

(This act was the first making the prepayment of postage on domestic letters compulsory and provided that, for the greater security of valuable letters, the Postmaster General may establish a uniform plan for their registration at a registration fee of 5 cents each.)

Act of January 2, 1857 (11 Stat. 153):

Repealed the provision in the act of August 30, 1852, permitting transient printed matter to be sent through the mail without prepayment of postage.

Act of April 3, 1860 (12 Stat. 11):

Fixes the rate on drop letters delivered by carriers at 1 cent each.

Act of February 27, 1861 (12 Stat. 168, 169):

Upon all letters returned from the dead letter office there shall be charged the usual rates of postage, to be collected on delivery.

Every letter or packet brought into the United States or carried from one port therein to another in any private ship or vessel shall be charged with 5 cents, if delivered at the post office of arrival; if conveyed by post to any place, with 2 cents added to the ordinary rates of postage: *Provided*, That upon all letters or packets conveyed, in whole or in part, by steamers over any route upon which the mail is regularly conveyed in vessels under contract with the Post Office Department, the same charge shall be levied, with the addition of 2 cents a letter or packet, as would have been levied if such letter or packet had been transmitted regularly through the mail.

Maps, engravings, lithographs, photographic prints on rollers or in paper covers; books, bound or unbound, photographic paper, and letter envelopes, shall be deemed mailable matter, and charged with postage by the weight of the package, not to exceed 4 pounds, at the rate of 1 cent an ounce or fraction thereof, to any place under 1,500 miles, and at the rate of 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof over 1,500 miles, to be prepaid by postage stamps.

Cards, blank or printed, blanks in packages weighing at least 8 ounces, and seeds or cuttings in packages not exceeding 8 ounces shall be charged with postage at the rate of 1 cent an ounce or fraction thereof, to any place in the United States under 1,500 miles; over 1,500 miles, 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof to be prepaid by postage stamps.

Modifies the act of March 3, 1855, so as to require the 10-cent rate of postage to be prepaid on letters conveyed in the mail from any point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains to any State or Territory on the Pacific, and vice versa.

The postage on each newspaper, periodical, unsealed circular, or other article of printed matter, not exceeding 3 ounces in weight, conveyed over the overland route between any State or Territory east of the Rocky Mountains to any State or Territory on the Pacific, shall be 1 cent; and every additional ounce or fraction thereof 1 cent additional.

The rate of letter postage between any State or Territory east of the Rocky Mountains and any State or Territory on the Pacific coast shall be 10 cents per half ounce.

(This act authorized the introduction of merchandise into the mails.)

Act of March 3, 1863 (12 Stat. 704-707):

Divides mail into three classes: First class embraces letters and matter wholly or partly in writing, except book manuscripts and corrected proof sheets; second class embraces publications issued at stated periods; third class embraces all other mailable matter, including book manuscripts and corrected proof sheets.

Fixes the maximum standard weight for the single rate of letter postage at one-half ounce avoirdupois. Fixes the rate of postage on domestic letters not exceeding one-half ounce in weight at 3 cents, and 3 cents additional for each additional half ounce or fraction thereof, to be prepaid by postage stamps affixed.

(This was the first law which established a uniform rate of postage on letters, regardless of distance transmitted.)

The rate of postage on drop letters not exceeding one-half ounce in weight shall be 2 cents, and 2 cents additional for each additional half ounce or fraction, to be prepaid by stamps affixed; "but no extra postage or carriers' fee shall hereafter be charged or collected upon letters delivered by carriers, nor upon letters collected by them for mailing or delivery."

Mailable matter, wholly or partly in writing, or so marked as to convey further information than is conveyed by the original print, in case of printed matter, or sent in violation of law or regulations touching the inclosure of matter which may be sent at less than letter rates, and all matter on which no different rate is provided by law, shall be subject to letter postage. Book manuscripts and corrected proofs passing between authors and publishers may pass at the rate of printed matter. Publishers of newspapers and periodicals may print or write upon their publications sent to regular subscribers the address and the date when the subscription expires, and may inclose receipts for payment and bills for subscription.

All matter not enumerated as mailable and to which no specific rates of postage are assigned, if mailed, shall be subject to letter postage.

