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By PHILLO WHITE.

The terms of the Western Carolinian will hereafter be as follows: Three Dollars a year, payable in advance.

No paper discontinued, (except at the option of the Editor) until all arrearages are paid. Advertisements will be inserted at fifty cents per square for the first insertion, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent one.

All letters addressed to the Editor, must be post-paid, or they will not be attended to.

By Authority.

An Act to reduce into one the several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That there be established at the seat of Government of the United States, a General Post Office, under the direction of a Postmaster General. The Postmaster General shall appoint two Assistants, and such Clerks as may be necessary for the performance of the business of his Office, and as are authorized by law; and shall procure and cause to be kept a Seal for the said Office, which shall be affixed to commissions of Postmasters, and used to authenticate all transcripts and copies which may be required from the Department. He shall establish Post Offices and appoint Postmasters, at all such places as shall appear to him expedient, on the post roads that are or may be established by law. He shall give his Assistants, the Postmasters, and all other persons whom he shall or may employ, or who may be employed in any of the Departments of the General Post Office, instructions relative to their duty. He shall provide for the carriage of the mail on all post routes that are or may be established by law, and as often as he, having regard to the productiveness thereof, and other circumstances, shall think proper. He may direct the route or road where there are more than one, between the places designated by law for a post road, which route shall be considered the post road. He shall obtain from the Postmasters their accounts and vouchers for their receipts and expenditures, once in three months, or oftener, with the balances thereon arising, in favor of the General Post Office. He shall pay all expenses which may arise in conducting the Post Office, and in the conveyance of the mails and all other necessary expenses arising on the portion of the revenue, and management of the General Post Office. He shall prosecute offences against the Post Office Establishment. He shall once in three months, render to the Secretary of the Treasury, a quarterly account of all the receipts and expenditures in the said Department, to be adjusted and settled as other public accounts. He shall also superintend the business of the Department, in all the duties that are or may be assigned to it: *Provided*, That in case of the death, resignation or removal from office of the Postmaster General, all his duties shall be performed by his Senior Assistant, until a successor shall be appointed, and arrive at the General office to perform the business.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General, and all other persons employed in the General Post Office, or in the care, custody, or conveyance of the mails, shall, previous to entering upon the duties assigned to them, or the execution of their trusts, and before they shall be entitled to receive any emolument therefor, respectively take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, before some magistrate, and cause a certificate thereof, to be filed in the General Post Office: "I, A. B., do swear or affirm (as the case may be) that I will faithfully perform all the duties required of me, and abstain from every thing forbidden by the laws in relation to the establishment of the Post Office and Post Roads within the United States." Every person who shall be, in any manner, employed in the care, custody, conveyance or management of the mail, shall be subject to all pains, penalties and forfeitures for violating the injunctions or neglecting the duties required of him by the laws relating to the establishment of the Post Office and Post Roads, whether said person shall have taken the oath or affirmation above prescribed, or not.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General upon the appointment of any Postmaster, to require and take of such Postmaster, bond, with good and approved security, in such penalty as he may judge sufficient, conditioned for the faithful discharge of all the duties of such Postmaster required by law, or which may be required by any instruction or general rule for the government of the Department: *Provided*, however, That if default shall be made by the Postmaster aforesaid at any time, and the Postmaster General shall fail to institute suit against such Postmaster, and said sureties, for two years from and after such default shall be made, then, and in that case, the said sureties shall not be held liable to the United States, nor shall said suit be instituted against them.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General shall cause a mail to be carried from the nearest Post Office, on any established post road, to the Court-House of any county which is now, or may hereafter be, established in any of the States or Territories of the United States, and which is without a mail, and the road on which such mail shall be transported, shall become a post road, and so continue, until the transportation thereon shall cease. It shall also, be lawful for the Postmaster General to enter into contracts, for a term not exceeding four years, for extending the line of posts, and to authorize the persons, so contracting, as a compensation for their expenses, to receive, during the continuance of such contracts, at rates not exceeding those for like distances, established by this act, all the postage which shall arise on letters, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets and packets, conveyed by any such posts, and the roads, designated in such contracts, shall during the continuance thereof, be deemed and considered as post roads, within the provision of this act: and a duplicate of every such contract shall, within sixty days after the execution thereof, be lodged in the office of the Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the

