

PARCEL POST TO NET \$30,000,000

First Year's Earnings Will Be Twice Sum Estimated.

TOTAL INCOME \$80,000,000

Result Seems to Justify Railroads' Contention That More Should Be Paid Them For Carrying Mail—New Bill Will Settle It—Readjustment of Pay Every Four Years Hitherto.

It has just become known in Washington that the profits to the government from the operation of the new parcel post system during the calendar year 1913 will be about \$30,000,000. The new system became effective on Jan. 1 last. It was estimated that the profits for the first year would be about \$15,000,000, but the actual figures now in possession of postal officials convince them that the profit, instead of being \$15,000,000, will be \$30,000,000 for the first year.

This will be interesting news to railway officials, who have been contending that their roads were entitled to extra remuneration for carrying the mails on account of the operation of the parcel post. It was learned also from a reliable quarter that, even assuming that the contention of the railroads was correct, there still would have been a good margin of profit at the end of the calendar year 1913 after the payment of extra remuneration to the roads.

Gross Revenue \$65,000,000.

If a parcel post adjustment were made along the lines suggested by some of the railroads, probably not more than \$10,000,000 of this \$30,000,000 would be due to the railroads as extra pay. The total income from the parcel post for 1913 will be around \$80,000,000.

The whole question of railway mail pay—that is, compensation to the railroads for carrying the mails—is likely to be readjusted next year. Immediately after the meeting of congress in regular session in December a bill will be introduced providing for this readjustment. The measure is now being drafted. It will seek to establish an entirely new method of paying the railroads for carrying the mails and do away with the present archaic method of computing the payment to roads.

For some time members of the house postoffice committee have been considering the question of providing a new method of paying for mail transportation. They have been consulted in connection with the preparation of the new bill, as have also the officials of the postoffice department most intimately identified with mail transportation. The bill will be an administration measure.

Pay Readjusted Quadrennially.

Pay for carrying the mails is readjusted only once every four years. For purposes of the computation the country is divided into four grand subdivisions, in each of which the mail is weighed once every four years. This is accomplished in such a way that the weighing is done in one district this year, in the second district next year, the third district the next year and the fourth district the following year.

The mail is weighed for thirty days, and upon this basis a computation is made for an entire year, showing the average monthly amount of mail carried. When once made, this computation continues for a single road for four years, and payment is made accordingly.

The bill now being prepared will propose a new method of fixing the basis of payment. It will propose a radical change in the whole system of railway mail pay and a readjustment that is expected to be fairer to both the government and the railroads. The new railway pay bill also will take into consideration the paying of the railroads for carrying the parcel post matter and will seek to meet the complaints that have been filed by different roads, several of which were willing to throw up their railway mail contracts rather than carry the parcel post without additional pay.

CANAL TRAFFIC FORECAST.

Ships Passing by Long Route Will Not Be Fewer.

A record number of steamers passed through the Magellan strait in the ten months from Jan. 1 to Oct. 31 of this year, according to an official statement issued recently in Valparaiso, Chile. The traffic comprised 221 steamers from the Atlantic and 137 from the Pacific.

Many officials are of the opinion that the number of vessels using the Magellan strait will not be affected by the opening of the Panama canal and that Valparaiso will continue to be the principal port in the southern Pacific.

Arbitration Treaty With Denmark.

According to advices from Washington, Secretary Bryan has just announced that he is negotiating with Denmark a treaty providing for the submission to arbitration of all questions arising between the two governments, including questions of national honor. The negotiations were undertaken at the initiative of Constantin Brun, Danish minister in Washington.

Minute "Movies" of the News Right Off the Reel

United States is now two-thirds "dry," Prohibitionists assert.

Red "devil wagons" of the rural postal service are to be painted green so they won't irritate the bulls.

A North Dakota judge has refused to confer citizenship upon applicants engaged in the liquor business.

In a Denver maternity hospital twenty-three girls have been born in as many consecutive days, but nary a boy.

College football team from New Zealand has been playing elevens in California and beating everything in sight.

Robert Armstrong will soon have the distinction, if the law is carried out, of being the first man hanged in Bermuda in thirty-three years.

Robert Hamm was caught stealing eggs from a henhouse near Peekskill, N. Y. The owner armed himself with a shotgun and captured both Hamm and eggs.

Nashville (Tenn.) man, seventy-three years old, sues for a perpetual injunction restraining his son and granddaughter from visiting him except on specific invitation.

NEW STAMP BOOK ISSUED BY POSTMASTER GENERAL

Contains Twenty-four Each of One Cent and Two Cent Stamps.

Postmaster General Burleson is the author of what is expected to prove one of the "six best sellers" among the books of the coming season. Announcement is made that it is off the press and soon can be had at thousands of postoffices and subpostoffices throughout the country. The book, its attractive title being "24:1c-2c," is embellished with beautiful engravings and will sell for the nominal sum of 73 cents.

The demand for such a book was recognized by those who approved of that other sterling little volume issued by the government and which contained twelve two-cent stamps, the price of which was 25 cents. The new volume is to contain twenty-four two-cent and an equal number of one cent stamps.

"The leaves of this new educational work," said a postoffice official, "will go far to fill a long felt want. In fact, properly used, they will go as far as the Philippines, Hawaii or Porto Rico. It is seldom an announcement is made of a new volume that is destined to exert so widespread an influence. The department has issued instructions to postmasters throughout the country concerning the issue of the new stamp book."

