

POST OFFICE.

6 OF 1881.⁽¹⁾

FOR THE BETTER REGULATION OF THE DUTIES ON POSTAGE AND FOR
THE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE POST OFFICE.

ROBERT BIDDULPH.]

[June 27, 1881.

INTERPRETATION.

Definitions.

1. In this Law:—

- “Inland” when used in relation to any postal packet or any description thereof means posted within the Island and addressed to some place in the Island;
- “Postal packet” means a letter, post-card, newspaper, book-packet, pattern or sample packet, circular, legal and commercial document, packet of photographs, and every packet or article which is not for the time being prohibited from being sent by the post;
- “Mail” means and includes any one of the bags, boxes, or packages whereof any mail consists;
- “Fictitious stamp” means any facsimile or imitation or representation, whether on paper or otherwise, of any stamp for denoting any rate of postage in Cyprus or the United Kingdom or of any of Her Majesty’s possessions or of any foreign country;
- “Post Office” means any house, building, room, or place where postal packets as defined by this Law, or any of them, are under the authority of the Island Postmaster, received, delivered, sorted, or made up, or from which such packets or any of them are by the authority of the Island Postmaster despatched, and includes any Post Office letter-box;
- “Post Office letter-box” includes any pillar-box, wall-box, or other box or receptacle provided under the authority of the Island Postmaster for the purpose of receiving postal packets, or any of them, for transmission by or under the authority of the Island Postmaster.

ESTABLISHMENT.

Appointment
of Officers.

2. The High Commissioner may appoint an Island Postmaster and so many other postmasters and inferior officers as shall be necessary for the purposes of this Law.

⁽¹⁾ Ss. 5-12 were formerly ss. 6-13, and ss. 13-47 were formerly ss. 15-49.

3. The High Commissioner may from time to time appoint one General Post Office and so many branch post offices throughout the Island as he may deem expedient, and may from time to time abolish any of such offices and appoint others in lieu thereof, as he may deem necessary.

High Commissioner may establish Post Offices.

EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGE OF POST OFFICE.

4.—(1.) The Island Postmaster shall by himself or by his deputies and their servants and agents have the exclusive privilege of conveying from one place to another in this Island, wheresoever posts now are or hereafter may be established, all letters, except as hereinafter provided; and shall also within this Island have the exclusive privilege of performing all the incidental services of receiving, collecting and delivering all letters, except as hereinafter provided.

Exclusive privilege.

(2.) There shall be excepted from the exclusive privilege of the Island Postmaster all letters of the following descriptions, that is to say:—

Exceptions.

- (a.) Letters sent by a private friend on his way, journey or travel, so as they are delivered by him to the person to whom they are directed;
- (b.) Letters sent by a messenger on purpose concerning the private affairs of the sender or receiver thereof;
- (c.) Commissions or returns thereof and affidavits or writs, process or proceedings or returns thereof, issuing out of a Court of Justice;
- (d.) Letters of merchants, owners of vessels of merchandise or the cargo or loading therein, sent by such vessels and delivered to the persons to whom they are directed, so that no hire or reward is given or received for the same in anywise;
- (e.) Letters concerning goods sent by common known carriers or muleteers to be delivered with the goods which the letters concern without hire or reward or other profit or advantage for receiving or delivering the letters.

(3.) But nothing herein contained shall authorize any person to make a collection of such excepted letters for the purpose of sending them in the manner hereby authorized; and the following persons are expressly forbidden to carry a letter, or to receive or

Special prohibitions.

collect or deliver a letter, although they shall not receive hire or reward for the same:—

- (a.) Common known carriers and muleteers and their servants or agents, except a letter concerning goods in their carts or wagons, or on their pack-horses, camels, mules, or asses; and owners, drivers, or guards of public conveyances;
- (b.) Owners, masters or commanders of ships, vessels or steamboats, sailing or passing coastwise or otherwise between ports or places within the Island, their servants or agents, except in respect of letters of merchants, owners of ships or goods on board;
- (c.) Passengers or other persons on board any such ships, vessels or steamboats.

