

STATISTICS OF POSTAL WORK

State of the Service According to Annual Report of Postmaster General Smith.

MAGNITUDE OF DELIVERY

The Mails Carried to the Door of 31,000,000 People Massed in Towns and Cities—The Task Presented by Rural Delivery—In Spite of Increased Service the Deficit Is Over a Million Dollars Less Than on the Previous Year—Estimated Expense of Current Year—How Revenues Increase—Abuses in Second Class Mail Matter—Statistical Information of General Interest.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 9.—According to the annual report of Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith, the postal service during the year ended June 30 cost \$107,740,857.90 and the receipts were \$102,554,579.29, leaving a deficit of \$5,385,688.70. This deficit is \$1,225,088 less than that of the previous year, and \$2,711,811 less than the average annual deficit for the past eight years.

Strongly endorsing extension of rural free delivery, the report says: We are now carrying the postoffice to the door of 31,000,000 people massed in towns and cities. The task before us is the more complicated work of carrying the postoffice to the door of about 21,000,000, scattered over 1,000,000 square miles of territory. We are already carrying with rural delivery a larger area than England, all effected within the past two years. By the end of the current fiscal year we shall reach one-sixth of the 21,000,000 to be served. What has already been accomplished and the estimated revenue, \$116,833,042, leaving an expected deficit of \$4,634,297.

HOW REVENUES INCREASE. The report describes at length a thorough test of rural free delivery made in Carroll county, Md., covering an area of 423 square miles. The experiment began by the discontinuance of 63 of the 94 fourth-class postoffices in the territory and of 33 star routes, and by the substitution of a free delivery service with four complete postal wagons and 28 rural letter carriers in their own boxes.

LEGISLATION SUGGESTED. The following recommendations for legislation by congress are renewed: That an act be passed to punish persons who by force attempt to enter a car or apartment in a car used for the distribution of mail, or who assault a railway mail clerk while in the discharge of his duties as such.

ESTIMATED COST OF RURAL FREE DELIVERY. By a process of averages taken from an existing free delivery routes representing varying conditions, the postmaster general estimates that the gross annual cost of extending rural free delivery over the 1,000,000 square miles of reasonably well populated rural territory in the United States would be \$20,555,000.

DEATH OF MRS. McLEAN. Mother of Mrs. Dewey Expires at Washington. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 9.—Mrs. Mary L. McLean, the mother of John H. McLean, of the Cincinnati Enquirer, died here at her residence this morning of acute heart affection. She had been ill since Friday last, and from the first attack her life was despaired of.

Johannesburg Fenced In. London, Dec. 9.—A despatch from Johannesburg says the town has been fenced around with barbed wire to prevent the inhabitants getting food to the Boers.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes: Estimated gross cost, Disbursements, Deduct estimated savings, Deduct increased receipts.

Net annual cost of rural free delivery... It thus appears that rural free delivery can be extended intelligently over the whole country at an annual cost of less than \$10,000,000.

Correction of abuses in second class mail matter, as several times contemplated in the Loud bill, which congress has repeatedly defeated, and is again advocated by the postmaster general, would save the government within a few thousand dollars of enough to meet the whole net cost of free delivery to the 21,000,000 people who live on the farms of the United States.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION. The report reviews the postal operations in the new territories, giving a complete and candid review of the postal frauds in Cuba, together with the steps taken to correct them and to punish the guilty; and in various places it presents the appended statistical information.

Money sent by money order system last year, \$25,070,227.58, an increase of \$20,711,094. Number free delivery offices, 793, with 15,322 carriers, costing \$14,512,190.

Of the 26,688 postoffices in the United States 30,237 are money-order offices. Number inland mail routes 25,229, having a length of 509,930 miles, on which the annual travel amounted to 429,237,773 miles, costing \$25,145,603.75.

There are 1,288 lines of traveling postoffices in operation throughout the country, having a total length of 128,900 miles, and employing the services of 8,294 clerks, who, in cross, traveled a distance of 200,672,785 miles. The demand upon the railway mail service required the use of 10,638 cars and 23 street railway cars in cities, and 72 apartments on steamboat lines. It is estimated that 12,920,007,194 pieces of ordinary mail were handled, together with 1,500,000 packages, cases, and postpaid registered matter, and the errors of all kinds amounted to but one in every 10,435 pieces distributed.

There were 92,007 complaints relating to the loss of ordinary mail received at the department. A credit investigation, which was made in 92,228 of these cases disclosed that in 12,907 there had been no actual loss.

There were 7,129,900,302 pieces of mail matter of all kinds handled in our postoffices during the year. The freer department alone, articles aggregating in value over one and one-half billion dollars, and yet but seven articles, of a value of \$26.77, were lost. Statistics from the rural department, which are at hand, would greatly enhance this creditable showing.

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There were 3,000 postoffices established during the year, with an increase of 20, and discontinuances were made to the number of 1,912, which is 46 more than during last year. Within the same period 15,412 postmasters were appointed, of which 707 were of the presidential grade and 14,705 of the fourth class.

