

## BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE No. 38 OF 1920.

[Published 14th May, 1920.]

Publishing Franking Regulations framed under the Post Office Act, No. 20 of 1911, of the Union of South Africa as of force in the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

It is hereby notified for general information that, under the provisions of sections *three* (4) and *fifteen* of the Post Office Administration and Shipping Combinations Discouragement Act, No. 20 of 1911, of the Union of South Africa, as in force in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, His Excellency the High Commissioner has been pleased to approve of the subjoined Franking Regulations for the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

By Command of His Excellency the  
High Commissioner.

H. J. STANLEY,  
Imperial Secretary.

High Commissioner's Office,  
Capetown, 7th May, 1920.

(a) FRANKING OF LETTERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS, AND PARCELS,  
FOR FREE TRANSMISSION THROUGH THE POST.

1. His Excellency the High Commissioner and Staff, the Resident Commissioner and Headquarter Clerks, the Government Secretary, the Auditor, the Financial Secretary, the Master of the Resident Commissioner's Court, the Registrar of Deeds, the Custodian of Enemy Property, the Chief Customs Officer, the Crown Prosecutor, the Assistant Commissioner, Francistown, and his clerk, Magistrates, the Staff Officer and other commissioned officers of the Bechuanaland Protectorate Police, non-commissioned officers of the Bechuanaland Protectorate Police in charge of out-stations, the Principal Medical Officer and Medical Officers, the Chief Veterinary Officer and his clerk, Veterinary Officers, the Controller of Stores, Stock Inspectors, and Officers Commanding His Majesty's Naval and Military Forces in South Africa, shall be entitled, *ex officio*, to frank letters and other documents on the Public Service for transmission without prepayment of postage from any place within the Bechuanaland Protectorate to any place within that Territory, and to the Union of South Africa, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Basutoland, Swaziland, and the Province of Mozambique.

2. No public official unless empowered *ex officio* shall frank letters and other documents for free transmission through the post unless he has been duly authorized thereto. Applications for permission to frank shall be made to the Postmaster-General through the Resident Commissioner.

3. Officers authorized to frank letters and other documents on the Public Service shall also be entitled to receive without prepayment of postage similar documents addressed to them in their official capacity and superscribed "On His Majesty's Service."

4. (1) The covers of all letters and other documents on the Public Service, except those posted by the officers mentioned in Regulation No. 1, which shall be passed on the sender's signature being written in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope, intended for transmission without prepayment of postage, shall bear the superscription "On His Majesty's Service." The signature of a franking officer, followed by his official designation, shall also appear in the top right-hand corner of every such cover, and such signature and official designation shall be taken as a certificate of the official nature of the contents.

(2) In the case of letters and other documents on the Public Service forwarded by any Civil, Naval, or Military Department or Office, an impression of a franking stamp approved by the Postmaster-General, and bearing the designation of such Department or Office and the words "official free," may be substituted for the signature of an officer authorized to frank. Every person who may be authorized to use a franking stamp in connection with the transmission of letters and other documents without prepayment of postage shall be responsible for the proper custody and use of such stamp in accordance with these regulations.

5. Copies of the *Official Gazette of the High Commissioner for South Africa*, of the *Government Gazette* of the Union, or of the *Official Gazette* of any of the Provinces of the Union, the *British South Africa Company's Government Gazette*, the *Northern Rhodesia Government Gazette*, and also copies of the *Agricultural Journal* received by the Department direct from the printer thereof, shall be exempt from postage provided they are contained in covers open at both ends and have printed thereon the words "On His Majesty's Service" and the name and address of the printer.

6. Copies of books forwarded to the Registrar of Deeds in accordance with the requirements of the law shall be transmissible through the post free of postage provided the cover of each packet so forwarded bears the inscription "On His Majesty's Service" and the name and address of the publisher of the books.

7. Packets containing natural history specimens addressed to any of the undermentioned institutions, and bearing on the cover the inscriptions "On His Majesty's Service" and "Natural History Specimens," shall be transmissible through the post free of charge:—

The South African Museum, Capetown.  
The Albany Museum, Grahamstown.  
The Port Elizabeth Natural History Association  
The National Museum, Bloemfontein.  
The Naturalists' Society, Kingwilliamstown.  
The Government Museum, Pretoria.  
The Government Museum, Pietermaritzburg.  
The Government Botanical Herbarium, Durban.  
The Macgregor Museum, Kimberley.  
The National Botanic Gardens, Kirstenbosch, Newlands, Cape.  
The Bolus Herbarium, South African College, Capetown.