POSTAL CONTRACTS, RATES, ETC.

Power to
Postmaster
to make
contracts, etc.

5. The Island Postmaster in his own name with the approval of the High Commissioner may enter into any contract in writing for the conveyance of mails within or from the Island, and may also employ mail carriers for the conveyance of mails, or forward mails by any other mode of conveyance that he may deem best, and may appoint letter carriers for the delivery of letters at private houses in any town or village of the Island.

Power to
High Com-
missioner to
fix rates of
postage.

6.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of any treaty or convention with any State binding on the Government of the Island the High Commissioner may by Order in Council from time to time fix the rates of postage or other sums to be charged by or under the Island Postmaster in respect of postal packets or any description thereof conveyed or delivered for conveyance by Post, whether in the Island or elsewhere, and regulate the scale of weights and the circumstances according to which such rates or sums are to be charged.

Proviso as to
rates for
soldiers and
seamen.

(2.) Provided that for every letter not weighing more than half an ounce sent by any non-commissioned officer or private soldier, seaman or marine in Her Majesty's Service to any place beyond the seas there shall be chargeable for its conveyance and delivery a postage of thirty paras and no more; but on every letter so sent there must be written in the handwriting of and signed by the Commanding Officer of the regiment, detachment or ship to which such non-commissioned officer, soldier, seaman or marine belongs,

the words "soldier's letter," "seaman's letter," or "marine's letter," as the case may be, or words to that effect, and every such letter must be prepaid.

7. Where any treaty or convention binding on the Government of the Island has been or hereafter shall be made with any State with respect to the conveyance by Post of any postal packet the High Commissioner may from time to time make such regulations as may be deemed necessary for carrying into effect such arrangement, and as to charges for the transit of postal packets, single or in bulk, and the scale of weights to be adopted, and the accounting for and paying over to any such State of any moneys received by the Island Postmaster.

As to postal arrangements with foreign countries.

8. The High Commissioner may, on the representation of the Island Postmaster, from time to time make regulations with respect to the registration of and giving receipts for any postal packet, and may also by Order in Council from time to time fix the sum to be paid in addition to any other rate of postage for the registration of or giving a receipt for such packet. Provided that the registration of or giving a receipt for a postal packet shall not render the Island Postmaster or the Post Office Revenue in any manner liable for the loss of any such packet or the contents thereof.

Registry of and receipts for postal packets.

9. The High Commissioner may from time to time direct what sums shall be paid to the masters or owners of ships and vessels, not being ships or vessels employed in the conveyance of mails under any contract with Her Majesty's Government or the Government of the Island, in respect of postal packets and every description thereof, whether brought to the Island from ports beyond seas or to be carried from the Island to such ports.

Power to fix sums to be paid for ship letters.

10. All postal packets shall be posted, forwarded, conveyed and delivered subject to such regulations, conditions, prohibitions and restrictions respecting the time and mode of posting and delivery and of the payment of rates of postage and other sums chargeable under this Law, or any Order in Council under this Law, and respecting stamps, covers, forms, dimensions, maximum weight, enclosures, the use of packets (other than letters) for making communications, and otherwise as the High Commissioner may, on the representation of the Island Postmaster, from time to time direct.

Regulations as to postal packets.

11. Every Order in Council to be made under the authority of this Law, shall forthwith be published in the *Cyprus Gazette*; and

Publication of Order in Council.

shall specify a date on and from which the provisions thereof shall take effect, and shall have the like authority as though the provisions thereof had been incorporated in this Law.

Master of vessel to deliver mail and letters.

12. Every mail or loose letter not exempted from the privilege of the Island Postmaster which shall be on board of any vessel arriving at any port within the Island, shall without delay be delivered by the master thereof, or by his accredited agent or deputy, to the postmaster of the port or any person authorized by him to receive it, who is hereby required to give a receipt for it; and the master of the vessel shall not be allowed to enter at the Custom House until he has produced the receipt.

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

Decision in case of use of soiled stamps.

