

Crawford 1870(20)

POSTAGE STAMPS.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 20 June 1851;—for,

COPY "of a LETTER addressed to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue on the 25th day of October 1847, by the Patentee, offering to construct a PERFORATING MACHINE for them upon the understanding that he was not to be paid for the same, or to be compensated for his Invention, unless the Plan was approved of by the Public; also, Copy of the Commissioners' REPLY, directing him to construct Two Machines for them on the Terms proposed by him; together with Copies of all LETTERS and MEMORIALS between the Treasury, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, the Postmaster-General, and the Patentee, in the years 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, and 1851, in reference to the Utility of the Machine, the Efficiency, Construction, or Cost of the PERFORATING MACHINE furnished by the Patentee, or in respect to the Amount of Compensation that should be awarded to him; also, Copy of any PROPOSAL from the Patentee to the Lords of the Treasury, or the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, offering, in conjunction with an eminent Engraver, to engrave, print, gum, and perforate the Postage Label Sheets for 2.000*l.* a year less than what is now paid for engraving, printing, and gumming only; together with Copies of all CORRESPONDENCE on the subject:"

"And, of AGREEMENTS entered into between the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and Messrs. Bacon & Petch, for engraving, printing, and gumming the POSTAGE LABELS, in the years 1843 and 1851."

(Mr. Muntz.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
24 July 1851.

4/2

COPIES of all LETTERS, MEMORIALS, &c. between the Lords of the Treasury the General Post-office, and Mr. *Archer* and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, in the years 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, and 1851, relative to the CONSTRUCTION of a MACHINE by Mr. *Archer* for PERFORATING Sheets of POSTAGE LABEL STAMPS, and the Amount of Compensation awarded to him for the same; also, Copies of CORRESPONDENCE between the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and Mr. *Archer*, on the proposal of the latter to contract for the printing, gumming, &c. of the LABEL POSTAGE STAMPS; also Copies of the AGREEMENTS entered into between the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and Messrs. *Bacon & Petch*, for Engraving, &c. the Label Stamps.

Inland Revenue, Somerset House, }  
14 July 1851. }

THOMAS KEOGH.

LETTER from Secretary of General Post Office to Secretary of Stamps and Taxes.

Sir,

General Post Office, 22 October 1847.

I AM directed by the Postmaster-general to transmit to you for the information of the Commissioners of Stamps, copy of a Report from the Superintending Presidents of the "Inland" and "London District Post Offices," on the subject of an invention for separating postage stamps, which has been submitted to this department by Mr. *Archer*, of No. 10, Shaftesbury-crescent.

C. Pressly, Esq., &c. &c.  
Office of Stamps and Taxes.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *John Ramsey*,  
Pro. Sec.

Referred to above.

THE machine appears to be a very clever and useful invention.

We are thoroughly convinced that postage stamps separated by it, having jagged edges, will adhere to letters far better than those cut from the sheet by knives or scissors.

We submit it is most desirable that the invention be recommended to the notice of the Commissioners of Stamps.

Inland Office, 14 October 1847.

(signed) *W. Bokenham*.  
*R. Smith*.

Mr. *Henry Archer* to the Secretary of Stamps and Taxes.

10, Shaftesbury-crescent, Eccleston-square,  
25 October 1847.

Sir,

THE Post Office stamps having to be detached, either by cutting or tearing them from each other, great inconvenience is felt, particularly by those of extensive correspondence. The postmasters of the principal receiving houses are also greatly inconvenienced by the additional trouble which is entailed upon them by the present mode of detaching the stamps, especially during the last hour for posting letters intended to be despatched by the evening mail, and also at the period when an additional stamp (which cannot be obtained at the branch offices after 5½ o'clock, where letters after that time must be posted) is required to be placed upon them. For instance: a postmaster, after disposing of, say a shilling's worth of stamps, is frequently called upon by the purchaser to cut them off one by one, for the purpose of attaching them to letters intended to be posted in his office, or if too late there, at the General Post Office, or one of the branches, as extra-stamped letters; so that at the period of the day that the press of official business demands their exclusive attention, postmasters to their great

great annoyance are continually importuned by persons requiring their stamps to be cut: indeed, it not unfrequently happens that the hour for closing the letter-box arrives before many of those who are waiting for their turn can be served. To provide, therefore, a remedy for the inconvenience thus experienced, I have invented a plan, which, by the aid of a machine that can be worked by two boys, more than treble the number of stamp sheets that is now annually sold to the public may be so minutely indented in the direction of the white lines as to allow the stamp to be instantly detached from the sheet without the operation of cutting. Persons who are near-sighted or unsteady in the hand find it very difficult to detach the stamps at present, but even the most expert hand cannot cut with a pair of scissors a sheet of stamps in less time than a quarter of an hour. Perfect too in every respect, or in other words, no way mutilated or disfigured, like most of the stamps that are now torn from each other. The contrivance will also enable purchasers to fold a sheet of stamps, or any less quantity, with unerring regularity, and in one-tenth of the time that is at present consumed in the operation; in a manner, moreover, that will render them peculiarly convenient both for the pocket and use, inasmuch as a sheet in the first instance may be readily folded or plaited like a paper fan, and then doubled up like a map; whereas, to fold one of the present sheets into a portable form requires considerable care and patience; and even then, before one quarter of the sheet is folded, the crease, instead of being in the direction of the white line, has to be formed along the centre of the heads, whereby the folding, instead of serving to facilitate the operation of cutting, is found to increase the difficulty. Indeed, the proposed plan offers such facility for folding any quantity of stamps in the most convenient form, it is not improbable that retailers for the sake of their own interest and convenience will be induced to supply them to the public ready folded. Again, it is well known that these creases, and also the curls which is produced upon the stamps by keeping them in a loose or rolled state, tend very much to prevent them adhering on the letters. The proposed plan, however, will not only secure that the stamps shall be folded in the direction of the white line, but in a manner that will effectually prevent them from curling. Again, the rough or dental edges which it will give to the stamps will render them, after they shall have been attached to the letters, less liable to be removed, either by hand or otherwise.

It is also, I submit, reasonable to expect that the increased facilities to which I have referred would tend very much to diminish the practice of paying the postage, and which I understand entails upon the Post Office very considerable trouble and expense. I beg to add that I have lately submitted the plan to the consideration of the Postmaster-general, who has been pleased to refer it to the practical department of the Post Office, with a view of ascertaining whether its advantages are of a sufficient importance in a public point of view as to justify his Lordship recommending it to the consideration of Her Majesty's Commissioners of Stamps. As I have since been officially informed that the department referred to has reported in favour of the plan, and that his Lordship, in consequence thereof, intends to take the earliest opportunity of communicating with the Commissioners on the subject, I, with the view of affording them the fullest information, have deemed it advisable shortly to explain to them the nature of the invention, and how far and in what way it is likely to prove advantageous to the public, and at the same time to add, that so fully confident am I, that if the plan shall be adopted, it will essentially contribute to the efficient working of the postage-stamp system, and prove moreover a great convenience to the public, that I am willing my claims for compensation shall be contingent upon the complete success of the plan, or when it shall have received the unqualified approbation of the public, the Postmaster-general, and Her Majesty's Commissioners of Stamps.

I am also willing to furnish the machine on the understanding I am not to be repaid the money it has cost me until the plan shall have succeeded.

In order the more fully to illustrate the practical advantages of the invention, I beg to inform you the accompanying stamps have passed through the machine.

Charles Pressly, Esq.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Henry Archer.*

## REPORT of the Board of Stamps and Taxes to the Lords of the Treasury.

May it please your Lordships,

WE beg to bring under your Lordships' notice the annexed copy of a letter which we have received from Mr. Henry Archer, of 10, Shaftesbury Crescent, respecting a plan which he has invented for separating the adhesive postage stamps by the use of a machine.

Mr. Archer has submitted this invention to the department of the General Post Office, and we have received by the direction of the Postmaster-general copy of the Report from the superintending presidents of the "Inland" and "London District" Post Offices, in recommendation of the same. We annex a copy of that Report.

The superintendent of postage stamps in this office has also examined the drawings of the proposed machines, and their effect in the separation and folding of the label stamps, which will in his opinion effect the object intended. The plan consists in the piercing of the portions of the paper intervening between the labels, in such manner as to admit of their being detached singly without the use of knife or scissors, and likewise to facilitate the convenient folding of the sheets without creasing the stamps.

There can be no doubt that if the sheets before being issued to the public were punctured in the manner proposed, by the contractors who print and gum the stamps, that they would be in a more convenient state for use and carriage than they now are.

We submit a specimen of the way in which they may be folded and carried, left here by Mr. Archer.

The additional expense which this process, if undertaken by the contractor, will entail upon the revenue, will we are informed be but trifling, and is not likely to exceed 50 *l.* per annum.

As the adoption of this suggestion is recommended by the officers employed in this department, and the General Post Office, as likely to promote the use of the label stamps, we deem it proper to submit the matter for your Lordships' judgment, as all the arrangements with regard to these stamps have been made under your Lordships' immediate directions.

We have, &c.  
(signed) *H. L. Wickham.*  
*J. Thornton.*  
*H. S. Montagu.*

18 December 1847.

---

Sir *C. E. Trevelyan* to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes.

Gentlemen,

Treasury Chambers, 7 January 1848.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had under their consideration your memorial, dated 18th ultimo, enclosing copy of a letter which you have received from Mr. Henry Archer, respecting a plan which he has invented for separating the adhesive postage stamps by the use of a machine.

I am commanded to acquaint you that their Lordships approve of the circulation of the postage stamps in question.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *C. E. Trevelyan.*

---

The Board of Stamps and Taxes to Messrs. *Bacon & Petch.*

Gentlemen,

Stamps and Taxes, Somerset House,  
17 January 1848.

THE Board having been authorised by the Treasury to bring into operation the machine invented by Mr. Henry Archer, for separating the adhesive postage stamps, in which you have been consulted, and understanding that you are willing to work the machine and charge the Office only with the expense of such working, which they are informed will not exceed 50 *l.* per annum,

annum, I am directed to authorise you to receive from Mr. Archer the machines when they are completed, and to bring them into use without delay, under the general direction of Mr. Edwin Hill.

Messrs. Bacon & Petch,  
Fleet-street.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

The Secretary of Stamps and Taxes to *Henry Archer, Esq.*

Stamps and Taxes, Somerset House,  
17 January 1848.

Sir,

THE Board having had before them your letter of the 28th October, relative to the machine you have invented for separating postage labels;

I am directed to acquaint you that they have been authorised by the Treasury to give a trial to that plan as an experimental measure.

By your letter above mentioned, you stated that you were prepared to supply the machines for the experiment with the understanding that you were not to be repaid the cost of them until the plan is brought into successful operation, and I am to express the acquiescence of the Board in this arrangement.

