

## POSTOFFICE PERSONNEL ARMED BY ORDER OF HAYS BECAUSE OF MAIL ROBBERY EPIDEMIC IN U. S.

Postal Inspectors' Force Puzzled by Elusiveness and Daring of Youthful Mail Bandit.

BY HARRY L. RINGERS  
(International News Service Staff Correspondent.)  
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 4.—Since November 2, Republicans and

Democrats alike have admitted pretty freely that Will H. Hays displays rare qualities of leadership in marshaling the hosts of the U. S. P. to the polls, and a great majority of his own party at least seems agreed that he merits the title of Postmaster-General with which Pres. Harding sees fit to reward him. Even the most ardent admirers of the little Cabinet officer,

### THE OLD HOME TOWN

By Stanley



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Upon request we will be glad to mail you a copy of same free.



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Pendleton, Oregon.

"Strongest Bank in Eastern Oregon"

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**AEROLUX**  
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Porch Shades

THE PORCH SHADE OF GREATEST SERVICE, ECONOMY AND COMFORT

Quality Porch Shades are an investment in comfort—not a luxury. This year, of all times be careful of the porch equipment you buy. You want shades which will not only look well while new but which will stand up under the strain of this year's use, next year's and the years to come. Such are the AEROLUX Shades and we heartily recommend them.

Besides durability there is more genuine satisfaction in AEROLUX than any other porch shade we know of. With the "Hanging Easy" attachment anyone can install them in less than five minutes' time.

Splice uniform in width and uniformity woven form a scientifically correct fabric which gives absolutely uniform ventilation from top to bottom and ample protection against the weather—there are no loosely woven sections nor uneven spaces where sun and rain might enter.

Adjustable "No Whips," found only on Aerolux, hold the shades securely in place and prevent them from whipping and flapping in the wind.

Solid Copper Cord Glides, instead of sticking pulleys or rusting steel glides give a permanently smooth, clean surface for the raising cords—reducing wear and friction to the minimum.

They are smoothly finished—they are permanently stained in attractive, summery colors—there are sizes to fit every porch opening—and they are reasonably priced.

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however, were scarcely prepared to see him become a "general," in the sense of one who commands a large body of armed and disciplined men.

Nevertheless, to a man up a tree or a robber in a mail car, it looks a little different. Mr. Hays had done that very thing, for at the present moment he is commanding a greater number of armed men than George Washington had under him during the greater part of the Revolutionary War. Assembled in one place, "General" Hays' forces would make Pancho Villa's most extensive cohorts look like a kitchen-pottery detail, and would surpass both in numbers and equipment the standing armies of most of the Latin American republics.

The Postoffice Department has approximately 300,000 employees. An order issued by Postmaster-General Hays recently directed that every essential employee of the postal service be armed with a pistol or shotgun and instructed in its use. Within a week thousands of repeating "riot guns," more than 20,000 automatic pistols and a million rounds of ammunition were issued to mail collectors, messengers, chauffeurs, watchmen and railway mail clerks throughout the country, and these men were given instructions to "shoot to kill."

"We simply have to go back to the old Wells Fargo days and shoot to kill, and we are going to do it," said "General" Hays in commenting upon the order. "I have been astounded at the fact which I have discovered relative to the mail robberies, with a known loss of \$5,291,000 and with a known recovery of \$1,028,000."

**Record Crime Year**  
Many of the postal employees are ex-service men who have tested their skill in the use of firearms on the battlefields of France, and they are eager to have a chance to meet the mail robbers half way. A number of these men are being used to instruct other employees of less experience in the handling of weapons, and it is expected that a regular course of instruction such as is provided by many cities for their policemen will be worked out. The Postmaster-General has the utmost confidence in the Inspectors' Corps of the Postoffice Department, the regular organization for the apprehension of those guilty of crimes against the United States mails. He believes it to be one of the most efficient bodies of its kind in the world. He is convinced, however, that the present situation is an unusual one which must be met with unusual methods.

For eighteen months it has been apparent that a great crime wave is sweeping over the whole world and that the United States has been particularly subject to the epidemic. Experts appearing before Congressional committees have testified that the year just passed was the greatest crime year since 1897.

This crime wave, which has made itself felt all over the United States and has hit banks, transportation companies, business establishments of all kinds, has been particularly strong in the West and Middle West. The attack has been made by armed criminals upon both mail trains and postoffices, often by young and inexperienced men who were all the more dangerous because of their reckless need.

These criminals have frequently operated in broad daylight, entering postoffices, holding up trains, and even robbing messengers between postoffices and railway stations. During the past two years the lives of many postal employees have been put in jeopardy by these reckless bandits, and in the past four months three postal employees have been killed in the performance of their duties.

**Desperate Youth Dangerous**  
In two of these cases the perpetrators of the crimes have been brought to justice, and in the third case the untiring efforts of the postoffice inspectors are expected soon to be crowned with success.

The first of the murders occurred in the Jackson street branch of the postoffice at Dallas, Texas. Five heavily-armed bandits entered the building late in the afternoon and forced their way into the registry room, shooting promiscuously at the male and female employees as they entered. One old and faithful clerk was shot and almost instantly killed, and another was severely wounded. The bandits then seized several sacks of registered mail and escaped in a waiting automobile. While speeding to escape pursuit, however, the machine turned over, killing one of the outlaws and seriously injuring another. The remaining members of the gang escaped, but were captured a few days later.

The second of the trio of murders occurred at Pittsburgh, Pa., in February of this year. J. K. McCullough, a railway mail clerk of many years

## OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

