

LETTER CARRIERS' SALARIES

Rural Postmen Receive Small Pay for Long Hours

Systematic and valuable as our postal service appears on the surface, there are scores of defects and inconsistencies which must still be cured before we can boast of anything like consistency or harmony in its operation. It is well understood that the complicated and cumbersome money order feature is a source of large annual loss to the department, the revenues from the sale of money orders lacking more than \$500,000 per annum of meeting direct and indirect expenses. Practically every branch of the mail service is conducted at a loss, except the single item of first-class mail matter—the two-cent letter and the one-cent postal card, which alone pay a large profit on the cost of transportation and delivery.

Among the inconsistencies and apparent elements of injustice connected with the service is the difference in salaries between the city letter carrier and his brother in the rural delivery service. This latter branch is of recent origin, but has grown with such enormous strides that it is already attracting national attention, and has already accumulated a corps of energetic employees, who are disposed to take good care of their own interests and to enlist their friends in their own behalf.

Nobody seems to feel that the city letter carrier receives too much salary. On the contrary, vigorous efforts are made at every session of congress to pass a long-pending bill for the increase of his compensation. The city letter carrier, after two years' service in the larger postoffices, receives \$1000 per annum, with an extra allowance (usually \$300 per annum) for horse hire to such carriers as require the use of a vehicle. The rural carrier, who always requires a horse and buggy, now receives \$600 per annum, with the promise of an increase to \$720 after July 1, 1904. This seems to be a very wide discrepancy in compensation, but is accounted for by the facts that not only personal services are much cheaper in the country than in the city, but the cost of keeping a horse on the farm is much less than in a city or town.

But sometimes these two classes of carriers are brought into close connection under circumstances which vividly disclose the injustice of their classification. In one enterprising city, for instance, there is a postal station located near the city limits which sends out every day two mounted city letter carriers and two rural free delivery carriers. The city carriers leave the station at 8 o'clock every morning, travel into close connection with the rural carriers, returning from their trips between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon, their period of work being strictly limited by law to eight hours. They receive \$1300 a year each. The two rural carriers start from the station at the same hours, travel about 25 miles each, working from 10 to 12 hours a day, and receive for what is practically the identical service rendered the government, \$600 a year each.

This discrepancy naturally excites attention and stimulates angry controversy, not only between the carriers themselves, but between the patrons of the respective routes. If the efforts of the city carriers to secure additional compensation should succeed the two mounted carriers who serve only city patrons would get \$1500 a year each, while the rural carriers will

receive only \$720 each, after the increase now granted takes effect.

The pending appropriation bill carries \$200,000 additional for clerks in postoffices throughout the country, which means that 5000 clerks, or about one-fourth of the whole number employed, will each receive \$100 additional salary after July 1st. This is a well-merited recognition of a responsible, hard-working class of public employees. The whole body of rural carriers will receive as above stated additional salaries of \$120 each. No provision, however, is made for increasing the salaries of carriers in the cities. Many congressmen believe that their claim is meritorious, but, in the absence of a recommendation from the postmaster-general, no action will be taken at this session. When an effort is made in that direction, the congressmen who represent rural constituencies will, of course, call attention to the discrepancy already existing, and either oppose the advancement of the city carriers, or insist upon a corresponding addition to the emoluments of the rural carriers. Thus the controversy will go on, the inevitable conflict of personal interests clamoring for recognition in public affairs. The episode is significant only as illustrating one of the inconsistencies which should be known by the employers, i. e., the people.—The Sentry.

THE PRESS. (By Request.)

Following is the occasional poem, written for the Oregon Press Association by J. H. Cradellbaugh:

'Tis good to meet, albeit once a year,
To greet each other and each other cheer.

Forgetting each, those little digs and flings—
Begot of politics, and other things—

With which we're wont, as the occasion needs,
To warm each other for alleged misdeeds.

To leave at home the editorial "we,"
And use like common folks, just "I" and "me."

To spend a few days, idle, careless, blessed,
And give our readers a much-needed rest;

To cut loose as it were from all things evil,
To choose our company and eschew the devil.

Forget, then, for the time, the daily grind,
Leave items, copy, even ads, behind.

Within these walls, indeed there's naught to fear;
No mad subscriber can find entrance here;

No good "old citizen" can here find room;
"Vox Populi" grow silent as the tomb;

The "old subscriber," with an axe to grind,
May knock, and knock, and yet no entrance find;

"Pro Bono Publico" must pass us by,
And we can smile and wink the other eye.

No long-haired poet here for long can bore you,
(The fellow's bald who reads these lines before you.)