The machines when completed may be sent to Messrs. Bacon & Petch, of Fleet-street, who have received the Board's instructions in this matter.

Henry Archer, Esq.,  
10, Shaftesbury Crescent, Eccleston-square.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

Mr. *Henry Archer* to *Thomas Keogh, Esq.*

Sir,

10, Shaftesbury Crescent, 17 January 1848.

I HAD the honour to receive your letter of this date, informing me that the Commissioners of Stamps had been authorised by the Treasury to give a trial to my plan for separating postage labels, and requiring me at the same time to furnish the machines for the experiment, on the understanding, as expressed in my letter of the 28th October last, that I was not to be repaid the cost of them until the plan was brought into successful operation.

In reply, I deem it right to observe that in my letter referred to I proposed to furnish but one machine, being fully persuaded that one would, upon trial, be found sufficient. As, however, the practical department of the Stamp Office is of opinion that two machines will be necessary, I have directed Messrs. Smith & English, the eminent mechanical engineers, to construct them at my expense with all convenient speed, and to forward the same, when completed, to Messrs. Perkins & Bacon, according to your directions.

Thomas Keogh, Esq.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Henry Archer.*

The Secretary of Stamps and Taxes to *Henry Archer, Esq.*

Stamps and Taxes, Somerset House,  
20 January 1848.

Sir,

HAVING laid before the Board your letter of the 17th inst., I am directed to acquaint you that they concur in the course which you have taken; but that in order to ensure the completeness of the second machine for the purpose in view, it is desirable that you shall communicate with Mr. Edwin Hill, and also that the machinist employed should distinctly understand the precise purposes to which each machine is to be applied.

Henry Archer, Esq.  
10, Shaftesbury-crescent, Eccleston-square.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

*Mr. Henry Archer to the Board of Stamps and Taxes.*

37, Great George-street, Westminster,  
26 November 1848.

Sir,

IN reference to the communication I made to the Commissioners about a year ago, respecting a plan which I had invented for detaching the postage letter stamps, I beg to inform you that I had two different machines made by different parties, to carry out the plan which I then proposed; but finding that neither of them realised my expectations, I had a new machine made upon a totally different principle, which, I am happy to say, has succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations.

I have taken out a patent to secure my invention; but as my wish is that Ireland should reap the entire advantage of it, I feel persuaded that Her Majesty's Government will not hesitate to accede to the terms which it is my intention to propose as soon as the Commissioners are satisfied that the machine I have had constructed will answer the purpose.

Thomas Keogh, Esq.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Henry Archer.*

The Secretary of Stamps and Taxes to *Henry Archer*, Esq.

Stamps and Taxes, Somerset House,  
6 December 1848.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo, I have to acquaint you that Messrs. Bacon & Petch, of Fleet-street, have been instructed to receive the machines prepared by you for separating postage labels, and to put these machines into use, so as to ascertain whether or not they will fully answer the purpose designed.

Henry Archer, Esq.  
37, Great George-street, Westminster.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

*Mr. Henry Archer to the Secretary of Stamps and Taxes.*

Sir,

37, Great George-street, 7 December 1848.

IN reply to your communication of the 6th instant, I beg to inform you that I have directed the machine prepared by me for separating postage labels to be forwarded to Messrs. Bacon & Petch, as I consider it but fair and reasonable that the Commissioners should have ample opportunity of ascertaining whether or not it will fully answer the purpose designed.

Thomas Keogh, Esq.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Henry Archer.*

Board of Inland Revenue to the Lords of the Treasury.

Inland Revenue, 21 August, 1849.

May it please your Lordships,

WE have had the honour to receive your Lordships' reference, dated 31st ultimo, of the annexed letter from Mr. Henry Archer, of 37, Great George-street, Westminster, relative to a machine which he has invented for perforating sheets of paper for the purposes of the postage label stamps.

We beg to state that in pursuance of your Lordships' directions, conveyed to us by Sir C. E. Trevelyan's letter dated 7th January 1848, we proposed to Mr. Archer that a trial should be made of his invention, on the completion of some improvements in the machine which he intended to use, which improvements he himself considered necessary for giving it complete effect. At the close of the last month the machine, as then completed, was accordingly tried; but it was  
found

found that in the state in which it then was, it could not be applied to use. The machine is now in the hands of the machine-maker employed by Mr. Archer, who is endeavouring to surmount the difficulties as to its practical application to the object in view. Mr. Archer's letter to your Lordships is therefore premature, and we are at present unable to state whether or not the invention can be made available for the desired object.

We have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Thornton.*  
*C. J. Herricks.*  
*C. Pressly.*

---

REPORT of the Board of Inland Revenue to the Lords of the Treasury.

Inland Revenue, 16 May 1850.

May it please your Lordships,

By Sir Charles Trevelyan's letter of the 7th January 1848, your Lordships approval was conveyed to us for the adoption of a plan for the division of the sheets of postage label stamps, according to a plan explained in our Report dated 18th December 1847, the invention of Mr. Henry Archer, of Shaftesbury Crescent.

Since our Report to your Lordships of the 21st August last, on a memorial from Mr. Archer on the subject of his invention, he has, after several alterations, rendered it fit for use, and it is now about to be brought into work at this department.

We have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Thornton.*  
*C. P. Rushworth.*  
*A. Montgomery.*

---

The Right Honourable *W. G. Hayter* to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

Gentlemen,

Treasury Chambers, 25 June 1850.

WITH reference to your Report of the 16th ultimo, stating that the invention of Mr. Henry Archer, for the division of the sheets of postage label stamps, is now about to be adopted by your department ;

I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request that you will state to my Lords what remuneration, if any, Mr. Archer is, in your opinion, entitled to claim on account of his invention.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *W. G. Hayter.*

---

REPORT of the Board of Inland Revenue to the Lords of the Treasury.

Inland Revenue, 27 August 1850.

May it please your Lordships,

WE have had the honour to receive Mr. Hayter's letter of the 25th June last, referring to our Report of the 16th May, stating that the invention of Mr. Henry Archer, for the division of the sheets of postage label stamps, was about to be adopted by this department, and desiring that we should report what remuneration, if any, Mr. Archer is entitled to claim on account of such invention.

We beg leave to state that we find it very difficult to form any satisfactory estimate of the amount of pecuniary reward which it may be just and reasonable to grant to Mr. Archer for this invention, as measured by any positive advantage which may arise to the revenue from its adoption. In the consideration of the subject, doubts have been suggested whether any materially useful purpose will be accomplished by the introduction of the plan ; but we must observe, that the invention was originally communicated to us by the Post Office, accompanied by a report from one of the principal officers of that department, recommending it, as one likely to conduce to various beneficial results ; and that the experienced officer of this department, to whom the superintendence of the manufacture of postage stamps is entrusted, concurred in that opinion, and thought that it would be very desirable to apply it to the label

stamps, if the machine could be brought to a degree of perfection which would render it capable of being worked with certainty and effect, which it was far from being when it was first exhibited here. Since that time Mr. Archer has devoted much pains and labour, and incurred considerable expense, in the trial of a succession of experiments for the purpose of obviating the mechanical difficulties that were found to exist, and which, if they had not been surmounted, would have left the contrivance unavailable for actual use. He has at length overcome these difficulties, so as to present the machine in complete working order.

The value of the invention may be considered in two lights: first, as it relates to the advantage of the revenue; and, secondly, as it tends to promote the convenience of the public. On the former point it is to be observed that a large proportion of the revenue of the Post Office is still received in the form of money payments, which involve much trouble and expense in the collection. Anything, therefore, that tends to increase the use of stamps is valuable as a step towards the abolition of payments in money. There can also be little doubt that there will be an additional security against forgery by reason of this contrivance, inasmuch as the accurate perforation of counterfeit sheets would be a work of great difficulty, and sheets not accurately perforated would at once excite suspicion if offered for sale.

The convenience to the public consists in the readiness with which sheets, or portions of sheets, can be folded into convenient shapes and carried about without creasing the stamps; the readiness with which the stamps can be detached without the use of cutting instruments; and their superior adhesiveness, from the jagged edges not being so liable to be detached by the curling up of the stamp as the smooth edge is found to be. These considerations are regarded as likely to lead to an increased use of the stamps, and are, therefore, not only applicable to the second point of the public convenience, but also the first, as having a tendency to decrease the charge of collection, which results from payments of postage in money.

The foregoing are the grounds on which the plan has been adopted, and the advantages which are expected to result from it.

It remains for us to state what occurs to us with regard to a reward to Mr. Archer.

In the first place, it seems to us that the reasonable outlay incurred by Mr. Archer in the construction of the machine should be repaid; and the remaining point is, what sum should be awarded to him for the invention? We are informed that a second machine of the kind, with its appendages, might be constructed for about 200*l.*; but as it is well known that a first machine, wherein everything has to be originated, is vastly more expensive than one which is a mere copy of others previously constructed, we think that in fairness at least 100*l.* ought to be added on that score.

It should be observed, that the machine is made upon a different and more expensive plan, and will be more expensive to work, than the machines first proposed; the change having been made chiefly in consequence of great practical difficulties attending the first plan, but partly also in consideration of the very superior effect producible by a machine of the present construction.

Finally, with regard to the amount which may be justly awarded for the invention itself, we confess that we have some difficulty in arriving at a very satisfactory conclusion. The perforating process was well known, and therefore this particular application of it is all in the way of invention to which Mr. Archer can lay claim. But considering that he has been about three years engaged more or less in the effort to bring the invention to perfection, we think that a sum of 300*l.*, besides the 300*l.* for the machine itself, may be a fair and moderate compensation. As, however, this is a matter which more immediately pertains to the department of the Post Office, out of the revenue of which any payment will be made, we submit that, in coming to a decision on the subject, your Lordships should have the benefit of the opinion and advice of the Post-master-general.

We have, &c.  
 (signed) *J. Thornton.*  
*C. P. Rushworth.*  
*C. Pressly.*



LETTER of *S. M. Leake*, Esq., to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

Gentlemen,

Treasury Chambers, 27 September 1850.

WITH reference to your Report of the 27th ultimo, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you that my Lords have communicated with the Postmaster-General on the subject of the remuneration to be awarded to Mr. Archer for his invention for perforating postage label stamps, and that my Lords are of opinion that a sum of 200*l.* (in addition to the purchase-money for the machine, viz. 300*l.*) will be sufficient remuneration to the inventor.

My Lords have accordingly given directions for the payment of these two sums out of the Post Office revenue.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *S. M. Leake*.

To the Commissioners of Inland Revenue,  
Somerset House.

