

JOBBERS CRITICISE S. RAIL CONTROL

Handling of Freight Cars Declared Inefficient.

DELAYS AROUSE DEALERS

Present Service Regarded as Below Old Standard and Detrimental to Business Houses.

When a car of foodstuffs dallies a month on a trip that should occupy not more than a week, when "tracers" fail even to gain touch with the vanished goods, and when the same occurrence transpires again and again with monotonous and needless regularity, then do the wholesalers and jobbers arise to wish back the good old days before the railroads passed into the hands of the government.

Portland wholesalers, taking it by and large, are far from content with the status of the railroads under their present management, and draw invidious comparisons between the present and the past. A summary of the charges they make, basing them upon experiences said to be common throughout the period of government control, comprises the following statements:

Car Service Slackens.
That car service has slackened to not more than 40 per cent of the normal supply.
That periods of shipment have inordinately lengthened.
That "tracers" fail to find cars of goods, which are frequently lost from the ken of the wholesaler for weeks at a time.

That cars arriving at Brooklyn yards on the east side, are almost uniformly held until the following day, before they are delivered to the terminal company.
That strings of empty cars frequently stand on the private spurs and sidings, the opinion concerning which no attempt made to get them immediately back into service.

That any actual shortage of cars has been fostered by the government policy of refusing to build additional cars each year on a normal programme, and by generally failing to keep up the equipment at standard.

"Double Loading" Opposed.
That "double loading," an economical measure placed in effect by the administration, often causes prolonged delay and considerable loss.

That the policy of the railroad administration appears to be that of "passing the buck" to the shipper with regard to service improvement, rather than formulating a general remedy.

And that a general slackening in personal attention to duty and the convenience of the shipper is manifest among trainmen.

Five of the largest wholesale dealers in Portland, whose consignments cross the continent, were interviewed concerning their opinions of the quality of freight service at present, as compared with that before the federal control of railroads was established. In each instance the traffic managers voiced specific complaints, requesting, however, that their statements be not referred to in quotation. On minor points all did not agree. Some were more dissatisfied than others—but the general consensus of opinion was that freight service at present is a signal failure.

Railroads Blame Shortage.
"It is almost impossible nowadays to get a 'set-in' to load with stuff," said one traffic manager. "The railroads say it because they have no equipment. We used to get three switches a day, that is, new cars were delivered and filled, ready to load with that frequency. Now we get one. Cars that are unloaded on our track are left here until the following day, instead of being switched out to sidings in stemming the shortage elsewhere."

"The supply of cars at present, as we find it, is not more than 40 per cent of normal. Service has deteriorated in like degree. We used to get service out of San Francisco in four to five days. Now the goods take from 10 to 15 days in reaching Portland."

"Double-loading was advanced by the administration as a measure of economy. Shippers' loading to co-operate. Double loading means that a car consigned to us, for example, and not completely filled, shall receive the remainder of its capacity load in consignment to another firm, perhaps in Portland, perhaps elsewhere. We have had such shipments held at Klamath Falls, when en route from San Francisco, for long periods, though the Klamath Falls house has removed its share of the consignment."

Delayed Shipments Cited.
"Shipments from the south used to arrive in Brooklyn yards at 3 o'clock in the morning, and were at our warehouse before 8 o'clock. The earliest we ever receive them now is the second morning after arrival. The terminal company advised Brooklyn that it cannot receive the cars and that they must be held. They say they are short of equipment."

"Transcontinental shipments used to take from 15 to 18 days. We cannot figure now on less than 30 to 40 days. A car of canned goods shipped by us to New York was 29 days on the road, and took 14 days to cover the last 150 miles. Nor was this car double-loaded."

"A car of sugar from Santa Barbara, Cal., was three days in making the first 60 miles, and arrived in San Francisco two days afterward, where it should have arrived in a single day."

Slow Switching Discussed.
"The administration continually harps upon the co-operation of the shipper. But when we get the cars unloaded they don't get them out promptly. On our siding in a single typical day, at noon, I counted 20 extra cars ready for service if they had been elsewhere. They were not switched out until the following day. To operate a switch engine costs \$15 an hour. Two hours would have sufficed to move these cars. Yet 20 cars, in the alleged interests of economy, were idle for two days to save an expenditure of \$30."

"If the same service were given now, the service that was in vogue before the war, with cars placed promptly and with arrivals at the warehouse seven days out of San Francisco, I am confident that fully 40 per cent more cars would be available."

Carelessness is Charged.
"There is also a noticeable slackening in personal application to duty among trainmen. They know that under the railroad administration they cannot lose their jobs, and in consequence have grown careless and to some extent inefficient. I believe that this has a great deal to do with the delays."