13. Whenever any stamp affixed or appearing on any postal-packet for the purpose of defraying the rate of postage chargeable thereon, is so soiled or worn as to render it doubtful whether it has been before used, the decision thereon of the postmaster at whose office the letter is posted as to whether such soiled or worn stamp is to be accepted shall be final and conclusive between him and the person posting.

Decision as to nature of postal-packet.

14. If any question arises whether any postal-packet is a letter, postcard, newspaper, supplement, book-packet, circular or other description of postal-packet within the meaning of this Law or any order or regulation made under this Law the decision thereon of the Island Postmaster shall be final, save that the High Commissioner may, if he thinks fit, on the application of any person interested, review or modify the decision and order accordingly.

Letters arriving with fictitious or used stamps.

15.—(1.) When any letter or postal-packet is sent from abroad to Cyprus, which bears a fictitious stamp, or purports to be prepaid by means of a stamp which has been used before, the Island Postmaster, with the authority of the High Commissioner, but not otherwise, may open it, in the presence of the addressee, for the purpose of discovering the name and address of the sender, and may either retain it or return or give it up to the sender, or deal or dispose of it in such other manner as may be authorized by the High Commissioner.

Letters posted in Cyprus with fictitious or used stamps.

(2.) Where any letter or postal-package posted in Cyprus, bears a fictitious stamp, or purports to be prepaid by means of a stamp which has been used before, the Island Postmaster may forward

it to the post office of destination together with a special report with reference thereto.

16. The Island Postmaster may open all letters posted in the Island which remain unclaimed or undelivered for a period of three months, or which have been returned to the Island from any other country as unclaimed, for the purpose of returning them to the writers; and in the event of the writer of any such letter being unknown or dead, or of his signature being illegible or of his having left the Island or not claiming the letter within twelve months, such letters may be destroyed.

Unclaimed and returned letters.

Provided always that if any letter addressed to a foreign country where pre-payment is necessary is posted insufficiently stamped the Island Postmaster may open it and return it to the sender.

17. The postage on every letter not prepaid which shall be returned as unclaimed from any other country, or which shall be refused as addressed to a person who is dead or cannot be found or has left the Island, shall be paid by the writer or sender thereof; and all such letters may be opened by the Island Postmaster at any time for the purpose of ascertaining who the writer or sender is.

Unpaid letters returned to the Island or unclaimed.

18. Newspapers liable to postage rates which are unpaid or insufficiently prepaid, and all newspapers or other postal packets, not being letters or post-cards, which from any cause whatever shall remain unclaimed or undelivered for a period of twelve months may be sold and the proceeds thereof shall be accounted for to the Island Treasury.

Unclaimed newspapers and books.

19.—(1) Any parcel sent by parcel post from abroad to Cyprus may be opened and examined by an Officer of Customs, who shall assess the amount of Customs duties to be charged thereon.

Parcels to be examined and if falsely declared to be forfeited.

Parcels found to contain articles forbidden by the Post Office regulations to be sent by post, and parcels the contents of which have been falsely declared by the sender, shall be liable to forfeiture with all their contents.

(2.) In case of a parcel sent by parcel post from abroad to Cyprus containing goods the duties on which are charged at *ad valorem* rates, the proper officer of Customs may, if he has reason to believe that the declared value is insufficient, assess the value for customs duties at such amount as he shall think proper. In such a case, the importer shall, within ten days of notice of such assessment

Assessment of value for customs duties. Option to importer. 4, 1922, 2.

being delivered to him or posted to him at his address, inform the proper officer of Customs in writing whether he desires:—

- (a.) That the customs duties shall be paid by him on the value assessed by the Officer of Customs, or
- (b.) That the Officer of Customs may, at his discretion,
 - (1.) Take the goods on paying to the importer or his agent the amount of the value declared by him or the sender, as the case may be, with an addition of five per cent., such payment to be made within fifteen days following the date of such information given by the importer in writing, or, alternatively,
 - (2.) Take the duties in kind.

If option not exercised, parcel treated as undeliverable.