LETTER of Sir *C. E. Trevelyan* to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

Gentlemen,

Treasury Chambers, 8 October 1850.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit herewith a letter from Mr. Henry Archer, dated 30th ultimo, complaining of the inadequate compensation paid to him for his machine for punching postage label sheets, together with its enclosure, and I am to desire that you will place yourselves in communication with the Postmaster-General on the subject of Mr. Archer's complaint.

To the Commissioners of  
Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *C. E. Trevelyan*.

The Secretary to the General Post-Office to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

Gentlemen,

General Post-Office, 29 October 1850.

WITH reference to the Treasury letter of the 8th instant, directing the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to place themselves in communication with the Postmaster-General on the subject of Mr. Archer's complaint of the inadequate compensation paid to him for his machine for punching postage label stamps, I am directed by his Lordship to inform you that he considers the amount of remuneration awarded by the Treasury for the invention of the machine, namely 200*l.*, amply sufficient.

With regard to reimbursing Mr. Archer the cost of the machine itself, in addition to the sum of 200*l.* above mentioned, assuming that an understanding existed with respect to the construction of and alterations made in the invention, his Lordship conceives Mr. Archer has a fair claim to be indemnified for the outlay he has incurred; at the same time I am desired to point out that this department has no means of arriving at any just conclusion as to the amount of these expenses.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. L. Maberly*.

The Secretary of Inland Revenue to Lieutenant-colonel *Maberly*.

Inland Revenue, Somerset House,  
5 November 1850.

Sir,

I HAVE laid before the Board your letter of the 29th ultimo, relative to the compensation to Mr. Archer for his machine for puncturing postage label stamps.

I am directed to observe that, in reporting to the Treasury what occurred to the Board on the consideration of this matter, they set down as the cost of the machine 200*l.*, the amount for which one of a similar description could be now constructed, and 100*l.* as a requital for the expense of various alterations

which were made after the first machine had been tried, and found liable to objection.

It is manifest that a new contrivance must be more expensive than a machine made after a model. The Board were informed that the actual expenses amounted to more than 300*l.*, but that their precise amount could not be stated, as Mr. Archer had paid some of the charges of the persons employed, but disputed others. Considering, however, that the expense of these alterations was in some degree attributable to the original defects of the contrivance, the Board regarded a portion of them as properly referable to the reward for the invention itself, and in suggesting the sum of 300*l.* as a suitable reward, the Board treated as an element of it some portion of that expense. As, however, the Postmaster-General considers that 200*l.* is a just amount of reward for the invention, it might be a solution of the difficulty in this case if the additional 100*l.* were allowed on the score of expenses.

The Board have reason to believe that if both the sums suggested in their Report were awarded to Mr. Archer, he would be very slightly, if at all, a gainer by the transaction.

The foregoing are all the observations which the Board have to make on this subject.

Lieutenant-colonel Maberly,  
General Post-Office.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

The Secretary to the General Post-Office to the Secretary of Inland Revenue.

Sir,

General Post-Office, 14 November 1850.

WITH reference to your letter of the 5th instant, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to acquaint you for the information of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, that his Lordship concurs in the proposition of that Board to allow Mr. Archer a further sum of 100*l.*, in addition to the amount already granted him by the Treasury, to indemnify him for the expenses he has incurred in the construction and modification of his machine for punching postage label stamps.

Thomas Keogh, Esq.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. L. Maberly.*

REPORT of the Board of Inland Revenue to the Lords of the Treasury.

Inland Revenue, 24 December 1850.

May it please your Lordships,

WE have received Sir Charles Trevelyan's letter of 8th October last, enclosing a letter from Mr. Henry Archer, complaining of the inadequate compensation awarded to him for puncturing postage label stamps, and desiring us to communicate with the Postmaster-General on the subject.

In our report to your Lordships of the 27th of August last, we recommended that Mr. Archer should be paid 300*l.* for the invention of the machine, and the like sum to reimburse him the costs of its construction. It appears that the Postmaster-General did not concur in that recommendation, considering 200*l.* sufficient for the invention, and that therefore the sum of 500*l.* was awarded by your Lordships to Mr. Archer.

We have in pursuance of the directions conveyed by Sir C. E. Trevelyan's letter, communicated with the authorities at the Post-Office on the subject, and having explained fully the grounds on which our recommendation was made, we have received a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Maberly stating that the Postmaster-General now concurs in our proposal, that the 100*l.* objected to on the score of the invention, may be added to the sum of 300*l.* awarded for the expenses; so that the whole sum payable will be 600*l.*, as originally recommended by us.

We would suggest, therefore, that directions be given by your Lordships to the Postmaster-General for payment of the 100*l.* in question, he having already received authority from your Lordships to pay 500*l.*

We

We would submit that, on payment of the sum in question, separate receipts should be taken from Mr. Archer; one for 400*l.*, as the costs and charges for the machine, and the other in 200*l.*, as a reward for the invention. This suggestion we are induced to make, because we are aware that Mr. Archer is dissatisfied with the amount awarded under each head, and we think it desirable that future discussions with him should be avoided.

We have, &c.,  
(signed) J. Thornton.  
C. P. Rushworth.  
A. Montgomery.

---

LETTER of G. C. Lewis, Esq., to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

Gentlemen, Treasury Chambers, 17 January 1851.

WITH reference to your Report of the 24th ultimo, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you that their Lordships having reconsidered the claim of Mr. Archer on account of the expenses incurred by him in his invention of a machine for perforating the postage label stamps, have been pleased to award to him a further sum of 100*l.* for the purchase of the machine; and their Lordships have accordingly authorised the Postmaster-General to pay to Mr. Archer the sum of 400*l.*, in lieu of the sum of 300*l.*, as before directed.

I am, &c.,  
(signed) G. Cornwall Lewis.

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue,  
Somerset House.

---

LETTER of Mr. Henry Archer to Thomas Keogh, Esq.

Upper Eccleston-place, Eccleston-square,  
26 March 1851.

Sir,

As the sum which has been awarded to me for the cost of the perforating machine and the purchase of my patent right is wholly inadequate to defray the mere outlay incurred by me on account of the former, I have written to the Treasury, declining to accept the offer.

I therefore now beg leave to inform you, that I am prepared, in conjunction with Mr. Branston, the eminent engraver, to enter into a contract, not only for perforating, but for engraving, printing, and gumming the postage label sheets in a manner very superior to the present, for 1*l.* 15*s.* a thousand less than what is now paid to Messrs. Bacon and Petch for engraving, printing, and gumming only; so that should the Commissioners be pleased to enter into this contract, they would not only effect a saving of 2,000*l.* a year to the Post Office, but be enabled to give the benefit of the perforating invention, free of cost, to the public; the operation to be performed at Somerset House or the Post Office, or whatever place the Commissioners may consider will afford the greatest security to the revenue.

I beg also to state that Mr. Branston and myself are prepared to offer unexceptionable security for the due performance of the contract.

Thos. Keogh, Esq.

I have, &c.,  
(signed) Henry Archer.

---

LETTER of Board of Inland Revenue to Mr. Henry Archer, in reply.

Inland Revenue, Somerset House,  
8 April 1851.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo, in which you offer, in conjunction with Mr. Branston, to print, gum, and perforate the whole of the postage label stamps upon terms which, you state, will effect a considerable saving to the Post Office, I have to observe, that it does not appear, upon the face of your letter, that you are acquainted with the terms at present paid; nor is it likely that you can be fully informed of all the particulars of the work done, or of the securities which are necessary to be taken to prevent error, fraud, &c.

If you and Mr. Branston desire to obtain full information in these respects, you may do so by application at this office; and should you and he afterwards have any proposal to make, such proposal will be duly considered by the Board.

Mr. Henry Archer,  
Upper Eccleston-place, Eccleston-square.

I am, &c.,  
(signed) *Thos. Keogh.*

---

LETTER of Mr. *Henry Archer* to *Thomas Keogh*, Esq., in reply.

Sir,

24, Upper Eccleston-place, 30 April 1851.

HAVING availed myself of the permission conveyed to me in your letter of the 8th instant, I lately called at the office of the solicitor of Inland Revenue, and obtained from him every information both in respect to the terms at present paid for engraving, printing, and gumming the postage labels, and the nature of the securities which are deemed necessary in order to prevent fraud.

I now beg to propose to undertake, in conjunction with Mr. Branston, who for many years held the appointment of engraver to the late Commissioners of Excise, to engrave, print, gum, and perforate the sheets of postage labels, and to find and prepare all the necessary printing machinery, plates, and apparatus, and also all perforating machines that may be required (except the present), for the sum of fourpence-halfpenny for every thousand stamps. I beg further to state that Mr. Branston and myself are prepared to give the usual security for the due performance of the contract, and to conform to the existing mode of keeping and using the plates, or to any other arrangement the Commissioners may be pleased to direct.

As this proposal refers to a mode of engraving and printing materially differing from the one now in use, I trust I shall be excused for making a few remarks in reference to the comparative merits of the two systems.

According to the present mode of printing the postage labels, not more than 300 sheets per hour, or 3,000 sheets per day of 10 hours, can be struck off; and as the official hours of the various public offices in Somerset House are from half-past nine to four o'clock, and the daily consumption of postage sheets about 3,000, it is obvious that little more than one half of the number required to supply the public could be printed if the operation was performed at the Stamp Office; and the former Commissioners of Stamps were therefore compelled to have the labels engraved, printed, and gummed by private parties out of Somerset House.

The present mode of engraving and printing the sheets is also very objectionable in other respects:

First. Because the impressions from the plates are unavoidably so very indistinct and confused, that they afford little or no guarantee against fraud, since an excellent resemblance of them may readily be produced by an inferior artist.

Second. Because the peculiarity of the system is such, that the space or white lines between the labels cannot be printed mathematically correct; neither can the sheets be prepared in such a way as will effectually prevent any change in their length or breadth taking place on account of shrinking; and consequently the perforating operation is not only rendered imperfect, but much more difficult and expensive.

Third. Because it is not possible by the present mode to make, at the same time that the sheets are printed, the holes that are necessary for registering the sheets in the perforating machine; they therefore have to be subsequently made in them by hand, instead of by the printing plates; so that as these holes, from neglect or otherwise, are not always made in the same place or of the same size, very considerable trouble, and frequently a loss of several sheets, occurs.

To remedy the objections above referred to (amongst many others), the proposed mode of engraving and printing the labels is respectfully submitted to the consideration of the Commissioners:—

Ist. Because by adopting it 3,000 sheets per hour can be readily printed, whereby the labels, for greater security, may be engraved and printed at  
Somerset

Somerset House, under the entire surveillance of the public officers, instead of at private premises as at present.

2nd. Because it will not only enable the impressions at all times to be printed perfectly distinctly, and the white or guide lines mathematically true, but allow the registering holes to be made in the sheets at the same time that they are printed.

