E SAM LETS PAYING PART OF MAIL SERVICE

ress Companies Get Easy Money by Millions Because the Postal Authorities Define "Packet" to Suit Them.

By John E. Lathrop.

shington, Feb. 1.—"If President and Postmaster General Hitchcock terpret existing law as it should spreted, the deficit of $17,441,719 annual postal revenues will be out, and there will be no need of ing the postage rates on second matter."

s statement by Congressman Vic Murdock of Kansas, one of the ingents, has stirred the national capi. It has caused some digging into ty law books and into department Wgures, the result being that an amazthg situation is revealed. The facts apmar to sustain Murdock on every maerial contention. Murdock has been for ears on the house postoffice committee and first sprang into prominence by his revelations af abuses in the office department. He is regarded a expert in such matters.

e law is that the United States government shall have no monopoly of ing letters and packets. It is in definition of the word "packet" that abuse arises, and the deficit is ed; and the express companies t from the wrongful interpretation he law.

"When Is a Packet."

he postoffice department defines kets" as bundles of letters. This, course, permits the express comies to carry parcels of less than pounds. And this gives the exs companies an opportunity to get short and more profitable hauls, to leave to the government the g and less profitable hauls. This ngement is exactly what the exs companies desire, and it is the ng which has upbuilt the large nes and permitted the enormous s of capitalization. The govt does the long, less profitable and the express companies do the good paying work, and the postter general annually reports his f.

he point in the matter is that, when is to the interest of the express panies, the government defines ket" as a bundle of letters; but n otherwise, the definition is that a ket" is a packet.

his is illustrated in the criminal against Mail Clerk Blackman in deral court, who was indicted for g a "packet" of tea which was in natis. His lawyer advanced the e that, inasmuch as the governdefined "packet," as to the carryf mail and express matter, as a e of letters, therefore, Blackman not opened a packet, technically, should not legally be convicted unthe indictment brought against

court ruled that in mail business ket is a packet, and Blackman, roperly, went to jail.

here the Postal Money Goes.

dock punctures another fallacy. report of Postmaster General Hitchsets forth that the government only 1 cent a pound for packet , but that it costs the government ents a pound to transport it, and it pays the railway company at 5 cents a pound out of the 9 s.

the government is paying the rails any such exorbitant sum for the ing of mails, it is simply making sent of 4.6 cents a pound to the . He proves it by showing that ness companies carry packets at pound, and pay the railways an of 0.4 cent a pound, or 40 per what they get from the cus. In other words, the government the express companies to vio law by infringing upon the lernmental monopoly of carrying up to four pounds weight, and he railway 22½ times as much rriage as the express companies the railways.

Murdock Cites Precedents.

this is no new controversy Mr. k shows by some interesting ci. He quotes from Attorney Gen John A. Nelson, who, on November 4, held officially that "packets" ss mail matter other than letters, quotes Postmaster General C. A. ke, January 27, 1845, as defining ts" as not only bundles of letters but including bundles of parcels of other mail matter.

He quotes J. S. Black, attorney general, June 3, 1858, as upholding the contention that to the government legally belongs the carrying of both packets of letters and other mail matter.

He quotes the federal court decision above referred to in the case of Blackman.

Yet in the face of all these facts, the present postal regulations contain a notation dafining "packet" as a bundle of letters, thus permitting the express companies their large profits on business apparently prohibited to them by the law.

Murdock has included all of these statements in a resolution which he offered in the house, and which began with the edifying assertion that December 23, 1909, the Wells Fargo Express company declared an extra dividend of 300 per cent on a capitalization of $8,000,000, in addition to a semiannual dividend of 5 per cent July 15, 1909, and another 5 per cent dividend January 15, 1910, these dividends aggregating in all $24,800,000, or $7,360,000 more than the postal deficit for the past year.

