

# POSTAL CLERKS

## It Numbers 200,000, Travels 750,000,000 Miles and Also Handles Untold Millions—But Some Things Coming Yet.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Washington, Aug. 27.—Next week will witness the opening of the national convention season of the people who man the big postal machine of the United States. The National Association of Postal Clerks will meet in Birmingham, Ala., on September 7, and the National Association of Postmasters will meet during the same week at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Arrangements are being made for the meeting of the rural carriers a little later in Omaha, Neb. The railway postal clerks will have no convention this year, the 11,000 men who hold membership in that organization having disposed of their affairs for two years at their last annual convention.

The organized forces of the postal service probably have 100,000 members. The postal clerks are boosting for 200,000 members by the time the annual convention meets. There are 11,000 postal carriers, the postmasters, and the rural free delivery carriers, all of whom are organized, and among them can probably muster 70,000 members. They have adopted plans of organization which enable them to pull together.

No other branch of the United States government, or any other government, for that matter, employs as many civilians as the postoffice establishment of the United States. There are 62,000 postmasters, to begin with. Then there are nearly 40,000 rural carriers and 15,000 star route carriers. Add to this 17,000 railway postal clerks, 27,000 letter carriers, as many more postal clerks, besides some thousand laborers, janitors, etc., and you begin to appear that the postal service of this country employs the biggest civil army in the world—an army not far from 200,000 strong.

And well it might be a big army. It has to handle 30,000 letters every hour of the 24 hours every day in the year. It has to issue and redeem 200,000 money orders every hour, and register many thousands of tons of second, third and fourth class matter which are carried by rail. It has to pay out \$50,000,000 a year to the railroads to carry that part of the mail which must make a journey by rail. The train mail is carried by rail, and makes an aggregate distance of 400,000,000 miles, or the equivalent of two long trips to the moon, or 100,000 lunar side trips thrown in. The star route carriers have to travel 100,000,000 miles a year, and the rural free delivery men have to cover in the aggregate at least 240,000,000 more. Summed up, the men who carry the mails of this country have to travel three-quarters of a billion miles a year.

**Deficit Really a Surplus.**  
The postal establishment is expected to cost the government \$225,000,000 this year. But of course it expects to get the bulk of it back. The money which the people pay across the postoffice window, to the extent of \$1,000,000,000, leaving a deficit of \$15,000,000 to be met by the government. It is a deficit, but of course it is hardly as much as it appears. It is a surplus, for the reason that the deficit is not a real deficit. It is a surplus, for the reason that the deficit is not a real deficit. It is a surplus, for the reason that the deficit is not a real deficit.

There have been many people saying that the establishment of rural free delivery is responsible for the deficit in the postal operations. But rural free delivery pleads not guilty. It points out that the deficit is hardly as much as it appears. It is a surplus, for the reason that the deficit is not a real deficit. It is a surplus, for the reason that the deficit is not a real deficit.

**Financing the Rural Route.**  
The outgoing mail from a rural free delivery office shows a big increase, and the same is true of the incoming mail. Each piece dispatched means that much more money is received from the higher class offices, and a similar meaning. In the rural free delivery offices of the country, and all the rural offices practically are in this class, the government simply goes into the matter with the added business of carrying the mail, and giving him face value for all the stamps he cancels in the regular course of business. This is to be his compensation in lieu of salary. In this way all of the mail dispatched at rural offices never yields a cent of revenue to the government, but it is the expense of carrying it and supplying the stamps. Under rural free delivery it is the government, and the receipts, incoming and outgoing, do not lack much of supporting the service.

**The Parcel Post.**  
Speaking of the annual deficit, Postmaster General Meyer had a plan for wiping it out which he urged upon the last session of congress. He told them that if they would provide for a parcel post, it would not involve any appreciable extra expense, while on the other hand, the business from it would be more than sufficient to wipe out this deficit. But congress did not look so friendly upon this, and so Mr. Meyer's pet scheme still slumbers in a committee room of postoffices and post roads. Meanwhile, the American people still enjoy the amusing position of being able to send a parcel to England at a smaller cost than they could send it to the next door neighbor. Also, a man can send an 11-pound package through the mails to England, while he cannot send one of more than five pounds to his friend in the next town. It is a wonder that London mail-order houses have not taken advantage of this opportunity which the country merchant claims a parcel post would afford the mail-order business.

**County Mail Route Maps.**  
The maps which the postoffice department makes of the counties in which there is rural free delivery are well as those of the various individual

# ANOTHER FINE ENTRY FOR HORSE SHOW



"Sensation King," a beautiful Hackney, Driven by Miss Considine of Seattle. This Will Be One of the Side-Entries in the Portland Horse Show and Will Also Be Shown at Seattle Next Week.

routes are soon to be offered to the public at the cost of printing and handling. The county maps will be about 24 by 30 inches and will show all roads and all residences. They will cost about 50 cents each, and the maps of individual routes will cost about 10 cents each. There promises to be a great demand for these maps. Already in some of the counties where there is a full county service, arrangements are being made to get these maps for schools.