3rd. Because it will enable the sheets to be prepared and printed in such a way as will effectually prevent any change taking place from the operation of shrinking.

Should the Commissioners, however, deem it advisable not to change the present mode of engraving and printing the labels, I beg to add that I am prepared to undertake to engrave and print the same according to the existing plan, and also to gum and perforate them, and to find all the necessary printing machinery and plates, with all the usual guarantees required, for the sum of 5*d.* for every 1,000 stamps; so that, even according to the latter proposal, the Commissioners would be enabled to save to the Post Office 1,500*l.* per annum.

I have, &c.,

Thomas Keogh, Esq.

(signed) *Henry Archer.*

LETTER of Board of Inland Revenue to Messrs. *Bacon & Petch.*

Inland Revenue, Somerset House,  
16 May 1851.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed to inform you, that an offer has been made to the Board to print the postage labels in the same manner as that service is now performed by you, at the rate of 5*d.* per thousand; and the Board are desirous of knowing whether, considering the great increase (from 32,000,000 to upwards of 60,000,000) which has taken place in the quantity of stamps required since the agreement was made between the Board and you, you are willing to reduce the rate per 1,000 from 6*d.* to 5*d.*

I am, &c.,

Messrs. Bacon & Petch,  
69, Fleet-street.

(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

LETTER of Mr. *Henry Archer* to *Thomas Keogh*, Esq.

Sir,

17 May 1851.

MR. Hill having lately remarked to me by way of suggestion that in order to complete the proposal I had the honour to forward to you on the 29th ultimo, it would be desirable to have it also signed by Mr. Branston, I beg to forward to you the accompanying tender of contract for engraving, printing, gumming, and perforating the postage label sheets, signed by Mr. Branston and myself.

I have, &c.,

Thomas Keogh, Esq.,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Henry Archer.*

LETTER of Messrs. *Archer* and *Branston* to *Thomas Keogh*, Esq.

Sir,

London, 16 May 1851.

WE the undersigned beg to inform you that we are willing to undertake to engrave, print, gum, and perforate the sheets of postage labels, and to find and provide all the necessary printing machines, plates, and apparatus, and likewise all the perforating machines (except the present) that hereafter may be required, for the sum of fourpence halfpenny for every thousand stamps. We beg further to state that we are prepared to give the usual security for the due performance of the contract, and to conform to the existing rules of keeping and using the plates, or to any other rules the Commissioners may be pleased to direct in respect thereto.

As Mr. Archer, in his letter of the 21st ultimo, has pointed out to you the advantages of the proposed mode of engraving and printing the postage labels, as compared with the present, we do not consider it necessary to particularize

them again in this communication. We, therefore, have only to add that in order to cause the labels to adhere more firmly to the letters, as well as to render them perfectly innocuous when applied to the mouth, we propose to gum the postage sheets with the best white gum, instead of with the glutinous mixture at present used for the purpose. We may remark that the cost of the former is considerably more than double that of the latter; still, according to the terms of our proposal, the public will have the benefit of the superior article without any additional expense.

Thomas Keogh, Esq.

We have, &c.,  
(signed) *Henry Archer.*  
*Robert E. Branston,*  
36, St. Andrew's Hill, Doctors Commons.

LETTER of Messrs. *Bacon & Petch* to the Honourable the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

Gentlemen,

69, Fleet Street, 20 May 1851.

WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of a letter dated 16th instant, stating that "an offer has been made to the Board to print the postage labels in the same manner as that service is now performed by you, at the rate of 5 *d.* per thousand; and the Board are desirous of knowing whether, considering the great increase (from 32,000,000 to upwards of 60,000,000) which has taken place in the quantity of stamps required since the agreement was made between the Board and you, you are willing to reduce the rate per 1,000 from 6 *d.* to 5 *d.*"

In reply we beg to say we have given the subject our best consideration, and although from our great experience we feel persuaded that no other house could at 5 *d.* per 1,000 successfully produce postage labels with such beauty of design, perfect identity, uniformity of colour, adhesive properties, and lastly, what we conceive to be of paramount importance, security from forgery, as those we have had the honour of furnishing for now upwards of 10 years, still feeling particularly desirous of maintaining the honourable position of supplying Her Majesty's Government, at the same time bearing in mind the increased demand, we will at once agree to lower the price as suggested to 5 *d.* per 1,000 labels. We presume that your honourable Board will permit the alteration to date from the 5th July next, and we also trust the new contract may be for the term of five years as heretofore.

To the Honourable the Commissioners  
of Inland Revenue, &c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.,  
(signed) *Perkins, Bacon, & Petch.*

LETTER of Board of Inland Revenue to Messrs. *Perkins, Bacon, & Petch.*

Gentlemen,

Inland Revenue, Somerset House,  
27 May 1851.

I HAVE laid before the Board your letter of the 20th instant.

In reply I am directed to inform you that the Board have accepted your offer to print the postage labels for the term of five years, at the rate of 5 *d.* per 1,000, it being understood that the period is to commence from the 5th of July next, and have given directions that a contract be prepared accordingly.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Petch,  
69, Fleet Street.

I am, &c.,  
(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

LETTER of Board of Inland Revenue to Mr. *Henry Archer.*

Sir,

Inland Revenue, Somerset House,  
27 May 1851.

I HAVE laid before the Board the letter of yourself and Mr. Robert Branston, of the 16th instant, offering to print and otherwise prepare the postage labels required by this department, at the rate of 4½ *d.* per 1,000, or if required to be executed in the present mode of printing, at the rate of 5 *d.* per 1,000.

In

In reply I am directed to inform you that the Board have been in communication with Messrs. Bacon and Petch, relative to the terms on which the printing of the label stamps is performed by them, and that they have consented to a reduction of those terms.

As the Board are fully satisfied with the manner in which this service has been performed by Messrs. Bacon and Petch, and with all their arrangements in connexion with it, they see no reason for putting the matter into new hands, from which measure no possible advantage would accrue to the public, and the Board must, therefore, decline your and Mr. Branston's proposal.

Mr. Henry Archer,  
36, St. Andrew's Hill, Doctors Commons.

I am, &c.,  
(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

---

Mr. *Henry Archer* to *Thomas Keogh*, Esq.

24, Upper Eccleston Place, Eccleston-square,  
30 May 1851.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant.

As the Commissioners by their communication of the 8th ultimo and otherwise, have sanctioned and encouraged me to make the tender which I lately forwarded to you, I consider that it was unfair for them to make use of it for the purpose of inducing Messrs. Bacon and Petch so to reduce their present terms as to afford an excuse for renewing their contract, and rejecting the proposal of Messrs. Branston and myself.

As, however, the new arrangement with Messrs. Bacon and Petch does not include the perforating of the postage sheets, nor the superior mode of engraving, printing, and gumming them, nor the exclusive supervision of this large pecuniary business by the public officers at the Stamp Office, as proposed by Mr. Branston and myself, I am at a loss to conceive upon what grounds the Commissioners should have been pleased to arrive at the conclusion "that no possible advantage would accrue to the public by accepting our proposal."

Although I am gratified to find that I have already been the means of saving above 1,000 *l.* a year through the reduction Messrs. Bacon and Petch have consented to make, still, on public grounds, I am compelled to inform you that it is my intention to appeal to the honour and justice of Parliament for redress with the least possible delay.

Thomas Keogh, Esq.

I am, &c.,  
(signed) *Henry Archer.*

---

The Secretary of Inland Revenue to Mr. *Henry Archer.*

Inland Revenue, Somerset House,  
5 June 1851.

Sir,

I HAVE laid before the Board your letter of the 30th ultimo, the receipt of which I am directed to acknowledge.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

Mr. Henry Archer, 24, Upper Eccleston-place,  
Eccleston-square, Pimlico.

---

AGREEMENT entered into between The Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, and Messrs. *Bacon & Petch*, for Engraving, &c., the Label Stamps.

ARTICLES of Agreement made the 5th day of May 1843, between Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch, carrying on 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 & Petch, of the one part, and the undersigned Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, for and on behalf of Her Majesty, of the other part: Whereas the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry

Petch have provided and made, under the direction of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, certain steel plates for the purpose of printing stamps, for the purpose of 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 240 stamps, the said stamps being an approved design of Her Majesty's head, reduced from Wyou's city medal, and engraven by Heath, with an engine-turned background by the said Messieurs Perkins, Bacon and Petch, which plates have been used by the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch for printing postage stamps for the use of Her Majesty, under the direction of the said Commissioners: And whereas the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch 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 Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch, for themselves and the survivor of them, do hereby contract and agree with the said Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, 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 as shall be necessary, and as the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes shall require, and will engrave or impress upon each of such plates, in such manner as the said Commissioners shall approve, 240 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 Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch, and will deliver the same stamps, in fit and proper condition for use, in such quantities and at such times as the said Commissioners shall appoint, at the head office for Stamps and Taxes, 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 Stamps and Taxes, for and on behalf of Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, do hereby agree with the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch, and undertake to pay or cause to be paid to them, or the survivor of them, for such stamps, the rate or price, rates or prices following; that is to say, sixpence halfpenny for every 1,000 stamps printed off and delivered in manner and in the condition aforesaid, after the 5th day of April last past, where the quantity of stamps delivered in any quarter of a year for which such payment is made, ending on any of the days next hereinafter mentioned, shall not amount to 30,000,000, and sixpence farthing for every 1,000 of such stamps where such quantity shall amount to 30,000,000 and not to 32,000,000, and sixpence for every 1,000 of such stamps when such quantity shall amount to 32,000,000 or upwards; such payments to be made quarterly, that is to say, on the fifth day of July, the tenth day of October, the fifth day of January, and the fifth day of April, 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 Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch, or the survivor of them; 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 Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch, or the survivor of them, such rooms and offices to be approved of by the said Commissioners, and which shall be appropriated and used exclusively for the purposes aforesaid; and that all the engravings, dies, rollers, and plates already made and hereafter to be made or at any time in the

process



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 Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch, 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, rollers, 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 Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch, or the survivor of them, 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 person and persons authorised 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 rollers, and in printing the said stamps, and preparing the same for use; and the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch do hereby undertake and agree that they, or the survivor of them, shall and will, whenever they or he shall be 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 rollers, 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 so long as the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes for the time being shall require the delivery of any such stamps, or until the same shall be determined by the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch, or the survivor of them, upon six months' notice thereof in writing to be given by them or him to the said Commissioners. In witness whereof the said parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed, and delivered by the within named Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch, in the presence of	}	<i>Joshua B. Bacon.</i> <i>Henry Petch.</i>
<i>J. Chubb, Stamps and Taxes.</i>		
Signed, sealed, and delivered by Henry Lewis Wickham and John Thornton, Esquires, two of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, in the presence of	}	<i>Henry L. Wickham.</i> <i>John Thornton.</i>
<i>Hugh Tilsley.</i>		

The Agreement to take effect from 5th July 1851, will be the same as the foregoing one, except in the alteration of terms, from 6 *d.* to 5 *d.* per thousand.