A story of "tracers" that failed to trace was told by another traffic manager of a wholesale company, who said that this particular phase of the trouble was their most frequent inconvenience.

"We are constantly having trouble



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The prestige of quality goes with Rosenthal footwear. You could make no better or more sensible gift.

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Laird-Schober Shoes for Women
New Silver Slippers
Complete Lines of Laird-Schober New Oxfords and Pumps
Men's and Women's Over-Gaiters
Tweedie Boot-Tops in Latest Shades

A Gift for Mother—a Pair of Dr. A. Reed's Cushion Shoes

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129 Tenth Street, Between Washington and Alder

tracing shipments," he said. "Seemingly there is no one who can keep track of the consignments, and we cannot tell when they will arrive. In a number of cases we have had sugar shipments from San Francisco, that should have reached here in seven days, delayed for two weeks and longer without a word of their location. We would be told, occasionally, that the cars had passed Ashland. From that point they should reach Portland in 35 hours. Several times they have taken four or five days to make the trip, nor could we locate them on the way."

"I don't know what the trouble was. The railroad officials who were attempting to trace them worked hard, but couldn't get co-operation or results. It was funny at times, for often we have been called by telephone and told that the car was located, when we already were unloading it."

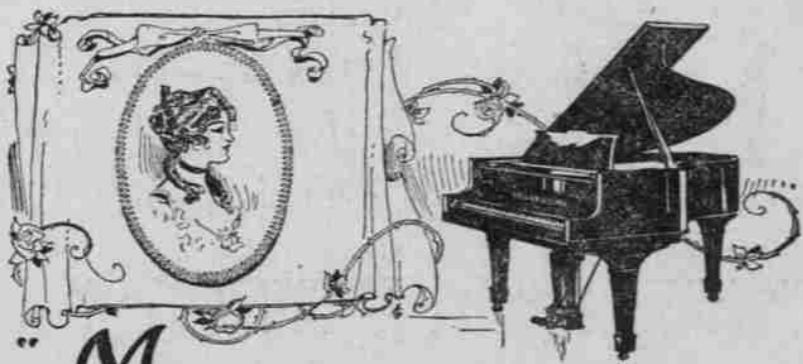
A number of wholesalers and other large concerns whose freight traffic is heavy appeared to give private sanction to the complaints gleaned from their commercial colleagues, but shied when asked to discuss the matter from the angle of their own affairs, and asked that the questioning be discontinued as of no avail.

Still and Whisky Seized.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Five gallons of moonshine whisky, 100 gallons of raisin mash and about half a ton of raisins were seized yesterday from a shack about 14 miles up the Wishkah river from Aberdeen, by Deputy Sheriff McBride. Two men, John Grubich and John Selig, were arrested. The still was in operation at the time of seizure, it is stated, and about two quarts of the finished product were taken running from the still.

Compensation Laws Topic.

William A. Marshall, chairman of the state industrial accident commission, will be the speaker this evening at Everyman's club, 243 Couch street. He will explain provisions of the workmen's compensation laws. Violin and piano numbers are promised, and motion pictures will be shown as a part of the programme tonight.



Miniatures

The exquisite beauty of the hand-painted miniature finds a true counterpart in the superb Steger Miniature Grand.

It is a perfect grand of delightfully small design for the modern artistic apartment!

Pictures and words fail to do it justice. You must see it—hear its delightful tone. Then you will find it indispensable for your music room.

Convenient terms
Factory Distributors SCHWAN PIANO CO. 111 Fourth St. at Washington

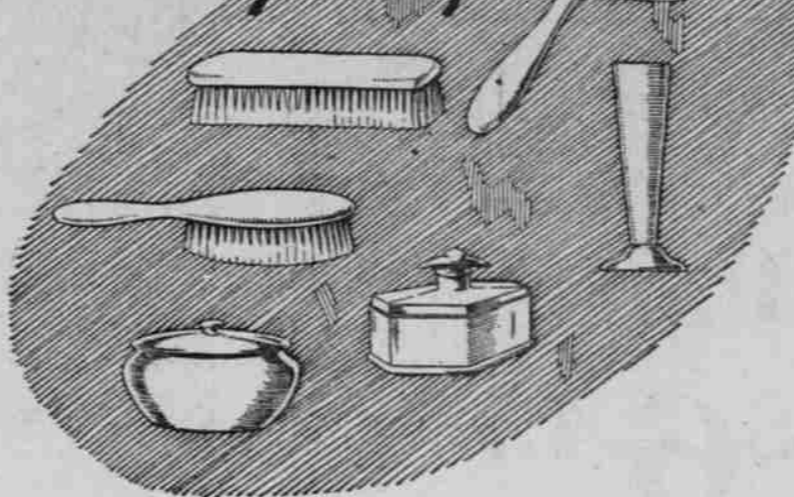
The Owl Drug Co

Ready for the Final Busy Days

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday—then comes Christmas. There is much gift buying yet to be done and The Owl Drug Stores have made the necessary preparations to take care of the crowds. There are still ample quantities of practical gift articles from which you may select. It will be to your advantage to come Monday if possible.



