

### MAIL DIVISION HAS CENTER IN OMAHA

Change in Amount Due to War and Various Conditions Which Have Been Altered.

#### TERMINAL RAILWAY OFFICES

The fourteenth division of the railway mail service, with headquarters at Omaha, comprises the states of Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming, and has jurisdiction over transportation of the mails on all lines in that territory and over all postoffices with respect to their outgoing mails.

In addition to the service on the railroad lines there are five terminal railway postoffices, two of which are located at Omaha and the others at Council Bluffs, Ia., and Denver and Pueblo, Colo. These terminals were organized for the purpose of taking up the distribution of circulars and parcel post, as it can be performed in them more economically than in postal cars. There have been some changes during the year in the distribution performed, certain mails distributed in the Fourteenth division terminals having been shifted to terminals in neighboring divisions, and vice versa. There have also been changes in the matter of the mails distributed by postoffice and turned over to railway postoffice lines for distribution.

The total distribution during the year 1915 in these lines and terminals was 17,163,155 packages of letters, 4,633,323 sacks of papers and 638,073 sacks of parcel post, an increase over the year 1914 of approximately 600,000 packages of letters and 330,000 sacks of papers and a decrease of about 12,000 sacks of parcel post.

#### Change in Terminals.

The decrease in parcel post is accounted for by the fact that the parcel post from the east for South Dakota, which was formerly distributed in the Council Bluffs terminal, has been transferred to the terminal at Sioux City, Ia., and the Colorado parcel post from the east, all of which was formerly distributed in the Denver terminal, has been transferred, so that that coming from the Chicago gateway is distributed at Omaha, and that from New York by way of Pittsburgh is distributed at Kansas City; so the division has lost all of the South Dakota and about half of the Colorado. In addition many of the big eastern mail-order houses which, when the parcel post system was first inaugurated, shipped their mail so that it was distributed in the terminals, have now found it cheaper to ship by freight to various minor points at which parcels are mailed for offices in nearby zones, the combined freight rate and local parcel post rates being cheaper than the through rate on parcel post. A great part of such shipments is made up by the mail order houses themselves in direct sacks for many postoffices, so while they are transported they are not distributed by this service.

The number of men employed in the division, including officials, was 975 on January 1, 1915, and 941 on January 1, 1916, a decrease during the year of thirty-four employees.

#### Work is Changed.

The terminal railway postoffices were inaugurated during the latter part of 1913 and during 1914. They took over much work which had been performed upon the lines. It required many men to man them and these had to be appointed at once, while the reduction upon the lines could not be made until the effect upon them of the terminals was ascertained. So that the year just closed represents a readjustment to meet the new conditions brought about by the terminals, and it has been satisfactory to this division, in that while there has been a net reduction in the force, the vacancies occurring have taken care of the clerks, and it has not been necessary to remove any from the service.

It has, however, been a hard year for substitute clerks, as the process of taking care of the regular clerks has left no vacancies for new appointments. This readjustment, however, has now been completed, there are no surplus clerks to care for, and with normal increases in the mail and the normal vacancies which occur, the coming year will offer better prospects for those who have taken the civil service examination and are carried on the substitute rolls.

#### War Has Its Effects.

Undoubtedly also the war has had its effect on the volume of mails, and the last two years have not seen the normal increase of about 7 per cent per annum which usually occurs. More recent indications and such statistics as are available indicate that this period of depression has passed and that the mails are again increasing in something like their normal proportion.

The holiday mails may be taken as some index of the condition of prosperity in the country, the week before Christmas showing always an enormous increase in the mails carried. This year elaborate preparations were made to handle these mails during the ten days ended with Christmas day, in order to avoid congestion and delay. The flood was kept moving this year with less friction than ever before, notwithstanding there was an unquestionable increase in the quantity. Officials of the Burlington estimate that on its lines out of Omaha it carried about 36 per cent more mail during this period than in the corresponding period a year ago, and the increase on the Union Pacific lines carrying the overland mails was quite as marked.

#### Good Index.

Parcel post for Nebraska from the east is sent to the terminal in the Burlington station at Omaha, and as there has been no change in this practice since the inauguration of this terminal more than two years ago, it is considered a fair index of the comparative volume of the Christmas mails. During the week preceding Christmas there were distributed 5,400 sacks of Nebraska parcel post in this terminal in 1913; 8,612 sacks in 1914, and 9,412 sacks in 1915.

During recent months there has been some decrease in the parcel post for this state as compared with a year ago, owing to the mailings by the mail order houses above referred to, so that the increase during this particular week is the more marked as indicative of the number of Christmas parcels going through the mails as representative of the country's prosperity. During the week preceding Christmas it was no uncommon thing to send out of Omaha on the Overland Union Pacific trains as many as twenty-five carloads of mail in a day, and the trains on the same line from the west brought in as high as sixteen cars in a single day. As this

represents but one line, some idea may be gained of the enormous tonnage of mail passing through the Omaha depot during the Christmas period.

#### MORE MAIL HANDLED HERE THAN FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

Parcel post business at the Omaha office made a decided leap ahead during 1915. This was attributed largely to increased facilities offered the public, such as collection on delivery feature, lowering of the insurance rates to a minimum of 5 cents for a value up to \$5, extension of the size limit of packages to eighty-four inches, extension of the weight limit, reduction of the weight per pound and the parcel post receipts, as well as the natural increase due to growth of the city and knowledge of the advantages afforded.

The number of parcels insured at the Omaha office in the week before Christmas was 55 per cent greater than the number insured during that period in 1914.

Thirty-two per cent more sacks of par-

cel post matter was handled in the week preceding Christmas this year than in that week, 1914.