FARM FOR HONOR CONVICTS.

Washington State Project to Buy a Thousand Acres—Benefits Expected.

Purchase of a large farm for "honor convicts," the first in the United States, is under consideration by the prison board of Washington state. The board argues that the project would be both economical for the state and beneficial for the prisoners.

The penitentiary should not have to expend more for common supplies than does the successful farmer, it is urged. Not only is it hoped ultimately to raise the beef, pork and bacon needed, but it is planned to have a thoroughly equipped dairy, and it is even suggested that the wool from the sheep may be used in making clothing for the prisoners.

It is suggested that 1,000 acres would be required and that the state might exchange some of its present holdings for the desired acreage, convenient to the penitentiary.

It is pointed out that several hundred men could be put to work, which in itself would be of great benefit to them physically and morally; moreover, a small wage could, if found desirable, be paid them so that when they are finally liberated they would have a start in a new life.

At present there are about 250 prisoners working about the penitentiary farm, virtually on their honor. Two unarmed guards work with them as counsel and custodians.

MAIL YOUR PARCELS EARLY.

Postoffice Department Adopts Slogan For the Christmas Holidays.

"Mail your holiday parcels early" will be the slogan of the postoffice department from now until Christmas. This is the first Christmas season the parcel post system has been in operation and Postmaster General Burleson is planning for the handling of the mails as expeditiously and economically and with as little criticism as possible. This he thinks will be possible if patrons realize the advantage of the early mailing of parcels.

Many inquiries are being received by the postal authorities in Washington from firms in Canada concerning the operation of the parcel post in the United States, which indicate agitation for the establishment of a parcel post system by the Canadian government.

DIET FOR HEALTH CUTS LIVING COST

Federal Expert Gives List of Suitable Foods.

FAVORS HOME CANNING.

Rheumatism and Other Ills Would Be Largely Eliminated if Fruit and Vegetables Were Provided Every Day in the Year, Says Food Specialist—Would Be Cheaper Too.

The average American family may steer clear of the ordinary discomforts that afflict the body and thereby improve its health if the housewife will exercise more care in getting up the daily bill of fare.

A food specialist of the department of agriculture in Washington points the way. He says that the balanced ration of many Americans today is made up about as follows:

Bread, Meat, Butter, Fish, Fruit, Eggs, Patent medicine laxatives.

Many Americans suffer customarily from indigestion in its various forms and rheumatism, according to the government food specialist. He suggests that a simple change of the daily menu might go a long way to remedy these ailments. The specialist recommends a change to this menu as being more in keeping with nature's plans:

Bread, Meat, Butter, Fish, Fruit, Eggs, Vegetables, Greens.

For Fruits and Vegetables.

The specialist recommends that every family provide a diet of fruit and vegetables for every day in the year. He argues that this would do much to eliminate the need for patent medicines that figure so prominently in the bill of fare of so many Americans.

"If every home," said the specialist, "kept on hand enough canned products so that there might be a can of fruit, a can of greens and a can of vegetables for every day during the winter there would be little need for the laxatives now so regularly purchased from the corner druggists. There would also be great economy in the substitution of an inexpensive food for more expensive ones."

The food specialist suggests that housewives should do more home canning at the proper season. He thinks this would help to solve the problem involved in the cost of living.

"It is estimated," he said, "that over 50 per cent of all the vegetables, greens, fruit and berries that grow in this country go to waste and are actually lost to those who need them. This is simply because housewives have not learned to care for these surplus products efficiently and to make them available for the winter months by canning."

"That home canning may reduce the cost of living is not generally appreciated. Even those who are accustomed to use a supply of canned goods in the winter do not realize that they sometimes pay transportation on goods from distant parts of the country when there is a surplus of the same product in their own vicinity during the summer months which might have been saved by home canning."

The food specialist then tells about the enormous economic waste that could be prevented by home canning.

"For example," he said, "a can of tomatoes is bought during the winter months in Colorado for 15 cents. This can was put up in Maryland. The people of the section where it was purchased live in an irrigated district where there is always a surplus of tomatoes in summer, yet they pay transportation on vegetables from Maryland when they might have put up a similar can during the season in their own district which would have cost 5 cents."

"When one considers the number of cans used which have been shipped great distances one realizes the enormous saving a little intelligent home canning might bring about."

AIR CURE FOR ADENOIDS.

When Surgical Operations Are Necessary—Schoolroom Temperature.

Adenoids will heal themselves in four cases out of five if the child suffering from them be given plenty of outdoor air, according to Dr. T. F. Harrington, director of school hygiene in Boston. In addressing a teachers' association recently in that city Dr. Harrington said:

"The knife is necessary only when there is a discharge from the ear and danger to the hearing or when the blood supply is cut off from the brain and feeble mindedness, flat chests and glandular trouble seem imminent. "The air of the classroom should be down to 55 degrees, and the children should be allowed to wear their wraps when they care to."

Chicken Thief Reports.

A man who stole three chickens years ago from L. Glass of Evansville, Ind., has become conscience stricken. Glass received an unsigned letter post-marked Evansville, in which was enclosed \$1.50 in money. The letter read as follows: "I herewith enclose \$1.50 for three chickens I stole from you fifteen years ago. I am a thief no longer."



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NOTICE!

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