

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

Continued from Second Page.

Receipts, paid notes, etc.; \$4,088,000, postage-stamps, and \$8,348,000 of photographs. Great effort was made to restore letters and parcels to their owners. All those found to be articles of value are carefully stored, so that the final disposition can be ascertained at any time.

Amount realized from the sales of articles for which no owners can be ascertained in the United States is deposited in the Treasury. The proceeds of the Treasury, which was in January, 1884, was \$1,015,433. The money was restored to the sender in the amount of that source during the year, \$1,230,477. The value of postage stamps received from various sources and destroyed was \$2,082,181. The postmaster-General Maynard had such useful printed matter that had previously been sold for paper should be distributed to the inmates of the various hospitals, asylums, and other charitable and reformatory institutions within the territory of Columbia. This practice has been continued, and 23,152 magazines, news, illustrated papers, Christmas cards, valentines, etc., were distributed in that way during the year.

THE APPOINTMENT DIVISION. The report of the first assistant postmaster-general presents the following statement of the number of appointments established and discontinued for the fiscal years ended June 30, 1883, and June 30, 1884:

Table with columns: June 30, 1883, June 30, 1884, Increase, Decrease. Rows include: Total number of appointments, number of cases during year, etc.

EMPLOYEES IN THE POSTAL SERVICE. The following table shows the number of employees in the postoffice department; also the number of postmaster-clerks, clerks in postoffices, and other officials in the service June 30, 1883, and June 30, 1884:

Table with columns: June 30, 1883, June 30, 1884. Rows include: Post-offices and employees, Postmaster-general, Assistant postmaster-general, etc.

POST-OFFICES AS SINECURES. At different times during the year a thorough investigation was made, under the direction of the chief postoffice inspector, of all first and second-class offices. The result of these investigations was gratifying to the department. Dishonest and negligent clerks were discovered. The former were removed, and the latter reprimanded and more fully instructed in their duties. In a large number of offices where postmasters were desired to be short in their accounts in order to cover negligence or a lack of ability to manage the affairs of their offices. Too many postmasters feel that their positions are sinecures, and are not interested in their duties. Postmasters at first and second-class offices should be required to devote their entire time to their official duties, and should not be permitted to engage in any other business that requires any portion of the time for which they are paid by the government. This result should be brought about if it requires a statutory enactment to effect it.

THE FREE-DELIVERY SYSTEM. The system was extended during the year to the cities of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Los Angeles, Cal.; Montgomery, Ala.; Ottumwa, Iowa; and Scranton, Pa., making the total number 159. The number of carriers was increased, making a total of 3880 at the close of the year.

The appropriation for this service was \$3,500,000, to which was added, in anticipation of a deficiency, \$14,633,400, making a total of \$3,514,633.40. The actual cost of the service was \$3,504,352, leaving an unexpended balance of \$10,281.40. The increased appropriation over that of the preceding year was \$314,633.40 and the increased expenditure \$330,870.01. The increase in expenditure was owing to the extension of the service to additional cities, to the increase of the number of carriers at the old offices, and their remuneration under the act of August 2, 1883, which provides for an annual increase of \$200 in the salary of each carrier in cities of the first class till the maximum (\$1000) is reached, and in



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POSTAGE ON LOCAL MATTER.

The postage on local matter at the several offices aggregated \$4,777,484.57, an increase over that of the preceding year of \$417,745.65, and over the total cost of the service \$1,273,278.25, an increase of 9.95 per cent. in the former, and 36.43 per cent. in the latter. The average cost per piece for handling matter was 2.3 mills, a reduction of one-tenth mill as compared with last year. The average cost per carrier was \$398.78, an increase over that of last year of \$38.83. This was owing to the fact that the number of carriers receiving the maximum salary was considerably increased during the year under the provisions of the act of 1883.

The mail matter delivered during the year was as follows: Mail letters, 492,577,395, an increase of 17.70 per cent. over that of the preceding year; mail postal cards, 97,421,725, increase of 13.10 per cent.; local letters, 121,833,932, increase of 16.88 per cent.; local postal cards, 69,230,794, increase of 14.48 per cent.; registered letters, 3,063,061, an increase of 9.32 per cent.; newspapers, 231,645,185, an increase of 13.70 per cent.