8. No letter or other document on the Public Service for transmission without prepayment shall exceed 7 lb. in weight or 2 feet in length by 12 inches in width or depth, except with the special authority of the Postmaster-General.

9. Any public officer who may receive any postal article franked as being "On His Majesty's Service," but which is not entitled to pass through the post without prepayment, shall forward without delay the cover thereof, a certified copy of the contents, and a statement of the weight of the letter, together with a report of the facts of the case, to the Postmaster-General, by whom the postage due thereon shall be collected from the sender or other action taken as the Postmaster-General may deem fit.

10. The Postmaster-General may surcharge any postal article purporting to be on the Public Service but which there may be reasonable grounds for suspecting is not entitled to transmission without prepayment of postage. Such surcharge shall, however, be refunded on its being proved to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General that such article was entitled to pass without prepayment of postage.

11. Letters and other documents on the Public Service franked in accordance with these regulations and marked for registration by the franking officer may be registered without prepayment of the registration fee.

12. Parcels on the Public Service franked in accordance with these regulations may pass through the post free of charge to any place within the Bechuanaland Protectorate. The postage on parcels sent by Government Departments or by the Naval and Military authorities to places outside the Protectorate must be prepaid by means of postage stamps.

With certain exceptions in the case of communications emanating from the Post Office Department, official correspondence for oversea or for places other than the Union of South Africa, Rhodesia, Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Swaziland, and the Province of Mozambique, must be prepaid by means of postage stamps.

Letters and book packets sent "On His Majesty's Service" by the Imperial Naval or Military authorities, and impressed with the usual franking stamp, shall, however, be transmitted free of postage and registration charges when addressed to the United Kingdom, St. Helena, Ascension, or Mauritius.

(b) FRANKING OF TELEGRAMS SENT ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

13. His Excellency the High Commissioner and Staff, the Resident Commissioner and Headquarter Clerks, the Government Secretary, the Auditor, the Financial Secretary, the Master of the Resident Commissioner's Court, the Registrar of Deeds, the Custodian of Enemy Property, the Chief Customs Officer, the Crown Prosecutor, the Assistant Commissioner, Francistown, and his clerk, Magistrates, the Staff Officer and other commissioned officers of the Bechuanaland Protectorate Police, non-commissioned officers of the Bechuanaland Protectorate Police in charge of out-stations, the Principal Medical Officer and Medical Officers, the Chief Veterinary Officer and his clerk, Veterinary Officers, the Controller of Stores, Stock Inspectors, and Officers Commanding His Majesty's Naval and Military Forces in South Africa, shall be *ex officio* entitled to frank telegrams on the Public Service.

14. No public official, unless empowered *ex officio* to make use of the telegraph, may send official messages without prepayment until he has been duly authorized thereto. Applications for permission to frank shall be made to the Postmaster-General through the Resident Commissioner.

15. Official messages shall relate exclusively to matters of public business and shall not include any private communication. Applications for employment or transfer, any communication relating to leave of absence, or applications for supplies of stationery, books, or forms shall not be sent as official messages. The title of the sender must be written or stamped above the signature of the sender at the foot of the message form.

16. Officers entitled to frank telegrams shall not make use of the telegraph except in cases of emergency or where the object in view would not, without detriment to the Public Service, be met by a communication sent through the post.

17. All communications by telegraph shall be couched in language as concise as may be consistent with clearness. Titles of courtesy, such as honourable, esquire, etc., should be omitted. It shall be the duty of the officers of the Postmaster-General to call attention to any messages which may be of unnecessary length.

18. No telegrams shall be accepted without prepayment, even though the contents may be strictly on the Public Service, unless such telegrams be signed by an officer duly authorized under the provisions of these regulations.

19. In the event of a message handed in for transmission on the Public Service by a duly authorized official being found on examination to contain matter of a private nature, or such as is not authorized by these regulations to be sent as official, it shall be the duty of the officers of the Postmaster-General to forward the message to its destination and to submit a copy to the Postmaster-General in order that a decision in regard thereto may be obtained from the Head of the Department concerned.

In the event of a message being deemed to be of a private nature the value thereof shall be collected from the sender.

20. Telegrams addressed by the public to Government Departments shall be paid for, as well as any replies thereto which may be necessary. Government officers shall be required to write the word "collect" across any such "reply telegrams," the cost of which may not have been prepaid by the sender, and also across any other telegram sent in the interest of the person to whom addressed.

21. Telegrams which may be rendered necessary by the neglect of an official are not permitted to be sent free of charge, the cost being payable by the officer in fault.