If the importer fails to notify the Officer of Customs within ten days from the date of the notice of assessment being given to him or posted to him at his address as aforesaid whether he wishes to avail himself of either of the above-mentioned options (a) or (b), the parcel shall be treated as undeliverable.

Postal packets containing forbidden or dutiable articles how dealt with.

20. In case the Island Postmaster shall have reason to believe that any postal packet coming from abroad contains any article the importation of which is forbidden or restricted or the conveyance of which by post is forbidden, or which is subject to the payment of any duties of Customs on importation, he may order it to be retained at the post office of the chief town of the district wherein the place to which it is addressed is situate, and cause notice to be given to the person to whom it is addressed, calling upon him to declare to the best of his knowledge, information and belief the contents of it to the postmaster of the said post office, or to attend by himself or his duly authorized agent at the said post office that it may be opened in his presence. If within ten days from the sending of such notice the person to whom the packet is addressed does not attend at the said post office for the opening of the packet and makes no such declaration as aforesaid, or if the declaration made by him is not considered satisfactory by the postmaster of the said post office, such postmaster may open the packet in the presence of an Officer of Customs. If the person to whom it is addressed attends at the post office in pursuance of the notice, the postmaster may open it in the presence of such person and of an Officer of Customs.

If the packet is found to contain any article the importation or conveyance by post of which is forbidden or restricted, it shall be liable to forfeiture; and if it is found to contain any article liable

on importation to any duties of Customs, the duties payable thereon shall be assessed by the proper Officer of Customs, and the article shall be retained in the post office until the duties are paid.

21. The sender of any parcel for conveyance by post from Cyprus shall before posting it fill up a Customs declaration, giving an accurate statement of its contents and value, and of the address of the person to whom it is to be sent.

Declaration as to contents of parcel.

If the Island Postmaster has reason to suspect that any such declaration as to the contents or value of any such parcel is false, he may open the parcel; and if it is found that the declaration in respect of it is false, it shall be forfeited with its contents.

22. If any parcel is found to contain any letter or other postal packet intended for delivery to a person other than the addressee of the parcel, such letter or postal packet may be sent forward by post to the person to whom it is addressed, and charged with postage at the unpaid rate applicable to such letter or postal packet if duly posted from the place where the parcel was posted.

Parcels containing letters, etc.

23. If any parcel or other postal packet becomes offensive or injurious to any officer of the post office or other person or to other parcels, it may be destroyed or otherwise dealt with as the Island Postmaster may direct.

Parcels, etc. becoming offensive or injurious.

OFFENCES.

24.—(1.) (a.) Whoever shall convey otherwise than by the Post a letter not exempted from the exclusive privilege of the Island Postmaster shall for every letter be liable to a penalty not exceeding one pound;

Contravening the privilege of Post Office.

(b.) Whoever shall be in the practice of so conveying letters, not so exempted, shall for every week during which the practice is continued be liable to a penalty of ten pounds;

(c.) Whoever shall perform otherwise than by the Post any services incidental to conveying letters from place to place, whether by receiving or by taking up or collecting or by ordering or despatching or by carrying or by re-carrying or by delivering a letter not exempted from the exclusive privilege of the Island Postmaster, shall be liable for every letter to a penalty not exceeding one pound;

(d.) Whoever shall be in the practice of so performing any such incidental services shall for every week during which the practice is continued be liable to a penalty of ten pounds;

(*e.*) Whoever shall send a letter not exempted from the exclusive privilege of the Island Postmaster otherwise than by the Post, or shall cause a letter not so exempted to be sent or conveyed otherwise than by the Post, or shall either tender or deliver a letter not so exempted in order to be sent otherwise than by the Post, shall be liable for every letter to a penalty not exceeding one pound;

(*f.*) Whoever shall be in the practice of committing any of the acts last mentioned shall for every week during which the practice is continued be liable to a penalty of ten pounds;

(*g.*) Whoever shall make a collection of exempted letters for the purpose of conveying or sending them otherwise than by the Post, or by the Post, shall be liable for every letter to a penalty not exceeding one pound;

(*h.*) Whoever shall be in the practice of making a collection of exempted letters for either of those purposes shall be liable for every week during which the practice is continued to a penalty of ten pounds.

