

Brawford 1870 (22)

POSTAGE LABELS.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 12 February 1852;—for,

COPIES “of any AGREEMENT entered into between the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and Messieurs *Bacon* and *Petch*, for Engraving, Printing, and Gumming the POSTAGE LABELS, subsequent to the 1st day of May 1851 :

“And, of any REPORT made by the Postmaster-General, or *Rowland Hill*, Esquire, in December 1851, as to the Utility and Advantage to the Public of the PERFORATED POSTAGE LABELS.”

(*Mr. Grogan.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 15 March 1852.

COPY of an AGREEMENT entered into between the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and Messieurs *Bacon* and *Petch*, for Engraving, Printing, and Gumming the POSTAGE LABELS, subsequent to the 1st day of May 1851.

ARTICLES of Agreement made the Twenty-seventh day of August, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, between Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch, carrying on in co-partnership with other persons the business of Engravers and Copper and Steel Plate Printers, at No. 69, Fleet-street, in the City of London, under the style or firm of Perkins, Bacon and Petch, and which said co-partnership or firm is hereinafter designated the said Firm, of the one part, and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for and on behalf of Her Majesty, of the other part: WHEREAS the said Firm have provided and made under proper authority certain steel plates for the purpose of printing stamps for expressing or denoting the duties of one penny and two-pence respectively on the postage of letters, such plates being severally adapted for printing sheets containing each two hundred and forty stamps, the said stamps being an approved design of Her Majesty's head, reduced from Wyon's city medal, and engraven by Heath, with an engine-turned back ground, which plates have been used by the said Firm for printing postage stamps for the use of Her Majesty, under the direction of the said Commissioners of Inland Revenue; AND WHEREAS the said Firm have agreed to continue the printing of such stamps and delivering of the same in manner and upon the terms hereinafter mentioned: Now therefore the said Firm do hereby contract and agree with the said Commissioners of Inland Revenue, parties hereto, that they will, at the price or for the reward hereinafter mentioned, prepare and complete, for the purpose of printing the stamps aforesaid, so many additional fine steel plates, and also so many dies and collars, for the purpose of making the said plates respectively, as the said Commissioners shall from time to time require, and will engrave or impress upon each of such plates, in such manner as they the said Commissioners shall approve, two hundred and forty copies or *fac similes* of the engraving before mentioned, with such letters or combinations of letters of the alphabet as the said Commissioners shall direct, and will provide and prepare all the machinery and apparatus necessary for printing the stamps therewith, and will print off from the said plates, or such of them as the said Commissioners shall approve or direct, in a good and workmanlike manner, to the satisfaction of the said Commissioners, upon paper to be furnished by them the said Commissioners, any quantities of such stamps that the said Commissioners shall require, with proper ink of any practicable colour or colours that the said Commissioners shall direct, and will dry and press the same, and cover them at the back in a proper and sufficient manner, and to the satisfaction of the said Commissioners, with such gum or glutinous wash as the said Commissioners shall approve, to be provided by and at the expense of the said Firm, and will deliver the same stamps in fit and proper