Postmaster General be authorized to have the mail carried in any steam boat, or other vessel, which shall be used as a packet, in any of the waters of the United States, on such terms and conditions as shall be considered expedient: *Provided*, That he does not pay more than three cents for each letter, and more than one-half cent for each newspaper, conveyed in such mail.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of any master or manager of any steam-boat, which shall pass from one port or place in another port or place in the United States, where a Post Office is established, to deliver within three hours after his arrival, if in the day time, and within two hours after the next sunrise, if the arrival be in the night, all letters and packets addressed to, or destined for, such port or place, to the Postmaster there, for which he shall be entitled to receive, of such Postmaster, two cents for every letter or packet so delivered, unless the same shall be carried or conveyed under a contract with the Postmaster General; and, if any manager of a steam-boat shall fail so to deliver any letter or packet, which shall have been brought by him, or shall have been in his care, or within his power, he shall incur a penalty of thirty dollars for every such failure. And every person employed on board any steam-boat, shall deliver every letter, and packet of letters, entrusted to such person, to the master or manager of such steam-boat, and before the said vessel shall touch at any other port or place; and, for every failure or neglect so to deliver, a penalty of ten dollars shall be incurred for each letter or packet.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That no other than a free white person shall be employed in conveying the mail; and any contractor who shall employ, or permit any other than a free white person to convey the mail; shall, for every such offence, incur a penalty of twenty dollars.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever it shall be made appear to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General, that any road established, or which may hereafter be established as a post road, is obstructed by fences, gates or bars, or other than those lawfully used on turnpike roads to collect their toll, and not kept in good repair, with proper bridges and ferries, where the same may be necessary, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to report the same to Congress, with such information as can be obtained, to enable Congress to establish some other road instead of it, in the same main direction.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall, knowingly and wilfully, obstruct or retard the passage of the mail, or of any driver or carrier, or of any horse or carriage, carrying the same, he shall, upon conviction, for every such offence, pay a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars; and if any ferryman shall, by wilful negligence, or refusal to transport the mail across any ferry, delay the same, he shall forfeit and pay for every ten minutes that the same shall be so delayed, a sum not exceeding ten dollars.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to give public notice, in one newspaper published at the seat of Government of the United States, and in one or more of the newspapers published in the state or states or territory, where the contract is to be performed, for at least twelve weeks before entering into any contract for carrying the mail, that such contract is intended to be made; and the day on which it is to be concluded, describing the places from and to which such mail is to be conveyed, the time at which it is to be made up and the day and hour at which it is to be delivered. He shall, moreover, within ninety days after the making of any contract, lodge a duplicate thereof, together with the proposals which he shall have received respecting it, in the office of the Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States: *Provided*, That no contract shall be entered into for a longer term than four years.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That every Postmaster shall keep an office, in which one or more persons shall attend on every day on which a mail shall arrive, by land or water, as well as on other days, at such hours as the Postmaster General shall direct, for the purpose of performing the duties thereof; and it shall be the duty of the Postmaster, at all reasonable hours, on every day of the week, to deliver, on demand, any letter, paper or packet, to the person entitled to or authorized to receive the same; and all letters brought to any post office half an hour before the time of making up the mail at such office, shall be forwarded therein, except at such post offices where, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, it requires more time for making up the mail, and which he shall accordingly prescribe; but this shall in no case exceed one hour.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That no fees or perquisites shall be received by any person employed in the general post office, on account of the duties to be performed by virtue of his appointment.

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the following rates of postage be charged upon all letters and packets, (excepting such as are excepted by law) conveyed in the mail of the United States, viz: For every letter composed of a single sheet of paper, conveyed not exceeding thirty miles, six cents. Over thirty,

and not exceeding eighty, ten cents.—Over eighty, and not exceeding one hundred and fifty, twelve and a half cents.—Over one hundred and fifty, and not exceeding four hundred, eighteen and three quarters of a cent. Over four hundred, twenty-five cents.

