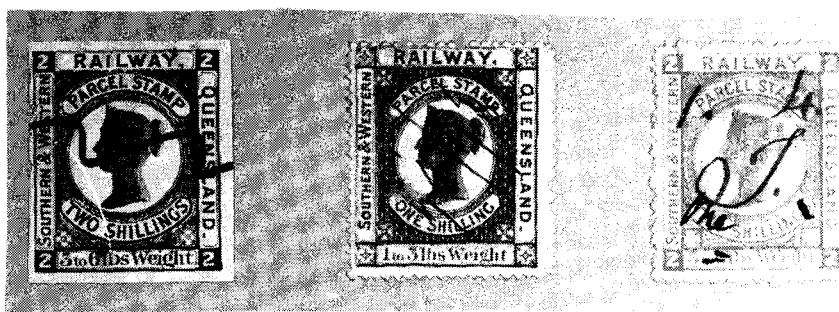


THE INTRODUCTION OF THE STAMPED PARCEL SERVICE
BY THE QUEENSLAND RAILWAYS

Ian McMahon

Queensland Railways were among the first of the Australian colonial railways to issue railway parcel stamps. In the **Railways Stamps of Australia** Ingles, Presgrave and Craig list the first Queensland Railway parcel stamps as having been issued in about 1872 for use on the Southern and Western Railway. A second issue for use throughout the Queensland railway system is listed as having been issued in 1888. This article discusses the introduction of the railway parcel service in Queensland as documented in notices appearing in the Queensland Government Gazette.

Introduction of the stamped parcel service on the Southern and Western Railways



In a notice dated 7 November 1867 in the Gazette, the Commission for Railways advised the introduction of 'additional parcel rates' for the Southern and Western Railway. The notice advised that 'adhesive railway parcels stamps, similar to postage or duty stamps,' could be purchased from all railway stations and from authorised agents. Stamps would be available in one and two shilling denominations and the following rates would apply to parcels up to 6 pounds:

- parcels up to 3 pounds: one shilling per 80 miles or part thereof
- parcels from 3 to 6 pounds: 2 shillings per 80 miles or part thereof.

At this time the Southern and Western railway ran only from Ipswich to Dalby, a distance of 130 miles. A daily mixed freight and passenger service leaving Ipswich at 9.36am and arriving in Dalby at 6.00pm was the only scheduled service on the line. Parcels to and from Brisbane would be received at the Commissioners Office and were forwarded between Brisbane and Ipswich daily by coach at no additional charge.

A notice in the Gazette also dated 7 November called for Agents to sell the railway parcel stamps. Agents were to be able to purchase stamps, at the Commissioners office only, at a discount of five per cent for purchases over one pound. A notice of 7 July 1868 advised that Mrs Annie Hood, a bookseller of Toowoomba, had been appointed an agent for the sale of railway parcel stamps.

Extension of the parcel services to all Queensland railways



In a notice dated 28 November 1883, the Commissioner for Railways advised that from 1 January 1884 the use of adhesive parcel stamps would be extended to all Queensland Railways. The notice also gave details of the regulations and rates applying to the stamped parcel service. Details of the rates are given in the accompanying Table 1. The minimum parcel rate was now 3d, for a 3 pound parcel carried over 10 miles. Packages of fresh fish, fruit, butter, eggs, milk, fresh meat, ice, vegetables and bags of bread could be forwarded at stamped parcel rates (special rates applied to bread and meat). However, live poultry, bicycles, feathers, furniture, glass, mirrors, perambulators, pictures, sewing machines and wire cages would not be accepted as stamped parcels. Hats and bonnetts and cases of millinery would be carried but at double rates. If stamps could not be affixed directly on the article a suitable label had to be used. All packages would be accepted at the senders risk and no receipt would be issued. Parcels were limited to a maximum weight of 56 pounds.

