

(f) Correspondence *re* fraudulent stamps—

Queensland and South Australia have, by legislation, already provided for a compliance with Clause 18 of the Principal Convention with regard to fraudulent stamps, and it is recommended that the other colonies should introduce similar provisions in any future Postal Bill.

(g) Proposal by Holland, sub-paragraph (m), Article 18, of Regulations, *re* requisitions to libraries—

We recommend that subsection (m) of Article 18 of Regulations be modified as follows :—

To add after the word “communications,” the following: “The front of the card form is exclusively reserved for the address.”

(h) Proposal by Italy, section 3, Article 11 of Convention, and section 3, Article 6, of Regulations *re* “open sea” letters—

That while we approve of the proposal by Italy as follows, that to paragraph 3 of Article 6 of Regulations be added :—

“When necessary that office—*i.e.*, the office in which the correspondence is delivered—to mark this correspondence independently of its ordinary date stamp with a stamp or impression of the word “Packet-boat,” an indication which may also be made thereon in writing,”—

we propose that future Conventions should provide that correspondence posted at port of arrival should bear the postage stamp of the country at which the letter was actually posted, and not of the country to which the ship belongs.

(i) Proposals by France and Russia, paragraph 4, Article 18 of Regulations, *re* writing on newspaper cuttings—

The Russian Office proposes that to subsection (c) of paragraph 3 of Article 18 of Postal Union Regulations the following be added :—

“To add, in writing or by a mechanical process, to passages cut from newspapers or other periodical publications, the title, date, number, and address of the publication from which the article is extracted.”

France proposes to add as follows :—

“To indicate, by writing, at the head of passages cut from newspapers or other publications, the title, date, and address of the newspaper from which the article is extracted.”

We recommend that the Russian proposal be accepted.

(j) Article 9 of Convention, and 30 of Regulations, *re* correction of address—

With regard to Article 9 of Postal Union Convention, and 30 of Regulations, the question of withdrawal, etc., of correspondence was considered at the Hobart Conference in 1892, when the decision arrived at by the heads of departments, viz., That the present practice under which a letter can be returned to the sender by warrant of the Governor or Minister, as the case may be, answers every purpose, was confirmed.

We recommend that the Berne Bureau be informed in reply to letter of 25th June, 1892, that in every case in which a Union office prefers a request for the return of a letter or the alteration of an address the necessary authority of the Governor or the Minister, as the case may be, will be obtained.

The request should be made to the Central office.

(k) Commercial papers, articles grouped together—

(l) Surtaxes—Article 5 of Convention—

(m) *Re* simplification of general statistics—

We have no recommendation to make under these heads.

(n) *Re* England to continue to pay for actual weight instead of according to statistics—

We recommend that the London Post Office should be asked to continue to settle, so far as the Australian transit rates are concerned, on the actual weight instead of statistics—the settlement being made every three months as at present.

(o) German proposal *re* Tientsin (Article 38 of Regulations)—

The German Office proposes the following alteration of Clause 1 of Regulation 38:—“The German post offices established at Apia (Samoan Islands), Shanghai, and Tientsin (China), as subordinate to the postal administration of Germany.”

We recommend that this proposition be agreed to.

NOTE.—In connection with Postal Union Questions, we desire to add that in view of a letter received from the Berne Office it is necessary for the colonies to extend the limit of weight generally on packets of samples from 8 oz. to 10 oz., except when higher limit exists by mutual arrangement, and on packets of commercial and printed papers, from 4 lb. to 5 lb.

8. INDIA, LIMIT OF SIZE, &c.

We propose to agree to exchange with India packets of commercial and printed papers up to 5 lb. and samples up to 12 oz.

9. INDEMNITY FOR LOSS OF REGISTERED LETTERS.

We propose that the recommendation of the Hobart Conference be adhered to as regards declining to adopt the provisions of the Convention, and providing for a responsibility to the extent of £2 on the loss of a registered article. The Queensland Act, however, provides for this indemnity.

10. ACKNOWLEDGMENT