say:—

On every parcel not exceeding one pound in weight, ninepence.

On every parcel exceeding one pound in weight, for every pound or fractional part of a pound, ninepence.

Maximum Weight and Dimensions.

6. Except by permission of the Postmaster General, no parcel, the weight of which exceeds eleven pounds, or the dimensions of which exceed in length three feet six inches, or in length and girth combined six feet (such girth being measured round the thickest part of such parcel) shall be forwarded or delivered by post.

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:—

(1.) Every parcel shall be posted by being handed to an officer on duty at the counter in a post office.

(2.) 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, a declaration 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.

(3.) The parcel shall be measured and weighed by such officer, and the postage thereof shall be prepaid, and shall be verified by such officer.

Collection of Parcels.

8. The Postmaster General may, if he thinks fit, from time to time authorise such officers as he may direct to receive parcels for the post, otherwise than at a post office, under such regulations and conditions as he may from time to time prescribe.

Irregular Posting of Parcels.

9. Any outgoing packet transmissible by parcel post 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 herein-before 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 prepaid with the letter or open packet rate of postage, and otherwise conforms to the regulations as to the letter or open packet post, the same 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 limits of 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 sender through the post office of Natal that the parcel will, at his request, in default of any claim on the part of the addressee, be forwarded to a corrected address or returned to him by post, in either case upon the conditions herein-after mentioned.
- (3.) Where the name and address of the sender cannot be ascertained as herein-before mentioned, notice of the non-

delivery of the parcel shall be given to the post office of Natal.

- (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 Natal.
- (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 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 which would have been chargeable on such parcel as an inland parcel.
- (8.) Where the sender requests a parcel to be returned to him by post there shall be charged upon such parcel a new and distinct rate of postage, according to the rate fixed by 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.

Re-direction.

11.—(1.) Any 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 parcel may be re-directed from the 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 in money 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 out of the British Islands shall be delivered to the addressee except upon payment of all charges for re-direction or otherwise to which the parcel has become liable by the law of this country or of any foreign country or British possession.

Prohibitions.

12. There shall not be posted or conveyed or delivered by post any parcel—

- (1) consisting of or containing any indecent or obscene print, painting, photograph, lithograph, engraving, book, or card, or any indecent or obscene article whether similar to the above or not; or
- (2) having thereon or on the cover thereof, any words, marks, or designs of an indecent, obscene, or grossly offensive character;
- (3) containing or bearing any letter or communication in the nature of a letter, except an invoice of the goods contained in the parcel;
- (4) containing any article or thing not authorised by the customs or other laws or regulations of this country or of Natal;
- (5) consisting of or containing—
 - (a) any explosive substance;
 - (b) any dangerous substance;
 - (c) any filth;
 - (d) any noxious or deleterious substance;
 - (e) any sharp instrument not properly protected;
 - (f) except with the special permission of the Postmaster General, any living creature;
 - (g) any article or thing whatsoever which is likely to injure in course of conveyance other parcels, or any receptacle in which the same are conveyed, or an officer of the Post Office, or other person who may deal with such parcel;

- (6) consisting of or containing two or more parcels or other postal packets (of the same or of different descriptions) addressed to different persons at different addresses.

Non-compliance with Regulations.

13. In any case not in this Warrant expressly provided for where any parcel shall be posted or tendered for conveyance or transmitted by post which in any respect infringes or fails to comply with the regulations herein-before 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.

14. 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.

15. Except where otherwise provided in this Warrant, the regulations for the time being applicable to inland parcels and the regulations for the time being relating to the payment of compensation in respect of foreign and colonial parcels, and to the treatment of any such parcels which become offensive or injurious, shall (so far as the same are applicable) apply to parcels transmissible by post under the provisions of this Warrant.

Remission of Postage.

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

Commencement of Warrant.

17. This Warrant shall come into operation on the 16th day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

Date.

Dated this 27th day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six,

*W. H. Fisher,
Stanley,*

Two of the Commissioners of Her
Majesty's Treasury.

Norfolk,

Her Majesty's Postmaster General.

* 45 & 46 Vict. c. 74.