
the last day of the month of issue, has been lost, the Director of Posts, upon the application of the remitter, payee, or indorsee, shall issue a warrant for the payment thereof, as provided in the next preceding section hereof upon evidence satisfactory to the Director that the order has not been paid.

SECTION 1203. *Fund For Payment of Stale Money Orders.* — The proceeds of unredeemed money orders more than one year old shall be transferred once a year to a fund to be known as the stale money-order fund against which warrants may be drawn for the satisfaction of claims arising upon the same orders.

When an order remains unpaid for three years, so much of the stale money-order fund as corresponds to said order shall be subject to be covered into the unappropriated surplus and all moneys accruing from such orders may be so transferred once a year. If at any time thereafter application should be made for the payment of any such order, so much as was paid into the unappropriated surplus as its proceeds shall be subject to be returned, if necessary, to the stale money-order fund to meet the obligation in question.

ARTICLE V

Carriage of Mails

SECTION 1204. *Carriage of Letter Mail.* — The business of carrying letter mail is a Government monopoly, and no person shall engage therein except as hereinafter provided; but nothing herein shall be deemed to prohibit the conveyance or transmission of letters or packets by private means between places where the Government does not provide for the carriage of mails.

SECTION 1205. *Letters in Official Stamped Envelopes.* — All letters inclosed in official stamped envelopes, if the postage stamp is of a denomination sufficient to cover the postage that would be chargeable thereon if the same were sent by mail, may be sent, conveyed, and delivered otherwise than by mail, provided such envelope shall be duly directed and properly sealed, so that the letter cannot be taken therefrom without defacing the envelope, and the date of the letter or of the transmission or receipt thereof shall be written or stamped upon the envelope. But the Director of Posts may suspend the operation of this section upon any mail route where the public interest may so require.

SECTION 1206. *Forfeiture for Illegal Carriage of Mail.* — Every letter illegally transported, or concealed for the purpose of being illegally transported, and every package, bag, box, or parcel in which any such letter is so concealed, shall be forfeited to the Government.