1/2

2 AGREEMENT RELATING TO ENGRAVING, &c. POSTAGE LABELS.

proper condition for use, in such quantities and at such times as the said Commissioners shall appoint, at the Inland Revenue Office, Somerset House, or wherever else in London or Westminster they shall require; provided that if any such gum or wash be required to be substituted in lieu of that heretofore and now used for the same purpose, and the expense whereof and of the application of the same shall exceed that of the gum or wash now used, then the additional expense so occasioned thereby shall be borne by the said Commissioners. And the undersigned Commissioners of Inland Revenue, for and on behalf of Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, do hereby agree with the said Firm, and undertake on the due performance from time to time, on the part of the said Firm, of the provisions herein contained, to pay or cause to be paid to the said Firm for such stamps, the sum of Five Pence for every one thousand stamps printed off and delivered in manner and in the condition aforesaid, such payments to be made quarterly, that is to say, on the tenth day of October, the fifth day of January, the fifth day of April, and the fifth day of July, in every year, for all such stamps delivered upon or previous to the said respective quarter days. And it is hereby further agreed between the said parties, that all necessary drawings, original engravings, dies, plates, and other matters and things necessary for the purposes aforesaid, shall be provided by and at the expense of the said Firm, and that the printing of the said stamps and completing of the same fit for use shall be done in rooms or offices, and with machinery and fittings up to be also found and provided by and at the expense of the said Firm, such rooms and offices to be approved of by the said Commissioners, and which shall be appropriated and used exclusively (except as shall be specially allowed by the said Commissioners on application to them for that purpose) for the purposes aforesaid, and that all the engravings, dies, collars, and plates already made, and hereafter to be made, or at any time in the process of being made for any of the purposes aforesaid, shall be deposited in such place or places as the said Commissioners shall direct, and in a box or boxes or other inclosure provided or approved by the said Commissioners, each having two or more different locks, the key of one of which shall be kept by the said Firm, and the key or keys of the other or others of the said locks shall be kept by such person or persons as the said Commissioners shall appoint in that behalf, and that the making and preparing of all such dies, collars, and plates as aforesaid, and the printing of the said stamps, and other the matters and things to be done in completing the said stamps for use as aforesaid, and the delivery of the same, shall be under the superintendence of such person or persons being an officer or officers of the said Commissioners, as they the said Commissioners shall appoint, and under such regulations and directions for the security of the said dies, plates, stamps and papers, and otherwise as the said Commissioners shall from time to time make or give in that behalf: provided always, that the said Commissioners shall not by any such regulations or directions restrain or prevent the said Firm or their servants or workmen from working in the manufacture and completion of such stamps in the said rooms and offices, between the hours of seven in the morning and eight in the evening, on any day on which such work may lawfully be performed, if necessary, for the production of the quantities of stamps required; and it is further agreed that the said Commissioners and their said officers, and any other persons authorized by them in that behalf, shall at all times have free access to all and every of the rooms and offices used for any of the purposes of this agreement, and have all proper and necessary control over the said rooms and offices, and the persons to be employed and engaged in making or preparing the said dies, plates, or collars, and in printing the said stamps and preparing the same for use. And the said Firm do hereby undertake and agree that they will, whenever thereunto required by or on behalf of the said Commissioners, utterly deface and destroy, in the presence of such person or persons as the said Commissioners shall name in that behalf, all the drawings, original and other dies, plates, and collars which shall have been provided, made, or used for the purposes aforesaid. And it is lastly agreed that this agreement shall continue in force for the purposes aforesaid for the term of five years, to be computed from the fifth day of July last past, and for so long after as the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for the time being shall require the delivery of any such stamps, or until the same shall, after the expiration of the said term of five years, be determined by the said firm, upon six months' notice thereof in writing, to be given by them to the said Commissioners.

In

REPORTS RELATING TO PERFORATED POSTAGE LABELS. 3

In witness whereof the said parties have hereunto set their hands, the day and year first above written.

The mark of × *Joshua Butters Bacon.*
(signed) *Henry Petch.*

Signed by the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch (the said Joshua Butters Bacon making his mark, being unable, from bodily infirmity, to write his name) in the presence of

Thomas Earwater,
Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

The foregoing is a copy of the agreement entered into since the 1st May 1851, as required by the abovementioned order.

Inland Revenue, Somerset House, }
17 February 1852. } (signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

RETURN furnishing Copies of any REPORT made by the Postmaster General, or *Rowland Hill*, Esquire, in December 1851, as to the Utility and Advantage to the Public of the perforated POSTAGE LABELS.

(COPY of Mr. *Hill's* Report to the Postmaster General, of the 9th December 1851.)

I AM of opinion that the use of Mr. Archer's Machine will make the Postage Labels somewhat more convenient and acceptable to the public, and thus tend to promote their use; that in this way, and also by increasing their adhesiveness, and by facilitating the division of the sheet, it will afford some convenience to the department, and that these circumstances will tend in some degree to increase the Revenue.

(signed) *R. H.*

9th December 1851.

(COPY of Postmaster General's Report to the Treasury, of the 31st December 1851).

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

My Lords,

WITH reference to Mr. Cornwall Lewis's letter of the 17th January last, conveying to me your Lordships' authority for paying to Mr. Archer the sum of 400 *l.*, for the purchase of his machine for perforating postage labels, and the sum of 200 *l.* as a reward for his invention, I have the honour to state, that repeated applications have been made to this department by Mr. Archer on the subject of the inadequacy of the remuneration awarded to him.

There is no doubt that the employment of Mr. Archer's machine will make the Postage Labels somewhat more convenient and acceptable to the public, and that it will thus tend to promote their use.

The increased adhesiveness which would be obtained by the application of the machine, and the facility with which each single stamp could be separated from the sheet, would afford convenience to this department, and these circumstances will tend in some degree to augment the revenue. It is however difficult to estimate, with any confidence, the benefit which the revenue would derive by the adoption of the perforated stamps, but as the use of these stamps must be in fact prohibited if the patent and the machine are not purchased by the Government, I am of opinion that it will be found expedient to offer for them a sum not exceeding 2,000 *l.*

I have, &c.
(signed) *Clanricarde.*

General Post-office, 31 December 1851.

General Post Office, }
28 February 1852. }

W. MABERLY,
Secretary.