

Exemptions from serving on juries, &c.

391. Postmasters and certain other officers of the Department are exempt from serving on juries, inquests, or in the militia ; but this exemption does not apply to assistants appointed and paid by Postmasters.

Mail Couriers exempt.

392. Mail Couriers are also exempt from serving on juries, inquests, or in the Militia.

Prompt conveyance of letters and newspapers.

393. Postmaster are expected to observe the time occupied in the conveyance of Letters and Newspapers from the places of despatch to their offices, as shewn by the dates of the Postmarks, and promptly to report to their Inspectors any marked irregularity in the receipt of correspondence in order that the evil may be remedied. Moreover, should a Postmaster have reason to apprehend that the Mail matter from any quarter is not forwarded to his office by the speediest available line of post route, he should at once communicate the fact to the Inspector of his Division, for it is not creditable to a Postmaster that the knowledge of defects of this nature should first be gained by the Postmaster General through the medium of a complaint from some person suffering inconvenience thereby.

Detentions and irregularities to be reported.

Postmasters giving credit do so at their own risk.

394. Postmasters are not authorized to give credit for Postage, and if they do so, it is at their own risk. The giving of credit cannot be admitted as an excuse for failing to remit the balance of Postage due from an office at the prescribed periods.

Letters cannot be detained for Postage previously due.

395. If credit has been given by a Postmaster, he cannot detain any letter or paper addressed to the person credited, which is free or paid, or for which the Postage is tendered to him, because there may be an unsettled account for Postage due by that person. Nor can a Postmaster detain an unpaid letter, provided payment of the postage due thereon is tendered by the person to whom it is addressed.

Postmasters not bound to give change.

396. A Postmaster is not legally bound to give change, but, if absolutely necessary, may require that the exact amount of Postage on any Letter or Packet be tendered or paid to him in current coin. In a matter of this kind, however, as in all other intercourse with the public, a Postmaster is expected to afford every accommodation in his power, and treat every individual having transactions with his office with the utmost courtesy, and he must strictly enjoin a similar line of conduct upon his Assistants.

The Public to be treated with courtesy.

Occurrences affecting the Department.

397. Postmasters should consider it incumbent on them to report to the Postmaster General any occurrences affecting the Department, of a public nature, taking place in their neighbourhood—and should invariably send to him a copy of any Newspaper containing articles or observations upon the Department.