Table 1

Miles	to 3lbs	to 7lbs	to 14lbs	to 28lbs	to 56lbs
up to 10	3d	6d	9d	1/-	1/3
10 to 25	6d	9d	1/-	1/3	1/6
26 to 50	1/-	1/3	1/6	1/9	2/-
51 to 100	1/6	1/9	2/-	2/3	2/9
101 to 150	1/9	2/-	2/3	2/6	3/6
151 to 200	2/-	2/3	2/6	2/9	4/3
201 to 250	2/6	2/9	3/-	3/3	4/9
251 to 300	2/9	3/-	3/3	3/6	5/3
301 to 350	3/-	3/3	3/6	3/9	5/9
351 to 400	3/3	3/6	3/9	4/-	6/3

Issue of railway parcel stamps

Although the notices described above do not specifically mention the release date of the railway parcel stamps associated with the stamped parcels service, they do imply that the first issue of stamps probably took place sometime in 1868 while the second issue would have been required on 1 January 1884 to coincide with extension of the stamped parcel service. These dates are considerably earlier than those given by Ingles, Presgrave & Craig for the issue of these stamps.

Note: The illustrations are of stamps loaned from the collection of E C Druce. Of some interest is the manuscript provisional of one shilling on two shilling, two copies are known. The other two shilling value illustrated is a plate proof in issued colour.

References

Railway Stamps of Mainland Australia, O. G. Ingles, A.D. Presgrave, W.D. Craig, Hobart, 1980.

Queensland Government Gazette, 1867, 1868, 1883.

**QUEENSLAND RAILWAY STAMPED PARCEL RATES AND REGULATIONS
1885-1916**

Ian McMahon

Introduction

In a previous article I described the introduction of the stamped parcel service by Queensland Railways and the rates and regulations that were applied at that time. In this article I extend the discussion to the rates and regulations applying to the stamped parcel service over the period 1885 to 1916. All of the details discussed in this article were taken from Queensland Government Gazettes over the same period.

Rates and Regulations, 1885

The rates applicable from 1 January 1884 were discussed in an earlier article in *Capital Philately*. In December 1885 a new table of rates for stamped parcels was announced. The new rates are given in Table 1. They represented a significant reduction over the 1884 rates. For parcels over 28lbs in weight additional charges were levied for each extra pound. These charges ranged from 0.25d to 1.25d per pound. Stamps of denominations of less than 1d were not, however, required as the charge for each parcel was always rounded up to the nearest penny. Parcels of over 56lbs could not be sent as stamped parcels.

Table 1

Queensland Stamped Parcel Rates, December 1885
Weight (lbs)

Distance (miles)	Under 3		Under 7		Under 14		Under 28		Over 28 (per add.lb)	
	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
1 to 25	0	3	0	6	0	9	1	0	0	0.25
26 to 50	0	6	0	9	1	0	1	3	0	0.25
51 to 100	0	9	1	0	1	3	1	6	0	0.5
101 to 150	1	0	1	3	1	6	1	9	0	0.75
151 to 200	1	3	1	6	1	9	2	0	0	1
201 to 250	1	6	1	9	2	0	2	3	0	1.25
251 to 300	1	9	2	0	2	3	2	6	0	1.5
301 to 350	2	0	2	3	2	6	2	9	0	0.75
351 to 400	2	3	2	6	2	9	3	0	0	2
401 to 450	2	6	2	9	3	0	3	3	0	2.25

Packages of fresh fish, fresh meat, ice and bread were charged at half the stamped parcel rates. Otherwise the regulations applying to stamped parcels were similar to those applying in 1884. Stamped parcels were carried solely at the risk of the sender and no receipt was given. Parcels had to be brought to the station at least five minutes before the departure of the train on which they were to be carried. However, the Railway Department made no guarantee to forward parcels by a particular train.

Changes to parcel rates, 1891

New stamped parcel rates came into effect on 1 January 1891 (Table 2). The new table of rates was less complicated than the 1885 table and included reductions in rates for lighter parcels but substantial increases for parcels over 14lbs. One major change was that rates for the conveyance of parcels on the Mackay, Bowen and Cooktown Railways were 33 1/3% higher than the rates in Table 2 while those of the Cairns and Normanton Railways were 50% higher. Previous to this the rates were uniform throughout the Queensland railway system.

