

Contractor bound to forward entire Mail.

359. Mail Contractors are required in all cases to provide for the conveyance of the entire Mail, of whatever it may consist.

Bags to be carefully exchanged and locked, or sealed, and labelled.

360. The Postmaster is held responsible for the correct exchange of Mail Bags with the different Mail Couriers, and must take great care that the Locks or Seals and Labels of all Bags are carefully examined by him before they are delivered out of his Office to the Couriers, and also when received from them. The lock should be specially examined to ascertain that it has been securely fastened.

Mail Contractor, and Courier, to take Oath of Office.

361. Every Mail Contractor and every Courier should, before he is entrusted with a Mail, take and sign before a Magistrate the oath prescribed for all persons employed in the Post Office Service, of which a Form is given at the beginning of this book—this Oath, or a Certificate from the Postmaster at the end of the Route that the Courier has been duly sworn, he should shew to each Postmaster on first passing over his route—and a Postmaster will report to the Post Office Inspector whenever the Mail is brought to his Office by a Courier whom he has reason to believe is unsworn.

Duty of Courier as regards Mail Bags.

362. It is the duty of a Courier to deliver the Mail Bag or Bags into a Post Office, and to take the Bag or Bags from the Post Office when ready to be despatched, and when carried in a Stage or other vehicle the Mail Driver should never be permitted to throw the Mail Bag on the ground on arriving at the door of an Office.

Courier to carry Post Horn.

363. Every Courier should carry a Post Horn and sound the same distinctly two or three times on approaching and leaving a Post Office.

Letters which Couriers must not carry.

364. Couriers are strictly forbidden to carry Letters sealed or unsealed, printed or written, out of the Mails, except Way Letters to be delivered to the Postmaster at the next Office—or Letters received from a Postmaster for delivery between his Office and the next.

Cannot carry printed matter out of Mails.

365. Contractors and Mail Couriers are not permitted to carry Newspapers or other printed matter out of the Mails, unless authorized to do so by the Postmaster General.

Mail Key to be kept in safe place.

366. The Mail Key should be kept with great care, it should never be carried out of the Office, but be secured there under lock and key, and only accessible to the Postmaster and his sworn Assistant—it will be deemed highly reprehensible in any Postmaster to lose the Mail Key.

If a Postmaster should break his Mail Key,

367. When a Mail Key is lost or broken, the fact should be notified to the next Postmaster, who should be requested to take out the Packet addressed to the Office where the accident