Ivory Py-ralin



Ebony Brushes

Real ebony back brushes should be classed with gifts combining elegance and service. They are not plentiful in the open market but we can offer you

- Hair Brushes \$1.25 to \$8.50
- Military Brushes \$3.00 to \$10.00 pr.
- Hat Brushes \$1.00 to \$1.50
- Clothes Brushes \$1.50 to \$4.50

Thermos Bottles

—and Lunch Kits, too—can be enjoyed by the whole family for an indefinite period of time.

- Half-pint Thermos Bottles (nickel) \$3.25
- Pint Thermos Bottles \$2.50 to \$3.75
- Quart Thermos Bottles \$4.00 to \$5.75
- Thermos Lunch Kits \$4.00 and \$6.00
- Thermos Carrying Cases \$2.00 to \$3.25

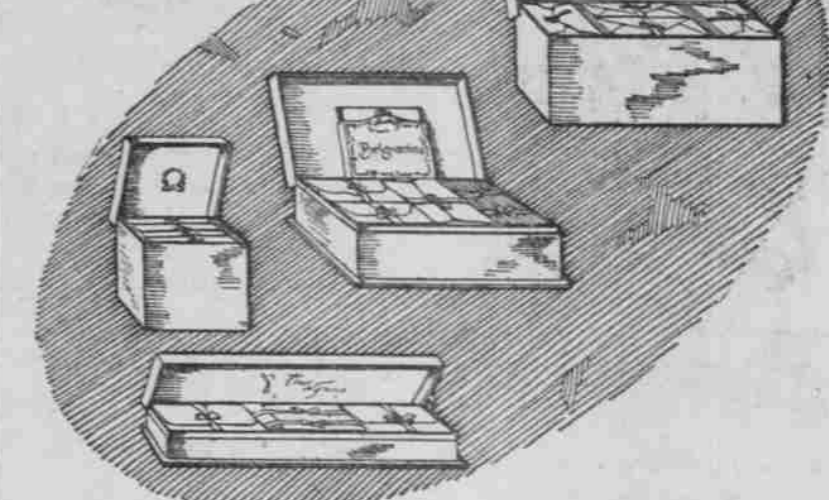


Sterno Stoves

—another practical gift suggestion. Good for emergency use in the home and ideal for those who travel. The prominent prices are 65c, \$1.25 and \$1.50. The latter is illustrated. The step pan handle is detachable and the stand folds flat, making a small package for packing.



Fine Stationery



IVORY PY-RALIN is the preferred gift of thousands and thousands of women. Some have partially complete sets, some have not yet started to acquire a set. A little careful questioning and investigation will develop the necessary information. At least fairly complete assortments are ready for delayed buyers in all Owl Drug Stores. Come as early as possible.

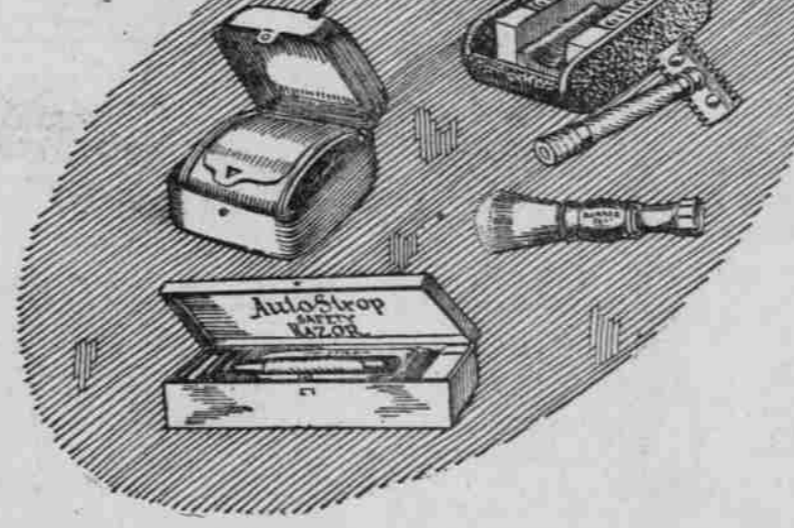
"Say It With Perfumes"

It is said that flowers express the sentiment of friendship—and they unquestionably do. Why not send the condensed odors of the flowers? They last longer and certainly mean more in actual service.