And for every double letter, or letter composed of two pieces of paper, double those rates; and for every triple letter, or letter composed of three pieces of paper, triple those rates; and for every packet composed of four or more pieces of paper, or one or more other articles, and weighing one ounce avoirdupois, quadruple those rates; and in that proportion for all greater weights: *Provided*, That no packet of letters, conveyed by the water-mails, shall be charged with more than quadruple postage, unless the same shall contain more than four distinct letters. No postmaster shall receive, to be conveyed by the mail, any packet which shall weigh more than three pounds; and the postage marked on any letter or packet, and charged in the post bill which may accompany the same, shall be conclusive evidence in favor of the postmaster who delivers the same, of the lawful postage thereon; unless such letter or packet shall be opened in the presence of the postmaster or his clerk. Every four folio pages, or eight quarto pages, or sixteen octavo, or twenty-four duodecimo pages, or pages less than that of a pamphlet size, or magazine, whatever may be the size of the paper of which it is formed, shall be considered a sheet, and the surplus pages of any pamphlet or magazine, shall also be considered a sheet; and the journals of the legislatures of the several states, not being bound, shall be liable to the same postage as pamphlets.

Any memorandum, which shall be written on a newspaper, or other printed paper, pamphlet or magazine, and transmitted by mail, shall be charged with letter postage: *Provided*, The publisher of a newspaper may send a printed or written notice to a subscriber, stating the amount due on his subscription; which notice shall be attached to the margin of the newspaper, and the postmaster who delivers the paper shall charge for such notice the same postage as for a newspaper.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to allow to each Postmaster, such commission on the postages by him collected, as shall be adequate to his services and expenses: *Provided*, That his commission shall not exceed the following several rates on the amount received in one quarter, viz: On a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, thirty per cent.

On any sum over and above the first hundred dollars, and not exceeding four hundred dollars, twenty-five per cent.

On any sum over and above the first four hundred, and not exceeding two thousand four hundred dollars, eight per cent.

Except to the postmasters, who may be employed in receiving and despatching foreign mails, whose compensation may be augmented, not exceeding twenty five dollars in one quarter; and excepting to the postmasters at offices where the mail is regularly to arrive between the hours of nine o'clock at night and five o'clock in the morning, whose commission on the first hundred dollars collected in one quarter, may be increased to a sum not exceeding fifty per cent. The Postmaster General may allow to the postmasters, respectively, a commission of fifty per cent on the money arising from the postage on newspapers, magazines and pamphlets; and to the postmasters whose compensation shall not exceed five hundred dollars in one quarter, two cents for every free letter delivered out of the office, excepting such as are for the postmaster himself; and each postmaster, who shall be required to keep a register of the arrival and departure of the mails, shall be allowed ten cents for every monthly return which he makes thereof to the General Post Office. The Postmaster General may allow to the postmaster at New-Orleans, at the rate of eight hundred dollars a year in addition to his ordinary commissions. The Postmaster General is hereby authorized to allow to the postmaster of the city of Washington, in addition to the allowance made by this act, for postage collected, and for free letters received by him for delivery, a commission of five per cent on the amount of mails distributed at his office: *Provided*, nevertheless, That the whole annual emolument of the said postmaster, including the extra-compensation of eight hundred dollars which is hereby allowed him, shall be subject to the restrictions imposed by the first section of this act.

Sec. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That every letter or packet, brought into

the United States, or carried from one port therein to another, in any private ship or vessel, shall be charged with six cents, if delivered at the post office where the same shall arrive; and if destined to be conveyed by post to any place, with two cents added to the ordinary rates of postage.

Sec. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That, if any postmaster, or other person, authorized by the Postmaster General to receive the postage of letters, shall fraudulently demand or receive, any rate or postage, or gratuity, or reward, other than is provided by this act, for the postage of letters or packets, on conviction thereof, he shall forfeit, for every such offence, one hundred dollars.

