

WORLD-WIDE PENNY POSTAGE

Made Possible by Recent Robust, Constructive Republican Policy.

Convention Between America and England in Effect Oct. 1—Its Blessings to Foreign Born Citizens.

ORDER NO. 1667.

The Postal Administration of Great Britain having concurred therein:

It is hereby ordered, That, commencing on the 1st day of October, 1908, the postage rate applicable to letters mailed in United States, addressed for delivery at any place in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall be two (2) cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce.

Letters unpaid or short paid shall be dispatched to destination, but double the deficient postage, calculated at said rate, shall be collectible of the addressee upon the delivery of the unpaid or short paid letters.

G. V. L. MEYER, Postmaster General.

Behind this simple statement is a vast amount of Republican constructive legislation which resulted in the significant accomplishment, set forth by the Postmaster General. It is eloquently prophetic of a world-wide penny postage, for which the credit will be due to a Republican administration.

Sixth Universal Postal Congress.

The Sixth Universal Postal Congress convened in the city of Rome, Italy, April 7 and continued until May 26, 1906. Sixty-five countries, including the United States, were represented. The assembly was for the purpose of discussing the postal systems of all nations and, if possible, agreeing upon measures for the improvement in all practical ways, of the regulations governing international intercourse through the mails. The first congress of this kind met in Berne, Switzerland, in 1874.

The United States Postoffice Department was represented in this World Postal Congress by two delegates—the Superintendent of Division of Foreign Mails, as in previous postal congresses, and the Hon. Edward Rosewater of the Omaha Bee, who had also served in the preceding postal congress.

Move for Universal Penny Postage.

At this Universal Postal Congress representatives of the United States proposed a universal two-cent postage to all nations. The Hon. J. Henniker Heaton, M. P., who is the father of the two-cent idea in England, speaking of America's action at the Rome convention, in standing out for a universal two-cent postal rate, said:

"The British members stood coldly by. They did not recognize that this was a great historic occasion, a worthy parallel of that solemn scene on July 4, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was adopted; for if the Americans are willing to adopt a penny postage to all parts of the world, it follows that they are willing to establish it to the British Empire and form with us a 'Restrictive Postal Union.'"

The Hon. Whitelaw Reid, America's Republican minister to the Court of St. James, praised the work of the American delegation and solicited the friendly co-operation of the British government at a Fourth of July banquet speech in London in 1906. Mr. Reid said:

"The American people hoped for closer and cheaper communications with all other nations as the best means of promoting better acquaintance and perpetuating friendship. They were gratified to find that the British apostle of penny postage (Mr. Heaton) at this moment focusing his efforts on what ought to be the easy task of persuading the authorities on both sides of the Atlantic, that it was as cheap to carry a letter from London to New York as from London to Calcutta; or from New York to Manila—and quite as useful."

American Republicans Lead the Way

So it has come to pass that the United States, under its Republican administration, has finally succeeded in entering into a convention with Great Britain whereby after the 1st of October this year, a two-cent postage rate will obtain between this country and England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. We already have such an arrangement with Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Panama and our colonial possessions. This great accomplishment is universally recognized as the proper beginning which is to result in a universal two-cent postage rate around the world.

Important Things Accomplished.

Two other important things that the Republican administration accomplished at the Rome Universal Postal Congress through its representatives, must not be lost sight of. One was the adoption of a universal return coupon stamp, in exchange for which, upon its presentation at a postoffice in another country, the person presenting it shall receive a postage stamp of the value of 5 cents, good in any country of the world, thus enabling people here to prepay postage at regular rates upon reply letters.

The other significant concession was that in all World Postal Congresses to be held in the future, the United States is to be granted an additional vote, in

view of its island possessions; so that at all future congresses our country will be entitled to two votes, as against one vote each cast by every other nation in the world.

Practical Benefits to the People.

No doubt the Democrats may inquire as to what all this has to do with the welfare of American citizens. For their enlightenment and information it may be stated that, according to the United States census of 1900, the foreign born population in the United States at that time was 10,460,085. The population, born of foreign parentage (one or both parents having been born in foreign countries) was 26,198,939, or a total foreign population of 36,659,024. The report of the Immigration Commissioner by years since then shows that 6,968,656 have since come to America, thus eking out the total foreign population at the present time to 43,627,680. This does not take any note of increase since 1900 in American-born children, one or both of whose parents are of foreign blood. Estimating that only one-half of this number—21,963,840—write one letter to foreign countries every two weeks, or 26 weeks each year, we have 120,983,040 letters written annually, which, at the present rate of 5 cents postage each, amounts to an expenditure of \$6,499,152 annually. Under the present postal law foreign correspondents may send letters to the United States "collect," but when they reach their destination the recipient must pay double postage. Figuring the double postage on the same basis, the foreign population of the United States pays during each year, for postage under the present system, \$19,497,450.