If any matter on which by law the postage is required to be prepaid at the mailing office shall reach its destination without such prepayment, double the prepaid rates shall be charged and collected on delivery.

Postage on returned dead letters not registered as valuable shall be 3 cents for the single rate; registered as valuable, double rates.

Postmaster General authorized to pay 2 cents for each letter conveyed in any vessel, not employed in carrying the mail, from one place to another in the United States, or from any foreign port to any port within the United States, and deposited in the post office at the port of arrival. Such letters, if for delivery within the United States, shall be rated with double rates of postage, which shall cover the fee paid to the vessel.

The rate of postage on transient matter of the second class, and on miscellaneous matter of the third class (except circulars and books), shall be 2 cents for each 4 ounces or fraction thereof on one package to one address, to be prepaid by stamps affixed; double these rates for books. Unsealed circulars, not exceeding three in number, 2 cents, adding one rate for three additional circulars or less number to one address.

Postage on matter of the second class issued once a week or more frequently from a known office of publication and sent to regular subscribers shall be as follows:

For newspapers and other periodical publications not exceeding 4 ounces in weight and passing through the mails or post offices of the United States, the rate for one quarter shall be, for publications issued once a week, 5 cents; twice a week, 10 cents; three times a week, 15 cents; six times a week, 30 cents; seven times a week, 35 cents; and in that proportion, adding one rate for each issue more frequent than once a week. For weight exceeding 4 ounces and not exceeding 8 ounces, an additional rate, and an additional rate for each additional 4 ounces or fraction thereof; postage to be prepaid for not less than one quarter nor more than one year, at either the office of mailing or delivery, at the option of the subscriber.

Postage on mailable matter of the second class issued less frequently than once a week from a known office of publication and sent to subscribers shall be as follows:

Upon newspapers, magazines, and other periodical publications not exceeding 4 ounces, passing through the mails or post offices of the United States, the rate for each such paper or periodical shall be 1 cent, and an additional rate of 1 cent for each additional 4 ounces or fraction thereof; provided, that the Postmaster General may provide for the transportation of small newspapers in packages at the same rate by weight when sent to one address; postage must be prepaid at office of mailing or delivery, at option of subscriber, for not less than one quarter nor more than one year.

The postmaster of any office where letter carriers are employed may contract with the publishers of any newspapers or periodicals, and with the publishers of any circulars, for the delivery by postal carriers, within his postal district, of any such publications not coming through the mails, at rates and upon terms to be agreed upon, such arrangement and terms being equally open to all like publishers, such contract to have no force until approved by the Postmaster General. The Postmaster General may provide for the delivery by such carriers of small packages other than letters or papers, and not exceeding the maximum weight of mailable packages, but such packages must be prepaid by postage stamps at the rate of 2 cents for each 4 ounces or fraction thereof.

No postmaster shall receive to be conveyed by mail any packet or package which shall weigh more than 4 pounds, except books published or circulated by order of Congress.

Act of January 22, 1864 (13 Stat. 2):

Clothing of wool, cotton, or linen, in packages not exceeding 2 pounds each, addressed to any noncommissioned officer or private in the Army, may be transmitted at the rate of 8 cents for every 4 ounces or fraction thereof, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe; postage to be prepaid.

Acts of March 25, 1864, and January 20, 1865 (13 Stat. 36 and 422):

All mailable matter (with the exception of newspapers, periodicals, and magazines, to bona fide subscribers, and franked matter), which may be conveyed by mail westward beyond the western boundary.

of Kansas, and eastward from the eastern boundary of California, shall be subject to prepaid letter postage rates.

Act of March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 507):

Fixes the prepaid postage on drop letters, at all offices except free delivery, at 1 cent.

Act of June 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 79):

This act repealed the requirement of the act of March 25, 1864, providing that all matter other than the exceptions named in that act and in the act of January 20, 1865, shall be subject to prepaid letter postage rates, thus restoring for such matter the postage rates prescribed by the act of March 3, 1863.

Act of July 27, 1868 (15 Stat. 194-195):

When any writer of a letter, on which the postage is prepaid, shall indorse in writing or in print upon the outside thereof his name and address, the same, after remaining uncalled for at the post office to which it is directed 30 days, or the time the writer may direct, shall be returned to the said writer without additional postage, whether a specific request for such return be indorsed on the letter or not.