(2.) The above penalties shall be incurred whether the letter is sent singly or with anything else, or such incidental service is performed in respect of a letter either sent or to be sent, singly or together with some other letter or thing; and in any prosecution for the recovery of any such penalty, the onus shall lie upon the party prosecuted to prove that the act in respect of which the penalty is alleged to have been incurred was done in conformity with this Law.

Ship master,
etc., not
delivering
letters.

25. Every person, being either the master of a vessel inward-bound, or one of the officers, or one of the crew or a passenger thereof, who shall knowingly have any letter in his possession not exempted from the privilege of the Island Postmaster, after the master shall have sent any part of his ship's letters to the Post Office, shall be liable for every letter to a penalty not exceeding five pounds; and whether the letter be in the baggage or on the person of the offender, or otherwise in his custody, it shall be held to be in his possession; and every such person who shall detain any such letter after demand made, either by the Officer of the Customs or by a person authorized by the Island Postmaster to demand ships' letters, shall be liable for every letter to a penalty of not less than five pounds nor more than ten pounds.

Fraudulently
removing or
using old
stamps.

26. Whoever shall fraudulently get off or remove or cause to be gotten off or removed from any letter, cover, paper, or other substance or material, any postage stamp already used, or shall fraudulently use, join, fix, or place with or upon any letter or

cover or any paper or other substance any postage stamp which has been already used, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds.

27.—(1) Whoever shall knowingly enclose or cause or procure to be enclosed in any newspaper to be sent by the Post or under cover thereof any letter or paper or thing (except such newspaper); or

Enclosing letters, etc., in newspapers.

(2.) Shall put or cause to be put any printed or written mark, words, or communication either upon the newspaper or upon the cover thereof other than the name and address of the person to whom it is sent and such other printed or written matter as shall be allowed to be put on such newspaper or cover by the regulations of the Post Office; or

(3.) Shall knowingly either send or cause to be sent by the Post a newspaper in which any letter or paper or thing (except as aforesaid) is enclosed;

shall for every such offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds; and such newspaper together with such of its enclosures as are not prohibited to be forwarded by the Post shall be forwarded as an ordinary unpaid letter, and all prohibited enclosures shall be forfeited.

28. Whoever shall fraudulently retain, or wilfully keep or secrete, or retain, or, being required to deliver up by an officer of the Post Office, shall neglect or refuse to deliver up a postal packet which has been delivered to him by mistake and ought to have been delivered to any other person, or a mail or postal packet which has been sent, whether it has been found by him, or by any other person, shall be liable to be punished by fine or imprisonment or both at the discretion of the Court, the imprisonment not to exceed two years.

Not giving up letters, etc. delivered by mistake.

29. Whoever shall post or cause to be posted, or send or cause to be sent, or tender or deliver in order to be sent by the Post any postal packet containing any explosive or other dangerous material or substance, shall be liable for every such offence to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds, and any such postal-packet may be destroyed.

Sending by post explosive or dangerous substances.

30. Any person employed to convey or deliver any mail or postal packet, who, whilst so employed or whilst it is in his custody, care, or possession,

Negligence or carelessness of Post Office employees.

(a.) Shall leave it; or

(b.) Shall suffer any person, not being the guard or person employed for that purpose, to ride in the place appointed

for the guard in or upon any carriage used for the conveyance of a mail or postal packet, or to ride in or upon a carriage so used and not intended for the carriage of passengers, or upon any animal used for the conveyance of a mail or postal packet; or

- (c.) Shall be guilty of any act of drunkenness or of carelessness, negligence, or other misconduct whereby the safety of a mail or postal packet is endangered; or
- (d.) Shall collect or receive or convey or deliver a postal packet, otherwise than in the ordinary course of the Post; or
- (e.) Shall give any false information of an assault or attempt at robbery upon him; or
- (f.) Shall loiter on the road or passage, or wilfully misspend his time so as to retard or delay the progress or arrival of a mail or postal packet; or
- (g.) Shall not use due and proper care and diligence, safely to convey a mail or postal packet at the rate of speed appointed by and according to the regulations of the Post Office for the time being,

shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

Post Office employees opening or delaying letters, etc.