No yell for copy can disturb you here,
And—well, you needn't even "jell" for beer.

Because, don't start, or let the fact astound you,
There's "Capital" in plenty all around you.

And it's all yours, we give to you the keys,
And only say, "do with it what you please;"

Adding to this our inner heart's best greeting,
Regretting that your visit is so fleeting.

Yet of your calling I would say a word,
If you'll permit me longer to be heard.

There's no pursuit, in all the wide domain,
Asks more of labor or gives less of gain.

Pin every statement close to the fact,

HEALTH is the Most Important

In buying food-products, several things are to be thought of—i. e., Economy, Results, Easy Handling, Reliability, but the most important is Health.

Health means everything. In buying clothes, shoes, hats, furniture, etc., if the buyer is deceived and gets an imitation the only harm is loss of money. In buying food-products, if imitations are supplied, there is not only a loss of money, but perhaps an injury to health—which is beyond price.

Remember these facts when buying baking powder.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

ABSOLUTELY PURE

Claims wider judgment, or a nicer tact.

Its task demands sometimes you walk alone.

With moral bravery and a stiff backbone.

Reward only for a gallant fight.

By knowledge that you struggled for the right.

Yet, if perchance you get an ugly fall.

What matters if you battled for us all.

We're apt to say of every busy mart.

The city's business is the city's "heart."

Keen competition and the ceaseless strife.

These, if it please you are the city's "life."

The boats, the cars in endless rows arrayed.

Define the well-known "arteries of trade."

The Mayor and the Councilmen, 'tis said.

Provide the city's "conscience" and its "head."

But over all, and greater than the whole.

The city's paper is the city's soul.

What nobler aims can any calling give?

To teach the way humanity should live.

To put our feelings in the scale with right.

And give the judgment, should the first be light.

The ills of vice in fitting words to paint.

To drub a sinner, or to praise saint.

To play at all times, the full, manly part.

With cleanly conscience and a generous heart.

Unswayed by favor and unmoved by fear.

A smile for pleasure and for pain a tear.

And charity, when others' weakness calls.

That silence may catch censure ere it falls.

The foe of wrong, the steadfast friend of right.

Long may you live to fight the gallant fight.

And when another year be passed, why then

Here's hoping all of us may meet again.

New Roof for Sawmill.

The Salem sawmill is getting treated to a new roof. A number of workmen are employed, and are rushing the work.

Report of the Condition of

The Capital National Bank, at Salem, in the State of Oregon, at the close of business, March 28, 1904.

ASSETS	
Loans and discounts	\$314,818 05
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured	26,741 18
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation	19,000 00
U. S. Bonds on hand	1,700 00
Premiums on U. S. Bonds	181 75
Bonds, securities, etc.	122,945 78
Banking-house, furniture, and fixtures	22,997 26
Other real estate owned	24,219 19
Due from State Banks and Bankers	2,851 64
Due from approved reserve agents	28,195 70
Internal revenue stamps	151 17
Checks and other cash items	12,021 20
Notes of other National Banks	210 00
Fractional paper currency, nickels, and cents	128 53
Lawful Money Reserve in Bank, viz:	
Specie	\$ 25,225 05
Capital stock paid in	50 00
Legal-tender notes	52,318 05
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasury (5 per cent of circulation)	850 00
Total	\$502,479 54
LIABILITIES	
Capital stock paid in	\$ 75,000 00
Surplus fund	4,000 00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid	5,326 60
National Bank notes outstanding	19,000 00
Due to other National Banks	415 95
Due to State Banks and Bankers	7,962 18
Dividends unpaid	80 00
Individual deposits subject to check	\$15,852 17
Demand certificates of deposit	57,131 20
Time certificates of deposit	11,566 20
Certified checks	6,098 25
Total	\$502,479 54

State of Oregon, County of Marion, ss:
I, J. H. ALBERT, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

JOS. H. ALBERT
Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of April, A. D. 1904.

F. A. TURNER, Notary Public.

Correct-Attest:
J. H. ALBERT,
S. M. CHESMAN,
F. A. WIGGINS,
Directors.

NORTHWEST NEWS

Two more men have been arrested at Santa Rosa, Cal., for holding up the Southern Pacific train at Copley. The Mormon church annual conference at Salt Lake has again renounced polygamy.

C. O. Elworth, a prominent pioneer and railroad man, is dead at Denver.

The Attorney-general of Idaho, decides that there can be no religious services or reading of the Bible in the public schools.

Oregon City has adopted a system of numbering streets and residences.