The mail matter collected was as follows: Letters, 414,198,891, an increase over that of last year of 10.95 per cent.; postal cards, 130,037,214, an increase of 12.95 per cent.; newspapers, including circulars, 70,475,010, an increase of 8.54 per cent.

The pieces of mail matter delivered and collected aggregated 1,340,554,117, an increase of 16.80 per cent.; and the average number by each carrier, 396,029, an increase of 10.02 per cent. Experience has shown that the delivery by carrier is more acceptable than the old custom of calling at the postoffice; that it tends to more thoroughness and accuracy in the delivery of letters; that it diminishes the number of dead letters, and diverts to the postoffice many letters that would otherwise be delivered by private expresses and messengers; that it stimulates correspondence, both mail and local, and largely increases the postage on the latter; that it saves time to the people and fruitless calls at the postoffice, and yields a large surplus of postage on local matter above its cost.

There are in the country certain towns within short distance of one another, each with its separate postoffice, having in the aggregate the required population and revenue, but which cannot be reached by the present law, as none of them singly have the required qualifications, viz, 30,000 population within its corporate limits or \$20,000 postal revenue.

In my judgment the law should be so changed as to permit the aggregation of population and the postal revenue of these towns, and the service should be extended to them when they meet the requirements of the law. The result would be a diminution in the number of offices and a more satisfactory and economical service.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE ON LOCAL LETTERS.

The free delivery service has now reached that period in its history when it is largely self-sustaining, the surplus over the entire cost of the service having gradually increased for the past ten years until, during the last fiscal year, it amounted to \$1,273,278.25. I feel, therefore, that I can with great propriety urge the reduction of postage on local letters to one cent, the single rate. The reasons for such reduction seem to me stronger than those presented for the reduction of postage on mail letters to two cents. Letters which are strictly local in character involve but comparatively little expense to the department in their handling, and therefore the impression very generally prevails in cities where the free-delivery service is in operation that the present local rate of postage (two cents) is excessive; at least, that it is immoderate in comparison with the transmission by mail and delivery by carrier, of a letter from New York to San Francisco, for the same amount of postage.

As far as known, the reduction of the rate on mail letters has met with great favor, and the public undoubtedly believes that it should be the aim of a prosperous government to reduce the rates of postage on mail matter whenever practicable. Considering, therefore, the very large revenue derived from the letter-carrier service during the past year, the times seems propitious for a reduction of the postage on local letters to one-half their present rate. I am confident that such a change would result in a very considerable increase in the number of local letters mailed, and that the free delivery revenue would not be so greatly impaired thereby as to prevent it from again reaching the present amount in a few years.

SPECIAL STAMP FOR SPECIAL DELIVERY.

The necessity and demand, in cities, for prompt transmission and delivery of letters passing between business men and others has resulted in the establishment, in many places, of what may be termed letter-express companies, which, by the employment of messenger boys, are enabled greatly to facilitate intercourse of this character among merchants, professional persons, and others engaged in active life. It is done at a small expense and with so much system and promptness as seriously to diminish the revenues of the department at several letter-carrier offices.

The patronage which is extended to these companies affords evidence that the free-delivery system, notwithstanding its facilities and benefits, has not progressed so far as to meet all the wants of energetic cities. Therefore large commercial cities. Therefore further improvement of the service in this particular should, in my judgment, be attempted, not only to pre-

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500 Ladies' Cloaks, Jackets, Newmarkets, Russian Circulars, which we offer at astonishing low prices

Nearly all the elements that produced the hard times of the past six months have spent their force. The panic and the closely contested Presidential Election, which created much apprehension, are all past, and our country is in the condition of a robust constitution, who has been sick, and now the fever is broken, recovery is sure; it may come quick, it may come a little slow, but it is sure. Our recuperative powers have always been the wonder of the world. If you have the money and want to buy real estate or personal property, now is the time to do it, prices will be higher not lower. For the present we shall make no change in our very low prices, because we don't want to carry over Winter Goods. If you want Mens' and Boys' Clothing, Ladies', Misses' and Children's Boots and Shoes, Mens' and Boys' Hats and Caps, Gents' Furnishing Goods or Dry Goods, come to Chase's, the popular cheap store and get them.

\$60,000 in Bargains---Men's Clothing Half Value.

Office of O. J. LEWIS & CO., Auction Commission, St. Louis.