Under the new and cheaper postal charges advocated by the Republican party, should the 2-cent rate become universal, the foreign population in the United States, to their direct correspondents, would only pay \$3,249,576 annually for direct postage and \$9,748,728 for letters sent to them from foreign countries "collect." In other words, this Republican measure will save the highly esteemed adopted citizens of our country, and those born here of foreign parentage \$12,998,254 annually, in the necessary correspondence with their loved ones abroad. But perhaps the Democrats do not think this is worth while.

Some Glaring Inconsistencies.

At present an American can send a letter 5,000 miles by land—say from Mexico to Alaska—for 2 cents, but must pay 3 cents for a letter of half the weight sent 3,100 miles to England. An Englishman pays 5 cents on a letter crossing the Atlantic, 3,100 miles, and 2 cents on one crossing the Indian and South Pacific Oceans, 16,000 miles, to New Zealand. All this is to be remedied on October the first next, thanks to an enlightened Republican administration.

World is Ready for Reduction.

It will probably be but a short time after the convention between this country and England goes into effect, until the dream of a universal 2-cent letter postage, championed by the Republican party, will be realized. Australia, New Zealand and Egypt have already called for the 2-cent rate. The Emperor of Germany has said that if England establishes a 2-cent postage rate with the United States, he will have Germany do the same. France, Italy, South Africa, Japan, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Sweden would need little more than an invitation to follow suit.

A 2-cent postal rate would bind all the South American republics and the United States still more closely together into a peaceful, reciprocal, progressive, civilization, which would mean a more rapid development of both American continents and a new application of the Monroe doctrine. With these countries agreed, on the object desired, the continent of Europe alone would then be wholly outside this comprehensive postal union, and then the continental powers would not long stand aloof from it.

It has remained for the United States to take the initiative in a move to reap the great glory of being the pioneers of a world wide 2-cent postage. Millions of our citizens will feel almost as grateful for this beneficent act as millions of slaves did, when the Republican party broke the shackles that bound them to perpetual physical services.

BRYAN'S POLICIES DESTRUCTIVE.

Mr. Taft Compares Republican and Democratic Platforms. (From Mr. Taft's Speech of Acceptance.)

The chief difference between the Republican and the Democratic platforms is the difference which has heretofore been seen between the policies of Mr. Roosevelt and those which have been advocated by the Democratic candidate, Mr. Bryan. Mr. Roosevelt's policies have been progressive and regulative; Mr. Bryan's destructive. Mr. Roosevelt has favored regulation of the business in which evils have grown up so as to stamp out the evils and permit the business to continue. The tendency of Mr. Bryan's proposals has generally been destructive of the business with respect to which he is demanding reform. Mr. Roosevelt would compel the trusts to conduct their business in a lawful manner and secure the benefits of their operation and the maintenance of the prosperity of the country of which they are an important part; while Mr. Bryan would extirpate and destroy the entire business in order to stamp out the evils which they have practiced.

LABOR LEGISLATION

Republican States Have Been Liberal in Legislation for Labor.

Democratic States Have Done Little to Make Labor Conditions Better Within Their Bounds.

It is a fact that every important step for the benefit of American labor has been taken either by a Republican Congress and administration, or by the Legislature of a Republican State, of course with the consent, and sometimes by the advice, of the State executive. Democratic Congresses have been notably negligent in this respect, and Democratic States have either done nothing to make labor conditions better within their bounds, or have slowly and reluctantly followed at a distance in the trail of Republican reforms.

State Legislation.

The States have control of labor legislation within their respective bounds, federal authority being confined, so far as labor is concerned, to the District of Columbia and the territories, federal reservations and federal public works. The story of labor legislation shows that nearly all labor reforms originated in Republican States, and at the present day the Republicans are far ahead of the Democrats in the enactment and enforcement of laws for the welfare of men and women and children who work for a living. Twenty-six out of thirty Republican States have labor bureaus, and only seven out of sixteen Democratic States have similar bureaus, without which labor laws are often dead letters. Twenty-three Republican States have factory inspectors to see to the enforcement of the factory laws. Only six Democratic States have factory inspection services. Fifteen States—thirteen Republican and two Democratic—have free employment agencies. Eighteen States have laws on their statute books prohibiting labor on government works or public contracts for more than eight hours a day. Of these States sixteen are Republican and two Democratic. Four Republican States and one Democratic State have laws declaring eight hours to be a legal working day in the absence of a contract. Twenty-seven States prohibit the employment of children under fourteen years of age in factories. Of these twenty-three are Republican and four are Democratic States. Laws limiting the hours of the employment of children in factories or stores have been enacted in twenty-four Republican and thirteen Democratic States. Eighteen Republican and ten Democratic States prohibit night work by children. Twelve Republican and three Democratic States prohibit the employment of children in operating dangerous machinery or cleaning machinery in motion. Fifteen Republican and six Democratic States limit the hours of labor of women. It should be noted that twelve of the Republican States which limit women's hours of labor have factory inspectors to see that the law is obeyed, while only three of the Democratic States make such provision. In twenty-three Republican and ten Democratic States employers are required by law to provide seats for female workers. Twelve States have enacted legislation intended to effect the extinction of the sweatshop system, with its degrading and revolting accessories. Of these twelve States ten are Republican and two Democratic. Seventeen Republican and five Democratic States have laws requiring the payment of wages weekly or fortnightly, or, in some instances, prohibiting a longer period than one month between pay days.