Sec. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That no ship or vessel, arriving at any port within the United States, where a post office is established, shall be permitted to report, make entry, or break bulk, until the master or commander shall have delivered to the postmaster all letters directed to any person or persons within the United States, or the territories thereof, which, under his care, or within his power, shall be brought in such ship or vessel, except such as are directed to the owner or consignee of the ship or vessel. And it shall be the duty of the collector or other officer of the port empowered to receive entries of ships or vessels, to require from every master or commander of such ship or vessel, an oath or affirmation, purporting that he has delivered all such letters, except as aforesaid; and if any commander or master of any such ship or vessel shall break bulk before he shall have complied with the requirements of this act, every such offender shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit, for every such offence, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars.

Sec. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That the postmaster to whom such letters may be delivered, shall pay the master or commander, or other person delivering the same, except the commanders of foreign packets, two cents for each letter or packet; and shall obtain from the person delivering the same, a certificate, specifying the number of letters or packets, with the name of the ship or vessel, and the place from whence she last sailed; which certificate, together with a receipt for the money, shall be, with his quarterly accounts, transmitted to the Postmaster General, who shall credit him with the amount.

Sec. 19. *And be it further enacted*, That no stage or other vehicle, which regularly performs trips on a post road, or on a road parallel to it, shall convey letters; nor shall any packet boat or other vessel, which regularly plies on a water carriage to be a post road, except such as relate to some part of the cargo. For the violation of this provision, the owner of the carriage, or other vehicle, or vessel, shall incur the penalty of fifty dollars. And the person who has charge of such carriage, or other vehicle, or vessel may be prosecuted under this section, and the property in his charge may be levied on and sold, in satisfaction of the penalty and costs of suit: *Provided*, That it shall be lawful for any one to send letters by special messenger.

Sec. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That the Deputy Postmaster, and other agents of the Postmaster General, shall daily account, and answer to him for all way letters which shall come to their hands; and for this purpose, the post riders, and other carriers of the mail, receiving any way letter or letters, (and it shall be their duty to receive them, if presented more than one mile from a post office,) shall deliver the same, together with the postage, if paid, at the first post office to which they shall afterwards arrive; where the postmaster shall duly enter the same; and specify the number and rate or rates, in the post bill, adding to the rate of each way letter, one cent; which shall be paid by the postmaster to the mail carrier from whom such way letters shall be received.

Sec. 21. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person employed in any of the departments of the Post Office establishment, shall unlawfully detain, delay, or open, any letter, packet, bag, or mail of letters, with which he shall be entrusted, or which shall have come to his possession, and which are intended to be conveyed by post; or, if any such person shall secrete, embezzle, or destroy, any letter or packet entrusted to such person as aforesaid, and which shall not contain any security for, or assurance relating to, money; as hereinafter described, every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offence, be fined, not exceeding three hundred dollars, or imprisoned, not exceeding six months, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence. And if any person, employed as aforesaid, shall secrete, embezzle, or destroy, any letter, packet, bag, or mail of letters, with which he or she shall be entrusted, or which shall have come to his or her possession, and are intended to be conveyed by post, containing any bank note, or bank post bill, bill of exchange, warrant of the Treasury of the United States, note or assignment of stock in the funds, letters of attorney for receiving annuities or dividends, or for selling stock in the funds, or for receiving the interest thereof, or any letter of credit, or note for, or relating to, payments of moneys, or any bond, or warrant, or draft, bill, or promissory note, covenant, contract, or agreement, whatsoever, for, or relating to, the payment of money, or the delivery of any article of value, or the performance of any act, matter, or thing, or any receipt, release, acquittance, or discharge of, or from, any debt, covenant, or demand, or any part thereof; or any copy of any record or any judgment, or decree, in any court of law, or chancery, or any execution which may have issued thereon; or any copy of any other record, or any other article of value, or any writing representing the same; or if any such person, employed as aforesaid, shall steal,

or take, any of the same out of any letter, packet, bag, or mail of letters, that shall come to his or her possession, such person shall, on conviction for any such offence, be imprisoned not less than ten years, nor exceeding twenty-one years; and if any person who shall have taken charge of the mails of the United States, shall quit or desert the same before such person delivers it into the Post Office kept at the termination of the route, or some known mail carrier, or agent of the General Post Office, authorized to receive the same, every such person, so offending, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars for every such offence; and if any person concerned in carrying the mail of the United States, shall collect, receive, or carry any letter, or packet, or shall cause or procure the same to be done, contrary to this act, every such offender shall forfeit and pay, for every such offence, a sum not exceeding fifty dollars.