Apparently under proper construction of the laws, the government has no legal right to permit express companies to carry packets up to four pounds, any more than it would have the right to permit express companies to carry letters; the law seems to be clear on that point, notwithstanding the postoffice department gives such interpretation as enriches the express companies so munificently.

Publishers are citing these facts to offset the plea of Postmaster General Hitchcock for increase in the rates for carrying second class matter.

COLLISION ON ELEVATED

A collision on the elevated railroad in New York during the recent blizzard. Passengers have access to a sidewalk in case of trouble, so that they may proceed to the nearest station. Regardless of this, however, hundreds wait, with primitive curiosity, to see "what the trouble is."

ROUNDING UP "KITTENS" FOR BIG GATHERING

The big Hoo Hoo concatenation to be held here on the evening of February 15 will be at the Masonic hall, which, it is believed, will be sufficiently large to hold the kittens that Vice-Gerent Snark Graham A. Griswold is now rounding up.

Mr. Griswold expects the capacity of the large auditorium taxed on the night of the concatenation because Portland will be visited at that particular time by several hundred lumbermen and retail lumber dealers from all parts of the Pacific northwest. The Western Retail Lumber Dealers' association will be in annual session here at that time, and this will serve to increase the attendance at the concatenation by nearly every delegate, since there are few in any branch of the lumber trade not a member of the black cat order.

Hardwood Lumbermen Meet.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 1.—The National Hardwood Lumber association, the strongest and most influential organization of its kind in the country began its annual convention in Cincinnati today, with headquarters at the Sinton hotel. Several thousand members representing many states were present when the convention was called to order. The convention will discuss plans for uniting the manufacturers and consumers of hardwoods throughout the country into one organization.

CROP PRODUCTION MORE ESSENTIAL THAN RESIDENCE

Senator Bourne Prepares Bill Providing Homesteader Need Not Actually Live on Non-Irrigable Land.

United States Senator Jonathan Bourne has prepared a bill for introduction into the senate which incorporates the idea that the production of crops is more essential to the development of the vast dry farming region of eastern Oregon than actual residence upon a homestead. For the purpose of ascertaining the opinion of his constituents upon this proposed amendment of the homestead law, Senator Bourne has prepared for publication the following explanation of his bill:

"I am informed by William Hanley, an extensive stockraiser in Harney county, that there are 20,000,000 acres of vacant land in eastern Oregon incapable of irrigation, but nearly all of it susceptible of cultivation under the scientific methods now in vogue in dry farming.

Hanley's Suggestion Impresses.

"Mr. Hanley's suggestion of substitution of crop producton for actual residence as the consideration for obtaining title increasingly impresses my mind. If the bill which I have prepared should become a law, the homesteader on non-irrigable land, in what is known as the arid region, need not live upon his land at all, but must live within the state. He must cultivate it either personally or by representative and he must show by annual proofs that within a period of five years the land has produced crops of a total value of $1500.

"Assuming that Mr. Hanley's estimate of 20,000,000 acres of vacant land in eastern Oregon is correct and that same can be brought under cultivation by adoption of what is known as dry farming, this area of land would furnish opportunities for 60,000 homestead entrymen who, before they could acquire title, would be obliged to produce crops of a total value of $90,000,000.

All Would Be Benefited.

"Thus it will be seen that the nation, state and community would be benefited in the development of our natural resources, wealth increased, and, what is more important, a class of citizens gained who would be obliged to produce rather than merely live on the land—a population of workers.

"In its present condition and in the present state of settlement and of transportation facilities most of this land is not suitable for home making, though it could be cultivated by men who would make their homes elsewhere, or upon the land through only a part of the year.

"My bill is based upon the theory that if a tract of land is made productive it will provide some family with a home even though that family lives in a town near the land rather than upon the land itself, and that, therefore, all of the essential objects of the homestead law will be accomplished.

Do Little Cultivating.

"The great difficulty under the present homestead law is that a great many men who settle upon land under the homestead act do as little cultivating as the law will permit and avoid as many as possible of the government's requirements, and their land is not made productive.