They are regarded as a valuable addition in the stimulation of the interest of the young mind in geography. Of course a map of the road to school, with all of the houses placed on it will have more interest for the child taking his first steps in geography than a map of the world or of the United States, and he will be more ready to get the map into his head. Another use to which they will be widely put is to guide the tourist and other travelers. The maps are being prepared by the service, arrangements are being made through their postmasters to sell them.

**Less Dead Letter Mail.**  
People are gradually learning to exercise more care in the addressing of mail matter. Every year the number of letter office has decreased in proportion to the number of pieces handled. During July of the present year there were 61,242 fewer pieces to reach the dead letter office than during the corresponding month of last year. There were still 93,983 pieces that did not reach their destination, but the number of pieces of mail, however, which are returned to the sender is still fighting for better addresses and still trying to persuade writers to put their own name and address on the outside of their mail, and to the growth of this practice he attributes the decrease of mail that he attributes to the decrease of mail that he attributes to the decrease of mail.

**Growth of Postal Business.**  
If the people continue for the next 15 years to increase their patronage of the mails as rapidly as they have in the past seven years, the receipts would amount to over half a billion dollars a year. They jumped from \$60,000,000 in 1890 to \$102,000,000 in 1900, and from that to \$183,000,000 in 1907. The postal establishment of no other country in the world shows half as great gains in the business handled. Yet the American system is behind some of the others in many things, especially in the matter of parcels post and postal savings banks.

The whole world recognizes that habits of saving instilled into the hearts of the poor constitute the best insurance there can be against poverty. Sociological statistics tend to the conclusion that there are but few people who have not spent enough idly and uselessly to have kept them from even needing the aims of their fellow-men. The postal savings bank's principal mission is to help the poor to save and through that agency to largely banish poverty.



# The All-American Food

## You like toasted corn flakes, do you? Well, you don't know how good toasted corn flakes can be unless you eat



# CORN FLAKES

[Toasted]

The E-C process of steam-cooking retains and emphasizes in E-C Corn Flakes all the natural flavor of the corn, and the E-C toasting process makes every flake dainty and crisp, the most delicious morsel of corn food anyone ever tasted. You'll say so, too. No artificial flavoring is used in E-C.

At Your Grocer's, 10 Cents.

# Egg-O-See Cereal Company,

CHICAGO

Largest Manufacturers of Flaked Cereal Foods in the World

# FINEST MILE OVAL IN NORTHWEST

## Track of Country Club Declared to Be Perfect by Experts.

Today marks the completion of the Country Club race course, by all odds the finest one-mile oval in this part of the country, and declared by experts who have inspected it to be as speedy as any in the west. The construction of the track has cost in the neighborhood of \$25,000 and work has been going on for nearly a whole year. In order to secure the exact results desired in the way of view, curvature, bank width and drainage it has been necessary to move between 65,000 and 70,000 yards of earth. In some places the track is built up 30 feet and in others cuts almost as deep as has been made. The track is 45 feet wide at the back stretch and 60 feet in the home stretch. According to Superintendent Brooker the track is an absolutely perfect piece of engineering work, and the club directors declare that there isn't another course in this part of the country, which at least from the point of view of the track several times and the distance verified to a nicety.

The franchise for the O. R. & N. to lay a number of sidetracks and spur lines from the main line near Montavilla onto the Country Club grounds, located as well as for the horse show here two weeks later. It is highly probable that a delegation of local horsemen will visit Seattle not only for the horse show but for the harness race meet in the north Pacific circuit.

**DRINK CARBOLIC AFTER QUARREL**

Fearing that his wife would never return from their native land, Norway, August Miller, a blacksmith, became dependent, neglected his work and began to drink. When his wife did return two weeks ago she found a very different man from the industrious husband she left. A quarrel ensued yesterday afternoon Miller drank carbolic acid and was dead in a few minutes.

**Looking for Negro Burglars.**  
St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 27.—Two negroes, whose names are not known, forced entrance to the home of Virgil Bassett, a streetcar motorman, during his absence, seized his young wife and locked her in a closet while they ransacked the house. Then they set fire to the place and fled. The flames aroused neighbors, and Mrs. Bassett, almost overcome by smoke, was rescued. The police are searching for the perpetrators of the outrage.

**Archbishop Riordan's Birthday.**  
[Special Dispatch to The Journal.]  
San Francisco, Aug. 27.—The Most Rev. Patrick W. Riordan, archbishop of San Francisco, was 65 years old today, having been born in New Brunswick, Aug. 27, 1842. Next month his grace will celebrate the silver jubilee anniversary of his consecration as an archbishop.

**WOOD ALCOHOL; NOBODY BLAMED**  
Seattle, Wash., Aug. 27.—(Special Wire.)  
Seattle has conducted an inquest into the death of Captain James E. McKelvey, former chief of police of St. Cloud, Minn., who died Monday from the effects of wood alcohol, taken internally from a bottle in which there was a grain alcohol label.