Table 2

Queensland Stamped Parcel Rates, January 1891
Weight (lbs)

Distance (miles)	Under 3		Under 7		Under 14		Under 28		Over 28 (per add.lb)	
	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
50 and under	0	3	0	6	0	9	1	0	0	0.25
51 to 100	0	6	0	9	1	3	1	6	0	0.5
101 to 200	1	0	1	3	1	9	2	6	0	1
201 to 300	1	6	1	9	2	3	3	6	0	1.5
301 to 400	1	9	2	3	2	9	4	6	0	1.75
401 to 500	2	0	2	9	3	3	5	6	0	2

Parcel rates, 1898

New rates and regulations were published in 1898. The new rates are given in Table 3 and included charges for parcels carried up to 1000 miles. Stamped parcels were still limited to 56 pounds in weight. The higher rates for the northern railways no longer applied.

Table 3

Queensland Stamped Parcel Rates, 1898
Weight (lbs)

Distance (miles)	Under 3		Under 7		Under 14		Under 28		Under 56	
	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
0 to 50	0	3	0	3	0	6	0	9	1	0
51 to 101	0	3	0	6	0	9	1	3	1	9
102 to 150	0	6	0	9	1	0	1	9	2	6
151 to 200	0	9	1	0	1	3	2	3	3	6
201 to 300	1	0	1	4	1	9	3	0	4	6
301 to 400	1	3	1	8	2	3	3	9	5	6
401 to 500	1	6	2	0	2	9	4	6	6	6
501 to 600	1	9	2	4	3	3	5	3	7	6
601 to 700	2	0	2	8	3	9	6	0	8	6
701 to 880	2	3	3	0	4	3	6	9	9	6
801 to 900	2	6	3	4	4	9	7	6	10	6
901 to 1000	2	9	3	8	5	3	8	3	11	6

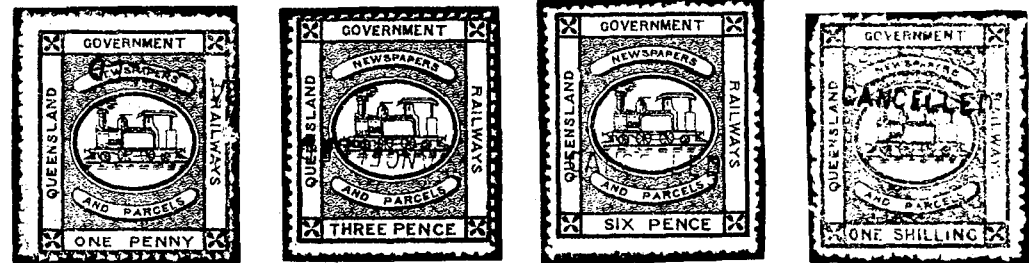


Figure 1

The four stamps of the Third Series on issue from 1894 to 1901 overprinted CANCELLED for use as specimens

Rate Changes, 1901

On 1 April 1901 a new table of rates for stamped parcels (Table 4) came into effect. The earlier tables had specified charges for parcels up to 14 pounds in weight in three weight steps whereas the new table gave the rates for parcels in one pound steps up to 14 pounds. Unstamped parcels were charged an additional 25 per cent. Parcels over 56lbs were now permitted as stamped parcels.

Table 4

Queensland Stamped Parcel Rates, 1 April 1901

Weight (lbs) Distance(miles)	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10	
	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
0 to 50	0	3	0	3	0	6	0	6	0	6	0	6	0	6	0	6	0	6	0	6
51 to 101	0	6	0	6	0	6	0	9	0	9	0	9	0	9	0	9	0	9	0	9
102 to 150	0	6	0	9	0	9	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
151 to 200	0	6	0	9	1	0	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3
201 to 300	0	9	0	9	1	0	1	3	1	6	1	9	1	9	1	9	1	9	1	9
301 to 400	0	9	0	9	1	0	1	3	1	6	1	9	2	0	2	3	2	3	2	3
401 to 500	0	9	0	9	1	0	1	3	1	6	1	9	2	0	2	3	2	6	2	9
501 to 600	0	10	0	10	1	0	1	3	1	6	1	9	2	9	2	3	2	6	2	9
601 to 700	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	6	1	9	2	0	2	3	2	6	2	9
701 to 800	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	6	1	9	2	0	2	3	2	6	2	9
801 to 900	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	6	1	9	2	0	2	3	2	6	2	9
901 to 1000	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	6	1	9	2	9	2	3	2	6	2	9