"Believing that production is the real essential, I made that the most important feature of my bill. Land suitable for dry farming is frequently such as a man would not wish to make his home upon for 12 months in the year, but the present law permitting an entry on 320 acres requires actual residence, and, I believe, without accomplishing any desirable end by such requirement.

"Under the plan proposed by my bill an entryman under the 320 acre homestead act could keep his family in any town of Oregon, where his children could go to school and all members of his family have the advantages of attendance at church and social functions, and, at the same time, by complying with the law regarding cultivation and production, he could secure title to the land.

No Chance for Fraud.

"There would be no opportunity for fraud because the bill requires that annual proofs must be submitted showing the amount of land cultivated and the character, quantity and value of crops produced.

"I believe that the average farmer on 320 acres of land subject to entry under the enlarged homestead act would be able to produce crops of much more than $1500 in value in a period of five years; but the $1500 minimum limit is fixed as a standard to which the entryman must work, and I believe that even under adverse circumstances any man who is enterprising and diligent will be able to produce crops of this value.

"The theory of the homestead law is that the government should provide cheap homes for the people. This theory is in no way violated by my bill. Land taken under this measure would maintain homes for the entrymen even though these homes were a few miles distant rather than upon the land itself.

Residence Requirement Is Penalty.

"The residence requirement of the homestead law is in the nature of a penalty, the punishment being inflicted not only upon the entrymen, but upon his wife and children. At present the entryman takes his family into isolated regions in which vacant lands can be found and keeps them there to live a period of five years of banishment from association with fellow beings.

"In a great many cases the homesteader performs just as little work upon his land as possible, and as soon as he gets title removes his family to town where they can have the advantages of school and social intercourse.

"The real object of providing homes is not accomplished by the requirement of actual residence upon the land. This object would be accomplished, however, by the requirement that a man shall bring his land into productiveness. To produce, some one must cultivate the land. To cultivate economically, vicinity, labor and intelligent attention are required of the entryman or his representative.

What Entryman Desires.

"The entryman's desire is the acquisition and ownership of the land; title can only be obtained through production; production necessitates increased population, either of the entrymen or their representatives. The value of the land acquired by the entryman depends upon continuing production. Thus, it is certain that the land once acquired will, under normal conditions, continue productive, as otherwise there is no incentive for entry nor to purchase after title is acquired. Necessitated production eliminates the evil of idle land due to nonresident ownership.

"My bill requires that the entryman shall cultivate at least one eighth of his land the second year, one fourth the third year, one half the fourth and fifth years and that he must file in the local land office by the first of December of each year a sworn statement verified by the affidavits of two persons having knowledge of the facts, showing the character, quantity and value of the crops produced by him.

"I would be pleased if the people of Oregon would advise their delegation in congress of their views of this measure. Yours very truly,

"JONATHAN BOURNE."

Natural.

Now, when the wind, like icy bat,
Strikes my poor frame and leaves a sting,
I wish I had my ulster that
I gave away in balmy spring.
—Chicago News.

SPECIAL REVIVAL OF SALVATION ARMY

In the Salvation Army hall, over the Washington Market, on First and Washington streets, will be a special revival service tonight, conducted by chief divisional officers from Seattle, Brigadier and Mrs. Dubbin. These officers are no strangers in Portland. Nine years ago they came, for the first time, to the city as divisional officers and remained some four years.

Tuesday night will be a young people's demonstration with plenty of music and song, piano, string and brass instruments. Brigadier and Mrs. Dubbin will be with the No. 4 corps until Thursday night, then will begin special siege meetings that are being started throughout the states on February 6, lasting until March 7. Though the rain and snow have had a tendency to hinder the crowds the past few days, they have been very good.