In the course of the year a total of 1,236 arrests were made for violations of the postal laws. Of this number 119 were postmasters, 20 assistant postmasters, 48 clerks in postoffices, 1 railway postal clerk, 29 clerks in minor positions. The remainder were not connected in any way with the service. The majority of these cases were tried in the United States courts; in 520, convictions were secured, and 925 cases were pending at the close of the year. In the state courts 61 cases were disposed of, convictions resulting in 36, and 25 were left pending.

The number of first-class postoffices is 194; second-class, 821; third-class, 3,487, and fourth-class, 72,152.

During the last fiscal year 981 claims of postmasters for losses resulting from burglary, fire, or other unavoidable causes were considered, and allowances made to the amount of \$60,230.20. Of the total amount for losses, \$12,777.77 was for postal funds, \$55,032.95 for postage stamps and stamped paper, and \$12,793.58 for money-order funds. The sum of \$12,852.92 was allowed for losses by fire, \$28,048.75 by burglary, \$3,076.82 by robbery and larceny, \$1,130.92 while in transit, and \$1,323.78 by depredations of carriers, and \$783.00 by miscellaneous causes.

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That a statute be enacted authorizing postoffice inspectors to prevent the local officers or others in the street, detention, and keeping of prisoners charged with violations of the postal laws until such prisoners can be transferred to the custody of a United States marshal.

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Scranton Carpet and Furniture Company, Registered. From the debris of the Old arises the magnificence of the New. WHEN THE EXPLOSION on the night of August 4 shook the city from onto the other and leveled to the ground the business of the Merchants' and Mechanics' Bank, the D. I. Phillips Furniture Company and the Scranton Carpet Company, there was little left to tell the tale, save a mass of splinters, broken furniture, dishevelled carpets and the like.

The Biggest, the Best and the Most Thoroughly Complete Furniture and Carpet House in This Section. The stock is new in its entirety. It represents a collection wisely chosen, by men whose experience teaches what is best and most modern in Home Furnishings. The store is now at its best. That you may see and appreciate the spirit of this gigantic enterprise, we invite the public to a Grand Holiday Opening Wednesday, December 12th. When the five floors of the building will reveal to the admirers of the artistic and beautiful in Furniture, Carpets and so forth, a stock that has no peer in any city in the state. A candid statement, made without exaggeration.

Special Offerings for the Opening Day. The Following Specials Are for the One Day Only. You'll Find Them Well Worth Coming After. \$1.75 for \$2.25 Rugs—These are very nobby patterns in Axminster Rugs, of rich patterns and new designs. They are 30 in. by 60 inches, fringed at ends, and naturally worth \$2.25.

Fine Furniture Suitable for Holiday Giving. Book Cases, Dining Tables from \$14.00 to \$150.00, Dining Chairs from \$5.00 to \$13.50, Bedroom Suits from \$15 to \$150.00, Parlor Suits from \$20.00 to \$85.00, Hall Racks from \$4.75 to \$40.00, Library Tables from \$12.00 to \$70.00, Fine Couches from \$6.00 to \$45.00. China Closets. China Closets are becoming preferable to Sideboards in many respects. Here are corner and straight back closets, in both oval and plain fronts, plain wood and mirror backs. Big variety of them in prices from \$20.00 to \$37.00.

TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN NEELEY CASE

Supreme Court Will Consider the Right of United States to Extradite Neeley.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 9.—The supreme court tomorrow morning will hear arguments in the case of Neeley versus Henkel, involving the right of the United States to extradite Neeley for trial in Havana for the alleged embezzlement of the Cuban postal funds.

SIX-DAY ANNUAL BICYCLE RACE

The Start Is Witnessed at Madison Square Garden by an Audience of 6,000—Fourteen Starters.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. New York, Dec. 9.—The sixth annual international six-day bicycle race at Madison Square Garden was started at midnight tonight before 6,000 people. The race is held under the auspices of the American Bicycle Racing association and fourteen riders of international reputation began the 142 hours' grind. They represented as teams: No man will be allowed to ride on the track more than twelve hours in any day, but the two men in each team may relieve each other at any time that suits themselves.

THE BIGGEST LIAR IN ARIZONA

W. E. Curtis, in the Chicago Record. One of the stock stories related by Captain Hance, the veteran guide at the Grand canon of the Colorado, who admits that he is the biggest liar in Arizona, concerns an adventure which took place some years ago.

Jump the canon. We tried it once and he failed, and he never was himself after. "That horse hated to be beat worse'n any human bein' you ever saw, and he was terrible mortified that time that he failed to jump the canon, for there was a lot of bets up, and a big crowd of people standin' round, most of 'em 'lowin' that he couldn't do it. I didn't feel so bad about it myself, although they gimme the laugh," said the captain, as he wriggled all over and gesticulated with his arms and head, as he always does when telling a story.

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