

# PARCEL POST IS GREAT SUCCESS

First Day's Business Shows Benefits of New System.

Many Use Insurance Feature—Special Delivery Also Helps—Common Stamps Don't Go.

Washington, D. C.—The inauguration of the parcel post system in Washington was an unqualified success. Owing to the number of substations it was impossible to tell with accuracy the volume of business in the city during the first day, but the number of packages handled at the main office seemed to warrant the statement that the public has quickly adjusted itself to the new service and will make much use of it.

No reports from postoffices throughout the country were received indicating any material difficulty in caring for the new business. Here in Washington all patrons complied with the rules in regard to the size and weight of packages and none had to be refused.

By the payment of an additional 10 cents senders of parcel post packages may have them insured and about 10 per cent of the packages were so insured. At the main postoffice the receipt of packages averaged about 17 an hour. There was large business in the sale of parcel post stamps, many being taken by collectors.

It is expected to show wonderful growth when its success is demonstrated to the people and they come to a full realization of what it means to them in the saving of time as well as in cost of transportation.

The parcel post system worked without a hitch during its first 24 hours in New York. There was little rush, due to the holiday, and the clerks were able easily to cope with the business. It was said that the first full day's business there would show a total of about 350 packages.

Postmaster Morgan received on an early train from Washington the silver loving cup sent by Postmaster General Hitchcock to inaugurate the service.

Six fresh eggs, mailed from St. Louis to Edwardsville, Ill., early in the morning, were returned at night made into a cake. The eggs were mailed at the main postoffice at 12:05 o'clock a. m., and the cake was delivered at 7 p. m. Edwardsville is about 20 miles from St. Louis.

A four-pound piece of side pork, mailed from Addison, Mich., was the first package received by parcel post in Detroit. The second was a broken horse collar which a farmer at Peck, Mich., sent in for repairs to a wholesale harness dealer.

A brisk business marked the opening of the parcel post service in Boston, more than 100 persons waiting for the signal inaugurating the system at midnight.

One of the first packages was a small pot of Boston baked beans, sent to Mayor Fitzgerald.

Chicago's New Year resolution to make use of the nation's gift—the parcel post system—was initiated the first day by the sending of approximately 2500 packages of merchandise. A mail-order firm deposited 450 packages for delivery.

One concern alone bought \$17,000 worth of stamps.

## Sugar Dividend Passed.

New York—The directors of the American Beet Sugar company decided not to declare the usual dividend no the common stock. They issued this statement: "Resolved, that in view of the large stock of manufactured sugar on hand, no action be taken on payment of the dividend on the common stock at present." The common stock was placed on a 5 per cent basis in 1911. Announcement of the action of the directors was followed by heavy selling of the common stock on the exchange.

## Power Wires Shot Down.

Mexico City—Rebels are said to have shot the power transmission lines from the poles carrying them from the River Necaxa, in the State of Puebla, to the capital, and this reason is given for the failure of the electric power service of the city, which caused the stoppage of the streetcar lines for several hours. The lines were disconnected at a distance of 20 miles from the city. A partial service of light and power was re-established.

## San Jose After Record.

San Jose, Cal.—Residents of San Jose are hoping that for New Year's day they will hold the country's record for quantity of parcel post packages handled. To this end and for the glorification of the Santa Clara valley prunes, two carloads of prunes, done into small packages, were sent out by parcel post to addresses all over the country. Directions for proper cooking of the prunes were on each package.

## Rebel General Defiant.

El Paso, Tex.—"We will respect all foreigners respecting us; none others," says a proclamation signed by General Inez Salazar and 18 rebel generals, copies of which were distributed along the border. It also is declared that the rebels will continue their policy of destroying bridges, station-houses and rolling stock of railroads "aiding our enemies by hauling federal troops."

## WOMEN MAY BE MEMBERS

Army and Navy League Abandons Long-Standing Rule.

