

REPORT

OF

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
28th November, 1831.

To the President of the United States:

SIR: The following report of the progress and condition of this Department is respectfully submitted.

The revenues of the Department, being the amount of postages within the year, commencing on the 1st of July, 1830, and ending the 30th of June, 1831, were

The expenditures of the Department, within the same period, were	\$1,997,811 54
Being for compensation to postmasters	1,935,559 36
For transportation of the mail	\$635,028 48
For incidental expenses	1,252,226 44
	48,304 44

Leaving an excess of revenue beyond the expenses of the Department, amounting to	62,252 18
Of this sum there have been paid into the Treasury (being irregularly deposited by collecting officers)	563 51

Showing a balance in favor of the Department, of	61,688 67
The surplus of revenue on the 1st of July, 1830, as stated in the report of last year, amounted to	148,724 22

Thus the surplus revenue at the disposal of the Department on the 1st of July, 1831, was	\$210,412 89
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This surplus, reported as available, and at the disposal of the Department, is founded on a statement in the report of the late Postmaster General, of 1828, and on the assumption that all the postages which have accrued since my first report in 1829, will have been collected. Of the postages returned within that time, it is confidently believed the losses, in collection, will not amount to one-fourth of one *per centum*.

The whole amount of postages from July 1st, 1828, to July 1st, 1829, was	\$1,707,418 42
From July 1st, 1829, to July 1st, 1830	1,850,583 10
From July 1st, 1830, to July 1st, 1831	1,907,811 54

The increase of postages within the year ending July 1st, 1829, above the amount of the year preceding, was	-	-	\$108,540 47
The increase of the year ending July 1st, 1830, above the amount of the year preceding, was	-	-	143,164 68
The increase of the year ending July 1st, 1831, above the amount of the year preceding, was	-	-	147,228 44
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The expenses of the Department for the year preceding July 1st, 1828, exceeded its revenues in the sum of	-	-	\$25,015 89
For the year preceding July 1st, 1829	-	-	74,714 15
For the year preceding July 1st, 1830	-	-	82,124 85
But for the year preceding July 1st, 1831, the revenues of the Department have exceeded its expenditures in the sum of	-	-	62,252 18

The favorable terms upon which the contracts were last year made for the transportation of the mail in the southern division, commencing on the 1st day of January last, have assisted in producing the result exhibited by the following fact: The revenue of the Department for the half year beginning with the 1st of January last, exceeded the expenditure for the same period in the sum of - - - \$75,475 91

Whereas for the half year preceding the 1st January, 1831, the expenditure exceeded the revenue in the sum of - 13,223 73

The difference in which results constitutes the excess of revenue over disbursement for the year now reported, of 62,252 18

From the 1st of July, 1830, to the 1st July 1831, the transportation of the mail was increased, in stages, equal to - - 834,450 miles a year.
On horseback and in sulkies - - 134,252 miles a year.
Making an annual increase of transportation equal to 968,702 miles beyond the amount of any former period.

Many routes have also been improved, by substituting stages for horse mails, to the annual amount of 362,531 miles.

The total annual increase of stage transportation from July 1, 1830, to July 1, 1831, was - - - 1,196,771 miles.

The annual decrease of transportation, on horseback, within the same time, by substituting stages, was - 228,069 miles.

Making the annual increase as above, equal to - - 968,702 miles.

On the 1st of July, 1831, the annual transportation of the mail was,
In stages and steamboats - - - 10,728,348 miles.
On horseback and in sulkies - - - 4,740,344 miles.

Making the whole annual transportation equal to 15,468,692 miles.

Other improvements are also determined on, in which remote parts of the country are immediately interested; among them are, the establishment of a regular steamboat mail on the river Ohio, between Guyandotte, in Virginia, Cincinnati, in Ohio, and Louisville, in Kentucky; to form a daily connexion with the line of post coaches from this place, and from

Richmond, in Virginia, to Cuyandotte; and the improvement of the route to a daily line between Macon, in Georgia, Mobile, in Alabama, and New Orleans, so as to constitute a daily intercourse between New Orleans and the Atlantic cities, and with a despatch of twelve days between New Orleans and this city.

These two improvements are already in a state of progress, and it is expected will soon be in complete operation.

The contracts for transporting the mails in the middle division of the Union, comprising the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Ohio, and the Territory of Michigan, will end with the present year. In renewing the contracts for this division, provision has been made for stage accommodation over 560 miles of post roads, on which the mail had before been carried on horseback, and on which the annual transportation in stages will, from the 1st of January next, amount to 62,365 miles. On 1,803 miles of post road, where the mail is already carried in stages, the frequency of trips will also be increased to the annual amount of 407,524 miles. By these arrangements, an annual increase of stage transportation is secured, from the 1st of January next, of 469,889 miles on that section. The value of these improvements, at the lowest estimate, is as follows:

469,889 miles of stage transportation, at 9 cents per mile, -	\$42,290 01
Deduct 62,365 miles of horse transportation superseded by stages, at 4 cents per mile, -	2,494 60
Nett value of the improvements, -	\$39,795 41
The acceptances for the new contracts, besides the securing of these improvements, are not so great as the amount now paid for the transportation on that division, by \$51,787 18.	
The renewal of the contracts, therefore, saves in money, to the Department, the sum of -	51,787 18
Which, added to the value of the improvements, effects a saving of -	\$91,582 59

Other improvements, highly important in their character, are proposed, the decisions on which have been deferred for further consideration. It is, however, anticipated, from the saving which has been effected in renewing the contracts, that the Department will possess the ability to make some further improvements in this division of mail routes.

There were, on the 1st of July last, 8,086 post offices. To the plan adopted for their supervision, and the vigilance with which it is observed, together with the system of finance which is strictly adhered to, may be attributed, in no small degree, the increasing prosperity of the Department.

I have the honor to be,

With high regard,

Your obedient servant,

W. T. BARRY