No responsibility was fixed. The jury was unable to determine from the evidence where the wrongfully labeled bottle of medicine was purchased.

You can smoke Imperiales Cigarettes all day long if you want to—there will be no after effects. That's because Imperiales Cigarettes are made of the cleanest, purest tobacco obtainable—conscientiously selected and judiciously blended. You can get Imperiales everywhere—their distribution is perfect.

# IMPERIALES CIGARETTES

are rolled in thin mais paper—crimped, not pasted. This insures cleanliness and tobacco taste only—you don't taste the paper. The mouth piece Imperiales afford the ideally cool smoke.

The men of the West smoked over 125,000,000 Imperiales Cigarettes in 1907. And the fame of Imperiales is steadily spreading throughout America—the sales prove it.

10 for 10 cents  
Sold Everywhere  
THE JOHN BOLLMAN COMPANY, Manufacturer  
San Francisco

## Record Breaking List FOR BARGAIN FRIDAY AT THE CHEAPEST STORE IN UNITED STATES

# Boston Store

NORTHWEST CORNER FIRST AND SALMON STS.

GRAND CLEAN UP OF ODDS AND ENDS OF BROKEN LINES THROUGHOUT THE STORE.

### Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Dept.

- \$1.95 FOR LADIES' AND MISSES' COATS—Medium weight covert and fancy plaids; values to \$15.
- \$2.95 FOR LADIES' PANAMA VOILE SKIRTS—Beautifully trimmed, mostly \$8.00 and \$10.00 values.
- 75c FOR LADIES' MUSLIN AND FLANELLETTE NIGHT GOWNS—Elegant soft materials, well made, values to \$1.69.
- 25c FOR LADIES' NEAR SILK UNDERVESTS—Pink, blue, salmon and white, values to \$1.50.
- 50c FOR LINED LADIES' SHIRTWAISTS—Choice of the whole stock; former price was up to \$2.00.
- \$1.00 CHOICE OF HIGH GRADE LINE OF SHIRTWAISTS—Beautifully embroidered laces, China silks; values to \$4.50.
- \$1.95 FOR SILK TAFFETA WAISTS—Navys, browns, blacks and cardinals; values to \$6.50.
- 95c FOR LADIES' BLACK TAFFETA SATEN SKIRTS—Deep pleated ruffles; regular \$2.65 values.
- 25c For lots odds and ends slightly mused Shirtwaists; values \$2.50.
- 8c For Ladies' fast black 15c hose.

### Household Goods

Grand Clean-Up, Towels, Table Linens, Covers, Bed-Spreads and Curtains; About One Fourth Former Price.

- \$1.00 For an elegant line Lace Curtains, Bed-Spreads, Table Cloth, pairs of fine Sheets, etc.; formerly sold as high as \$4.00.
- 5c for Huck and Turkish Towels; fine 15c values.
- For Men's \$1.00 and \$1.50 Underwear.
- For Men's 75c to \$1.50 Negligee Shirts.
- For Men's Ties, worth 50c, 75c and \$1.00.
- For Men's Suspenders, values, 50c, 75c and \$1.00.
- For Men's Work Shirts, 50c and 65c values.
- For Men's President Suspenders.
- For Men's fast color, black and tan, hose, 12 1/2c values.
- For Men's Canvas Gloves, regular 15c values.
- For Boys' Suspenders, regular 25c value.
- For Men's heavy Rowlock Sox, regular value 15c.
- For Men's Set Gold Plated Collar Buttons, 50c values.
- For Men's 10, 15c and 25c Linen Handkerchiefs.
- For Men's Silk Arm Bands.

### \$15—Men's Suits Special—\$15.00

For all odd and broken lines Men's Suits in stock, odd sizes. These suits are all to be sold irrespective of former price, bargain Friday only, \$4.85.

### \$1.85 For \$5.00 Pants

Every odd pair of pants in the house on special sale BARGAIN FRIDAY—About 100 pairs—Corduroys, Cassimeres, etc. All go tomorrow, BARGAIN FRIDAY, at the one popular price, \$1.85. Sizes 30 to 46 waists; 28 to 38 lengths.

### Shoes for Men and Women

\$1.75 For choice of large line odds and ends Men's and Women's Dress Shoes. These shoes are special sale tomorrow, BARGAIN FRIDAY, their regular price is \$5.00; BARGAIN FRIDAY ONLY, \$1.75.

\$1.00 For all odds and ends Boys' and Girls' School Shoes; values to \$2.75, BARGAIN FRIDAY ONLY.

\$1.00 For a fine line of Men's and Women's Sample Umbrellas, finest Gloria Silks, beautiful silver plated and natural handles, silk covers; regular values \$4.25.

NOTE—These specials are for one day only, tomorrow, BARGAIN FRIDAY, and are bound to draw many buyers, so don't delay, come early and avoid disappointments, only one advertised article to the customer, no alterations at these prices; no phone or mail orders, no money refunded or goods exchanged.