Counterfeit silver coins, made in China, are in circulation at Seattle in great quantities.

San Francisco street car men threaten to strike on account of too many apprentices.

The wife of Prof. E. H. Whitney, at Tillamook, is dead.

George W. Jaques, a Lane county pioneer, died at Thurston, April 6th.

Frederick Pabst, the great Milwaukee brewer, is visiting at Portland.

The war with Russia has not interfered with the Japanese steamer lines and the Northern Pacific routes.

STATE NEWS

Two school teachers, Shirley Buck and H. L. McCann, have purchased the Courier-Herald at Oregon City.

A meeting of a number of dairymen has been held in Astoria for the purpose of discussing the plan of starting a condensed milk plant there. All appear to favor the scheme, and the indications are that a company will be organized to equip a plant that will handle 10,000 pounds of milk per day, with a capital stock of \$18,000.

There is no material change in the carpenters' strike situation in Astoria. The union men are confident of winning, and the contractors seem to have all kinds of trouble to get men to take the places of those who quit work.

The Coos Bay Dyking and Dredging Company has been organized at Marshfield. The company is composed of farmers who have a large amount of dredging to do.

George W. Jaques, a pioneer resident of Lane county, died at his home

Pope Manuf'turing Company Bicycles

Columbia, Cleveland, Hartford and Vedettes—not a bicycle in the line but has been improved. Not a point too small to be considered. For completeness in variety of bicycles, prices and special devices, giving added efficiency, the Pope line for 1904 meets every reasonable requirement.

TIRES
We carry all kinds, including the Hartford tires, the best tire made.

REPAIRING
Try us. Have your wheel cleaned.

WILSON & PUGH
Phone Black 2475. 135 Com. St.

at Thurston yesterday morning. Mr. Jaques was 78 years of age, and came to Oregon in the early '50s. Reports from Umatilla state that the snow there is 10 inches deep; stock is starving, and that no work has been done in the fields.

New Gage Hats

We have just received by express a large supply of famous

Gage Hats

that are so popular. The latest ideas are represented in these hats, so would advise an early inspection to secure the choice.

White Corner Millinery Dept.
Miss M. D. Evans, Prop.

HAVILAND White China

For Hand Painting

Note the Prices

8 1/2-inch plates per dozen	\$4.00
7 1/2-inch plates per dozen	3.50
6 1/2-inch plates per dozen	3.00
5 1/2-inch plates per dozen	2.50
4 1/2-inch fruits per dozen	2.50
5 1/2-inch mush bowls per dozen	2.50
6 1/2-inch ice relish, each	.75
8 1/2-inch ice relish, each	.75
12-inch platter, each	1.50
14-inch platter, each	1.50
16-inch platter, each	1.50
18-inch platter, each	2.50
12-inch round platter, each	1.00
13-inch round platter, each	1.50
Bread tray, each	1.00
Medium-size spoon tray, each	.50
Large-size spoon tray, each	.50
Cracker jar, each	1.00
Medium-size pickle, each	.50
Large-size pickle, each	.50
Broth bowl, each	1.00
Extra large coffee cups and saucers, per dozen	2.50
Coffee cups and saucers, per dozen	2.50
Tea cups and saucers, per dozen	2.50
A. D. cups and saucers, per dozen	2.50
Uncovered bullions, per dozen	2.50
Covered bullions, per dozen	2.50
9-inch cake plate, each	.50
10-inch cake plate, each	.50
10 1/2-inch cake plate, each	1.00
Covered sugar for three persons, each	.50
Covered sugar for nine persons, each	1.00
Cream pitchers for three persons, each	.50
Cream pitchers for nine persons, each	.50

THE ABOVE ASSORTMENT IS NOT ALL THE PIECES WE CARRY, BUT ALL SELL ON THE SAME BASIS. REMEMBER OUR FRESH ROASTED COFFEES AND FINE GRADE TEAS. YOUR PATRONAGE APPRECIATED.

Yokohama Tea Store

M. BREDEMEIER, Proprietor
Phone 2411 Black Free Delivery



The United States gunboat Helena and other vessels in winter quarters at Newchang. The gunboats frozen into the ice are covered with rough roofs to protect them from the intense cold.

Eagle Bicycles

Fitted with Aluminum Rims. When you buy a bicycle you want to figure ahead, how much it is going to cost to keep it in repair.

The Rims

used on Eagle Bicycles never go to pieces nor warp. Come in and let us show you

Bicycles Repaired

Salem Gun Store

Paul H. Hauser, Prop.