

approval of the Department. The form of assignment given on the back of the bond is intended to provide only for simple transactions. For a second assignment, form Mail 53 is to be used.

(c.) When a mail-service is assigned the incoming contractor must sign the conditions of contract and time-table as well as the deed of assignment. The signature may be placed underneath that of the outgoing contractor.

270. (a.) All changes in time-tables of mail-services under Parts I, II, and V are to be reported on form Mail 73, and only in cases in which there are special circumstances need the Secretary's approval be obtained.

(b.) All proposed changes of time-tables or schedules of maximum fares of mail-services on tourist routes should be reported in good time to enable the Department of Tourist and Health Resorts to be consulted or informed when necessary.

271. Other changes in services under all Parts (as, for instance, the establishment or abolition of a service, the inclusion of an additional calling-place consequent on the establishment of a post-office, &c.) are to be reported on form Mail 47, except on the occasion of the general reletting of services. (See under "Reletting of Services.")

272. Contributions agreed to be made to the Department towards the cost of mail-services must be claimed immediately they become due, and the Secretary advised as soon as payment has been made or is in default. County Councils are not legally able to contribute towards the cost of mail-services out of their funds. The question of obtaining contributions from County Councils is not, therefore, to be considered in connection with the cost of mail-services. No guarantee of a contribution towards the cost of a mail-service is to be accepted except on form Mail 51. A duplicate form is always to be made out, to be delivered to the guarantors as a record. The penal sum in a contribution bond is the total amount to be contributed during the whole of the term of the bond. When a settler who is a contributor to a mail-service transfers his property, the settler to whom it is transferred is to be required to sign form Mail 51.

273. Chief Postmasters should see that reports on mail-services are obtained from Postmasters on form Mail 61 on the 1st April and 1st October each year, and at more frequent intervals when necessary.

RELETTING OF SERVICES.

274. (a.) About seven months before the expiry of a general mail-contract period instructions are given Chief Postmasters to furnish on form Mail 70 a schedule of existing and proposed contract services (Parts I and V) in their districts for the new period, and to report or make suggestions on matters which, in their opinion, should be considered before calling for tenders. They will also bring up proposals which have been directed to be considered. In the schedule all services proposed to be let to tender must be placed in alphabetical order of the names of the first-mentioned offices, numbered consecutively. Care is to be taken to see that the distributing office or point is shown first, even when the contractor commences his journey at the terminus of the service. The estimated revenue will appear against both present and proposed services. In every case in which it will facilitate reference the present number of an existing service is to be given. The schedule is also to serve for memoranda, in which the Chief Postmaster will set out his proposals in regard to the services. The remarks in respect of each service are to be allotted a separate paragraph, immediately after the entry of the service.