

No. 656.

Hong Kong.

ORDINANCE No. 7 of 1926. (POST OFFICE).

By virtue and in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Post Office Ordinance, 1926, the Governor in Council makes the undermentioned regulations in substitution for the regulations heretofore made under the said section, with effect from the 1st September, 1938.

Regulations.

1. In any government notification specifying the postage rates for the time being in force and in these regulations

“Printed paper” means a document which is produced by some mechanical process other than typewriting;

“Commercial paper” means a document produced wholly or partly by hand, which has not the character of personal correspondence and which does not represent a monetary value; and

“Circular” means a communication produced by typewriting or other mechanical process of, which copies are addressed to a number of persons in identical or nearly identical terms.

2. Circulars for addresses in the Colony shall be posted in batches of not less than ten of uniform size and weight and shall be posted by being delivered to an officer of the Post Office.

3. The maximum weights for the following postal articles shall be as under :—

| | <i>Maximum weight.</i> |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Letters for any destination. | 5 lbs. |
| Printed papers and commercial papers. | { for destinations in the British Empire 5 lbs. { for destinations elsewhere 4 lbs. |
| Samples. | { for destinations in the British Empire or Egypt 5 lbs. { for destinations elsewhere 1 lb. |
| Small packets. | for any destination 2 lbs. |
| Literature for the blind, posted as such. | } for any destination 11 lbs. |
| Insured boxes. | { Great Britain and Northern Ireland, { Malaya and China 2 lbs. |

4. Samples shall possess no saleable value and neither the samples nor the packets containing them shall bear or contain any writing except the name or commercial style of the sender, the address of the person for whom they are intended, a trade mark or manufacturer's mark and numbers, prices and indications relative to weight, measurements, dimensions or quantity, or necessary to determine the origin or nature of the goods.

5.—(1) A class of postal packets called "small packets" is authorised with the object of affording facilities, in the international service, for the transmission of small articles of merchandise in the letter mails. The exchange of small packets is limited to those countries which have agreed to participate in the service.

(2) The maximum dimensions of a small packet shall be 18 inches by 8 inches by 4 inches, or, if in roll form, 18 inches in length and 6 inches in diameter.

(3) the prohibitions applicable to the letter post shall apply also to the service of small packets. In addition, the following shall be specially excluded from transmission in small packets:—

Letters, notes or documents having the character of actual and personal correspondence (this prohibition shall not apply to open invoices reduced to the simplest form, the address of the addressee, the description of the article and the sender's address); coin; banknotes; currency notes; negotiable instruments payable to bearer; platinum, gold or silver, manufactured or not; precious stones; jewels and other valuable articles; postage stamps, whether obliterated or not.

(4) Small packets shall be subject to the requirements for samples of merchandise as regards form, make up and packing, (*e.g.*, they shall be sent in such a manner as to be easy of examination). In addition, the name and address of the sender shall be shown on the outside of the packet and each packet shall be conspicuously marked "Small Packet" in the top left hand corner.

(5) Small packets may be registered, but not insured.

6. Printed papers, commercial papers and samples may be enclosed in the same packet: Provided that

(1) each article taken separately shall not exceed the limits of weight and size applicable to it; and

(2) the total weight shall not exceed 5 lbs. if addressed to the United Kingdom, a British possession or protectorate, or a country not in the Postal Union, and 4 lbs. if addressed to any foreign country in the Postal Union.

7. The following letters shall not be subject to any postage:—

(1) letters on official business, posted in Hong Kong, from a department of the Government of the Colony, addressed to the United Kingdom or to a British possession or protectorate, marked "On His Majesty's Service" and signed in the lower left-hand corner with the usual signature of the head or assistant head of the department of origin;

(2) letters on postal business posted in Hong Kong and addressed to the Postmaster General; and

(3) letters on Hong Kong Savings Bank business posted in Hong Kong and addressed "Hong Kong Savings Bank".

8. The following postal packets shall be charged the same rates of postage as if they were letters:—

(1) all postal packets which are closed to inspection except parcels; and

(2) all postal packets which contain a letter.

9. No postal packet shall contain any enclosure which is directed to a name and address different from the name and address borne on the cover and which is enclosed with the intention of evading postage. Any such enclosure may be taken out and may be forwarded to the addressee charged with separate postage.

10. Precious stones, jewellery and other precious articles shall not be sent by letter post.

11. Notwithstanding any alternative method of treatment and disposal of prohibited articles authorised by the Post Office Ordinance, 1926, it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General, or any officer of the Post Office authorised by him in that behalf, forthwith to destroy any postal packet and the contents thereof which may have been opened under the authority of sections 10, 12 and 13 of the said Ordinance and the contents of which may be any obscene, immoral, indecent, offensive or libellous writing, picture or other thing.