Washington, D. C.—Suffragists received a word of encouragement from the Army League of the United States, which has decided that its membership may include "all citizens of good repute," both men and women. The organization, while only recently formed, includes in its roll of membership such names as Theodore Roosevelt, Granville Dodge, Robert Bacon, Curtis Guild, William C. Endicott, August Belmont, Henry A. DuPont and the adjutants general and prominent militia officers of many of the states. The league is non-political.

Following an announcement that in the near future a meeting is to be called to elect permanent officers, a committee representing the league issued a circular letter explaining its aims and objects. The letter says in part: "We believe that we should have a regular army strong enough to meet the emergencies of the hour and that back of it engaged in their civic pursuits should be a sufficient number of trained citizens to augment this army to a force adequate to meet the requirements of war with a first-class power. The Army League desires to impress upon the people of this country the fact that all citizens have a certain military as well as civic responsibility and that they should prepare themselves as fully as possible to discharge this responsibility in an efficient manner. Preparedness is the best insurance against war. This can be done only in time of peace."

## WIRELESS SENDS WORLD NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Washington, D. C.—A New Year's greeting was flashed to all the world at midnight December 31 from the Navy department's great wireless tower at Arlington, Va.

The Arlington operator succeeded in catching the time signal from the Eiffel tower, in Paris, a distance of 3900 miles, and the French station was asked to watch for the New Year's signal. It was hoped the message would reach the Clifden station, in Ireland, as well as the naval stations on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts and American warships at sea.

## CASTRO RETURNS TO EUROPE

While Officials Deliberate, General Changes His Mind.

New York—Cipriano Castro, ex-president of Venezuela, seeking entrance to this country after a long residence abroad, was taken off the steamship La Touraine at quarantine and removed to Ellis island.

While officials were deliberating as to whether Castro would be allowed to enter the United States, the Venezuelan suddenly changed his mind and Commissioner of Immigration Williams announced that Castro had expressed a desire to return immediately to Europe. Castro wishes to take a German steamer landing at Hamburg and this permission probably will be granted.

Castro, who is traveling under the assumed name of Ruiz, acquiesced when told he must stay at Ellis island. "If those are the laws of your country, I must comply," was Castro's only comment.

His baggage was hastily gathered and he was taken on board the government boat Immigrant, which started immediately for Ellis island.

## Russia Is Conserving Oil.

Washington, D. C.—Convinced that the supply of coal is inadequate and that oil will be the fuel of the future, the Russian government is reported by American Consul General Snodgrass at Moscow to be making elaborate preparations to make ready that country for the changing conditions.

Millions of acres of rich oil lands have been withdrawn from private enterprise, but regulations are being drawn up which will encourage private capital to investigate and draw up the properties under strict government supervision.

## Taft Back at His Desk.

Washington, D. C.—Much pleased by his visit to the Panama canal and the conditions he found there, President Taft returned to the White House and immediately plunged into the mass of business and correspondence that had accumulated during his absence and needed his personal attention. For several hours after reaching the executive offices the president was busy going over business affairs. He received few visitors and late in the afternoon he found time to play golf.

## High Court Stirs Strike.

Melbourne, Australia—A general maritime strike throughout the commonwealth is likely to take place shortly. Trouble has been stirred up owing to the high court's action in nullifying an award made in favor of the seamen by Justice Higgins, president of the Arbitration court. An effort is being made to settle the dispute between the men and the owners on the basis of the Higgins award, which the men hope will be done.

## Holland Wants Exhibit.

The Hague, Netherlands—The government has introduced a bill in parliament providing for the appropriation of \$300,000 for the participation of Holland and the Dutch colonies in the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, which will be held in San Francisco in 1915 to celebrate the opening of the Panama canal.

# WOULD REVIVE ARMY CANTEEN

General Wood Also Recommends New Merit System.

Would Weed Out Unfit Officers, Recognizing Fitness and Ability in Promotion.