Weight (lbs) Distance(miles)	11		12		13		14		under 21		under 28		under 56		under 81		under 112 (per add lb)		+ 112 add	
	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
0 to 50	0	6	0	6	0	6	0	6	0	8	0	9	1	0	1	3	2	0	0	0.25
51 to 101	0	9	0	9	0	9	0	9	1	0	1	3	1	9	2	3	3	6	0	0.5
102 to 150	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	6	1	9	2	6	3	6	5	0	0	0.75
151 to 200	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	9	2	3	3	6	5	0	6	6	0	1
201 to 300	1	9	1	9	1	9	1	9	2	6	3	0	4	6	6	6	8	6	0	1.5
301 to 400	2	3		3	2	3	2	3	3	0	3	9	5	6	8	0	10	6	0	1.75
401 to 500	2	9	2	9	2	9	2	9	3	6	4	9	6	6	9	6	12	6	0	2
501 to 600	3	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	5	3	7	6	11	0	14	6	0	2.25
601 to 700	3	0	3	6	3	9	3	9	4	9	6	0	8	6	12	6	16	6	0	2.5
701 to 800	3	0	3	6	4	0	4	3	5	6	6	9	9	6	14	0	18	6	0	2.75
801 to 900	3	0	3	6	4	0	4	6	6	0	7	6	10	6	15	6	20	6	0	3
901 to 1000	3	0	3	6	4	0	4	6	6	6	8	3	11	6	17	0	22	6	0	3.25

Capital Philately

February 1988

Table 5

Railway Stamped Parcel Rates 1902
(within Queensland except between stations in Brisbane area)

Weight (lbs) Distance (miles)	Capital Philately February 1988										+ 112 (per add lb)		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
25 or less	3	0	6	0	0	0	6	0	7	0	7	0	7
25 to 50	4	0	6	0	7	0	7	0	8	0	8	0	8
51 to 75	6	0	8	0	9	0	9	0	10	0	10	0	10
76 to 101	6	0	9	0	10	0	10	0	11	0	11	0	11
102 to 150	6	0	10	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	2
151 to 200	6	0	9	1	0	1	3	1	6	1	6	1	6
201 to 300	6	0	9	1	0	1	3	1	9	1	9	1	9
301 to 400	6	0	9	1	0	1	3	1	6	2	3	2	3
401 and over	6	0	9	1	0	1	3	1	6	2	3	2	3
													9

Weight (lbs) Distance (miles)	85-112										+ 112 (per add lb)			
	11	12	13	14	15-21	22-28	29-56	57-84	85-112	112				
25 or less	0	7	0	7	0	9	0	10	1	9	2	6	0	.25
26 to 50	0	8	0	8	0	10	0	10	1	2	3	3	0	.25
51 to 75	0	10	0	10	0	11	1	3	3	2	3	3	0	.5
76 to 101	0	11	0	11	1	3	1	6	4	2	4	4	0	.5
102 to 150	0	2	1	3	1	3	2	0	5	3	5	6	0	.75
151 to 200	1	6	1	6	2	0	2	6	6	3	7	7	0	1
201 to 300	1	9	1	9	2	3	3	0	8	4	8	8	0	1.5
301 to 400	1	3	2	3	3	0	3	9	9	6	10	10	0	1.75
401 to 500	2	9	2	9	2	6	4	6	11	8	12	12	0	2
501 to 600	2	0	3	3	4	3	5	3	12	10	14	14	0	2.25
601 to 700	3	0	3	3	4	9	6	0	16	16	16	16	0	2.5
701 to 800	3	0	4	4	5	6	6	9	14	14	14	14	0	2.75
801 to 900	3	0	4	4	6	0	7	6	15	15	15	15	0	3
over 900	3	0	4	4	6	6	8	3	17	17	17	17	0	3.25