The number of letters handled at the local office during the period December 11 to 24 was 1,991,700 in 1915, being an increase of 278,400 over the same period last year.

#### EIGHT HUNDRED NOW AT WORK IN FEDERAL BUILDING

The Omaha postoffice or federal building occupies a block and cost \$2,000,000. There are nearly 800 men and women employed in the building.

The care of the building comes under Custodian C. W. McCune, and the payroll including firemen, engineers, janitors, charwomen, elevator men and watchmen, amounts to about \$23,000 a year.

The building is administered by the supervising architect of the Treasury department at Washington.

Expenditures during the last year for improvements were less than during the previous year, the largest item being repairs to approaches and extending the

platform on the west side of the building, which gives the Postoffice department more space to handle the mails. This cost about \$4,500. There was also installed window ventilators all over the building at a cost of about \$200. A new tile roof over the east porch cost \$60.

#### REGISTERED MAIL SHOWS MOST DECIDED INCREASE

An increase of 35 per cent in the number of pieces of registered mail delivered in Omaha in 1915 over 1914 is shown by the annual report of this branch of Postmaster Wharton's domain.

The total number of pieces registered during 1915 was 109,950 and the total number of pieces delivered was 100,212, a total of 21,173.

#### POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITS SHOW GAIN FOR THE YEAR

Postal saving deposits in the Omaha bank have increased very materially during the last year. The bank is under the direction of Postmaster John C.

Wharton and occupies a room on the main floor of the postoffice building. The total number of separate accounts has increased slightly.

On December 31, 1914, the total number of depositors was 1,590 and on the same date in 1915 the depositors numbered 2,283.

On December 31, 1914, the total deposits were \$207,915 and on the same date in 1915 they had increased to \$296,594.

While there are only forty-three more depositors the deposits have increased \$29,000.

#### ARMY ENLISTMENTS SHOW BIG FALLING OFF

A big decrease in enlistments in the United States army through the Omaha recruiting station is shown by the figures given out by Recruiting Sergeant Hansen.

The decrease is explained largely by the closing of the three sub-stations which were maintained in Des Moines, Sioux City and Lincoln.

Enlistments by quarters during 1915 were as follows: First quarter, 86; second quarter, 61; third quarter, 67; fourth

quarter, 56. Total, 300. Total enlistments last year were 220 at the Omaha station, with 207 at the three sub-stations.

#### Saloon is Robbed of Several Pints

John Parratt, 612 South Thirteenth street, asserts that his saloon was visited by thieves who gained entrance to the place by forcing a rear window, and then stole ten pints of whisky.

The United Machine company, 84 Douglas street, report the theft of one of their slot machines from a local cafe.

Charles Gallett, 416 Bancroft, found that a tool house at 3011 Boulevard, had been broken into and tools to the value of \$20 taken.

Floyd Lallo, Sholes, Neb., stopped to argue current topics with a colored person Thursday evening, and lost the argument and \$4.

Kirchbraun & Sons, 1209-11 Howard street, assert a case of eggs was stolen from one of their wagons.

Read The Bee Want Ads. It pays!

#### Pneumonia is Most Dread Disease for 1915 in This City

A preliminary report of the health department shows that pneumonia was the "dread disease" in Omaha during the last year, the deaths from this disease numbering 302, nearly twice the number of tubercular fatalities. Although there were many scarlet fever cases reported, there were only sixteen deaths of victims of this disease. Five typhoid fever deaths were reported during the year.

The birth records show a total of 2,614 for Greater Omaha, an increase of about 150 over the year before. There were 2,280 deaths. Of the deaths two were persons more than 100 years of age and fourteen were between 90 and 100 years of age.

March led as the month of births as well as deaths.

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## DROPPING THE PILOT

At midnight, Friday, we dropped the old pilot and took up the new one. The old year, with its joys and sorrows, becomes nothing but a memory, and 1916 is here, with a brand new set of opportunities. Let's forget about our yesterdays, with their petty successes and failures. Let's look the new today right in the eye and determine to make this new year the best and happiest we have seen.

### OUR BEST WISHES FOR YOU

First of all, we wish you the very best of good health. Given that, and a body can meet the blows of fate with a smile. We wish you a few real friends to back you up in your reverses, and to help celebrate your victories. For any real friend is worth more than an army of acquaintances. And, lastly, we wish you the good judgment that enables one to magnify one's good fortune and ignore one's bad fortune. Both kinds come to all of us, but the really happy person is he who refuses to be unhappy. May this be your fortunate lot.

## Greet the New Year With

# GOLDEN SHEAF WHISKEY

### A NEBRASKA PRODUCT

Equal to the Best Made Elsewhere In Purity and Flavor

The liquor question will be settled eventually between those who know how to use liquor temperately and demand the right to purchase it, and those who deny them such right. The demand creates the supply. There are many thousands of consumers for every manufacturer; hundreds of purchasers for every seller. Statistics prove that, notwithstanding an increased consumption of whiskey, there is less intemperance than ever before, because Americans have learned to use it temperately. Good whiskey, like Golden Sheaf, diluted, for instance with charged waters, is no stronger than milder beverages, and the purest of all stimulants. Being germless, it cannot be fermented or spoil, like so-called soft drinks, nor cause acidity or biliousness in the system. Its abuse, as well as the abuse of anything, is harmful; its moderate use beneficial. The medicine chest should not be without it.

When You Buy "GOLDEN SHEAF" You Have the Distiller's Guarantee of Getting Full Value for Your Money.

# ILER & COMPANY OMAHA, NEBRASKA

## "THE WILLOW SPRINGS DISTILLERY"