

Persons residing upon mail routes requiring the accommodation of private bags can obtain the same upon payment, in advance, of the undermentioned fees to the Chief or Head Postmaster of the district, and subject to the following regulations:—

The fees payable for private mail bags shall be—For a term exceeding six calendar months, and not exceeding one year, two pounds (£2); for a term not exceeding six calendar months, one pound (£1). Provided that no private mail bag shall be let save for a term ending on the 30th day of June or the 31st day of December next after the day on which the same shall be let.

The bag must be of leather, with a lock and two keys, and provided and kept in repair at the cost of the person requiring it.

A mail contractor is bound to convey and deliver, free of charge, all private bags given to him by Postmasters, but is not required to deviate from the prescribed mail route, and is on no account to be delayed. Should the return bag not be ready at the appointed time and place, the Contractor is not required to wait for it.

UNCLAIMED LETTERS.

On the first day of each month a list is exhibited at each Post Office in the Colony of the addresses of all letters received from places beyond the Colony that have remained unclaimed for one month at such Post Office; and such of these letters as remain unclaimed at the end of a further period of two months are then forwarded to the Dead Letter Office, to be returned unopened to the countries where they originated. Unclaimed letters originating in the Colony are not advertised, but at the end of two months are forwarded to the Dead Letter Office, Wellington, there to be opened and returned to the writers.

Rates of Postage, and Conditions of Transmission.

All letters, newspapers, book and pattern parcels, and prices current, posted in New Zealand, must be prepaid by postage stamps.

INLAND LETTERS.

Late letters for despatch by steamers will be received until within twenty minutes of the despatch from the Post Office, provided such letters bear, in addition to the full postage, a further single rate of postage as a late fee.

Letters re-directed from one part of the Colony to another are chargeable with fresh rates of postage, as if they were then posted for the first time, prepayment being optional.

LETTERS FOR PLACES BEYOND THE COLONY.

Late letters for places beyond the Colony will be received until twenty minutes before the hour of despatch from the Post Office, provided such letters bear, in addition to the full postage, a further single rate of postage as a late fee.

Late letters placed on board steamers must also bear, in addition to the full postage, a further single rate of postage as a late fee.

POST CARDS.

Penny Post Cards for transmission between places in New Zealand, and also to certain other places hereafter mentioned, at letter rates.

The front or stamped side of the card is for the address only, and beyond the printed or written address, nothing whatever must be printed or written upon that side of the card. On the reverse side, any communication, whether of the

nature of a letter or otherwise, may be printed or written. Nothing whatever may be attached to the card, nor may it be folded, cut, or otherwise altered. If any of the above conditions be infringed, the card shall be charged one penny on delivery.

An exception, however, has been made in the case of post cards used for receipt purposes, to the back of which a duty stamp may be affixed.

No cards other than those issued by the Government, or private cards stamped by the Government with a penny stamp, under the special authority of the Postmaster-General can be used for the purpose of making a written communication through the Post Office, unless such cards be prepaid the ordinary full letter postage.

Any post card observed to bear upon it anything of an obscene, libellous, or obviously objectionable nature, will be detained and sent to the Dead Letter Office for disposal.

Post Cards may be transmitted to the Colonies of Victoria, and South Australia under the same conditions as they are transmitted within New Zealand, except that in addition to the impressed stamp they must have an extra penny stamp affixed to them.

All post cards addressed to other places out of New Zealand will be detained and sent to the Dead Letter Office for disposal.

Private cards will be received from the public, and impressed with the penny postage stamp, under the following conditions:—A week's notice must be given by the applicant, and a sample of the card to be used should be forwarded for the Postmaster-General's inspection. None but card of approved quality and colour will be accepted. Each sheet must be of the size of 22 inches by 15 inches, and must not exceed two ounces in weight. Not fewer than fifty sheets of card can be received at one time. On each sheet presented for impression the applicant's name or monogram must be embossed or printed, and any printing must be thoroughly dry. Cards, when impressed, will be returned to the applicant in sheets of twenty-one impressions. No fee will be charged for stamping. Cash must accompany all cards to be impressed. No commission will be allowed upon private cards impressed for licensed vendors.

INLAND PATTERN AND SAMPLE AND PARCEL POST.

The following are the rules of the inland pattern and sample and parcel post:—

- (1.) A pattern sample or parcel packet may contain patterns, samples, or articles of merchandise, goods sent for sale or in execution of an order, or any articles sent by one private individual to another; seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, and scions may also be forwarded.
- (2.) The postage is one penny not exceeding two ounces; twopence not exceeding four ounces; and one penny for every additional two ounces or fraction of two ounces.
- (3.) No packet must exceed two feet in length or one foot in width or depth, nor must it exceed five pounds in weight; any packet exceeding that weight will be sent to the Dead Letter Office.
- (4.) There must be no writing or printing on the packet or its cover in addition to the address of the person for whom the packet is intended except the address of the sender and the nature of the contents, a trade mark and numbers, and the prices of the articles, otherwise the packet will be charged double letter postage. The name and address of the sender of any parcel should invariably be given, so that if for any reason the packet cannot be forwarded or delivered, it may be returned to the sender.
- (5.) There must be no enclosure other than the articles themselves. The particulars which are allowed to be furnished under the preceding