

THE OBSERVER

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Editor and Owner.

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BOURNE ON THE PARCELS POST.

United States Senator Bourne from Oregon has introduced the following bill and made the following remarks concerning the parcels post:

Mr. President: I introduce the following bill (S. 2873), and ask that it be read for the information of the senate. It is very brief.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act no higher postage rate shall be charged for the transmission of mail matter within the United States or its possessions than is charged for transmission of mail matter

within and partly without the United States or its possessions. The postmaster general is hereby authorized and required to establish and enforce rule and regulations which will give the people of the United States rights and privileges in the use of the United States mails as liberal as the rights and privileges the United States accords to the people of the most favored nation.

Mr. President, it may seem strange to members of the senate that there should be a possibility of legislation giving American citizens privileges in the United States mails between themselves equal with those enjoyed by residents of this country in transaction of business with residents of foreign countries. The facts are these: Within the United States the rate of postage on fourth class matter is 10 cents a pound, with a limit of four pounds. The United States is party to a treaty under which residents of 29 foreign countries may send fourth class matter through the United States mails at 12 cents a pound, with a limit of 11 pounds. In other words, a man may send an 11-pound package from San Francisco to Rome, Italy at 12 cents a pound, but if he wishes to send the same articles to New York he must divide them into packages of not to exceed four pounds each and pay 10 cents a pound. A Japanese residing in New York can send an 11-pound package to his friends in Tokyo at 12 cents, but an American in New York can send only a four pound package from New York to Washington and must pay 16 cents a pound.

Mr. president, the committee on post offices and post roads of both senate and house have under consideration bills for the establishment of parcels post. In my opinion, the specific provisions of such a bill should be fixed only after the most careful investigation. I believe congress will establish a parcels post rate of less than 12 cents a pound and a rate very much less than that for short hauls. But whatever the ultimate action on the question of parcels post, I can see no reason for delay in the enactment of this law, giving American citizens

as favorable postal facilities as this government extends to residents of foreign countries. Especially is this true when investigation by the post-office department shows that the cost of transporting fourth class matter is approximately 12 cents a pound. The passage of this bill will in no way conflict with any subsequent legislation on the subject of parcels post.

HE NEEDS PUNISHMENT.

Too strong a contempt cannot be expressed for one George Baker of Baker City who, for a joke, wired his mother in the east that he was dead and signed a friend's name to the message. The little mother hastened to Baker clad in mourning only to find that her son was well and had perpetrated what he termed a joke upon her.

Just what frame of mind a lad can be in who will do such an act is beyond comprehension. Of course his mother forgave him and was highly pleased that death had not claimed the child of her bearing but the general public will for a long time single this young man out as being very unworthy of the little mother that traveled across the country at the death call which was bogus.

JUST A NEW COUNTRY.

It now seems that the whole agitation about Alaska and her great resources was out of order and done largely for a purpose. As a matter of fact Alaska is a strictly new country so far as settlement is concerned. To go there and stay means hardships and privations which Americans nowadays will not stand unless handsomely repaid. Had this country been opened years ago when the Ezra Meeker class of men were seeking homes it doubtless would have been settled. But at the present time people must ride to their new home in a Pullman car and be conveyed from the car to the land in an automobile. We are living in a different age, yes, a very different age. And Alaska will continue to be the country for the adventurer, for the prospector and for the corporation, regardless of what the government may decide to do in the premises.

It must be admitted that sheriffs and chiefs of police and their departments in smaller towns come nearer making good in the capture of criminals than do officers in the larger cities, all of which seems very strange. But take Portland, for instance, look at the high crimes that have been committed and note how few of the criminals have been captured, while in the smaller communities the officers got out and stay out until they find their man.

RECIPROCITY CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page one)

confined themselves largely to the sentimental side of the reciprocity question. The British flag, the maintenance of British connection unweakened, and protests against closer relations with the United States have formed the basis of conservative speeches. The liberals on the other hand, have sought to keep the fiscal aspect of reciprocity to the front and have accused as absurd the contention of the conservatives that reciprocity will lead Canada away from England and to the United States.

It is conceded that if the conservatives have succeeded in convincing a majority of the electors that reciprocity tends toward annexation the government will be defeated. It likewise seems certain that if the government speakers have satisfied the voters that annexation is impossible the government will be returned by a substantial majority and the reciprocity agreement ratified.

The French-Canadian province of Quebec is regarded as the pivotal province in the election. Here Henri Bourassa, the opposition nationalist leader, has vigorously denounced Premier Laurier as too imperialistic. Through his paper, Le Devoir, of Montreal, and in speeches he has declared that Laurier betrayed Canadian independence to Great Britain by enacting a law for the creation of a navy which eventually will lead to the conscription of the young men of Canada.

In addition to Bourassa the conspicuous opponents of the government's return are Clifford Sifton, a former member of the Laurier cabinet; Robert Rogers, minister of public works in the Manitoba government and head of the conservative organization in the prairie west; Richard McBride, premier of British Columbia and Premier Hazen of New Brunswick.

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