RETURN (so far as it can be given by this Department) furnishing Copy of CORRESPONDENCE, &c. between the Postmaster-General and the Treasury, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and Mr. *Archer*, in the Years 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850 and 1851, in reference to the Utility, Efficiency, Construction or Cost of the MACHINE for PERFORATING POSTAGE STAMPS furnished by Mr. *Archer*, the Patentee, or in respect to the Amount of Compensation that should be awarded to him.

General Post Office, }  
21 July 1851. }

W. L. MABERLY,  
Secretary.

COPY of LETTER from Mr. *Archer* to the Postmaster-General.

18, Shaftesbury-crescent, Eccleston-square,  
1 October 1847.

My Lord,

As it is well known that your Lordship is ever ready to promote by every means in your power whatever may tend even to increase those manifest facilities which are at present afforded to the community by the public department over which your Lordship presides, I am induced to offer for your Lordship's consideration the following remarks in reference to an invention, which I presume to submit, will, if carried out, prove a very great convenience, particularly to those whose business entails upon them an extensive correspondence.

The Post Office stamps having to be detached either by cutting or tearing them from each other, great inconvenience is felt both by the public and postmasters, particularly during the last hour or so for posting letters for the General Post; for instance, a postmaster after disposing of, say a shilling's worth of stamps, is frequently called upon by the purchaser to cut them off one by one for the purpose of attaching them to the letters intended to be posted in his office, or if too late there, at the General Post Office or one of the branches, as extra-stamped letters, so that at the period of the day that the press of official business demands their exclusive attention, postmasters, to their great annoyance, are continually importuned by persons requiring their stamps to be cut; indeed it not unfrequently happens that the hour for closing the letter-box arrives before many of those who are waiting for their turn can be served. To provide therefore a remedy for the inconvenience thus experienced, I have contrived an inexpensive plan whereby the stamps may be instantly detached from the sheet without the operation of cutting, perfect too in every respect, or in other words, in no way mutilated or disfigured like most of the stamps that are now torn from each other. The contrivance will also enable purchasers to fold a sheet of stamps, or any less quantity, with unerring regularity, and in one-tenth of the time that is at present consumed in the operation, in a manner moreover that renders them peculiarly convenient both for the pocket and use, whereas to fold one of the present sheets into a portable form requires considerable care and patience; indeed the proposed plan affords such facility for folding any quantity of stamps in the most convenient form, it is not improbable that retailers, for the sake of their own interest and convenience, will be induced to supply them to the public ready folded.

I also beg to submit that another advantage of the proposed plan is, that it will render stamps after they shall have been attached to the letters less liable to be removed by hand or otherwise.

The facilities likewise which in many points of view the plan affords are, I submit, so very obvious, it is reasonable to calculate that the present objectionable practice of paying the postage would by its adoption in a great measure be done away with. In conclusion, I respectfully take leave to state that in submitting my plan to the consideration of your Lordship, I feel so well persuaded that the moment it is adopted it will receive the unqualified approbation of the public,

public, that I am willing my claims for remuneration should be contingent on its complete success.

To the Right Honourable  
the Marquis of Clanricarde.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Henry Archer.*

---

*Charles Johnson, Esq., to H. Archer, Esq.*

Sir,

General Post Office, 13 October 1847.

I AM directed by the Postmaster-general to inform you, in reply to your letter of the 1st instant, that the practical officers of this department are unable without seeing the invention to which you allude to form any opinion as to its utility.

H. Archer, Esq.,  
10, Shaftesbury-crescent,  
Eccleston-square.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *Charles Johnson,*  
for the Secretary.

---

*J. Ramsey, Esq. to C. Pressly, Esq.*

Sir,

General Post Office, 22 October 1847.

I AM directed by the Postmaster-general to transmit to you, for the information of the Commissioners of Stamps, copy of a Report of the "Inland" and "London District Post" Offices on the subject of an invention for separating postage stamps, which has been submitted to this department by Mr. Archer of No. 10, Shaftesbury-crescent.

C. Pressly, Esq.  
&c. &c. &c.  
Office of Stamps and Taxes.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *J. Ramsey,*  
for the Secretary.

---

COPY of REPORT from Presidents of Inland and London District Post  
Offices enclosed in foregoing.

Inland Office, 14 October 1847.

THE machine appears to be a very clever and useful invention.

We are thoroughly convinced that postage stamps separated by it, having jagged edges, will adhere to letters far better than those cut from the sheet by knives or scissors.

We submit it is most desirable that the invention be recommended to the notice of the Commissioners of Stamps.

Lieut.-Col. Maberly,  
&c. &c.

(signed) *W. Bokenham.*  
*R. Smith.*

---

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE referring Report of Commissioners of Inland  
Revenue to the Postmaster-General.

REFER this Report to the Postmaster-general for his opinion as to the amount of compensation due to Mr. Archer for his invention.

30 August 1850.

(signed) *G. Cornwall Lewis.*

---

COPY of REPORT from Commissioners of Inland Revenue to Lords of the  
Treasury enclosed in foregoing.

Inland Revenue, Somerset House,  
27 August 1850.

May it please your Lordships,  
WE have had the honour to receive Mr. Hayter's letter of the 25th June last, referring to our Report of the 16th May, stating that the invention of Mr. Henry Archer for the division of the sheets of postage label stamps was about to be adopted

adopted by this department, and desiring we should report what remuneration, if any, Mr. Archer is entitled to claim on account of such invention. We beg leave to state that we find it very difficult to form any satisfactory estimate of the amount of pecuniary reward which it may be just and reasonable to grant to Mr. Archer for this invention as measured by any positive advantage which may arise to the revenue from its adoption. In the consideration of the subject doubts have been suggested whether any materially useful purpose will be accomplished by the introduction of the plan. But we must observe that the invention was originally communicated to us by the Post Office, accompanied by a Report from one of the principal officers of that department, recommending it as one likely to conduce to various beneficial results, and that the experienced officer of this department to whom the superintendence of the manufacture of postage stamps is entrusted concurred in that opinion, and thought that it would be very desirable to apply it to the label stamps, if the machine could be brought to a degree of perfection which would render it capable of being worked with certainty and effect, which it was far from being when it was first exhibited here; since that time Mr. Archer has devoted much pains and labour, and incurred considerable expense in the trial of a succession of experiments for the purpose of obviating the mechanical difficulties that were found to exist, and which if they had not been surmounted would have left the contrivance unavailable for actual use. He has at length overcome these difficulties so as to present the machine in complete working order.

The value of the invention may be considered in two lights: first, as it relates to the advantage of the revenue, and secondly, as it tends to promote the convenience of the public. On the former point it is to be observed, that a large proportion of the revenue of the Post Office is still received in the form of money payments, which involve much trouble and expense in the collection. Anything, therefore, that tends to increase the use of stamps is valuable as a step towards the abolition of payments in money. There can also be little doubt that there will be an additional security against forgery by reason of this contrivance, inasmuch as the accurate perforation of counterfeit sheets would be a work of great difficulty, and sheets not accurately perforated would at once excite suspicion if offered for sale. The convenience to the public consists in the readiness with which sheets, or portions of sheets, can be folded into convenient shapes, and carried about without creasing the stamps; the readiness with which the stamps can be detached without the use of cutting instruments, and their superior adhesiveness, from the jagged edges not being so liable to be detached by the curling up of the stamp as the smooth edge is found to be. These considerations are regarded as likely to lead to an increased use of the stamps, and are therefore not only applicable to the second point, of the public convenience, but also the first, as having a tendency to decrease the charge of collection which results from payment of postage in money. The foregoing are the grounds on which the plan has been adopted, and the advantages which are expected to result from it.

It remains with us to state what occurs to us with regard to a reward to Mr. Archer.

In the first place, it seems to us that the reasonable outlay incurred by Mr. Archer in the construction of the machine should be repaid, and the remaining point is, what sum should be awarded to him for the invention. We are informed that a second machine of the kind, with its appendages, might be constructed for about 200 *l.*; but as it is well known that a first machine, wherein everything has to be originated, is vastly more expensive than one which is a mere copy of others previously constructed, we think that, in fairness, at least 100 *l.* ought to be added on that score.

It should be observed, that the machine is made upon a different and more expensive plan, and will be more expensive to work than the machine first proposed, the change having been made chiefly in consequence of great practical difficulties attending the first plan, but partly also in consideration of the very superior effect producible by a machine of the present construction.

Finally, with regard to the amount which may be justly awarded for the invention itself, we confess we have some difficulty in arriving at a very satisfactory conclusion. The perforating was well known, and therefore this particular application of it is all in the way of invention to which Mr. Archer can lay claim; but considering that he has been about three years engaged,  
more

more or less, in the effort to bring the invention to perfection, we think that a sum of 300*l.*, besides the 300*l.* for the machine itself, may be a fair and moderate compensation. As, however, this is a matter which more immediately pertains to the department of the Post Office, out of the revenue of which any payment will be paid, we submit that, in coming to a decision on the subject, your Lordships should have the benefit of the opinion and advice of the Postmaster-general.

We have, &c.

(signed) *John Thornton.*  
*C. P. Rushworth.*  
*Chas. Pressly.*

The Lords Commissioners of  
Her Majesty's Treasury.

---

The Postmaster-General to the Lords of the Treasury.

My Lords,

19 September 1850.

I HAVE the honour to return the enclosed Report from the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, which was referred to me by Mr. Cornwall Lewis on the 30th ultimo; and I beg leave to state, that assuming the advantages anticipated will be realised by the adoption of Mr. Archer's invention for the division of postage stamps, I am of opinion that a sum of 200*l.*, in addition to the purchase money of the machine (300*l.*), will be a sufficient remuneration to the inventor.

I have, &c.

The Lords Commissioners of  
Her Majesty's Treasury.

(signed) *Clanricarde.*

---

Mr. Archer to the Postmaster-General.

