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December 31, 1906.....	\$ 559,000
December 31, 1908.....	1,453,218
December 31, 1910.....	2,641,084
December 31, 1912.....	4,805,502
June 30, 1913.....	5,357,525

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IMPROVED POSTAL SERVICE

For at least two years prior to the time when Postmaster General Burleson took up the guiding reins of the postoffice department, consciousness that the federal postal service was far from being all it ought to be, was one of the stock grievances of the country. Complaints were rife of delay in transmission of mails, of impediments to the delivery of letters and packages, and this was notably the case last winter, when the troubles incident to the mails were of so pronounced a character, that they are still an acute recollection.

These disturbances were largely caused by curtailment of postoffice facilities, just when the nation was entering upon a great era of industrial expansion, and when the establishment of the parcels post, with its consequent diversion of a large share of the energies of the postoffice department to one special branch of business, called for increase of the working force of the department as a whole. But though these reasons for failure of the postal service to keep pace with the necessities of the community, were so obvious that they took precedence in assignment of causes for the inconvenience from which the country was suffering, they did not furnish a complete explanation of the trouble.

An enormous amount of detail required consideration, and from the hour he took office it was apparent to Postmaster General Burleson that before the postal service could be reorganized with the completeness and the precision needful, there must be a thorough inquiry into postoffice conditions throughout the nation. A committee was appointed for that purpose. Though the problem was so vast and complicated that it might have been supposed the necessary information could not have been assembled within a year, the commission has worked so hard, and with such definite objects, that it has been able to present a detailed report, with admirable recommendations for betterment.

To facilitate the mail service, the postmaster general has obtained an emergency appropriation from congress. About 2,500 new clerks, letter carriers and railway mail employes have reinforced the depleted strength of the postoffice rank and file. The car space has been enlarged, many new rural delivery routes are now established, and numerous other improvements have been made.

The tidings of the reclamation which for three months has been going on in the postal branch of governmental work, are highly acceptable to the public and the business community. The efficiency program whose effects are already so potent felt, is but the forerunner of a rehabilitation which under the energetic regime of the vigorous executive now at the head of the postoffice department will give the people of the United States a mail service second to none in the world.—Buffalo (N. Y.) Times.

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Author (delightedly)—"You think so?"
Critic—"Yes. You say on page ten that she hissed, 'You are a liar!' and any woman who can hiss such a sentence as that can't help being wonderful."—Boston Transcript.

DELICATE HINT

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