Washington, D. C.—The restoration of the army canteen and enactment of legislation for the elimination from the United States army of unfit officers are among the principal recommendations of Major General Leonard Wood, chief of staff, in his annual report made public Saturday.

General Wood recommends the concentration of the army on strategic lines and in areas where it can be maintained more economically. He would transfer all the personnel of the staff corps—excepting engineers, medical officers and chaplains—to the line, increasing the number of the general officers and line officers in the different grades.

The transfer of the personnel of staff corps to the line, in General Wood's opinion, will terminate the constant struggle between line and staff, a struggle which is as old as the army and one which promises to continue. There would be no interference with promotion, nor would the members of the present staff corps lose any of their present advantages.

Discussing means for the elimination of unfit officers the chief of staff says:

"The full efficiency of an organization of men cannot be secured without a system by which the merits of the individuals shall have some effect upon their advancement.

"The army long has suffered from the lack of such a system. Up to the grade of colonel promotion is by seniority in each branch, and there is no way under the law by which an officer, no matter what his merit, can be advanced a single number except by making him a general officer."

## CASTRO MAY REMAIN IN U. S.

Legal Steps Taken to Establish Status of Venezuelan.

New York—The Federal courts have been invoked in behalf of Cipriano Castro, and a writ of habeas corpus was granted to bring him before a judicial tribunal which may determine the cause of his detention at this port. It was alleged in the application that the ex-president of Venezuela was illegally held at the immigration station on Ellis island, where he has been detained since his arrival. The court will be asked to sustain the writ and thus set him at liberty.

Castro, immediately upon finding his right to land was questioned, had decided to return voluntarily to Europe, and had passage on the steamer Amerika for Hamburg. As soon as he learned the writ had been granted he cancelled his passage.

## BODY OF AMBASSADOR REID REACHES NATIVE SHORES

New York—Great Britain delivered Saturday to his countrymen the body of Whitelaw Reid, editor, statesman and American ambassador, who died in London. The British cruiser Natal brought the body home and placed it under the Stars and Stripes in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

President Taft, dignitaries from the army and navy and representatives of foreign powers will attend the funeral services.

The Natal was met off Nantucket by two United States battleships and four destroyers and the funeral fleet lay off Sandy Hook Friday night. A thick fog blanketed the bay and it was 11 o'clock before the procession got under way. A gale that swept up the river made landing the coffin a difficult task.

## Girls Eat No Chicken.

Colorado Springs, Colo.—By going without chicken at their Sunday dinners, by washing hair at 25 cents a head, cleaning rooms and other menial tasks, the 200 girls of the four dormitories of Colorado college have raised \$9300 toward a \$50,000 endowment fund to obtain \$100,000 offered for a gymnasium by Mrs. A. D. Julliard, of New York City. As E. P. Shove, a retired business man here, has offered to give a dollar for each one they raise, the girls now have secured \$18,600 and declare they will raise the rest.

## Gompers' Appeal Is Filed.

Washington, D. C.—Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, convicted of contempt of court and sentenced to jail in connection with the Buck Stove & Range case, filed their appeal in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. It alleges the men "were convicted not of contempt of court, but of want of respect for judicial authority. Seventeen alleged errors are charged.

## Laborer Finds Fortune.

Nowata, Okla.—George Hardsook, a laborer, unearthed \$37,500 in gold while digging a trench near the village of Oglesby. Hardsook's possession of the wealth, however, probably will be of short duration, a state law requiring that such funds be surrendered to the owner of the land. The money bore evidence of having been buried a number of years.

## WOULD NOTIFY HIS FRIENDS

If Married to Hatched-Faced Woman Who Did All Talking, Man Would Let Fact Be Known.

"Who is that hatched-faced woman over there who seems to think it is necessary for her to do all the talking?"

