

No. 19.—“Proxy Forms or Notices : Postage on.”

We consider that these may pass at Packet rate of postage.

No. 20.—“Circulars’ Postage.”

No report.

No. 22.—“Proposal to prohibit the enclosure of articles of a monetary denomination in parcels and packets.”

We think it most undesirable that Postal Notes, Money Orders, and Cheques should be transmitted through the post as packets, or enclosed in packets or parcels, but should be sent separately at the Letter rate of postage. (This of course does not apply to the special concessions in regard to Bankers’ parcels.)

No. 23.—“Rates levied by the respective Australasian Colonies on ‘Loose Ship Letters.’”

Recommended, That in the case of loose letters received in one Colony from another by sea, a late fee of 2*d.* each be levied on delivery in addition to the ordinary postage paid upon them, and double the deficiency where the ordinary postage is insufficiently prepaid.

No. 25.—“Transmission of Promissory Notes, Circulars, and other printed matter with Accounts.”

We consider that Promissory Notes signed or unsigned, Circulars, and other printed matter are entitled to be enclosed with Accounts and Packet rates levied on the whole packet.

No. 26.—“Printed communications, as footnotes on Invoices, Accounts, &c.”

We recommend the adoption of the following amended Regulations dealing with Accounts and Invoices :—“Accounts and Invoices, receipted or unreceipted, the remark, “With thanks” will be allowed, but either printed or written communications in the nature of a letter or of the character of actual or personal correspondence, by code or otherwise, are chargeable as letters. Invoices may be receipted, and may advise when or how the goods are forwarded, but may contain no other written matter, nor anything in the nature of actual or personal correspondence by code or otherwise. They may, however, bear the following trade notices, whether printed or impressed with a rubber or other stamp :—“All empties returned must be advised ;” “When remitting, please return the statement to be receipted ;” “Terms, cash in advance ;” “Terms, 2½ per cent. discount for cash ;” “This settles your account up to date ;” “Cheque will oblige.” Anything, however, of a general character printed in ordinary type may be enclosed with accounts, provided it is not of the nature of a personal correspondence.”

No. 27.—“Redirection Charges.”

We report that all the Colonies, with the exception of Queensland, make no charge for redirection fee. Queensland, under Section 15, Post Office Act, 1891, charges a redirection fee, but this fee is not collected by the other Colonies.

The Representatives of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia urged the Representative of Queensland to abandon the fee for re-direction in that Colony, and come into uniformity with other Colonies.

Hon. J. R. DICKSON pointed out that the charge was fixed by Act of Parliament in Queensland, and an amendment of the law would be necessary to effect the desired change. He would make it his duty to represent the matter to the Government of Queensland.

No. 30.—“Applications *re* embossing combined sheet of note-paper and envelope.”

In the opinion of this Committee there is no objection to applications being granted with regard to impressing stamps on the combined sheet of note-paper and envelope, on the following conditions :—

1. Not fewer than 500 envelopes of any one size to be received at any time.
2. Coloured envelopes not to be received for stamping.
3. Envelopes which are too thin to bear the impression of the die not to be received.
4. Envelopes provided by the Post Office Department with the proper stamp thereon to be substituted for any which may be spoiled in the operation of stamping.
5. A charge of 2*s.* per 1000 to be made for stamping.

The present practice in the different Colonies is as follows :—No charge is made in New South Wales and Tasmania, 3*s.* per 1000 is charged in Queensland, 2*s.* in Victoria ; South Australia not undertaking the duty at all.

No. 31.—“Counterfeit Postage Stamps—Compliance with Article No. 18, Vienna Convention.”

Under Article 18 of the Vienna Convention the contracting countries undertake to adopt or to propose to their respective Legislatures the necessary measures for punishing the fraudulent