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## PARCELS POST BUSINESS LOCALLY FORGES AHEAD

Big Problems Face Government and Railroads In Striking Equitable Basis for Paying Railroads.

Parcels post business is growing with leaps and bounds in La Grande and similar conditions in all sections of the United States, has developed a huge problem pertinent to the business as conducted throughout the United States.

One of the pressing problems of the postal department and the railroads calling for solution is the matter of adjusting new rates for hauling mail. When the recent order for the department went into effect increasing the weight limit on parcels, no provision was made to compensate the railroads for the increase in weight. They have been compelled to carry the increased weight free of cost to the government. That the parcels post will increase the revenue of the postal department is clear from figures given out by the department itself. According to their statement the parcels post will increase the receipts for fourth class matter for the present "calendar" year by \$15,000,000. It will increase the rates for the same class of mail for the "fiscal" year, which began July 1st last, by an amount estimated to be between \$20,000,000 and \$30,000,000 and will probably give the department a surplus for the fiscal year of at least \$10,000,000. The increase for the city of New York alone has been in excess of \$2,900,000. This period for New York includes only the six weeks of the twenty pound limit to parcels post matters commencing on August 15th.

Railroads have constantly complained. Last winter Congress appointed a committee composed of members of both houses, of which Jonathan Bourne was chairman, to inquire into the matter. Voluminous books of testimony were taken and the matter is likely to come before congress this winter.

In the meantime the department announces that the receipts for fourth class matter for the first six months of the year 1913 were \$14,000,000 as compared with \$12,000,000 for the same of mail for the entire fiscal year that ended July 1st 1912. The increase has been carried without an increase in pay to the railroads. It is the contention of the railroads that compensation before the parcel post law went into effect, and that when the rates of compensation were adjusted last spring a rate which is to stand for the next four years, the post office department, without warning to the railroads increased the weight limit from 11 to 20 pounds.

At first sight it would seem that the matter of increase in weight ought to effect the matter of compensation, but

that does not happen to be the case.

If the weighing of mail were carried on at periods that would take into account the increase in the quantity at a certain ratio, the matter would adjust itself automatically.

According to the present plan there is but one weighing period in four years. This weighing is conducted during a period of from thirty to ninety days and forms the bases for the contracts with each railroad over which the mails are carried. The total of each railroad's hauling is divided by the number of the weighing days in the weighing period and forms the bases for the four years. It will be seen that no provision is made for the natural increase of weight of all classes of mail, much less for such extraordinary increase as was created by the recent procedure of the department increasing the weight limit on parcels.

In 1907 the railroads received \$49,000,000 for hauling the mails and in the following year \$48,155,378 although the increased volume of mail caused an increase in the departments revenue of \$7,893,658.

Salaries of postal clerks increased more than \$11,000,000, rural service delivery increased more than \$10,000,000, city delivery service increased more than \$8,000,000, railway postal clerks pay increased more than \$4,000,000, postmasters salaries increased more than \$3,000,000 not counting a miscellaneous increase of over \$3,700,000.

It would seem in view of the close margin of operation on the part of the government that any increase to the railroads could hardly be made, but the opinion is held by the railroads and by fair minded men that the contention on their part is so manifestly just that the government will be forced into the necessity of revising the bases on which the mails are hauled in order to reasonably compensate the roads for their trouble. They set out the increased cost of operation, increased wages to railroad employees, steel cars, fuel costs, the standard of service demanded by the public, shorter hours of service and full crew laws, multiplied taxes and a host of other matters that have entered into the increased cost of operation.

When approached on the matter E. E. Bragg, the local postmaster, declared he had no reason to doubt the figures, and added the statement that the parcel branch of the department had increased here in La Grande at an astonishing rate. He also voiced the opinion that in the near future the local postoffice facilities would be inadequate to handle the increased volume of business, claiming a greater popularity for the service with its inexpensiveness and effectiveness. Editorial comment on the present status of things is in favor of better bases of calculation.

### HAS UNION FOUND THE SAME?

The Answer is found in the Stright-forward Statement of a Union Resident.

We have been reading week after week in the local press of La Grande citizens who have been rid of distressing kidney and bladder troubles by Doan's Kidney Pills (and we have often wondered whether the same high opinion of this medicine is to be found in our neighboring towns. This frank and earnest statement by a well-known and respected resident of Union will set this doubt at rest.

Thomas Brasher, real estate dealer and receiver for Overton Lumber Co., Union Ore., says: "I suffered from weakness of the kidneys and didn't rest well. After using Doan's Kidney Pills a short time, the kidney action was regulated. I gladly confirm the testimonial I gave for Doan's Kidney Pills in May, 1910."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

Your job printing. Have it done at the Observer office.

The Designer of the "AMERICAN QUEEN CORSET" is recognized as the foremost artist in the country. This Corset is correct in its minutest detail. A Phone Call or postal will get you a demonstration.

The only strictly made-to-measure or tailored corset in La Grande.

MRS. O. CALHOUN-COMBS.  
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## IT'S MIGHT HARD

to make you realize in an advertisement the extreme beauty and attractiveness of the stylish clothes now being shown at this store. But it's the easiest thing in the world to win your admiration for them when you come here to see them. Once your eyes spy some of these handsome new numbers you will be delighted.

Yes, it's hard to make you comprehend what extra good values we offer you even by showing them to you. You must wear a suit or overcoat and learn how well they hold their neat appearance and how long they wear, before you'll fully realize what big value they are. We know that the style and attractiveness of your clothes is your first consideration, but we realize that you want service and long wear too. Yes, and you want a perfect fit that means comfort too. Leave it to us to give you a happy combination of all these qualities in the clothes you buy here.

Our Prices Will Please You.

## ASH BROS. Clothiers and Furnishers

## THE TELEPHONE

By furnishing quick service in communication multiplies a man's capacity and makes it possible for the business man to transact more business.

EVERY TELEPHONE A LONG DISTANCE STATION  
HOME INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE SYSTEM

# NOT BROKE

"Says the Owner"

BUT ON ACCOUNT OF BEING AWAY FROM LA GRANDE AND CANNOT GIVE THE PLACE MY PERSONAL ATTENTION, HAVE DECIDED TO SELL. OF COURSE YOU REAP THE BENEFIT.

## Here is What We Have

THE NORTH HALF OF OUT LOT 159, CHAPLAIN'S SUPPLEMENTAL ADD TO LA GRANDE.

THERE IS A GOOD 3-ROOM HOUSE, STONE FOUNDATION; GOOD SMALL BARN, WOOD HOUSE. MAIN DITCH RUNS ALONG SOUTH SIDE OF LOT, ALWAYS GIVING PLENTY OF MOISTURE TO LAND.

NOW IF YOU WANT A FINE LOT IN GOOD LOCATION FOR HOUSE ON REASONABLE TERMS

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Come to OUR Drug Store.

## NEWLIN DRUG CO.