"Don't you know her?"  
"No, I never saw her before. If she's married I'm sorry for the poor devil who is her husband. I can't imagine anything more terrible than being tied up to a woman like that for life. heavens, hear her go it! Her voice is like a rasp. I should think her throat would be all worn out. Do you know what I'd do if I were married to such a woman?"

"No. For heaven's sake tell me."  
"Oh, I beg your pardon, old man. I didn't mean any offense. I—I apologize."

"That's all right. You gave me to understand a moment ago that there was something you would do if you were married to such a woman. What is it?"

"I'd hasten to let my friends know it when I took her out anywhere so they wouldn't be in any danger of making the kind of a break I've just made."

## Too Much Ciphering.

Congressman Lamb of Virginia has an old "befo' de wah" ducky working on his place, whom he pays \$1 a day. The old man is not very fond of work and loses a day often because of his alleged infirmities.

The other day the congressman told him he was going to raise his wages from \$6 a week to \$7. The old ducky emphatically refused the raise, and when his boss asked him why, he answered:

"It's lak dis, Mister John. When I loses a day from work now, I kin count mah money; but if you gib me a raise an' I loses a day, I won't know how much I've got comin' tuh me."—Judge.

## THE JOKER.



Hixon—You say you raise flowers and yet you live in a flat?  
Dixon—Oh! yes. You see, I plant 'em in folding beds.

## Hanging Prophets.

"A little girl at our morning service yesterday," said Rev. James E. Craig, "kneel beside her mother while the commandments were being read. When the rector said, 'On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets,' the little girl whispered:

"Mamma, how many—"  
"Sh! hissed her mamma."  
"But, mamma, how many prophets are there?"

"Why, Isalah, Jeremiah, Habbakuk, Jonah, Haggai, Malachi, Zephaniah, dearie. I can't think of all of them without looking them up, but I fancy there must have been about twenty."  
"Twenty? And they hanged 'em all on two commandments?"

## Business Instinct.

"Columbus," said the boy who is studying history, "discovered America."

"Yes," replied his father, who is in finance; "he discovered it. But it took a number of people like myself to put the proposition on a paying basis."

## In 1940.

"Say, my boy, you're 25 now. It's time you settled down and got married."

"Oh, I'm not ready to get married yet, dad."

"Not ready? Why, young man, I want you to know that when I was your age I had been married twice."

## Trod the Path Before.

Miller—Just as Millet and the widow started up the aisle to the altar, every light in the church went out.

Mumford—What did the couple do then?  
Miller—Kept on going. The widow knew the way.—Judge.

## Fair for Both.

Kind-Hearted Stranger—See here, my friend, take my advice and let those dice alone. They're loaded.

Intoxicated Gambler—Certainly they are! 'So'm I. Fair for one as 'tis for the other.—Puck.