We certify that during the past great business depression and panic, the Chase Trading Co., of Fort Worth, Texas, have bought at our Auction sales for Cash to an amount exceeding Ten Thousand Dollars. A very large amount of this purchase consisted of the most desirable Mens' and Boys' Clothing, made by some of the best manufacturers in this country and sold only for the purpose of raising money, and bought by the Chase Trading Co. at from fifty to sixty cents upon the cost of producing.

O. J. LEWIS & CO.

The above goods were heavy winter goods, which we now place for the first time upon sale. We offer 100 Mens' odd Coats, a little too heavy for Summer and a little too light for Winter for \$1.50, worth \$5. We offer 200 Mens' odd Coats, all Wool, for \$2.50, worth \$7.50. We offer 200 Mens' Coats and Vests, all Wool, for \$5, worth \$10.

READ THE SMALL TYPE BELOW.

FORT WORTH, Nov. 24, 1884.

DEAR LADY--If your eye should fall upon these lines, will you please pardon us for a moment in arresting your attention: We are offering a bankrupt stock of worsted dress goods at 10 to 15 cents a yard. The goods are really worth from 2 to 4 cents. We are offering 100 pieces of Ladies' Plain Dress Gingham at 10c, usually worth 10 to 20c. We are offering White and Colored Blankets at 22.5c, 24c and 24c, worth \$1.50, \$1 and 80c. We are offering Ladies' Under Vests at 75c, worth \$1; at \$1, worth \$1.50. We are offering Silk Stripe Plain Dress Goods at 10 to 20c, worth 50c. We are offering a lot of Ladies' and Children's Cotton Hose at about one-half the retail price. We are offering Plain Red Flannels, all wool, at 25, 30, 35 and 40 cents, all excellent values for the price. We are offering Plain White Wool Flannels at 25, 30, 35 and 40 cents. We are offering good Bleached and Brown Cotton Flannels at 10 cents. We are offering excellent Bleached and Brown Cotton Flannels at 10 cents. We are offering 100 Corsets at \$1, \$1.25 and \$1.50. Usual price \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$2. We are offering Ladies' Corsets at 50c, worth 75c, at 75c, worth \$1; at \$1, usual price \$1.25. We are offering Ladies' Skirts at 50c, worth 75c; at 75c, worth \$1; at \$1, worth \$1.25. We have a complete stock of Boys' Clothing, which we are anxious to sell at low prices. We make a specialty of Ladies' and Children's Shoes, and will guarantee satisfaction in every pair we sell.

FORT WORTH, Nov. 24, 1884. Recognizing the fact that in times of great financial depression like the present, when extreme low prices are paid for labor, and farmers are compelled to sell their products at almost ruinous rates, that it is the best policy for the merchant to buy only when he can get goods as low as is the price of labor and farm products, and then divide the profit with his customers. Money is a great power. The seller wants it in need of money, and it was the power of our money that induced them to accept of low prices, and now it is the power of your money that induces us to make you low prices. We offer you good suits of clothes at \$5, worth \$12; at \$10, worth \$15; at \$12, worth \$15; at \$15, worth \$22; at \$20, worth \$25; at \$25, worth \$30; at \$30, worth \$35; at \$35, worth \$40; at \$40, worth \$45; at \$45, worth \$50; at \$50, worth \$55; at \$55, worth \$60; at \$60, worth \$65; at \$65, worth \$70; at \$70, worth \$75; at \$75, worth \$80; at \$80, worth \$85; at \$85, worth \$90; at \$90, worth \$95; at \$95, worth \$100. Overcoats, Overcoats--just come and see them. High prices are asked. And we will guarantee in every instance, that our goods are first-class work, made during the dull season, by the same makers that the finer custom work is made, for which such high prices are asked. We have the finest and largest assortment of Mens' and Boys' Shoes in this market. They have all been either bought from manufacturers or bought from second hands, for less than it cost to make them, and these goods we will sell at 10 to 20 per cent. less than they are retained for by the best houses in the largest cities. We make a specialty of Mens' and Boys' Hats and Caps. Our assortment is complete. We are selling Mens' good wool underwear at \$1, \$1.50 and \$2 apiece. We are offering Mens' Unfinished Shirts at 50c, worth 75c. We are offering Mens' Parasol Shirts at 25c, worth 50c. Mens' Furnishing goods, all kinds, and prices very low. Yours respectfully, CHASE TRADING COMPANY.

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