

POSTMASTERS AT GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA CITY, AND KING-
FISHER, IND. T.

JUNE 19, 1890.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the
Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BINGHAM, from the Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads,
submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 11044.]

The Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads, to whom were referred House bills Nos. 3847, 4757, and 5623, to authorize and direct the re-adjustment of the salaries and allowances for the postmasters at Guthrie, Kingfisher, and Oklahoma City, in the Indian Territory, beg leave to report a bill in lieu thereof, and recommend its passage, and that the several bills referred to lie on the table.

In support of this recommendation your committee state that by proclamation of the President certain lands in the Indian Territory were thrown open to settlement on April 21, 1889; that within a very short time thereafter postmasters were appointed for those places in the Territory, and so great was the influx of population into the cities named that the receipts of those offices, from the very first day of their having been opened for business, were at a rate exceeding the amount necessary to make them Presidential offices. The law requires that no office shall be made Presidential until the receipts for four successive quarters justify the payment of a salary of \$1,000 per annum to the postmaster. These offices, therefore, although doing a business much in excess of that required to make them Presidential offices, could not be made Presidential until the receipts for four successive quarters had been reported to the Post-Office Department and the necessary steps taken, as provided by law.

The postmasters at these various places, therefore, performed labor largely in excess of that required in fourth-class post-offices, and yet the Department was only authorized to pay them the amount authorized by law to be paid to fourth-class postmasters. The Postmaster-General recommends that a bill be passed authorizing him to pay these postmasters the same salary from July 1, 1889, that they will be entitled to under the law re-adjusting their salaries, to take effect from July 1, 1890, as is shown by the following letter received from the Department:

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
Washington, D. C., April 30, 1890.

SIR: In reply to your request, relative to H. R. bills Nos. 3847, 4757, and 5623, to authorize and direct the re-adjustment of the salaries and allowances for the postmasters at Guthrie, Kingfisher, and Oklahoma, Ind. T., I beg to state the records show that, under existing law (section 463, Postal Laws and Regulations, edition of 1887, R. S., section 3863), extraordinary allowances for clerk-hire have been authorized for each of the said offices; and, under the proviso of section 2, of the act of

March 3, 1883, the Auditor will make report for a re-adjustment of the salaries of the postmasters at these offices, on the basis of the receipts of the respective offices for the four quarters ended March 31, 1880, to take effect July 1, next.

It will be observed that, by operation of existing law, there is no necessity for this special legislation. Under the present law, however, there is no provision for a retroactive adjustment of salary, and I am of the opinion that, in justice to the postmasters at these offices, the salary, as shown by the adjustment now in progress, should be made to take effect from the first day of the period which will form the basis of the adjustment; and so I recommend.

Very respectfully,

JNO. WANAMAKER,
Postmaster-General.

Hon. H. H. BINGHAM,
*Chairman Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

Your committee think this is but just and reasonable, as the postmasters at those places have given good service and have received but little compensation therefor. We therefore recommend the passage of the bill, which embraces the objects sought to be accomplished by the three bills.