Trade Union Labels.

Fourteen Republican States and only one Democratic State—Nevada—have laws in force prohibiting employers from discharging persons on account of membership in labor organizations, or from compelling persons to agree not to become members of labor organizations as a condition of securing employment or continuing in their employ. Forty States have passed laws allowing trade unions to adopt labels or trade-marks to be used to designate products of the labor of their members, and prohibiting the counterfeiting of the use of such labels or trade-marks by unauthorized persons. Of these States twenty-eight are Republican and twelve are Democratic.

The foregoing presents for consideration by intelligent, patriotic labor substantial facts and figures taken from the statute books of the several States. No platitudes can upset them. They prove the records of the Republican party and of the Democracy on the labor issue, and they must convince every reasonable reader that the Republican party has not only brought American labor up to its present honorable standard, but that labor can look only to the Republican party for assurance of protection and prosperity in the future.

Would Restrain Unlawful Trusts.

Mr. Bryan asks me what I would do with the trusts. I answer that I would restrain unlawful trusts with all the efficiency of inductive process and would punish with all the severity of criminal prosecution every attempt on the part of aggregated capital to suppress competition.—Hon. Wm. H. Taft, at Columbus, Ohio.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS

Machinery of Congress Already Started for Postal Savings Bank Law.

A Safe and Sure Plan for the Convenience of the People and the Encouragement of Thrift.

"We favor the establishment of a postal savings bank system for the convenience of the people and the encouragement of thrift."

This is the declaration of the Republican national platform, and postal savings banks will without doubt be authorized by law and established as a part of our financial system by the action of Congress at its coming session, which will be convened in December. Indeed, much has already been accomplished towards the enactment of this law. At the last session of Congress a bill was carefully prepared which met with the approval of the Postmaster General, and was reported upon favorably by the Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. This bill is now on the Senate calendar and can be acted upon as soon as Congress is convened.

The scope of the proposed law is set forth in the committee report, which is in part as follows:

Committee Report.

The purpose of this bill is to place at the disposal of people of small means the machinery of the Postoffice Department to aid and encourage them to save their earnings. The subject of postal savings banks or depositories is not new in this country and it may be truly said to be quite familiar to the people of Europe and the British colonies. The propriety of establishing postal savings banks became the subject of discussion in England as early as 1807. Every objection to such use of the postoffice facilities urged in this country was vigorously pressed in the long-continued discussion of the subject in England.

For over fifty years private savings institutions waged bitter opposition to the growing sentiment in favor of postal savings banks, but notwithstanding such opposition in 1861 an act of Parliament was passed entitled "An act to grant additional facilities for depositing small savings with the security of the government for the due repayment thereof." That the alarm of private institutions was ill founded is amply proven by the recorded fact that the private savings banks increased their capital by more than ten millions of dollars in the first fifteen years following the establishment of postal savings institutions.

That the postal savings institutions proved successful is satisfactorily attested by the fact that no backward step has ever been taken in England on this subject and by the further fact that in rapid succession the lead of England was taken by other countries.

The primary purpose of these institutions is to encourage thrift and a saving disposition among the people of small means by placing at their disposal in every part of the country ready facilities for the depositing of small sums, with absolute assurance of repayment on demand with a low rate of interest on a limited aggregate amount.

Postal Savings Banks Needed.

In certain parts of our country savings institutions are sufficiently numerous to accommodate the people, but such areas are quite limited, being confined to New England and New York. It is alleged that by reason of the number and location of savings banks there is one savings account to every two of the population of New England, whereas in all the country outside New England and New York the average is only one savings account to every 157 of the population. Taking such figures to be approximately correct and recognizing the fact that the people of all sections of this country are pretty much the same in habits, inclinations, and purposes, it must be obvious to the most casual observer that the people of the South, the Middle West, and the West do not save their earnings as do those of New England from the mere want of secure places in which deposits may be made.

To those who feel inclined to believe that the establishment of postal savings depositories will involve an element of paternalism it seems quite sufficient to suggest that the machinery of the Postoffice Department is now in existence and will continue to exist without diminution of expense whether such depositories are created or not and that the establishment of these depositories for the benefit of the people will not involve one farthing of loss to the Post-Office Department, but will probably, on the contrary, prove more than self-sustaining. Very slight computation will clearly demonstrate that the postal savings depositories can not burden the Post-Office Department with any additional deficiency.

If I am elected President, I shall urge upon Congress, with every hope of success, that a law be passed requiring a filing in a Federal office of a statement of the contributions received by committees and candidates in elections for members of Congress and in such other elections as are constitutionally within the control of Congress.—From Hon. Wm. H. Taft's speech accepting Presidential nomination.

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