Weekly newspapers sent to subscribers in the county where printed and published to be delivered free of postage, when deposited in the office nearest the office of publication; but they shall not be distributed by letter carriers unless postage is prepaid thereon at the rate of 5 cents per quarter for not less than one quarter nor more than one year, at the office of mailing or of delivery, at the option of the subscriber.

Act of June 8, 1872 (17 Stat. 296, 300-304, 308):

Divides mail matter into three classes as follows:

First class shall embrace letters and all correspondence, wholly or partly in writing, except book manuscripts and corrected proof sheets passing between authors and publishers.

Second class shall embrace all matter exclusively in print, and regularly issued at stated periods from a known office of publication, without addition by writing, mark, or sign.

Third class shall embrace pamphlets, occasional publications, transient newspapers, magazines, and other miscellaneous mailable matter.

On all matter wholly or partly in writing (except book manuscripts and corrected proof sheets passing between authors and publishers, and drop letters); all printed matter so marked as to convey any other information than is conveyed by the original print (except the correction of mere typographical errors); all matter sent in violation of law or regulations respecting inclosures; and all matter to which no specific rate of postage is assigned, postage shall be charged at the rate of 3 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof.

Drop letters at letter-carrier offices shall be charged with postage at the rate of 2 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof, and 1 cent for each half ounce or fraction thereof at all other offices.

The rate of postage on newspapers (excepting weeklies), periodicals not exceeding 2 ounces in weight, and circulars, when the same are deposited in a letter-carrier office for delivery by the office or its carriers, shall be uniform at 1 cent each; but periodicals weighing more than 2 ounces shall be subject to a postage of 2 cents each; these rates to be prepaid by stamps.

Quarterly postage on newspapers and other periodical publications not exceeding 4 ounces in weight sent to subscribers shall be at the following rates:

On publications issued less frequently than once a week, 1 cent for each issue; issued once a week, 5 cents; and 5 cents additional for each issue more frequent than once a week; and an additional rate shall be charged for each additional 4 ounces or fraction thereof.

Small newspapers issued less frequently than once a week, in packages to one address, sent to subscribers, 1 cent for each 4 ounces or fraction thereof.

Postage on mailable matter of the third class shall be at the rate of 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof, except that double these rates shall be charged for books, samples of metals, ores, minerals, and merchandise.

Packages of woolen, cotton, or linen clothing not exceeding 2 pounds in weight may be sent by mail to any noncommissioned officer or private in the Army, if prepaid at the rate of 1 cent for each ounce or fraction thereof.

Letters conveyed in vessels not regularly employed in carrying the mails shall, if for delivery in the United States, be rated with double postage, to cover the fee paid to the vessel.

Provides for the issue and transmission by mail of postal cards at 1 cent each.

All matter so wrapped that it can not be conveniently examined shall be subject to letter postage.

The postage on all mail matter must be prepaid by stamps at the time of mailing, unless herein otherwise provided for.

Mail matter on which postage is required to be prepaid, reaching its destination by inadvertence without such prepayment, shall be subject to double the prepaid rates.

All mail matter deposited for mailing on which at least one full rate of postage has been paid as required by law, shall be forwarded to its destination, charged with the unpaid rate, to be collected on delivery.

When the writer of any letter on which the postage is prepaid shall inorse upon the outside thereof his name and address, such letter shall not be advertised, but after remaining uncalled for at the office to which it is directed 30 days, or the time the writer may direct, shall be returned to him without additional charge for postage.

Any package weighing more than 4 pounds shall not be received for conveyance by mail, except books published or circulated by order of Congress.

Prepaid and free letters shall be forwarded from one post office to another, at the request of the party addressed, without additional charge for postage.

This act reenacted the provision of the act of March 3, 1855, providing that for the greater security of valuable matter, the Postmaster General may establish a uniform system of registration.

Act of January 9, 1873 (17 Stat. 406):

Amends the act of January 8, 1872, so as to authorize the transmission by mail of packages of seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, and scions of any weight, for each of such packages, not exceeding 4 pounds, at a rate of postage of 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fractions of an ounce.