Rates and Regulations, 1902

The next change in rates occurred in 1902 and the new rates are presented in Table 5. As for the 1901 rates unstamped parcels were charged an additional 25 per cent. Bicycles, birds in cages, hat and bonnet boxes, opium, baskets, coffins, mirrors and other bulky items were charged at double rates. Newspapers were charged at half the parcel rate up to a maximum of 1d per pound with a minimum charge of 1d per parcel. Fresh meat, oysters, fruit, butter, vegetables, library books, cut flowers and bread were charged at half the parcel rate with a minimum charge of 3d. Ice was charged at 25 per cent of the parcel rate. Parcels carried on the Allora Branch were charged 3d for parcels 10 pounds and under and 6d for parcels 11 pounds and over in addition to the charge to or from Hendon. Parcels could now be carried at "special risk rates" which provided a form of insurance for parcels of over 10 pounds in value.



Figure 2

Stamps from the Fourth Series issued on 7 January 1901 and used in conjunction with the new 1901 rates

The regulations applying to stamped parcels at the time were:

- "Adhesive parcel stamps, similar to parcel stamps, will be issued from all railway stations.
- When a package such as fish, butter, eggs, milk, cream, fresh meat, etc, will not allow a stamp to properly adhere, a label must be secured to the package, on which the stamp can be properly affixed.

When the stamps affixed are not of full value for the weight or distance according to table of rates, and the sender omits or refuses to affix the additional stamps necessary, the stamp may either be cancelled and the parcel forwarded and surcharged at destination, or the Commissioner may refuse to forward same.

All stamped parcels except newspaper parcels must be booked."

Parcels arriving at stations in the Brisbane city area or stations at Ipswich, Toowoomba, Maryborough, Bundaberg and Rockhampton were delivered to the consignee's address and an additional charge of from 3d to 9d was made depending on the weight of the parcel. Parcels up to 11 pounds in weight intended for towns beyond the railway line were conveyed as far as possible by rail and then sent by coach to the nearest post office to be forwarded through the parcel post and the postage collected from the consignee.

Changes to Rates, 1910

The basic table of rates for stamped parcels in 1910 was virtually unchanged from the 1902 rates (Table 5). However, a new table of rates was introduced for parcels carried to or from Brisbane Central, Brunswick Street, Roma Street or South Brisbane stations and stations within a 25 mile radius of either Brisbane Central or South Brisbane (Table 6). In addition a cash on delivery parcel system was introduced.

Table 6

Parcel Rates for the Brisbane Area, 1910

Weight lbs	Miles from Brisbane Central or South Brisbane			
	1 to 14		15 to 25	
	s	d	s	d
up to 2	0	3	0	3
3 to 4	0	3	0	4
5 to 7	0	3	0	6
8 to 14	0	4	0	7
15 to 21	0	4	0	9
22 to 28	0	4	0	10
29 to 56	0	9	1	0
57 to 84	1	0	1	6
85 to 112	1	3	2	0
each add 28 lbs	0	3	0	3

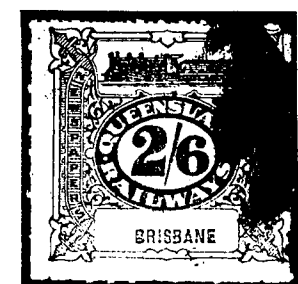
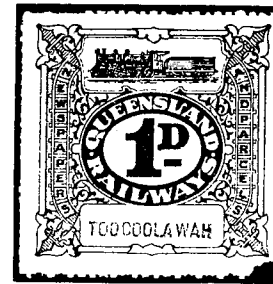


Figure 3

Stamps of the Fifth Series issued in 1915 in conjunction with the new rates. A booked parcel label shows stamps prepaying the ninepenny rate, probably a 2lb parcel travelling over 75 miles

Rates, 1915

Table 7 presents the stamped parcel rates which came into effect in 1915.

Regulations for stationmasters, 1916

The following are some of the instructions issued to stationmasters regarding stamped parcels:

- A written consignment note was not necessary for each parcel.
- All concerned must see that parcel stamps are affixed by the sender and cancelled as soon as possible.