24, Eccleston-place, Eccleston-square,  
12 September 1850.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state, that the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes having reported to the Lords of the Treasury that the machine which, by their directions, I had made for punching the postage label sheets had fully answered the object for which it was designed, their Lordships were pleased, in the month of May last, to call upon them to ascertain the cost thereof, and also to report what they considered would be a fair remuneration to allow for my patent right, &c. The Commissioners, however, conceiving that it was not within their province to decide upon a question that more properly belonged to the Post Office, the Lords of the Treasury have been pleased, I understand, to refer the whole question to your Lordship. I therefore deem it right to acquaint you, that in the month of May last I handed a copy of the accompanying Memorial to the Secretaries of the Treasury, on the understanding that it was not to be acted upon until I was in a position to supply the specimen sheets therein referred to. The engraver, however, whom I had employed to prepare the plates, being at the period engaged on other work of importance, was unable to supply the specimen sheets until after the Lords of the Treasury had referred back the matter to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes; but as I find that the question is still open to inquiry, I have been induced, upon public grounds, to forward to your Lordship the accompanying Memorial, and also proofs of the specimen sheets referred to therein.

With respect to the question of compensation, I believe, my Lord, it will be found that it is not unusual for the Government in such cases to appoint one person, and the party claiming another; but having lately received a letter from the Hon. Lloyd Mostyn, in which he remarks, "Would it not be better for you to ask the Commissioners of Stamps to let the question of compensation for your invention be decided by Sir Charles Pasley or Sir Frederick Smith," I feel bound to state that in case your Lordship should consider the course suggested by Mr. Mostyn the most advisable one under the circumstances to adopt, I should have no objection to refer the matter to either of the gentlemen

suggested by him, or to any professional person qualified, as they are, to appreciate the mechanical merits of the machine, and the utility of the invention in a public point of view.

To the Right Honourable  
The Marquis of Clanricarde.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Henry Archer.*

COPY of MEMORIAL enclosed in the foregoing.

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

The Memorial of the Patentee of a Machine for punching the Sheets of Postage Labels, so as to effect the instant separation of such Labels, without the employment of any cutting Instrument,

Sheweth,

THAT for the reasons hereinafter particularly mentioned and set forth, your memorialist, as the result of much consideration, labour, and expense, invented a machine for the purpose already stated, and having ultimately succeeded in perfecting the same, your memorialist obtained, and is now the sole owner of a patent for the use thereof.

That amongst other public and private reasons operating against the great utility and general use of the postage label system, your memorialist states, that the labels having to be separated either by cutting or tearing, great trouble and loss of time is thereby occasioned to those whose business entails upon them an extensive correspondence, as also to the postmasters of the principal receiving-houses, particularly during the last hour for posting letters intended to be dispatched by the evening mail, and during periods when an additional stamp is required to be placed on them, inasmuch as the postmaster on disposing of a shilling's worth of stamps, for instance, is frequently called upon by the purchaser to dissever them singly for the purpose of attaching them to letters intended to be posted at his office, or, if too late there, at the General Post Office or one of the principal branches, as extra-stamped letters; and thus at the period of the day when the press of official business demands the postmasters' exclusive attention, they are (to their great inconvenience and annoyance) importuned by persons requiring stamps to be dissevered, and it happens not unfrequently that the hour for closing the letter-box arrives before the public can be served.

That the above disadvantages are enhanced by the facts, that both care and time are required to fold one of the present sheets into a portable form, and that before one quarter of the sheet is folded, the crease, instead of following the direction of the guide lines, is found to have advanced considerably beyond them, whereby the folding, instead of facilitating the dissevering operation, increases the difficulty.

That these creases, and the curls, which are produced on the stamps by keeping them in a loose or rolled state, contribute materially to prevent their adherence to the letters; that by tearing the stamps from each other, the gum is removed from the edges, where its presence is most necessary to secure their perfect adherence; and it is probable that most of the numerous stamps which are daily found loose in the post bags, fall off from the letters in consequence of this objectionable mode of detaching the stamps.

That another objection to the present system is, that books, desks, and tables are usually used by clerks as a base for cutting the stamps, to the injury of the article whereon the cutting process is effected.

That it appears by returns made to Parliament, that nearly one-half of the letters which pass through the Post Office of the United Kingdom, instead of being paid by the labels affixed thereon, are prepaid in money by the writers; whereby very considerable additional trouble and loss of time is entailed on the servants and other persons connected with the Post Office, and great additional expense is also incurred throughout the establishment.

That your memorialist believing the cause of the public preferring to prepay in money rather than by label to be attributable chiefly to the inconvenience and objections pointed out by him, did, with a view to providing a remedy for such

such and other similar inconveniences and objections, invent in the early part of 1847 a machine for perforating the sheets along the guide lines, so as to allow the stamps to be instantly dissevered, without the operation of cutting, as well as to secure the folding of a sheet, or any less quantity of stamps, with unerring regularity, and with a saving of 90 per cent. of time; at the same time preserve them in a position (flat) best suited to insure their instant and permanent adherence to the letters.

That as such method of perforating the sheets necessarily produces scolloped or indented edges upon the stamps, they are rendered less liable to be removed by friction or otherwise after they have been attached to the letters.

That your memorialist conceiving if the proposed plan were carried out, it would prove a great public convenience, was induced to address, on the 1st October 1847, a letter to the Postmaster-general on the subject, who was pleased to refer the matter to the practical department of the Post Office, with the view of ascertaining the efficacy of the machine for the required work, and also of ascertaining whether or not it would be desirable to adopt the proposed plan.

That the chief officer of such department having duly inquired into the several matters referred to him, reported to the Postmaster-general that the machine was in his opinion competent to perform the required work; and that the plan, if carried out, would prove advantageous to the public.

That on the receipt of this Report, the Postmaster-general was pleased to forward it to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, with a recommendation to adopt the system, if they should be of opinion it was desirable to do so.

That in consequence of this communication from the noble Marquis, the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes immediately referred the matter to their supervisor, Mr. Hill, with a view of ascertaining the efficacy of the machine, the costs\*of working, &c.

That after Mr. Hill had instituted the necessary inquiries, he reported (in effect) to the Commissioners that the machine in his opinion was competent to perform the necessary work, and that on public grounds it was desirable to adopt the plan.

That in consequence of this Report, your memorialist received a letter from the Secretary of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes requesting that he would have two machines made for perforating the sheets in the way proposed by him.

That your memorialist accordingly employed an eminent mechanical engineer to construct the same, according to the plan submitted to the said Commissioners.

That when the first machine was constructed, it was found upon trial that the piercing rollers so wore the table upon which the sheets were laid, that it was considered that the wear and tear would be too costly for carrying out the plan with advantage to the public, and your memorialist was therefore compelled to abandon the plan of perforating the sheets by rollers. Your memorialist, however, being convinced that it was possible to construct a machine to answer the object designed, freed from such objection, had another perforating machine constructed by other parties, upon the fly-press principle, but finding that the bed of this machine would likewise suffer from the perforating tools, though in a far less degree than the table of the first machine, your memorialist invented another machine for punching the sheets, whereby the aforesaid objection to the carrying out of his plan was entirely removed.

Your memorialist, however, not deeming it prudent to incur any further expense without securing his invention, was induced to take out a patent to effect that object, and that immediately after he had done so, he, instead of making two single machines, had with a view of saving expense in the working, a double punching machine constructed to accomplish the desired object, and which upon trial, in the presence of Mr. Hill, was found to answer in every particular.

That subsequently to this successful preliminary trial, that is to say, on the 6th day of December 1848, your memorialist was directed by the said Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes to forward the machine invented by him to the establishment of their printers in Fleet-street, to ascertain whether they could work it for the purpose designed.

That your memorialist complied with such order, though with the full expectation, that as such printers were in the exclusive enjoyment of a most valuable

contract, which your petitioner's invention might possibly altogether destroy, such invention would certainly derive no assistance at their hands, but would, on the contrary, be liable to every description of objection, real or imagined. That your memorialist entertained such fears, not from any supposition that the said printers were other than honourable, fair-dealing tradesmen, but on the general principles of human nature as applied to matters of commerce, that it was not in the nature of things to be expected that persons who are liable to be seriously injured by a given process could feel an interest in its welfare.

That, in order fully to place before your Lordships the facts of this part of the case, your memorialist states that the said printers were, and are, employed by the Government to print the postage label sheets, as such printers were the patentees of a system of engraving supposed to offer greater security against fraud than any other mode; and that upon such assumption it was originally deemed desirable to enter into a contract with them, although the price paid to them is (as will be found on inquiry) about three-fifths more than would cost for printing the sheets in the ordinary way.

That the said Commissioners, perceiving that the co-operation of the said printers during the construction of the machine was essential to its success, directed them (when they ordered the same to be made) to confer with the machinist employed by your memorialist whenever it became necessary to consult them. Notwithstanding, however, such directions, and that, moreover, they were well aware from various other circumstances that the Commissioners, the Secretary, and Mr. Hill, were on public grounds most anxious to see the plan adopted, they thought proper to exhibit on various occasions their dislike and hostility to it in so marked a manner, that the person engaged by your memorialist to construct the machine was ultimately compelled to cease communicating with them.

That under these circumstances your memorialist and the party who constructed the machine had their misgivings increased when, by the direction of the said Commissioners, it was forwarded to their printers to be put in use by them; and your memorialist, therefore, was not at all surprised to find that, upon the first day of trial at the establishment of the said printers, the machine was found not to act, in consequence of the punching tools and the matrixes having become clogged and choked with gum.

That in consequence of this mishap, Mr. Hill, with a view of ascertaining whether the process of gumming the paper was or was not unfavourable to the operation of punching, requested Mr. De La Rue, a gentleman who has had great experience in such work, to give him his opinion on the subject.

That Mr. De La Rue reported to Mr. Hill that, so far from gum impeding, he found from experience that, if properly applied, it considerably facilitates the operation of punching, inasmuch as it gave a solidity and brittleness to the paper, which was highly desirable; and he was of opinion that the machine would never have clogged if the gum upon the sheets had not been moist when they were introduced into it.

That your memorialist was therefore obliged to remove the machine from the said printers' in order to have it put in order by those who understood its peculiar construction, as well as to make some alterations and improvements suggested by Mr. Hill and Mr. De La Rue.

Your memorialist also begs to state that the guide lines of the sheets printed by the said printers were found to be so very irregular and variable in breadth that it was impossible to punch the sheets in the proper direction, and Mr. Hill therefore directed them to prepare new plates, in order to print the guide lines so mathematically true as to remove effectually the objections referred to. It was also arranged that the said printers were to furnish your memorialist with one of the new sheets as soon as the new plates were made, so as to ascertain whether the machine conformed exactly therewith.

That accordingly your memorialist was furnished by the said printers with a model sheet, as soon as they had completed the first set of new plates.

That this sheet your memorialist handed to the party who was engaged to put the machine in order.

That when the machine was completed, it was found that it did not conform to this model sheet, and the machinist, assuming that the fault was owing to some defect in the machine, took it asunder again, and, at a great expense to your memorialist, altered it to suit the sheet so furnished by the said printers.

That



That the machinist having subsequently obtained one of the sheets for which the machine was originally constructed, discovered, for the first time, that the new model sheet differed so very materially from it, that it was at once evident to him, that, if the former had not been made different in size from the latter, the expense and delay of reconstructing the machine would have been avoided.