Act of June 23, 1874 (18 Stat. 232, 233, 237):

On and after January 1, 1875, on all newspapers and periodical publications mailed from a known office of publication or news agency and addressed to regular subscribers or news agents, postage shall be charged at the following rates:

On newspapers and periodical publications issued weekly and more frequently than once a week, 2 cents a pound or fraction thereof, and on those issued less frequently than once a week, 3 cents a pound or fraction thereof: *Provided*, That nothing in this act shall be held to change the rates of postage applicable under the act of June 8, 1872, to newspapers (excepting weeklies), periodicals, and circulars deposited in a letter-carrier office for delivery by its carriers.

Upon the receipt of such newspapers and periodical publications at the office of mailing, they shall be weighed in bulk, and postage paid thereon by a special adhesive stamp, to be devised and furnished by the Postmaster General, which shall be affixed to such matter, or to the sack containing the same, or upon a memorandum of such mailing, or otherwise, as the Postmaster General may provide.

Mailable matter of the third class (except books published or circulated by order of Congress) may not exceed 4 pounds for each package, and postage shall be charged thereon at the rate of 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof.

Postage on public documents mailed by any Member of Congress, the President, or head of any executive department shall be 10 cents for each bound volume, and on unbound documents the same rate as that on newspapers mailed from a known office of publication to regular subscribers; and the postage on the Daily Congressional Record, mailed from the city of Washington as transient matter, shall be 1 cent.

Act of July 12, 1876 (19 Stat. 82):

Transient newspapers and magazines, regular publications designed primarily for advertising purposes, or for free circulation, or for circulation at nominal rates, and all printed matter of the third class, except unsealed circulars, shall be chargeable with postage at the rate of 1 cent for every 2 ounces or fraction thereof. This act permits limited inscriptions and addresses on such matter.

Publishers of newspapers and periodicals may print on the wrappers of newspapers or magazines sent to regular subscribers the time to which subscription therefor has been paid.

Addresses upon postal cards and unsealed circulars may be either written, printed, or affixed thereto, at the option of the sender.

Act of March 3, 1879 (20 Stat. 358-361):

Repeals all former laws relating to the classification of mail matter and rates of postage and divides mail matter into four classes: First, written matter; second, periodical publications; third, miscellaneous printed matter; fourth, merchandise.

First-class matter shall embrace letters, postal cards, and all matters wholly or partly in writing, except such writing as is authorized to be placed on mail of other classes.

On matter of the first class, except postal cards and drop letters, postage shall be prepaid at the rate of 3 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof. Postal cards shall be transmitted through the mails at a postage charge of 1 cent each. Drop letters shall be mailed

at the rate of 2 cents per half ounce or fraction thereof, including delivery at letter-carrier offices, and 1 cent for each half ounce or fraction thereof where free delivery by carrier is not established.

Second-class matter shall embrace all newspapers and other periodical publications which are issued at stated intervals, as frequently as four times a year, and meet the following conditions upon which a publication shall be admitted to the second class:

1. It must regularly be issued at stated intervals, as frequently as four times a year, and bear a date of issue, and be numbered consecutively.

2. It must be issued from a known office of publication.

3. It must be formed of printed paper sheets, without board, cloth, leather, or other substantial binding, such as distinguish printed books for preservation from periodical publications.

4. It must be originated and published for the dissemination of information of a public character, or devoted to literature, the sciences, arts, or some special industry, and having a legitimate list of subscribers: *Provided, however,* That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to admit to the second-class rate regular publications designed primarily for advertising purposes, or for free circulation, or for circulation at nominal rates.

There may be inserted in periodicals advertisements attached permanently to the same.

Publications of the second class, when sent by the publisher thereof and from the office of publication, or when sent from a news agency, to actual subscribers thereto, or to other news agents, shall be entitled to transmission through the mails at the postage rate of 2 cents a pound or fraction thereof; except that publications of the second class, one copy to each actual subscriber residing in the county where the same are printed, in whole or in part, and published, shall go free through the mails; but the same shall not be delivered at letter-carrier offices or distributed by carriers unless postage is paid thereon at the rate of 2 cents a pound or fraction thereof: *Provided,* That the rate of postage on newspapers, excepting weeklies, and periodicals not exceeding 2 ounces in weight, when the same are deposited in a letter-carrier office for delivery by its carriers, shall be uniform at 1 cent each; periodicals weighing more than 2 ounces shall be subject, when delivered by such carriers, to a postage of 2 cents each.

Third-class matter shall embrace books, transient newspapers, and periodicals, circulars, and other matter wholly in print not included in second-class matter, proof sheets, corrected proof sheets, and manuscript copy accompanying the same.

Postage on printed matter of the third class shall be prepaid at the rate of 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof by stamps affixed.

Fourth-class matter shall embrace all matter not embraced in the first, second, or third class, which is not in its form or nature liable to destroy, deface, or otherwise damage the contents of the mail bag, or harm the person of any one engaged in the postal service, and is not above the weight provided by law, which is hereby declared to be not exceeding 4 pounds for each package, except in case of single books weighing in excess of that amount, and except for books and documents published and circulated by order of Congress, or official matter emanating from any of the departments of the Government or from the Smithsonian Institution.

All matter of the fourth class shall be subject to a postage charge at the rate of 1 cent an ounce or fraction thereof, to be prepaid by stamps affixed.

No package the contents of which can not easily be examined shall pass in the mails, or be delivered at a less rate than for matter of the first class.

Mail matter of the first class upon which one full rate of postage has been prepaid shall be forwarded to its destination, charged with the unpaid rate, to be collected on delivery.

Act of March 3, 1883 (22 Stat. 455):

Reduces the postage on first-class matter to 2 cents a half ounce or fraction thereof on and after October 1, 1883.

Act of June 9, 1884 (23 Stat. 40):

The rate of postage on newspapers and periodical publications of the second class, when sent by others than the publisher or news agent, shall be 1 cent for each 4 ounces or fraction thereof, to be prepaid with stamps affixed.

Act of March 3, 1885 (23 Stat. 387):

Reduces the rate of postage on first-class matter on and after July 1, 1885, to 2 cents for each ounce or fraction thereof; and fixes the rate for drop letters at 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof, including delivery at letter-carrier offices, and 1 cent for each ounce or fraction thereof where free delivery by carrier is not established.

Publications of the second class, except as provided in the act of March 3, 1879, for free county circulation and for delivery at letter-carrier offices, when sent by the publisher thereof and from the office of publication, or when sent from a news agency, to actual subscribers thereto or to other news agents, shall, on and after July 1, 1885, be entitled to transmission through the mails at 1 cent a pound or fraction thereof.

A special stamp of the value of 10 cents, attached to a letter in addition to the lawful postage thereon, the delivery of which is to be at a free-delivery office, or at any city, town, or village containing a population of 4,000 or over, according to the Federal census, shall be regarded as entitling such letter to immediate delivery within the carrier limit of any free-delivery office which may be designated by the Postmaster General as a special-delivery office, or within 1 mile of the post office at any other office coming within the provisions of this section which may in like manner be designated as a special-delivery office. Such specially stamped letters shall be delivered from 7 o'clock a. m. up to 12 o'clock midnight at offices designated by the Postmaster General under this act.

Act of August 4, 1886 (24 Stat. 220):

Every article of mailable matter upon which the special-delivery stamp provided for by the act of March 3, 1885, 23 Stat. 387, shall be duly affixed, shall be entitled to immediate delivery within the carrier-delivery limit of any free-delivery office, and within 1 mile of any free-delivery office, and within 1 mile of any other post office which the Postmaster General shall at any time designate as a special-delivery post office. The Postmaster General may prescribe the hours within which such immediate delivery shall be made at any



post office. (By order of Postmaster General dated August 10, 1886, special-delivery matter shall be delivered at free-delivery offices on Sunday, and at all other offices if open on Sunday. Special delivery must be made at all post offices on holidays.)

Act of July 24, 1888 (25 Stat. 347):

Rate of postage on seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and plants reduced to 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof.

Act of January 16, 1889 (25 Stat. 650):

The omission by the sender to place the lawful postage upon a letter bearing special-delivery stamps and otherwise entitled to immediate delivery under the provisions of the act of March 3, 1885, shall not hinder or delay the transmission and delivery thereof as provided by that act, but such lawful postage shall be collected upon its delivery in the manner provided by law for the collection of deficient postage resulting from the overweight of letters.

Act of July 16, 1894 (28 Stat. 105):

Provides that all periodical publications issued from a known place of publication at stated intervals and as frequently as four times a year by or under the auspices of a benevolent or fraternal society or order organized under the lodge system and having a bona fide membership of not less than 1,000 persons or by a regularly incorporated institution of learning or by or under the auspices of a trades-union and all publications of strictly professional, literary, historical, or scientific societies including the bulletins issued by State boards of health shall be admitted to the mails as second-class matter and the postage thereon shall be the same as on other second-class matter and no more: *Provided*, That such matter shall be originated and published to further the objects and purposes of such society, order, trades-union, or institution of learning and shall be formed of printed paper sheets without board, cloth, leather, or other substantial binding such as distinguish printed books for preservation from periodical publications.

Act of June 8, 1896 (29 Stat. 262):

Defines fourth-class matter as follows: Mailable matter of the fourth class shall embrace all matter not embraced in the first, second, or third class which is not in its form or nature liable to destroy, deface, or otherwise damage the contents of the mail bag or harm the person of anyone engaged in the Postal Service, and is not above the weight provided by law, which is hereby declared to be not exceeding 4 pounds for each package thereof, except in the case of single books weighing in excess of that amount, and except for books and documents published or circulated by order of Congress, or printed or written official matter emanating from any of the departments of the Government or from the Smithsonian Institution.

Act of May 19, 1898 (30 Stat. 419):

Provides for the transmission by mail at the postage rate of 1 cent a piece, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, of written messages on private mailing cards.

Act of June 13, 1898 (30 Stat. 443-444):

After June 30, 1898, the use of newspaper and periodical stamps may be discontinued, and postage on second-class matter, which shall

be prepaid, shall be collected and accounted for under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

Second, third, and fourth class mail matter shall not be returned to sender or remailed until the postage has been fully prepaid on the same. In all cases where undelivered matter of these classes is of obvious value the sender, if known, shall be notified of the fact of nondelivery, and be given the opportunity of prepaying the return postage.

Act of March 2, 1899 (30 Stat. 984):

Provides that all letters written in point print or raised characters used by the blind, when unsealed shall be transmitted through the mails as third-class matter.

Act of April 28, 1904 (33 Stat. 440):

Under such regulations as the Postmaster General may establish for the collection of the lawful revenue and for facilitating the handling of such matter in the mails, it shall be lawful to accept for transmission in the mails quantities of not less than 2,000 identical pieces of third or fourth class matter without postage stamps affixed: *Provided*, That postage shall be fully prepaid thereon, at the rate required by law for a single piece of such matter.

Act of March 2, 1907 (34 Stat. 1244):

When in addition to the stamps required to transmit any letter or package through the mails there shall be attached to the envelope or covering 10 cents worth of ordinary stamps of any denomination, with the words "Special Delivery" or their equivalent written or printed on the envelope or covering, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, the said package shall be handled, transmitted, and delivered as though it bore a regulation "Special-delivery" stamp.

Order No. 340, May 15, 1907:

The charge for special delivery of mail matter shall be 10 cents for each piece to be prepaid by a special-delivery stamp, or by 10 cents worth of ordinary stamps affixed thereto.

Act of May 12, 1910 (36 Stat. 366):

That hereafter when copies of any publication of the second class, mailed by a publisher at the pound rate or free in the county of publication, are undeliverable at the address thereon, the postmaster at the office of destination shall promptly notify the publisher of the fact, giving the reason therefor, and copies received five weeks after the mailing of the notice to the publisher, and in no instance until two successive issues thereof have been published, shall, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, be separately returned to the publisher thereof, charged with postage at the third-class rate. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Act of August 24, 1912 (37 Stat. 550, 551, 553, 557):

Provides for the admission to the second class of mail matter of periodical publications issued by State boards or departments of public charities and corrections. Extends the right to carry advertising matter to periodical publications issued by or under the auspices of benevolent or fraternal societies, or orders, or trades-unions, or by strictly professional, literary, historical, or scientific societies; provided