12. Subject to any special agreement which may have been made by the Postmaster General with any particular steamship company before the commencement of these regulations, or which may hereafter be made by him, the rates of the gratuities payable under section 19 of the Post Office Ordinance, 1926, shall be as follows:—

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| For transit mails other than parcels conveyed to Indo-China and to ports in China south of Shanghai | \$0.50 per bag or paper packet. |
| For transit mails other than parcels conveyed to Canada, the United States (including Hawaii), Europe, Australia and New Zealand | \$2.00 per bag. |
| For transit mails other than parcels conveyed to any other destination | \$1.00 per bag. |
| For mails other than parcels made up in Hong Kong | \$0.10 per lb. or fraction of a lb. |
| For parcels originating in Hong Kong or transit parcels | \$0.05 per parcel. |

13. The fee for the return of a postal packet under section 11 of the Ordinance shall be \$1 payable in stamps.

14. The fee for a private box shall be \$20 or \$10 per year (ending on the 31st December) or \$2 or \$1 per month according to the size of the box. The fee shall be payable in advance. If the fee is not paid, the box may be closed. A deposit of \$2 shall be made for the use of the key; on the return of the key the deposit will be refunded. No person shall without the authority of the Postmaster General make or cause to be made any duplicate key of any private box.

The fee for a private bag shall be \$24 per year (ending on the 31st December) or \$2 per month.

15. The fee for a certificate of posting shall be 1 cent for each packet posted. It shall be payable in advance by means of a 1 cent postage stamp affixed to the certificate.

16. The fee for the reception of mail matter shall be \$2 per year or part of a year. The certificate shall lapse on the 31st December of the year in which it is issued unless renewed.

17.—(1) The registration fee shall be 25 cents for each postal packet and the fee for an acknowledgment of the receipt by the addressee of any registered postal packet shall be 25 cents.

(2) The registration fee and the postage on a registered packet shall be prepaid.

18. Unregistered postal packets found to contain bank-notes, used or unused postage stamps, cheques payable to bearer or uncrossed postal orders or postal notes shall be subject to compulsory registration and shall be charged a registration fee of fifty cents for each such packet.

19.—(1) For Cash on Delivery parcels a special fee will be collected for any "Trade Charge" at the rate of 10 cents for each \$10 or fraction of \$10 and, in addition, a posting fee of 20 cents will be levied on each parcel so posted.

(2) The trade charge on any one parcel shall not exceed £40 (or \$200 in the case of Macao).

(3) The cash on delivery fee and the postage must be prepaid on every cash on delivery parcel.

(4) In this regulation "trade charge" means the amount to be collected on delivery.

20.—(1) Local money orders (limit \$400 Hong Kong currency) will be issued payable in Hong Kong and Macao. Commission shall be charged at the rate of 1 cent per dollar or part of a dollar with a minimum charge of 5 cents.

(2) Foreign money orders will be issued at rates of exchange fixed by the Postmaster General from time to time. Commission shall be charged at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dollar or part of a dollar with a minimum charge of 10 cents.

(3) In the case of foreign money orders drawn through London, which must be expressed in sterling, the London

General Post Office will, before issuing an order in the currency of the country of payment, make a deduction at the rate of 2d. for each £1 or part of a £1 with a minimum deduction of 4d.

(4) The limits for a single foreign money order shall be £40, G\$100, 600 rupees, 400 Yen and \$200 (Chinese currency) respectively.

(5) A foreign money order remaining unpaid for one year after the date of issue shall be treated as void.

(6) The fee for an advice of payment shall be 10 cents.

(7) For each telegraphic money order there shall be charged an additional fee of 25 cents and also the cost of the telegram of advice at the deferred rate.

21. Imperial postal orders will be issued at rates of exchange fixed by the Postmaster General from time to time.

22. The commission chargeable on local postal notes of 25 cents each payable at Hong Kong and Macao shall be 1 cent.

23. The fee for insurance shall be 50 cents for each \$300 or part thereof. The right to insure, the limits up to which insurance may be effected and the right to compensation, in case of loss or damage, shall be subject in all respects to the provisions of the Postal Guide. In this regulation "Postal Guide" means the Postal Guide issued by the Postmaster General, current at the time of insuring or claiming as the case may be, and includes any amendments of the same whereof notice may from time to time be exhibited at the Post Office.

24. The selling prices of Imperial and International reply coupons shall be 20 cents and 40 cents each respectively.

25. The Postmaster General may from time to time fix temporary charges for letters accepted at Hong Kong for transmission by experimental Air Mail services.

