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**Parcel Post**

One of the most important bureaus of Federal government is the Post Office department. It is doubtful if any one bureau more directly affects the entire people. It is far closer than the taxation department, than the State department. Not all of us do business with the internal revenue office, not all of us have foreign investments which may or may not be affected by our foreign policy, but every one of us does business with the Post Office department and it does business with us. It is our own department and we want it operated in the most efficient manner possible. Delay in receipt of a letter may mean loss of business, derangement in family matters, often a letter is the direct cause of life or death.

The American people want efficient service in their postal department, they are not looking for a profit in that branch of the public service. We want our mail on time, we want sufficient number of letter carriers, we want sufficient mail cars, we want adequate postoffice buildings. If Postmaster-General Burleson can give us a satisfactory letter delivery service, if he can cut the red tape out of the Hitchcock parcel post regulations and fix it so that ordinary stamps can be used in parcel post, why then he need not worry as to whether the people will object to the added expense if there be any. Not only will they not object, they will send to political oblivion any member of Congress, any United States Senator who attempts to chide at the expense of an up-to-date, efficient, satisfactory postal service.

This is a pointer. Perhaps, it will not be heeded. But we want to enter the prediction that the wise statesman will pay close attention to the postal service. The people are watching it closer than the politicians think and the people will have their way in the long run.

**Just In Contrast**

Two despatches appeared in the public press the other day in which those who travel are interested. The first came from Pittsburg where a porter on the Pennsylvania railroad was arraigned in Police court on charge of stealing \$5 from a passenger on his car. His plea in extenuation was that "he needed the money because tips had been to scarce for a few days." The judge was not inclined to accept the plea, saying he should live on his salary. To this the porter made reply that his salary was only \$1 per month!

To this the judge at first turned a deaf ear but the company's attorney admitted that porters' regular monthly salaries were not to exceed \$2.50 per month and that the traveling public was supposed to pay in tips! "Why, this is outrageous," said the Court. "A railroad company ought not to be expected to do such a thing. A condition like

this should not exist." "It's very bad," admitted Swineheart. "If I had my way of it!"

"Yes," interrupted the Court. "I am satisfied what should be done."

He turned to Boyd: "The company pays you this as a salary? You go up and sign a voucher?"

"Yes, sir; I get my dollar off the pay car every month."

"Well," decided the Court, "you deserve leniency. Get into some business that pays you something. I will parole you for a year."

The other despatch was from New York and quoted a Pennsylvania official as saying how the stock of his road had increased in value and learning power in the last year.

And the public pays, in both cases.

**Libraries**

The Catholic Journal has not disguised its opinion on the subject of Carnegie libraries. It has pointed out frequently that to accept the terms of the "Laird of Skibo" in order that a community may perpetuate the name of a conceited old man who has a mania to see how many buildings his name may figure in bronze and stone rather stamps a community as paupers and beggars. Good libraries are a source of education and inspiration but a multiplicity of small collections of books housed in a building intended to perpetuate the name of a conceited old man, saddled with a score of onerous conditions which must be complied with for all time—because "Mr. Carnegie employs good lawyers to draw up his library deeds of gift—and also managed by a self-perpetuating board of which the people, who foot the bills, have not the choice, are of more than doubtful value in our humble judgment.

Writing to the Lyons Republican, by the way Lyons is in the throes of a Carnegie library controversy, Alfred S. Roe writes: "There are towns in Massachusetts that cannot afford the annual tax levy of \$1,000 for the care and maintenance of the library for whose housing Mr. Carnegie gave the town \$10,000. They would have been much better off had they waited until some patriotic son or daughter rose equal to the situation and gave the edifice necessary."

Mr. Roe states the case succinctly add in a nutshell. Communities where Carnegie libraries are agitated for by persons unfamiliar with the terms imposed would do well to go slowly and investigate carefully before committing themselves to an eternal policy.

Rochester has had warm weather this week and the kicking was as bad as if it were cold.

If a Supreme court justice has done wrong he should be disciplined, just as an ordinary citizen, really more so.

Governor Sulzer surely chose a warm week to call the legislators back.

These are great days for the boy and girl graduates.

Young Vincent Astor will have to worry along with \$68,000,000. His father Colonel John Jacob Astor left \$87,000,000 but he did not give it all to Vincent.

That the Catholic Church is the church of all the people is demonstrated by the news of the confirmation by Bishop Cusack of forty-six convicts in Sing Sing prison.

Truly, the way of the trust magnate is hard these days. When T. R. was in the game, the magnate was abused but that was all. To-day he is pursued and must dissolve.



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