Weight (lbs)	Capital Philately February 1988									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Distance (miles)	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
25 or less	0 3	0 4	0 0	0 7	0 0	0 7	0 0	0 8	0 0	0 8
25 to 50	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 8	0 0	0 8	0 0	0 9	0 0	0 9
51 to 75	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 9	0 0	0 10	0 0	0 11	0 0	0 11
76 to 101	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 10	0 0	0 11	0 0	0 11	0 1	0 0
102 to 150	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 11	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 3
151 to 200	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 0	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 3
201 to 300	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 3	0 1	0 4	0 1	0 7	0 1	0 7
301 to 400	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 3	0 1	0 6	0 1	0 10	0 1	0 10
401 and over	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 3	0 1	0 6	0 2	0 3	0 2	0 6
over 500	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 3	0 1	0 6	0 2	0 3	0 2	0 9

Weight (lbs)	Capital Philately February 1988											
	11	12	13	14	15-21	22-28	29-42	43-56	57-84	85-112	+ 112 (per add lb)	
Distance (miles)	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
25 or less	0 8	0 8	0 8	0 8	0 10	1 0	1 3	1 6	2 0	2 6	3 0	0 .25
26 to 50	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 9	1 0	1 3	1 6	1 9	2 3	2 3	3 0	0 .25
51 to 75	0 11	0 11	0 11	0 11	1 3	1 6	1 9	2 0	2 6	3 9	4 6	0 .5
76 to 101	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 6	1 9	2 0	2 3	3 0	4 6	6 0	0 .75
102 to 150	1 0	1 5	1 5	1 6	2 0	2 3	2 9	3 4	4 6	6 0	7 6	0 1
151 to 200	1 3	1 7	1 7	1 9	2 3	2 9	3 3	4 0	6 0	7 6	9 0	0 1.5
201 to 300	1 7	2 0	2 0	2 2	3 3	3 4	4 3	4 9	7 6	9 0	11 0	0 1.75
301 to 400	2 11	2 6	2 6	2 6	4 0	4 9	5 0	6 0	10 0	13 0	15 0	0 2
401 to 500	3 6	3 0	3 0	3 6	5 6	6 6	6 9	8 0	11 0	15 0	16 6	0 2.25
501 to 600	3 0	3 6	3 6	3 9	6 6	6 6	7 9	8 6	12 6	16 6	18 6	0 2.5
601 to 700	3 0	3 6	3 9	3 9	5 0	6 6	7 9	8 6	14 0	18 6	20 6	0 2.75
701 to 800	3 0	3 6	3 9	3 9	5 0	6 6	8 6	9 6	15 6	20 6	22 6	0 3
801 to 900	3 0	3 6	3 9	3 9	5 0	6 6	9 6	10 6	17 0	22 6	26 6	0 3.25
over 900	3 0	3 6	3 9	3 9	5 0	6 6	10 0	11 6	17 0	22 6	26 6	0 3.25

- Parcels should be sent by the first through train to avoid unnecessary handling.
 - The weights of parcels and the value of stamps affixed must be checked in order "to protect the revenue of the Department".
 - "Diligence must be exercised in regard to parcel stamps affixed to labels on cream and milk cans. If stamps are very faintly obliterated, or not obliterated at all, there is nothing to prevent them being used a second time.
- Stationmasters and all concerned are hereby instructed to properly cancel parcel stamps ...
 Serious notice will be taken of any omission to comply with this regulation."

The rates for parcels carried within a 25 miles radius of Brisbane were also amended (Table 8).

Table 8
Parcel Rates for the Brisbane Area, 1915

Weight lbs	Miles from Brisbane Central or South Brisbane			
	1 to 14		15 to 25	
	s	d	s	d
up to 2	0	3	0	3
3 to 4	0	4	0	5
5 to 7	0	4	0	7
8 to 14	0	5	0	8
15 to 21	0	5	0	10
22 to 28	0	5	0	11
29 to 42	0	10	1	1
43 to 56	0	11	1	4
57 to 84	1	1	1	7
85 to 112	1	4	2	1
each add. 28 lbs	0	3	0	3

Interstate Parcels

Throughout the period 1884 to 1916 Queensland railway parcel stamps could not be used to prepay interstate parcels.

References

Queensland Government Gazettes 1885 to 1916.