Such charges shall be in addition to the regular postage and notice thereof shall be exhibited at the Post Office.

26. (1) The Business Reply Envelope and Card system mentioned in this regulation enables a person to obtain transmission, through the local post, without prepayment of postage, of envelopes and cards addressed to himself which he may distribute enclosed with advertising or other matter.

(2) A person desiring the facilities afforded by the Business Reply Envelope and Card system must first obtain a permit from the Postmaster General.

(3) The fee for a permit shall be \$10 and must be paid in advance. Every permit will expire at the end of one year from date of issue but may be renewed for further periods of one year at a time on payment of a fee of \$10 in respect of each such renewal.

(4) Complete printed proofs of the envelopes or cards must be forwarded to the Postmaster General for approval and must conform in size, form and quality to the conditions prescribed for letters and post cards of the local post and be

printed in black. The address side of the envelope or card should be printed strictly in accordance with the specimen shown below and must not bear any other printings or markings.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Postage will be paid by Addressee. | No Postage Stamp necessary if posted in Hong Kong. |
| BUSINESS REPLY CARD* PERMIT No. 60. | |
| John Smith & Co., 1 Chater Road, Hong Kong. | |

* or Envelope.

(5) The postage due on such cards and envelopes transmitted to the permit-holder will be calculated at prepaid rates applicable to such articles and will be collected from him on delivery.

(6) Business reply envelopes and cards cannot be registered, insured or marked for express delivery.

(7) Without prejudice to any other penalties prescribed in the Post Office Ordinance, 1926, the permit will be liable to cancellation in the event of default in payment of postage due on such cards and envelopes as are transmitted to the permit-holder through the post.

27. Insured boxes addressed to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Malaya and China will be accepted for transmission in the surface transport letter mails under the conditions set out in the Schedule to this regulation.

The registration fee shall be \$0.25 per box and the insurance fee shall be \$0.50 for each \$300 of insured value or part thereof with a maximum insured value of \$2,400.

Schedule.

(i) Articles of gold and silver, precious stones, jewellery and other articles of a like nature, which are prohibited from transmission in insured letters, may be sent in the letter mails as "insured boxes".

(ii) The undermentioned classes of articles are prohibited from transmission in insured boxes for any destination:—

Articles the admission or circulation of which in the country of destination is prohibited, letters or notes which may serve as a substitute for correspondence, current coin, banknotes or securities payable to bearer, bonds and articles included in the category of commercial papers. It is, how-

ever, permissible to insert in an insured box an open invoice confined to the particulars which constitute an invoice, and also a simple copy of the addressee's name and address, and the name and address of the sender.

(iii) No claim shall be made in respect of any article contained in an insured box, any of the contents of which have been confiscated by a competent authority of any of the countries of origin, transit or destination.

(iv) An insured box must not exceed 2 lbs. in weight and must not measure more than 12 inches in length, 4 inches in breadth and 4 inches in height. The box employed for packing must be strongly made of metal or wood, and when a wooden box is used the wood must be at least $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch thick.

(v) An insured box must be tied crosswise with a single strong string (not two or more pieces joined), the two ends of the string being held together under a seal of fine wax bearing a private mark. The box must also be sealed on the four sides with seals identical with that used for the ends of the string. The box must not be wrapped in paper, but the surfaces of the top and bottom must be covered with white paper for the inscription of the addressee's name and address and the insured value of the contents and for the impression of the official stamps.

(vi) An insured box is subject to the Customs regulations and laws in force in the country of destination, and must be accompanied by a Customs declaration prepared by the sender. Customs declarations of the non-adhesive form used for parcels should be used for boxes posted in this Colony; but the heading of the first column of the form should be altered to "Insured Boxes—*Boites avec valeur déclarée*" when the form is used for an insured box. The Customs declarations must be prepared with great care, and must specify precisely the style of packing and include a description of the box, its gross weight and the total value of the contents. The net weight and value of each of the different kinds of article contained in the box must also be shown separately.

(vii) No box can be accepted for transmission under this arrangement unless the postage, registration and insurance fees are fully prepaid. Two forms of Customs declarations are required.

28. If the Postmaster General is of the opinion that the delivery of telegrams and postal articles cannot readily be effected at any place without danger to the officers of the Post Office or because there are not at such place proper facilities for the receipt of telegrams and postal articles, he may suspend delivery at such place for such period as he may think fit upon giving notice of such suspension either by leaving the same with any adult person at such place or by causing the same to be inserted in a daily newspaper published in the Colony.

T. MEGARRY,
Clerk of Councils.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
25th August, 1938.