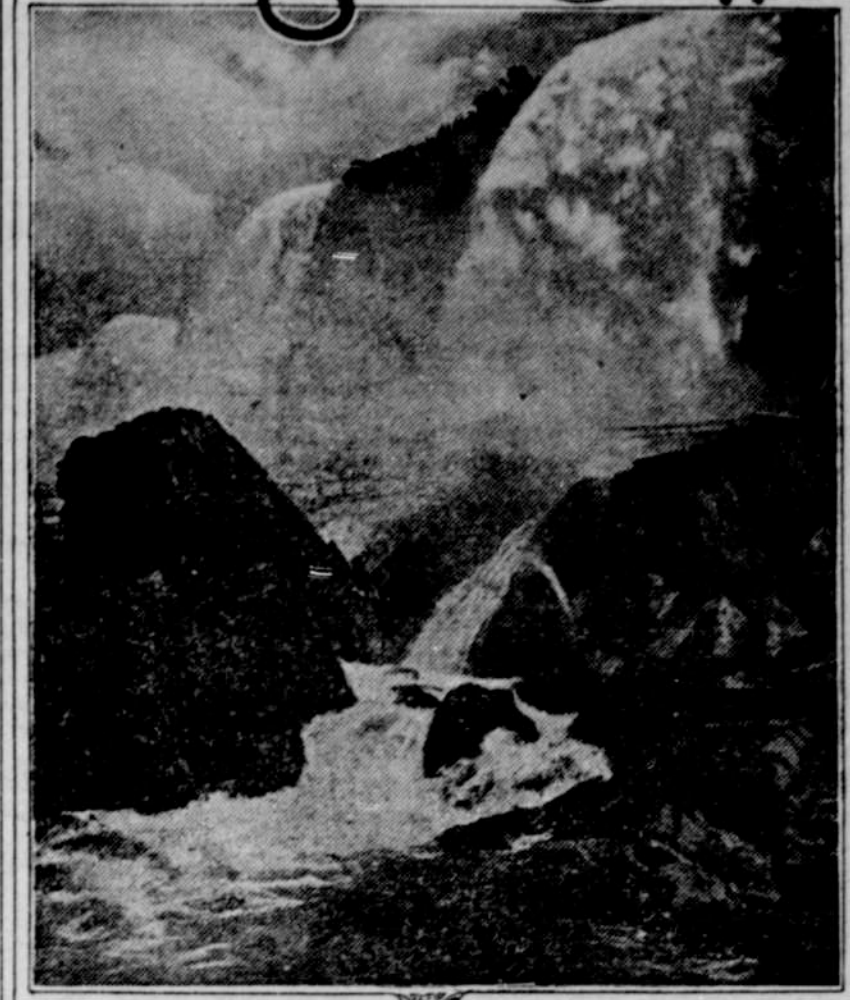
## He and He Present.

"How did you feel at that fashionable wedding?"  
"About as conspicuous as my pickle dish looked among the jeweled bronzes and ropes of pearls."

## Adept at the Art.

"She carries her age the same way she carries her money."  
"How is that?"  
"Carefully concealed."

# Call of Niagara Falls



CAVE OF THE WINDS

THE ordinary visitor to Niagara finds the excursion to the Cave of the Winds quite sensational enough for his peace of mind.

With proper care the trip is perfectly safe, but there is one moment of the journey when the mist and spray from the falls blot out from sight his nearest companion, which gives the man of average nerve as keen a thrill as he cares for. His verdict when he is "through" is that he is glad to have done it once, but will be content not to attempt it again. There is a certain temperament, however, which the very sight of these appalling waters seems to goad to a frenzy of mad adventure. Some time ago, for instance, a man who normally followed the unheroic occupation of keeping a restaurant, went over the Horseshoe falls in a steel barrel and was safely fished out afterward, having suffered no damage but a broken leg. This act of foolhardiness at any rate cannot be charged to youthful rashness, for the man was in his seventieth year, nor can it be explained by ignorance of what such a feat must involve, for he had already made the passage of the seething rapids some distance below in similar fashion.

In some of the most remarkable feats of which Niagara has been the scene the fascination of the encounter itself has been seconded by a certain commercial instinct. The performances of Blondin, we may be sure, were shrewdly calculated with a view to future box office receipts. In 1859 and 1860 he crossed the falls several times on a tight rope three and a quarter inches in diameter, 1,100 feet long and 160 feet above the water. He was not satisfied with the mere promenade, but would raise the hair of the spectators—sometimes there would be as many as 25,000 watching him—by all manner of freakish variations. Perhaps he would make the journey blindfold, or he would trundle a wheelbarrow in front of him, or he would appear burdened with heavy shackles from head to foot in the character of a Siberian slave, or he would carry a cooking stove and stop to make an omelette on the way, or he would stand on his head half way across. Once he carried a man on his back and the uneasy movements of his passenger, so it is reported, drew from him the threat: "If you don't sit quiet I shall have to put you down." The late king of England, then prince of Wales, was among the spectators one day when Blondin crossed on stilts, and in spite of the success of this feat declined the acrobat's offer to take him over.