Sec. 22. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall rob any carrier of the mail of the United States, or other person entrusted therewith, of such mail, or any part thereof, such offender or offenders shall, on conviction, be imprisoned not less than five years, nor exceeding ten years; and, if convicted a second time of a like offence, he or they shall suffer death; or, if, in effecting such robbery of the mail, the first time, the offender shall wound the person having custody thereof, or put his life in jeopardy, by the use of dangerous weapons, such offender or offenders shall suffer death. And if any person shall attempt to rob the mail of the United States, by assaulting the person having custody thereof, shooting at him, or his horse or mule, or threatening him with dangerous weapons, and the robbery is not effected, every such offender, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment, not less than two years, nor exceeding ten years. And, if any person shall steal the mail, or shall steal or take from, or out of, any mail, or from, or out of, any Post Office, any letter or packet; or, if any person shall take the mail, or any letter or packet therefrom, or from any Post Office, whether with or without the consent of the person having custody thereof, and shall open, embezzle, or destroy, any such mail, letter, or packet, the same containing any article of value, or evidence of any debt, due, demand, right, or claim, or any release, receipt, acquittance, or discharge, or any other article, paper, or thing, mentioned and described in the twenty-first section of this act; or, if any person shall, by fraud or deception, obtain from any person having custody thereof, any mail, letter, or packet, containing any letter of value, or evidence thereof, or either of the writings referred to, or next above mentioned, such offender or offenders, on conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned not less than two, nor exceeding ten, years. And if any person shall take any letter, or packet, not containing any article of value, or evidence thereof, out of a post office, or shall open any letter, or packet, which shall have been in a post office, or in custody of a mail carrier, before it shall have been delivered to the person to whom it is directed, with a design to obstruct the correspondence, to pry into another's business or secrets, or shall secrete, embezzle, or destroy, any such mail, letter, or packet, such offender, upon conviction, shall pay, for every such offence, a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and be imprisoned, not exceeding twelve months.

Sec. 23. *And be it further enacted*, That, if any person shall rip, cut, tear, burn, or otherwise injure, any valise, portmanteau, or other bag, used, or designed to be used, by any person acting under the authority of the Postmaster General, or any person in whom his powers are vested, in a conveyance of any mail, letter, packet, or newspaper, or pamphlet, or shall draw or break any staple, or loosen any part of any lock, chain, or strap, attached to, or belonging to any such valise, portmanteau, or bag, with an intent to rob, or steal any mail, letter, packet, newspaper, or pamphlet, or to render either of the same insecure, every such offender, upon conviction, shall, for every such offence, pay a sum not less than one hundred dollars, nor exceeding five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned, not less than one year, nor exceeding three years, at the discretion of the court before whom such conviction is had.

(To be concluded next week.)

Internal Improvements—The Board for Internal Improvements met at Fayetteville last week, agreeably to appointment, and adjourned on Tuesday last. All the Members of the Board were present, viz: His excellency Governor Burton, Gen. J. Iredell, Gen. E. B. Dudley and Major D. M. Forney. Measures were taken for re-commencing operations on the Cape-Fear between Fayetteville and Wilmington, as soon as the River shall be sufficiently low; and, in order more speedily and effectually to remove the obstructions below Wilmington, Mr. Fulton, the Civil Engineer, is instructed to go on to the North as soon as he conveniently can, to procure for that purpose, and for the purpose of removing obstructions in some of the Rivers, a Dredging Machine, to be worked by means of a small Steam-Engine. So that it is confidently expected the whole obstructions in the Cape-Fear, both above and below Wilmington, will be removed during the present summer and fall.

The Board will meet again in Fayetteville, on Monday the 23d of May; when they expect to visit all the Works on Cape-Fear; from thence they will go to the Clubfoot and Harlow Creek Canals, the Roanoke River, and probably Ocracoke Inlet and Croatan Sound.

Raleigh Register.

NARROW MINDS

Are like CROOKED necked bottles; the less they have in them, the more noise they make in pouring it out.