In The Owl Drug Stores you will find splendid assortments which include such well known quality names as:

- Colgate's Hudson's Mimimi Lily
- Dyer-Kiss Houbigant's Pinard's Piver's Violet's
- Mary Garden Palmer's Reiger's Flower Drops Chinwah Verice
- Leone Red Feather Zavia Jicky Vivandou

Safety Razors



SAFETY RAZORS are unquestionably the most popular of all gift articles that are suggested for men. A good "safety" will be appreciated every morning of many years to come.

The \$1.00 Razors—We have them all: The Gem, The Durham Duplex, the Eveready, the Keen Kutter and the Enders.
Gillette Razors \$5.00 to \$10.00—Special Gift Sets.
AutoStrip Razors \$5.00 to \$10.00—Handsomely boxed.
Stroppers for Safety Blades \$2.00 to \$5.00—The Twinplex Stropper for Gillette blades is illustrated above.

Kodaks

Why not give a Kodak—the gift of extraordinary education and pleasure value? Eastman products are featured.

Albums

Selection will be easy. Prices range from 25c up to \$5—most of them with loose-leaf binding.

Correspondence Cards

Handsome boxes containing 24 cards and 24 envelopes sell at popular prices from 35c to \$1.00. The higher grades have gold edges.

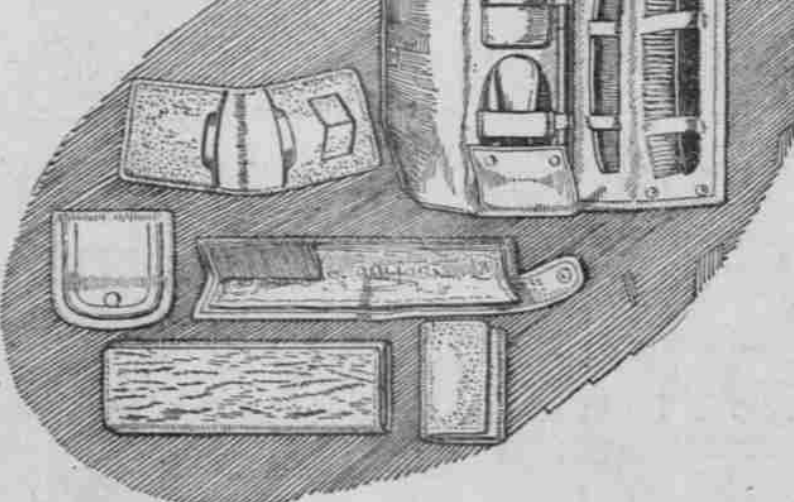
Waterman Fountain Pens

If you intend to give a pen, why not give the best? The Waterman has stood the test of years. Buy a Waterman in an Owl Drug Store and get full advantage of the exchange service.

Eversharp Pencils

The most popular pencil that has ever been offered for sale. Well named "Eversharp" for it is always in that condition. The prices range from \$1.00 up to \$5.00.

Leather Goods



Hot Water Bottles

They belong at the top of the list of practical gifts. We carry nothing but the best grades.

- Rubber (Seamless) \$1.00 to \$3.00
- Flannelette Covers for rubber bottles 35c
- Metal \$2.00 to \$3.00
- Cloth Covers included

LEATHER GOODS of quality always appeal to men, and such you will find in good variety in The Owl Drug Stores. Coin Purses, Bill Folds, Card Cases, Combination Cases, Photo and Card Cases, Hip Books, Money Belts, etc. The prices range from 50c up.



Inexpensive Watches

Most any man would appreciate an inexpensive watch to take the place of his high-priced one on outing trips. Prices range from \$2.25 to \$5.00. The latter is the special utility wrist watch.

Flashlights

Auto owners, campers, hunters—in fact all men like to have a Daylo Flashlight to use in emergencies. You will find all Owl Drug Stores well supplied. Besides the novelties like the Penlite (at \$1.00) we have the regulation lights from \$1.55 to \$3.25 with battery.



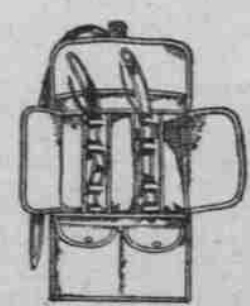
The Owl Drug Co

BROADWAY AND WASHINGTON
Mail Orders Given Prompt Attention



Roll-ups

Tourist Cases in cretonne or silk \$1.00 to \$3.50. "Fitall" cases from \$1.00 to \$5.00. That's the assortment story in a price nutshell. If anyone on your list is a traveler, consider roll-ups seriously.



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More than 100 pages. Single copies 10 cents; postage 7 cents in the United States foreign, 14 cents.