31. Every person employed by or under the Post Office, who shall contrary to his duty open or procure or suffer to be opened a post letter, or shall wilfully detain or delay or procure or suffer to be detained or delayed a post letter, shall be liable to such punishment by fine or imprisonment or both as to the Court shall seem meet, the imprisonment not to exceed in any case two years. Provided always that nothing herein contained shall extend to the opening or detaining or delaying of a post letter in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Law, or of any other Law for the time being in force for the management of the postal business of the Island; nor to the opening or detaining or delaying of a post letter in obedience to an express warrant in writing under the hand and seal of the High Commissioner.

Penalty on persons endeavouring to procure commission of offence.

32. Every person who shall solicit or endeavour to procure any other person to commit an offence punishable under the preceding sections of this Law shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years.

Limitation of suits.

33. All penalties incurred by any person for offences against the preceding sections of this Law shall be sued for within the space of one year next after the penalty shall be incurred.

34. The Island Postmaster may compromise and compound any action or proceeding which shall at any time hereafter be commenced by his authority or under his control against any person for recovering penalties incurred under the preceding sections of this Law, on such terms and conditions as he shall in his absolute discretion think proper, with full power for him, or any of his officers or agents by him thereunto authorized to accept the penalties so incurred or alleged to have been incurred or any part thereof without action or other proceeding brought or commenced for recovery thereof.

Island Postmaster may compound actions.

35. Any portion not exceeding one-half, as the High Commissioner may in any case direct, of any penalty recovered under the preceding sections of this Law, may by the order of the High Commissioner be paid to any person by whose information the same shall have been recovered.

Reward to informer.

36. Any person who shall place or attempt to place in or against any Post Office letter-box any fire, light, matches, explosive or dangerous substance, or any filth, any noxious or deleterious substance, or any fluid, or do or attempt to do anything likely to injure the box or its appurtenances or contents, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding twelve months.

Placing injurious substances in or against boxes.

37. No person shall send or attempt to send a postal packet which either:—

Sending dangerous substance, indecent prints, etc.

- (a.) Encloses any explosive or dangerous substance, any filth, any noxious or deleterious substance, any sharp instrument not properly protected, any living creature which is either noxious or likely to injure other postal packets in course of conveyance or any officer of the Post Office, or
- (b.) Encloses any article or thing whatever which is likely to injure either other postal packets in the course of conveyance or any officer of the Post Office; or
- (c.) Encloses any indecent or obscene picture or any indecent or obscene article whatsoever; or
- (d.) Has on such packet or on the cover thereof any words, marks, or designs of an indecent, obscene, or grossly offensive character.

Any person who acts in contravention of sub-section (a.) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five pounds, or on conviction on information to a fine not exceeding ten

pounds or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding twelve months. Any person who acts in contravention of sub-sections (b.), (c.) and (d.) shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Any packet sent in contravention of this section may be detained in the Post Office, and the detention shall not exempt the sender from any proceedings which might have been taken if it had been delivered in due course of post.

Affixing
placards, etc.
on post offices
or letter box.

38. Any person who shall without due authority affix or attempt to affix any placard, advertisement, notice, list, document, board, or thing upon any post office or post letter-box, or paint, tar, or in any way disfigure any such office or box, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.

Imitation of
Post Office
envelopes, etc.

39. Any person who shall without due authority:—

(a.) Make, issue, or send by post or otherwise any envelope, wrapper, card, form, or paper in imitation of one issued by or under the authority of any postal authority in Cyprus or any British or foreign postal authority, or having thereon any words, letters, or marks which signify or imply or may reasonably lead the recipient to believe that a post letter bearing the same is sent on Her Majesty's Service; or

(b.) Make on any envelope, wrapper, card, form, or paper for the purpose of being issued or sent by post or otherwise, or otherwise used, any mark in imitation of or similar to or purporting to be any stamp or mark of any postal authority in Cyprus or of any British or foreign postal authority, or any words, letters, or marks which signify or imply or may reasonably lead the recipient thereof to believe that a post letter bearing the same is sent on Her Majesty's Service; or

(c.) Issue or send by post or otherwise any envelope, wrapper, card, form, or paper so marked,

shall be liable to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.