That immediately upon this discovery, the machinist waited upon the said printers, and, having pointed out to them the difference between the two sheets, was, for the first time, informed by them that, subsequent to their furnishing to your memorialist the new model-sheet for his guidance, they discovered that the plate from which it was printed was incorrect; yet the said printers, instead of instantly apprising your memorialist, or the machinist employed by him, of this fatal defect, suffered them to remain in ignorance on the subject for nearly four months.

That your memorialist is induced to believe that the omission on their part was not accidental; from the fact, that when his machinist, at this interview, remonstrated with them upon their conduct, they hesitated not to tell him that it was no business of theirs to trouble themselves about a matter that was not likely to be of any benefit to them.

That on leaving the establishment of the said printers, they delivered to him for his future guidance a sheet which they said had been printed from one of the new plates that was found to be more correct than the plate from which the former sheet had been taken. Your memorialist was, therefore, obliged to have the machine again altered, to suit exactly the dimensions of this sheet.

That as soon as the required alteration was made, your memorialist informed the authorities at the Stamp Office that the machine was ready for working; in consequence of which, a preliminary trial was made in the presence of Mr. Hill, at the establishment of Mr. Addenbrooke, the machinist who constructed it.

It appeared, however, on this occasion, that the sheets which were printed from Plate A were different in size to those printed from Plate C, and so on; but whether the difference was attributable to the shrinking of the sheets, or to a defect in the plates, or to both, could not be ascertained: under these circumstances, Mr. Hill came to the conclusion, that unless an adjusting power could be attached to the machine to extend or contract its movement, to suit the various sizes of the sheets, he did not think it would answer the object designed.

That your memorialist is free to admit that Mr. Hill, under these circumstances, came to a very proper conclusion; yet as the said printers, on the occasion of their measuring several of these sheets, at the instance of Mr. Hill and your memorialist, shortly before the machine had been commenced, stated, that as all the sheets were found to shrink alike, there would be no difference in size, your memorialist submits that he has just grounds for complaining that he had not been correctly informed on the subject in the first instance; because if he had been then aware that the sheets did not shrink alike, or that the new plates would not have been made so as to secure a conformity in the size of the sheets, he might have had an adjusting power attached to the machine for one-half of what it has cost him. At one time it was considered impossible to combine the two powers, without making an entire new machine; however, after various contrivances and failures, a plan was at length discovered which enabled the machine to be instantly adjusted with unerring precision, from a hair's breadth to six inches or more.

That your memorialist having communicated the fact to Mr. Hill, he, with a view of testing the efficiency of the adjusting power, had several sizes of the sheets passed through the machine in his presence, and found that it uniformly punched them correct; he gave directions to your memorialist to forward the machine to the printers, to put in use with a view of ascertaining more fully whether it would answer the desired object.

That for the reasons already set forth, your memorialist considered that if he allowed the machine to be again returned to the said printers, for the purpose of ascertaining its competency for the required work, it was sure to be again worked in a manner but ill-calculated to produce a favourable result, and he therefore explained to Mr. Hill his reasons for objecting to allow the machine to be worked by the said printers.

That Mr. Hill, admitting the reasonableness of your memorialist's objections, proposed, with his usual straight-forwardness, to accompany him and the

machinist (who was cognizant of the facts referred to) to Mr. Keogh, the secretary of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, with a view of ascertaining whether, under the circumstances, he would permit the machine to be tried at Somerset House, instead of at the establishment of the said printers.

That Mr. Keogh, conceiving that it was due, both to the public and your memorialist, to secure that the machine should have a fair trial, frankly stated that he would bring the matter before the Commissioners the first opportunity, with a view of obtaining their consent to have the machine worked at Somerset House, under Mr. Hill's superintendence.

That a few days after this interview, Mr. Hill, having received the Commissioners' permission, requested your memorialist to forward the machine for use to Somerset House.

That, in compliance with such request, your memorialist, on the 9th day of January last, sent it to the Stamping Department in that establishment.

That on the first day of trial it so happened that numbers of the sheets which were passed through the machine were punched somewhat beyond the guidelines.

That the machinist who constructed the machine, feeling confident that the defect was attributable, not to the machine but to the plates, asked Mr. Hill to allow him to measure the latter at the printers'.

That Mr. Hill having given him permission to do so, he attended the next day at the office of the said printers, and measured the several plates from which the sheets referred to were printed.

That although the plates now used by them were made, or professed to have been made, to suit the punching machine, more than one-half of them were found to be palpably defective; and it further appeared that the greater portion of the sheets furnished by the printers, on the first day of trial, were printed from the defective plates. It was therefore manifest that the irregularities observed in the sheets which were punched on the first day of trial were not attributable to any defect in the machine; and this will appear the more obvious, when your Lordships are informed that when the sheets which, by Mr. Hill's directions, had subsequently been printed from the perfect plates were passed through the machine; no objection of any kind was observable. At the same time, it is right to add, that even these were not printed as mathematically correct as they ought to have been. Without reference, however, to this objection, it was found, after several days' trial, that the spoil occasioned by the machine amounted to one sheet in 100.

That, with a view of effectually removing the cause which produced this trifling amount of waste, an important alteration in the machine was suggested by Mr. Hill; and as your memorialist was desirous to make it, if possible, more complete, he consented that the proposed alteration should be made, although it entailed upon him an additional expense of 50*l*.

That the machine, with this alteration, having been recently used for several days at the Stamp Office, has been found to answer in every respect; and your memorialist understands that the Commissioners have since been pleased to report to your Lordships in favour of its adoption.

That your memorialist is advised, and believes, that the assumption on which the contract for printing the said sheets of postage labels was and is confided to the said printers, will be found, on investigation, to have no good foundation.

That your memorialist is advised, and believes, that the system of printing patented by the said printers does not afford that security against fraud which it is supposed that it would have done. In proof of which, your memorialist begs to state, that he has been assured by eminent engravers that they would undertake, with the permission of the Government, to produce in a few days a plate that would print off any quantity of sheets, so exactly similar to those printed by the said printers, that no person would be able to distinguish the genuine from the counterfeit.

But be the danger what it may, be the necessity of adopting the most inimitable system of engraving more apparent than it is, your memorialist humbly submits, that by entrusting private parties to engrave, print, gum, and complete one million's worth of stamps annually in their premises in Fleet-street, where, too, is carried on extensive printing for other parties, a far greater risk is manifestly created than that which the label system could possibly be exposed to by printing the sheets in the ordinary way in the Stamping Department at Somerset House,

House, where, for greater security, stamped envelopes, the tenpenny and shilling labels, for foreign and other letters, and all other stamps, are executed.

Finally, your memorialist submits that independent of the said printers' system of engraving, ample security would be afforded by the adoption of his plan :

I. Because his punching machine is not only most expensive, ponderous, and difficult to make, but of such a nature as to prevent its being either made or worked in secret.

II. Because the art of paper punching being only known to a few, it is probable that not even so many as six persons could be found in this country competent to construct the necessary machine, whereas an engraving may at the expense of a few shillings be imitated in secret by numerous persons.

Your memorialist therefore submits that by the adoption of his plan, not only would the postage-label system be placed on a securer footing, and the convenience of the public greatly promoted, but the Government would annually save many thousands to the public.

That your memorialist believes the public interest would be best promoted by referring the whole question to an impartial and competent tribunal.

Your memorialist therefore humbly prays, that either a Select Committee of the House of Commons, or a Commission, be appointed to inquire and report,—

Whether by adopting the plan of your memorialist a considerable annual saving may not be effected, particularly by substituting not only a less expensive but a more preferable mode of printing the postage labels, than that patented by the said printers.

Whether by adopting the latter mode the plates may not be engraved so mathematically correct as to ensure that there shall be no difference either in the breadth of the guide lines or the size of the prints, whereby the punching system may be brought to greater perfection, and carried out at a considerable less expense.

Whether instead of using a poisonous and filthy gummy mixture, it would not be more advisable to use the same quantity of gum (pure white) as is used for gumming the French postage label sheets, and which your memorialist has had applied to the punched specimen sheet forwarded herewith, for the purpose of satisfying your Lordships that the alleged difficulty of printing the guide lines mathematically correct may be readily overcome.

Whether instead of entrusting to private parties the engraving, printing, gumming and completing of nearly One million's worth of postage label sheets annually in private premises, it would not be more prudent, economical, and safe to engrave, print, gum and complete them in the proper department at Somerset House, where, for greater security, all other stamps are executed.

Whether on the grounds both of economy and good management, it would not be advisable to print and issue the postage labels at the General Post Office, instead of at Somerset House ; so that the necessity of having two chief distributing departments for issuing the postage stamps throughout the country, may be done away with, and all those serious inconveniences and difficulties removed, which, on inquiry, will be found are continually experienced by both departments, in consequence of the Stamp-office having to conduct in part the work and business which it is conceived ought to be entirely performed by that department more immediately interested in bringing to perfection the postage-label system, at the least cost to the public.

Finally, to determine what would be a fair remuneration to allow your memorialist for his patent right, &c.

24, Upper Eccleston-place, Eccleston-square,  
May 1850.

*Charles Johnson, Esq., to Henry Archer, Esq.*

Sir, General Post Office, 24 Sept. 1850.  
 IN reply to your letter of the 12th instant, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you that the question of compensation for your invention rests entirely with the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

I am, &c.,  
 (signed) *Chas. Johnson*, for the Secretary.

Henry Archer, Esq., 24, Eccleston-place,  
 Eccleston-square.

---

*S. M. Leake, Esq., to the Postmaster-General.*

18,790 }  
 18,878 } 24/9.

My Lord, Treasury Chambers, 27 September 1850.  
 WITH reference to your Lordship's Report of the 19th instant, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to convey to you the authority of this Board for the payment to Mr. Henry Archer, out of the Post Office revenue, of the sum of three hundred pounds (300*l.*) for the machine for perforating postage label stamps, and a further sum of two hundred pounds (200*l.*) for his invention of the same.

To the Right Honourable the I am, &c.,  
 (signed) *S. M. Leake*.  
 G. B.  
 Postmaster-General.

---

*Sir C. E. Trevelyan to the Postmaster-General.*

19,471—4/10.

My Lord, Treasury Chambers, 8 October 1850.  
 THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had before them a letter from Mr. Henry Archer, complaining of the inadequate compensation paid to him for his machine for punching postage label stamps; and my Lords have directed me to inform your Lordship that they have caused the letter in question to be transmitted to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and have instructed that Board to place themselves in communication with your Lordship on the subject of Mr. Archer's complaint.