Gorge Below the Falls. Since Blondin's day there have been several "equilibrium" exhibitions at Niagara, but no imitator has quite rivaled the example of daring set by the master of the profession. Perhaps the nearest approach to his triumphs was that of Dixon in 1890. He crossed the river below the falls on a three-quarter inch wire cable, and in one of his feats lay for a time with his back on the wire. But, startling as such performances may be, presumably they do not surpass either in actual risk or in trial of the nerves some of the ordinary feats of acrobats in the circus or even the daily round and common task of steeplejacks and other useful persons whose work requires a cool head and a sure step. A quite different kind of problem is that of "shooting Niagara," either at the falls themselves or at the rapids. Every one has seen pictures of the falls and can form some conception of what it must mean to take the drop over the cataract. The Niagara rapids are less familiar, so a brief topographical note may be helpful. One set of rapids occurs about the falls, just before the waters gather

themselves for their great leap. But the more notable series is further down. Below the falls the river moves sleepily along for a while, but presently it is compressed into a narrow gorge through which it makes its descent to Lake Ontario. This sudden narrowing into a defile whose bed is studded with rocks churns the immense volume of water into a mass of turbulent waves, where the main current, traveling at 30 miles an hour, is swung backward and forward and from side to side like a drunken thing. These whirlpool rapids, as they are called, empty the stream into the whirlpool itself, from which it has still to surge through the Devil's Hole rapids, no less triumphant, before it once more becomes navigable near Lewiston.

The Whirlpool rapids were safely threaded in 1861 by the Maid of the Mist, but the ordeal turned the captain of the steamer into an old man. Many years later a man named Perry made the same trip in a lifeboat. A rival, R. W. Flack, challenged him to a race over the course, and lost his life in a preliminary rehearsal. But the most tragic story Niagara has to tell is that of Captain Matthew Webb. The son of an English country doctor, he entered the mercantile marine as a lad, but before he was thirty he abandoned a seafaring life to become a professional swimmer. In 1876 he swam from Dover to Calais. In 1883, though warned that physically he was not what he had been, he made the desperate resolve to swim the Whirlpool rapids. In describing his plans he explained that when he found the water very bad he would go under, and would remain under until compelled to come up for breath. He intended at the whirlpool to strike out with all his strength to keep out of the suck hole in the center. "My life," he added, "will then depend upon my muscles and my breath, with a little touch of science behind them." On the afternoon of July 24 he took the plunge from a small boat. On entering the whirlpool rapids he was almost turned over by the force of the water, but he recovered himself, and in about five minutes he had traversed the mile and a quarter from the old suspension bridge to the entrance of the whirlpool. Here he seemed for a moment to be doing well. Then he threw up his arms and disappeared.

Swimming Whirlpool Rapids. In July, 1890, John Soules was more fortunate than Captain Webb, for his defeat came earlier. While he was in the whirlpool rapids the breakers dashed him against the rocks, and he was washed ashore, badly bruised, before reaching the whirlpool. Other swimmers who have attempted the passage have hesitated to trust their unaided strength and skill. W. J. Kendall, a Boston policeman, got through in 1886, but he wore a cork vest. He reported at the end of his journey that he had found his swimming abilities useless. The current took him into its main eddy and sucked him down like a flash. When he reached the spot where Webb lost his life the water went from under him and a wave knocked him unconscious. He was seen to be shot out from the pool 50 feet from the center. On regaining consciousness he swam ashore, thus avoiding being dashed down the devil's hole rapids. On September 7, 1889, Steven Brodie, who some time before had jumped off Brooklyn bridge, descended the falls themselves, clad in an steel rubber suit surrounded with india bands and thickly padded. About a week later another adventurer, Walter Campbell, wearing a cork jacket, equalled Kendall's feat, and even excelled it, for he made his way as far down as Lewiston.