

Post Office Circular Letter No. 1
1861

(Circular Letter, No. 1.)

Confederate States of America,
Post Office Department.

Montgomery,-----1861.

Sir:

It is the wish of this government that all postmasters and other employees in the postal service should continue to perform their duties as such, and render all their accounts and pay all moneys to the order of the government of the United States, as they have heretofore done, until the government of the Confederate States shall be prepared to assume the entire control of its postal affairs. This will be done as soon as practicable. But the causes of delay incident to the organization of the department are such as to place it out of my power to determine definitely when the new service will be substituted for the old.

Any attempt to mix the employees of the two governments, in the same service, would be wholly impracticable. And no removals or appointments of postmasters, or others, in the postal service, will be made by this department, nor will it receive returns relating to or moneys derived from the postal service, until it shall assume the entire control of the service.

If the government of the United States should cease to carry on this service, before this department shall be organized and prepared to take charge of it, no great shock to the public interests will be produced by such a course, as the Postmaster General is authorized to continue, provisionally, by proclamation, the present postmasters, and others in the postal service, in office, and to continue existing contracts for carrying the mails, until new appointments and new contracts can be made.

We must regard the carrying of our mails, at this time, by that government, as a great public necessity to the people of both governments, resulting from their past intimate political, commercial and social relations, and alike important to the preservation of the present interests of the people of both countries. And while that government, by its action, consults such considerations, our government and people should act with the same high regard for great public interests. Such a course on our part, springing from such motives, will preserve the character of our people, without impairing the dignity of our government, and may lead to the transfer of our postal service from the control of the old to that of the new government, with far less injury to the people of both, than would necessarily flow from precipitate and inconsiderate action on the part of either.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN H. REAGAN,

Postmaster-General.

To Governor of Georgia
Milledgeville
Ga

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Post Office Department.

Montgomery,, 1861.

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Your obedient servant,
JOHN H. REAGAN,
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To: