

the acceptance of the parcel involves no risk or injury to any other parcel or to any officer. In all such cases the officer who accepts the parcel must attach the label, "Post Office accepts no risk." This label must also be attached to fragile parcels addressed to places outside New Zealand, and in both cases the label should be initialled by the sender or the person presenting the parcel.

(c.) The regulation requiring sharp instruments, liquids, and semi-liquids, &c., to be securely packed so as to prevent all risk or injury to other parcels or to officers of the Post Office must be strictly enforced. A slight relaxation may be permitted, at the discretion of officers, in the case of bottles of liquids for inland transmission. (See Rule 605.)

604. (a.) Parcels containing perishable articles such as fish, fruit, flowers, &c., must have a special label, "Perishable," affixed to the wrapper, and, except when paid for at express-transit rates, must also be labelled "Post Office accepts no risk."

(b.) Parcels with perishable contents may be destroyed on the authority of the Chief Postmaster immediately they become offensive; but full particulars of the parcels should be furnished to the Secretary. The particulars of any parcel destroyed must also be entered in the Returned-parcel Record.

605. Parcels containing bottles of liquid, if very securely packed in corrugated straw-board, may be accepted for transmission by inland parcel-post on the distinct understanding that the sender is to accept not only the risk of the breakage of the parcel itself, but also the risk of being called upon to pay for any damage which might result through the liquid coming in contact with any other part of the mail or with any Postal officer. The sender of a parcel so packed must mark the parcel to show that it contains liquid, and must pay the "Fragile" fee. This authority is to be exercised at the discretion of officers. The regulations in regard to the packing of liquids are not altered, and the public are not to be informed of the discretion given to officers to accept parcels containing liquids not packed strictly in accordance with the regulations.

606. If a parcel, not fully prepaid, or exceeding the limit of weight or size, be left at a post-office without having been submitted for proper examination, it is not to be forwarded, but should be entered in the Detained and Unclaimed Parcel Book, and a notice sent to the sender on form P.P. 15, or, if this be not practicable, then to the addressee. If addressed to a place beyond New Zealand, except the Commonwealth of Australia, and if the sender be not known, the parcel should be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office for disposal. Such parcel, if within the limit of size and weight, may be forwarded on payment of the deficient postage, or returned on proper application being made. Parcels irregularly posted or insufficiently prepaid may be forwarded to any of the Australian States provided the senders are not known. Such parcels will be charged double the deficiency on delivery. An entry is to be made on the parcel-bill of so many rates as are fully prepaid, and the amount of tax shown in the "Remarks" column. Insufficiently prepaid parcels received from Australia are to be charged double deficiency on delivery, and entries should appear on parcel-bills in conformity with the above.

607. Parcels may be accepted from Government Departments subject to the usual conditions and rates of postage. The postage may be prepaid either with official or with ordinary postage-stamps.

608. Parcels not forwarded, or not delivered to the sender, or found without address, are to be sent to the Dead Letter Office for disposal.

609. Except as provided in Rules 442 and 473 (a), the rule forbidding that a letter should be handed back to the sender applies equally to a parcel.