

Reichs-Postamt zu seinem Bedauern vorerst nicht in der Lage, dem Vorschlage des General Post Office zuzustimmen; es glaubt vielmehr ergebenst anheimstellen zu sollen, die Angelegenheit, deren Bedeutung für die Entwicklung des Weltpostvereins nicht verkannt wird, dem nächsten Postkongresse zu unterbreiten.

Bezüglich des weiteren Vorschlags, wenigstens die aus Neu-Seeland abgesendeten, mit einem Penny für je 15 g. frankirten Briefe den Empfängern in Deutschland ohne Nachtaxe zuzustellen, beehrt sich das Reichs-Postamt zu bemerken, dass es nicht angängig erscheint, für die eine und für die andere Richtung verschiedenartige Portosätze anzunehmen, weil ein solches Verfahren nach diesseitiger Auffassung einem der Grundprinzipien des Weltpostvereins, demjenigen der Reciprocität, zuwiderlaufen würde und eine Ausnahme von diesem Princip im Weltpostvertrag nur bezüglich der Zuschlagtaxen (Art. 5, 2) zugelassen ist.

General Post Office, Wellington.

F. WAERKE.

[TRANSLATION.]

THE Imperial Post Office has been greatly interested in the desire of the General Post Office to introduce penny letter postage (10 centimes per 15 grammes) in exchanges between New Zealand and all other countries. It recognises in the proposal a pleasing proof that the postal conditions of Australasia, which, even in 1891, only with difficulty permitted of the Australian Colonies joining the Universal Postal Union, have experienced under the influence of the union a complete change in the sense of continued development, as contemplated in the underlying intentions of the Universal Postal Union. Seeing that Germany, as intimated to the General Post Office in the circular letter of the International Bureau of 3rd May, 1899, No. 2728/111, in exchanges with her colonies, as well as between the latter, introduced even farther-reaching postal reductions than those contemplated by your Administration, she naturally views the suggestions by the General Post Office to reduce the letter postage between Germany and the German Colonies and New Zealand sympathetically, on principle. However, the time for such innovation does not appear to have yet arrived. The German public would be unable to comprehend why the letter postage to distant New Zealand should be reduced, and yet for the nearer countries, more especially those in the immediate vicinity, retained at the present rates, 20 pfennings per 15 grammes. That, however, in exchanges with the countries contemplated, a reduction in letter postage in the direction indicated by you could be immediately realised is considered by the Imperial Post Office to be precluded through the great financial importance of the question to the countries affected; at all events, the question of assessing postages is intimately connected with the difficult transit problem. Under these circumstances the Imperial Post Office, to its regret, is as yet unable to accede to the proposal of the General Post Office. It would urge, moreover, that, in view of the importance of the development of the Universal Postal Union, the question be submitted to the next Congress.

With respect to the further proposal to at least deliver without surcharge to addressees in Germany letters from New Zealand which are prepaid 1d. per half-ounce, the Imperial Post Office begs to remark that it would not be expedient to have different postages for one way and the other, because such a course would be contrary in its opinion to one of the elementary principles of the Universal Postal Union, that of reciprocity, and the only infraction of this principle permissible under the Universal Postal Convention is in connection with surcharges (Art 5, 2.).

No. 117.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of FINANCES, Luxembourg, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL Wellington.

Grand Duché de Luxembourg, Luxembourg, le 19 Février, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE MAÎTRE-GÉNÉRAL,—

En réponse à votre estimée en date du 23 Novembre de l'année écoulée, concernant l'introduction d'un tarif réduit pour les relations postales entre la Nouvelle-Zélande et le Grand-Duché, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer qu'il résulte de l'instruction à laquelle l'administration des postes de ce pays a fait procéder, qu'en ce moment les relations entre les deux pays sont de très peu d'importance; tout en rendant hommage à la pensée qui a dicté votre proposition, je crois cependant qu'il serait préférable de la réserver pour le prochain congrès postal, et d'examiner en même temps la question de savoir s'il ne convient pas, en égard au grand développement qu'a pris le service international, de proposer d'une manière générale la réduction des taxes actuelles.

Veillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-Général des Finances,

À Monsieur le Maître-Général des Postes à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of the 23rd November last, concerning the introduction of a reduced tariff in the postal relations between New Zealand and the Grand Duchy, I have the honour to inform you that, from an examination by this Administration, it does not appear that the correspondence between our two countries is of great importance. While, therefore, appreciating the motive which prompted your proposal, I consider it would be preferable to reserve it for the next Postal Congress, and to investigate at the same time whether it would not be advisable, in view of the great development of the international service, to propose a reduction in the present charges generally.