

WASHINGTON NEWS

The parcels post bill passed both houses of congress and will become a law on January 1, 1913. The following are the important features of the Bourne-Bristow bill: The country will be divided into eight zones, length of zones and rates as follows: First zone, length fifty miles, rate 5 cents for the first pound, 3 cents for each additional pound; second zone, length 150 miles, rates 6 and 4 cents; third zone, length 300 miles, rates 7 and 5 cents; fourth zone, length 600 miles, rates 8 and 6 cents; fifth zone, length 1,000 miles, rates 9 and 7 cents; sixth zone, length 1,400 miles, rates 10 and 9 cents; seventh zone, length 1,800 miles, rates 12 cents per pound straight. The eighth zone is for distances beyond 1,800 miles, with a rate of 12 cents per pound. Maximum package, 11 pounds.

The United States supreme court has adopted a new rule with respect to injunctions. The new rule follows:

No preliminary injunction shall be

granted without notice to the opposite party, nor shall any temporary restraining order be granted without notice to the opposite party unless it shall clearly appear from specific facts shown by affidavit or by the verified bill that immediate and irreparable loss or damage will result to the applicant before the matter can be heard on notice.

In case a temporary restraining order shall be granted without notice in the contingency specified, the matter shall be made returnable at the earliest possible time and in no event later than ten days from the date of the order and shall take precedent of all matters, except older matters of the same character.

When the matter comes up for hearing the party who obtained the temporary restraining order shall proceed with his application for a preliminary injunction and if he does not do so the court shall dissolve his temporary restraining order.

Upon two days' notice to the party obtaining such temporary restraining order, the opposite party may

appear and move the dissolution and modification of the order, and in that event the court or judge shall proceed to hear and determine the motion was expeditiously as the ends of justice may require. Every temporary restraining order shall be forthwith filed in the clerk's office.

Referring to the new rule, the Houston (Tex.) Post says: From the fact that the supreme court as now constituted is composed in part of able attorneys who, until they received their recent appointment as members of that tribunal, had large experience in practice before the federal courts, it may be assumed that the new rules had suggestion to some extent in the recognition of these new members of the urgent necessity for such reforms; but, at the same time, the fact must not be lost sight of that the national democratic platform adopted at Baltimore contained this plank: "We recognize the urgent need of reform in the administration of civil and criminal laws in the United States, and recommend the enactment of such legislation and the promotion of such measures as will rid the present legal system of the delays, expense and uncertainties incident to the system as now administered."

As the Post recently suggested, there is much that the courts themselves may do in the way of reforming procedure, without awaiting legislative action having that end in view.

The government reports the value of crops as follows:


Corn	\$1,850,776,000
Hay	854,616,000
Wheat	603,639,000
Oats	476,169,000
Potatoes	186,501,000
Barley	120,845,000
Flax seed	38,693,000
Rice	24,370,000
Buckwheat	12,526,000

President Taft's last Thanksgiving proclamation was as follows: "By the president of the United States: A proclamation—A God-fearing nation, like ours, owes it to its inborn sincere sense of moral duty to testify its devout gratitude to the All Giver for the countless benefits it has enjoyed. For many years it has been customary at the close of the year for the national executive to urge upon his fellow countrymen to offer praise and thanks to God for the manifold blessings vouchsafed to them in the past, and to unite in earnest supplication for their continuance.

"The year now drawing to a close has been notably favorable to our fortunate land. At peace within and without, free from the perturbations and calamities that have afflicted other peoples, rich in harvests so abundant and industries so productive that the overflow of our prosperity has advantaged the whole world, strong in the steadfast conservation of the heritage of self-government bequeathed to us by the wisdom of our fathers, and firm in the resolve to transmit that heritage, unimpaired but rather improved by good use, to our children and our children's children for all time to come, the people of this country have abounding cause for contented gratitude.

"Wherefore, I, William Howard Taft, president of the United States of America, in pursuance of long-established usage and in response to the wish of the American people, invite my countrymen, whosoever they sojourn, to join, on Thursday, the twenty-eighth day of this month of November, in appropriate ascription of praise and thanks to God for the good gifts that have been our portion, and in humble prayer that His great mercies toward us may endure."

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