The hall is specially constructed for the army. Moving doors make it possible to divide the hall so that the Juniors have a place to themselves that can be thrown open at times when the crowd is large. This makes the hall seat something like 450. This is the best hall the No. 4 corps has had since it opened in Portland. All are specially invited to the meetings. Staff Captain and Mrs. Gale are the officers in charge.

PRESIDENT'S BROTHER ILL AT LOS ANGELES

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Los Angeles, Feb. 1.—Henry W. Taft, brother of President W. H. Taft, who was taken to the Good Samaritan hospital, suffering from erysipelas, is reported today to be much improved. He passed a restful night and it is expected that he will be able to travel again within a week. He is being attended by his brother-in-law, Dr. W. A. Edwards. It is probable that Taft will not visit San Francisco and the northwest, as he had planned, but will go directly to New York as soon as he has recovered sufficiently to make the journey.

Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians were recently paid $600,000 for land. They can afford to eat meat.

BLOODY MURDER NOW SUSPECTED

Body of Aged Benicia Woman Apparently Jammed Into a Trunk—House Fired.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Benecia, Cal., Feb. 1.—Murder, and not accident, is believed to have caused the death of Mrs. Margaret McGuire, a widow, 80 years old, who perished in her home which was destroyed by fire yesterday. At first it was thought the fire, which completely destroyed her home, had been set by herself, by accident.

Later developments caused Coroner Klotz to call District Attorney Raines and Sheriff McDonald into consultation. The coroner informed the county officials that he found circumstances that pointed to foul play. The bones of the woman were found in the charred remains of what appeared to have been a trunk.

The bones of the chest and shoulders were close together while the skull lay near the bones of the feet and legs.

From these facts, Coroner Klotz surmised that Mrs. McGuire had either been killed or made unconscious, had been thrust into a trunk and then cremated in her home.

Motive for the supposed murder, however, is lacking at the present time. Mrs. McGuire is not known to have had any money and although she was not popular in the neighborhood she had not incurred the enmity of her neighbors to such an extent as to warrant suspicion of such an attack.

"Watch the hen," says Dr. Wiley. But a hen may not like to be watched when she lays.

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There's a Nemo for every figure—the correct fit, with perfect comfort and safety and the utmost possible slenderness.

The new Nemo Self-Reducing Corset, No. 522, with "Lastikops Bandlet," is simply a marvel. It's an absolute novelty, which does wonders in controlling the figure. See it, by all means. $5.00.

Come while our Nemo expert is still here—she will gladly help you to get rid of your corset troubles.

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Will come, naturally, if Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna is used, when a pleasant laxative remedy is needed, to cleanse the system gently yet effectually and to dispel colds and headaches due to constipation.

Its world-wide acceptance as the best of family laxatives, for men, women and children and its approval by the most eminent physicians, because its component parts are known to them and known to be wholesome and truly beneficial, are the best guarantees of the excellence of Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna.

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New Discovery Has Revolutionized the Treatment of Skin Diseases.

Nothing in the history of medicine has ever approached the success of the marvelous skin remedy known as poslam, which, it is safe to say, has cured more cases of eczema and skin diseases than any remedy ever offered for these ills.

The success of poslam is not at all surprising when it is considered that even a very small quantity applied to the skin stops itching immediately and cures chronic cases in two weeks. The very worst cases of eczema, as well as acne, herpes, tetter, piles, salt rheum, rash, crusted humors, scaly scalp and every form of itch, yield to it readily. Blemishes such as pimples, red noses, muddy and inflamed skin disappear almost immediately when poslam is applied, the complexion being cleared overnight.

Every druggist keeps both the 50 cent size (for minor troubles) and the $3 jar, and either of these may be obtained in Portland at the Skidmore Drug Co., and the Woodard, Clarke & Co., as well as other reliable drug stores.

But no one is even asked to purchase poslam without first obtaining an experimental package which will be sent by mail, free of charge, upon request by the Emergency Laboratories, 32 West Twenty-fifth street, New York City.

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