Fictitious
stamps.

40. Any person who shall with intent to defraud—

(a.) Make, knowingly utter, deal in, or sell any fictitious stamp; or

(b.) Make, or, unless he shows a lawful excuse, have in his possession any die, plate, instrument, or materials for making any fictitious stamp,

shall be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three years, or to hard labour for any period not exceeding ten years.

*special
See new sec. 40
in Law 11 of 1928*

Any person who acts in contravention of this section without intent to defraud shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds. In every case the burden of proof of absence of intent to defraud shall be upon the accused person.

Any stamp, die, plate, instrument, or materials found in the possession of any person in contravention of this section may be seized and shall be forfeited.

41. Any person who shall:—

(a.) Knowingly use for any postal purpose any fictitious stamp; or

(b.) Have in his possession, unless he shows a lawful excuse, any fictitious stamp,

shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Fictitious stamps, etc.

*repeated
see new sec. 119
in Law 119
1928*

42. No person shall without due authority place or maintain on any house, wall, door, window, box, post pillar, or other place belonging to him or under his control any of the words, letters, or marks following, that is to say:—

(a.) The words "Post Office"; or

(b.) The words "letter box" accompanied with words, letters, or marks which signify or imply or may reasonably lead the public to believe that it is a Post Office letter-box; or

(c.) Any words, letters, or marks which signify or imply or may reasonably lead the public to believe that any house or place is a Post Office, or that any box is a Post Office letter-box.

False notices with regard to reception of letters.

Any person when required by a notice given by the Island Postmaster to remove or efface any such words, letters, or marks as aforesaid, or to remove or effectively close up any letter-box, belonging to him or under his control which has been a Post Office letter-box, shall comply with the request.

Any person who acts in contravention of this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding forty shillings, and, if the offence is continued after a previous conviction, to a fine not exceeding five shillings for every day during which the offence so continues.

43. Any person who shall knowingly make a false declaration with respect to the contents or value of any parcel sent by him for conveyance by post from Cyprus shall be liable on summary conviction for the first offence to a fine not exceeding twenty shillings and for a second or any subsequent offence to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Penalty for false declaration.

Obstruction
of officers of
Post Office.

44. Any person who wilfully obstructs, or incites any one to obstruct, an officer of the Post Office in the execution of his duty, or who whilst in any post office obstructs the course of business of the Post Office shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Island Post-
master to sue
and be sued.
by that
title, etc.

45. In respect of any matters arising under this Law or under any contract entered into by him under the authority of this Law the Island Postmaster may sue and be sued by that title, and in all indictments and other proceedings the property in any postal packet, money, or other thing under the charge of the Post Office Department shall be laid as vested in the Island Postmaster.

Posting up
provisions.

46. A copy of sections 15, 19 to 23, and 36 to 44 of this Law shall be posted in a conspicuous place in every post office in Cyprus.

Short title.

47. This Law may be cited as the Post Office Law, 1881.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION.

12 OF 1920.

FOR THE BETTER PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION.

MALCOLM STEVENSON.]

[May 4, 1920.

Short title.

1. This Law may be cited as the Prevention of Corruption Law, 1920.

Definitions.

2. In this Law:—

“Public body” includes local and public authorities of all descriptions.

“Consideration” includes valuable consideration of any kind.

“Agent” includes any person employed by or acting for another and any person serving under the Crown or under any public body.

“Principal” includes an employer.

Punishment
of corrupt
transactions
with agents.

3. If any agent corruptly accepts or obtains, or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain, from any person, for himself or for any other person, any gift or consideration as an inducement or reward for doing or forbearing to do, or for having after the passing of this Law done or forborne to do, any act in relation to his principal's