TAFT REFORMS POSTAL SERVICE

Government's Biggest Business Now Run on Modern Basis.

PENNY POSTAGE POSSIBLE.

Economy and Efficiency In Administration Under Hitchcock, Make Cheaper Postage Rates Imminent—Policies Should Be Continued.

In thorough accord with the policy of economy and efficiency of the Taft administration, Postmaster General Frank H. Hitchcock has put an end to the annual deficit in the postoffice department and made possible the serious consideration of further reforms and improvements, not the least important of which is the imminent possibility of penny postage. Many other reforms that have the support of President Taft will be inaugurated this year. Another term of the Taft administration would place this $240,000,000 business institution completely on a business basis.

At the beginning of the present administration the postal service was in arrears to the extent of $17,479,770.47, which was decidedly the largest deficit on record. Last year the revenues exceeded the expenditures by $219,118.12

The wiping out of the deficit has been accomplished without any curtailment of facilities. On the contrary, there have been established 3,744 new postoffices, delivery by carrier has been provided in 186 additional cities, and 2,516 new rural routes, aggregating 60,679 miles, have been authorized. Meanwhile the force of postal employees has been increased by more than 8,000, and last year the total amount expended for salaries was approximately $14,000,000 greater than two years ago. The average annual salary has been increased from $869 to $967 for rural carriers, from $979 to $1,082 for postoffice clerks, from $1,021 to $1,084 for city letter carriers and from $1,168 to $1,183 for railway postal clerks. Thus a marked extension of the postal service and increased compensation for its employees have gone hand in hand with a vanishing deficit.

Postal Banks Great Success.

By persistent effort the present Republican administration secured the passage on June 25, 1910, of the act creating the postal savings system, which is now in operation at practically all the 7,500 presidential postoffices. Preparations are being made for its extension to 40,000 fourth class postoffices. It is confidently anticipated that the deposits at the close of the present fiscal year will aggregate $50,000,000 and that the income of the system will be sufficient to pay all operating expenses.

Under President Taft the postoffice department has engaged in an aggressive crusade against the fraudulent use of the mails. Last year the inspectors investigated many cases involving the sale of worthless stock in imaginary mining companies and other fictitious concerns. There were altogether 529 indictments and 184 convictions, with but 12 acquittals. The other cases are pending. The convicted swindlers had defrauded the people of many millions of dollars.

Sunday service by employees has been reduced to a minimum, with little objection from patrons.

Reforms Under Way.

Many other improvements have been made in the postal service during President Taft's term of office, such as the shipment of periodicals in carloads by fast freight, which has reduced the cost of transportation and expedited the handling of first class mail, and the consolidation of the star route and rural delivery services, so that it has been possible to establish many new routes and to serve thousands of additional patrons on existing routes with little or no increased cost. But the Taft program of postal reform and progress is not yet completed. The president is urging congress to adopt legislation for the readjustment of postage rates on a basis of cost, which will eventually permit of a 1 cent rate on letter mail. A project also is under way for giving to village communities the same free delivery of mail that is now enjoyed by cities and the rural population.

The establishment of a domestic parcel post has received the earnest consideration of the president. In some branches of the delivery service, notably the rural and city delivery routes, the equipment now necessary is sufficient for the additional transportation of considerable merchandise with little or no increase in expense.

President Taft, accordingly, has urgently recommended to congress the adoption of the necessary legislation, and to present the issue clearly, three items of $50,000 each have been included in the estimates of the postal service by Postmaster General Hitchcock, two to cover the initial expense of introducing the parcel post on rural routes and in the city delivery service, respectively, and the third to meet the cost of an investigation looking to the final extension of the service to the railways and other transportation lines.

DELEGATES PLEDGED TO TAFT.

The delegates to the Republican national convention pledged to President Taft on Saturday, April 6, 1912, numbered 280, as follows:

Alabama	22
Alaska	2
Colorado	8
District of Columbia	2
Florida	12
Georgia	26
Indiana	20
Iowa	8
Michigan	6
Mississippi	20
Missouri	6
New Mexico	7
New York	79
Oklahoma	4
Philippines	2
South Carolina	16
Tennessee	16
Virginia	24
Total	280

Necessary for choice, 539.

DANGER AHEAD.

—St. Louis Globe-Democrat, March 28, 1912.

TAFT DEFEATS RAILROADS.

Prevents Increase In Freight Rates by Vigorous Action.

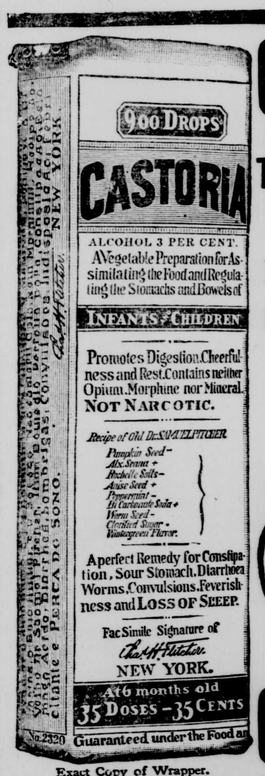
President Taft's method of doing his work as president without seeking to achieve personal notoriety from his good works was never better illustrated than in his ultimatum to the railroads of the country which prevented a general increase in railroad rates just prior to the adoption of amendments to the railroad rate law two years ago. The president served notice upon the railroads that if they anticipated the new law they would be haled into court, and as a result of subsequent conferences the railroads agreed to postpone their action until the new law was passed.

In the new law of congress President Taft assisted in inserting a provision which transferred from the shoulders of the shipper to that of the railroads the burden of proof in establishing the reasonableness of a railroad rate. Prior to that time the practice had been just the opposite, with the result that many shippers who were or had been suffering from discriminatory rates or practices, were unable to prove their cases without great expense or long litigation or both. Under this new law the railroads subsequently made application for an increase in their rates and the interstate commerce commission, not being satisfied with the showing of the railroads as to their reasonableness, denied them. Thus one of the great achievements of President Taft came to pass, an achievement which affected every man, woman and child in the country, but it was done so quietly that it has almost been forgotten by many who were benefited.

Dr. J. T. R. Neal, proprietor Riverside Drug Co., Greenville, S. C., writes recently, "I have been a practicing physician and druggist for over 35 years and have sold and administered many kidney medicines, but none to equal Foley Kidney Pills. They are superior to any I have ever used, and give the quickest and most permanent relief." For sale by C. H. Redden, Druggist, Denton, Md.

Puts End To Bad Habit.

Things never look bright to one with "the blues." Ten to one the trouble is a sluggish liver, filling the system with billious poison, that Dr. King's New Life Pills would expel. Try them. Let the joy of better feelings end "the blues." Best for stomach, liver and kidneys. 25 cents at All Druggists.



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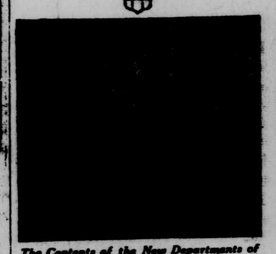
The Youth's Companion Larger and Better for 1911



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