The Right Honourable I have, &c.,  
 (signed) *C. E. Trevelyan*.  
 the Postmaster-General.

---

*Henry Archer, Esq., to J. Tilley, Esq.*

24, Upper Eccleston-place, Eccleston-square,  
 15 October 1850.

Sir,  
 IN consequence of a letter which I addressed to the Lords of the Treasury on the 30th ultimo, their Lordships have been pleased to refer back my case to the Postmaster-General and the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, for reconsideration. I therefore beg to forward herewith, for his Lordship's information, a copy of the letter above referred to.

To J. J. Tilley, Esq., I have, &c.,  
 (signed) *Henry Archer*.  
 Assistant Secretary, General Post Office.

---

COPY of Enclosure in foregoing.

24, Upper Eccleston-place, Eccleston-square,  
30 September 1850.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, on the subject of my patented invention for punching the postage label sheets, in which you inform me that the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury had been pleased to direct the Postmaster-General to pay me the sum of 300*l.* for the machine, and the further sum of 200*l.* for the invention.

I beg leave to say in reply, that since I first received the written directions of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes to make this machine, I have been detained in London nearly three years, bestowing my time and attention to its construction and improvement; and besides the expense of taking out letters patent, I have made payments and incurred liabilities of machinists and mechanics to the amount of 900*l.*, the greater portion of which expenditure was occasioned by the impediments thrown in my way by the present contractors for printing the postage stamps, as set forth in the memorial which I handed to the Secretary of the Treasury on the 15th of May 1850. I feel therefore the compensation offered to me to be so entirely inadequate, that I am induced to believe the decision of their Lordships has proceeded on some erroneous ground; and therefore am induced to hope that they will be pleased to reconsider the same.

I am willing to accept the amount the machine has actually cost me, and to leave the question of compensation for the invention to reference, in the manner suggested in my letter to the Secretary of the Treasury of the 19th instant.

I beg leave at the same time to state that since it is of importance the printing and punching should be performed by the same party and in the same place, I am prepared, in conjunction with the eminent engraver Mr. Branston, to contract not only for punching, but for engraving, printing and gumming the postage label sheets in a manner very superior to the present, at a price that will enable the Government to save 2,000*l.* a year to the country; the operation to be performed either at Somerset House or at the Post Office, instead of at private premises as at present.

In order to test the comparative advantages of my improved over the present stamps, I would further propose that the old and new stamps should be issued to the public in equal proportions for a given time, in order to bring the relative merits to the test of experiment and public opinion.

In case the latter should not be preferred by the public, I will not require any remuneration.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Henry Archer.*

*P.S.*—In order that their Lordships may be able to judge of the magnitude and peculiar arrangement of the machine, I beg to forward herewith a drawing of it.

---

The following is a Copy of the Letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, above referred to.

Sir,

19 September 1850.

MAY I request you will be pleased to let me know when I may expect payment for the machine for perforating the postage label sheets, which I furnished in January last to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes.

I have been detained in town several months in daily expectation of a settlement, and as further delay would subject me to serious inconvenience, injury, and annoyance, I am induced, very much against my inclination, to draw your attention to the matter.

With respect to the question of compensation, I believe it will be found that it is not unusual for the Government in such cases to appoint one person as referee, and the party claiming another; but having lately received a letter from the Hon. Lloyd Mostyn, M.P., in which he remarks, "Would it not be

better for you to let the question of compensation for your invention be decided by Sir Charles Pasley or Sir Frederick Smith?" I feel bound to state that, in case the Treasury shall consider the course suggested by Mr. Mostyn the most advisable one under the circumstances to adopt, I should have no objection to refer the matter to either of the gentlemen suggested by him, or to any professional person, qualified as they are to appreciate the mechanical merits of the machine, and the utility of the invention in a public point of view.

To Cornwall Lewis, Esq., M.P.,  
&c. &c.

I have, &c.,  
(signed) *Henry Archer.*

---

*Thomas Keogh, Esq., to Lieutenant-Colonel Maberly.*

R. 6,408/50. Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London,  
Sir, 15 October 1850.

THE Commissioners of this Revenue have received a letter from the Treasury, desiring that they will place themselves in communication with the Postmaster-General, in reference to a representation made to their Lordships by Mr. Archer of the inadequacy of the sum awarded to him for his invention for punching sheets of postage label stamps; and I am directed to state that the Board are prepared to communicate with his Lordship in any mode he may prefer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maberly,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,  
(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

---

*Lieutenant-Colonel Maberly to Thomas Keogh, Esq.*

Sir, General Post Office, 17 October 1850.

WITH reference to your letter of the 15th instant, I beg leave to acquaint you that Mr. Parkhurst, of this office, has been directed to communicate with you on the subject of the remuneration awarded by the Treasury to Mr. Archer for his invention for punching sheets of postage label stamps.

T. Keogh, Esq.,  
Office of Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. L. Maberly.*

---

*Thomas Keogh, Esq., to Rodie Parkhurst, Esq.*

Inland Revenue, Somerset House,  
17 October 1850.

Dear Sir,

I SEND you the papers in Mr. Archer's affair, from which Colonel Maberly will be enabled to see how the business originated, and has advanced to its present position.

R. Parkhurst, Esq.

Yours, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

---

*Lieutenant-Colonel Maberly to Commissioners of Inland Revenue.*

Gentlemen, General Post Office, 29 October 1850.

WITH reference to the Treasury Letter of the 8th instant, directing the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to place themselves in communication with the Postmaster-General on the subject of Mr. Archer's complaint of the inadequate compensation paid to him for his machine for punching postage letter stamps, I am directed by his Lordship to inform you, that he considers the amount of remuneration awarded by the Treasury for the invention of the machine, namely 200 *l.*, amply sufficient.

With regard to reimbursing Mr. Archer the cost of the machine itself, in addition to the sum of 200 *l.* above mentioned, assuming that an understanding existed

existed with respect to the construction of, and alterations made in, the invention, his Lordship conceives Mr. Archer has a fair claim to be indemnified for the outlay he has incurred; at the same time, I am desired to point out that this department has no means of arriving at any just conclusion as to the amount of these expenses.

To the Commissioners of Inland Revenue,  
Somerset House.

I have, &c.,  
(signed) *W. L. Maberly.*

---

*Thomas Keogh, Esq., to Lieutenant-Colonel Maberly.*

7039/50.

Inland Revenue, Somerset House,  
5 November 1850.

Sir,

I HAVE laid before the Board your letter of the 29th ultimo, relative to the compensation to Mr. Archer for his machine for punching postage label stamps.

I am directed to observe that, in reporting to the Treasury what occurred to the Board on the consideration of this matter, they set down as the cost of the machine 200 *l.*, the amount for which one of a similar description could be now constructed, and 100 *l.* as a requital for the expense of various alterations which were made after the first machine had been tried and found liable to objections. It is manifest that a new contrivance must be more expensive than a machine made after a model. The Board were informed that the actual expenses amounted to more than 300 *l.*; but that their precise amount could not be stated, as Mr. Archer had paid some of the charges of the persons employed, but disputed others. Considering, however, that the expense of these alterations was in some degree attributable to the original defects of the contrivance, the Board regarded a portion of them as properly referable to the reward for the invention itself; and in suggesting the sum of 300 *l.* as a suitable reward, the Board treated as an element of it some portion of that expense. As, however, the Postmaster-General considers that 200 *l.* is a just amount of reward for the invention, it might be a solution of the difficulty in this case if the additional 100 *l.* were allowed on the score of expenses.

The Board have reason to believe, that if both the sums suggested in their report were awarded to Mr. Archer, he would be very slightly, if at all, a gainer by the transaction.

The foregoing are all the observations which the Board have to make on this subject.

Lieut.-Col. Maberly.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas Keogh.*

---

*Lieutenant-Colonel Maberly to Thomas Keogh, Esq.*

Sir,

General Post-Office, 14 November 1850.

WITH reference to your letter of the 5th instant, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, that his Lordship concurs in the proposition of that Board to allow Mr. Archer a further sum of 100 *l.*, in addition to the amount already granted him by the Treasury, to indemnify him for the expenses he has incurred in the construction and modification of his machine for punching postage label stamps.

Thomas Keogh, Esq.  
Office of Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. L. Maberly.*

---

The Postmaster-General to the Lords of the Treasury.

My Lords,

General Post Office, 18 November 1850.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordships that, in accordance with the directions contained in Sir C. Trevelyan's letter of the 8th ultimo, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue have been in communication with me on the subject

of Mr. Archer's representation of the inadequate compensation paid to him for his machine for punching postage label stamps, and to state that I concur in the proposition which they have now made in the matter, and which I presume will be submitted to your Lordships by that Board.

To the Lords Commissioners of  
Her Majesty's Treasury.

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

*G. Cornwall Lewis, Esq. to the Postmaster-General.*

My Lord,

Treasury Chambers, 17 January 1851.

WITH reference to the letter from this Board of 27th September last, directing your Lordship to pay to Mr. Henry Archer the sum of 300*l.* for the purchase of the machine invented by him for perforating the postage label stamps, together with a further sum of 200*l.* as a remuneration to him for his invention, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state that, their Lordships having reconsidered the claim of Mr. Archer, on account of the expenses incurred by him in this invention, have been pleased to award to him a further sum of 100*l.* for the purchase of the machine, and my Lords accordingly authorized your Lordship to pay to him the sum of 400*l.*, in lieu of the sum of 300*l.* as before directed.

My Lords desire that in making these payments, separate receipts should be taken from Mr. Archer; one for 400*l.* as the costs and charges for the machine, and the other for 200*l.* as a reward for the invention.

The Right Honourable the Postmaster-General,  
&c. &c.

(signed)

I have, &c.  
*G. Cornwall Lewis.*

G. B.

*J. Tilley, Esq., to Henry Archer, Esq.*

Sir,

General Post Office, 13 January 1851.

I AM directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you, that the Lords of the Treasury have now authorised him to pay you the sum of 400*l.* for the purchase of your machine for perforating postage label stamps; and a further sum of 200*l.* as a remuneration for the invention.

H. Archer, Esq.  
24, Eccleston-place, Eccleston-square.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Tilley,*  
Assistant Secretary.

*J. Tilley, Esq., to Henry Archer, Esq.*

Sir,

General Post Office, 3 May 1851.

NOR having received any reply to my letter of the 31st January last, informing you that the Lords of the Treasury had authorised the Postmaster-General to pay you the sum of 400*l.* for the purchase of your machine for perforating postage label stamps; and a further sum of 200*l.* as a remuneration for the invention: I have to request you will inform me whether you accept these sums, in order that the necessary receipts may be forwarded to you for your signature.

H. Archer, Esq.  
24, Eccleston-place, Eccleston-square.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Tilley,*  
Assistant Secretary.