



FIXING RATES UNDER PARCEL POST SYSTEM

Government Goes Into Business of Transmitting Merchandise Through the Mails.

NEW LAW FULLY EXPLAINED

Country Divided Into Zones and Units for Purpose of Fixing Charges for Carriage—No Package Weighing More Than Eleven Pounds is Mailable—Anything Properly Wrapped Which Will Not Injure Other Mail May Be Sent.

By EDWARD B. CLARK.
With the coming of the New Year the United States government will enter into a new field of enterprise—the transmittal of merchandise by what is known as the parcel post. For years there has been a demand for a system of inexpensive transmittal of packages. The camps of favor and disfavor of the parcel post scheme have been about equally divided. Finally at the last session of congress a bill was passed which will put the plan into operation, but only it must be said in little more than an experimental way.

It is the intention of Uncle Sam to move rather slowly in the parcel post matter. He wants to find how popular it will be, how much it will cost the government, and whether there is to be a profit or loss at the end of each year. If it is found that the plan is successful from the point of view of the people, which means the government also, the parcel post will be extended until finally it reaches the proportions which its proponents say they believe it is destined to assume.

Zone System Explained.
It is no exaggeration to say that thousands upon thousands of inquiries have been made of the postmaster general as to just what the parcel post will mean to the people. It was the law of congress establishing for a division of the country into zones and into 35,000 units which are to be used as centers in describing the circles which mark the boundaries of the zones. There has been no clear understanding, apparently, of this zone system, but really it is a very simple matter.

The accompanying map shows the country divided into zones from the unit in which Washington is situated, as the center, to the radius of Washington, but as the radius of the circles drawn from Keokuk is the same length as the radius of the circles drawn from Washington, Keokuk's Zone Six will be just as far from its center as Washington's Zone Six is. It can be seen from this readily enough that the postal rates from Washington to its particular zone will be the same as the postal rates from Keokuk to its particular zones. Each unit being about thirty miles square will of course contain in most cases a number of postoffices, but each office in the same unit is considered as being the center of the circles from which the zones are drawn. The rates of postage are fixed from the unit in which the sending postoffice is situated, but the price is every place in any zone is just the same. To illustrate, it will cost exactly the same amount to send a parcel from Washington to Erie, Pa., that it costs to send it to Atlanta, Ga., because Erie and Atlanta with reference to Washington are situated in the fourth zone. The rates therefore are fixed from the unit in which the postoffice is located, but they are the same from that office to any point in any zone.

It will be seen by reference to the table of rates of postage that it will cost more per pound to send a package a long distance than it does to send it a short distance. The rate increases for a package weighing one pound at the rate of one cent for each zone. No package weighing more than 11 pounds can be sent under the new parcel post law. It should be said right here that on the long hauls the parcel post may not be able to compete with the express companies, but that or shorter hauls it can compete. It was the expressed desire of the legislators and of the postoffice officials that the parcel post system should be made of particular use to persons having farm and factory products to transmit to customers. It is probable that producers must study the rates of postage and the convenience of transmittal and compare them with the cost and convenience under present methods before individually a man can determine whether he is to profit or not by the change. There is another thing to be considered and which only can be known definitely when fuller regulations have been made to specify exactly what kind of things can be sent by parcel post. It can be said in a general way that anything can be sent which is properly wrapped and which will not injure other mail matter with which it may come in contact.

Parcels weighing four ounces or less are mailable at the rate of one cent for each ounce or fraction of an ounce, regardless of distance. Parcels weighing more than four ounces are mailable at the pound rate, as shown by the following table, and when mailed at this rate any fraction of a pound is considered a full pound.

Wt. Lbs.	1st zone	2d zone	3d zone	4th zone	5th zone	6th zone	7th zone	8th zone
1	\$.05	\$.05	\$.06	\$.07	\$.08	\$.09	\$.10	\$.12
2	.06	.08	.10	.12	.14	.16	.19	.24
3	.07	.11	.14	.17	.20	.23	.28	.36
4	.08	.14	.18	.22	.26	.30	.37	.48
5	.09	.17	.22	.27	.32	.37	.46	.60
6	.10	.20	.26	.32	.38	.44	.55	.72
7	.11	.23	.30	.37	.44	.51	.64	.84
8	.12	.26	.34	.42	.50	.58	.73	.96
9	.13	.29	.38	.47	.56	.65	.82	1.08
10	.14	.32	.42	.52	.62	.72	.91	1.20
11	.15	.35	.46	.57	.68	.79	1.00	1.32

*For a full explanation of the rates of postage in the First Zone see the Parcel Post Guide.

that parcel post packages cannot be accepted for mailing unless they bear a distinctive parcel post stamp and have attached to them the return card of the sender. A series of distinctive stamps is now in course of preparation for this class of mail as required by the law creating the parcel post system. Consignments of these stamps will be ready for shipment to all postoffices in ample time for the establishment of the new system on New Year's day.

The postoffice department has given instruction to every postmaster in the country to enlighten his patrons as much as possible on the general subject of the parcel post and especially on the use of the special stamps and the necessary attachment of the return card. The law requires that all fourth-class matter mailed a year or more after January 1, 1913, without parcel post stamps attached shall be treated as "held for postage" matter. Parcel post packages will be mailable only at postoffices, branch postoffices, lettered and local named stations, and such numbered stations as may be designated by the postmasters.

It has been announced by Postmaster General Hitchcock that nearly 70,000 scales will be required for use in the parcel post system which is to go into effect January 1st. He has accordingly authorized the issuance of bids for that number. Two hundred of the largest postoffices and their branches will be supplied with automatic spring scales. The next class of offices, numbering about 10,000, will be given high grade beam scale, while the four class offices, numbering about 55,000, will be furnished with the best spring balances obtainable, each having a capacity for twenty pounds. These scales will be used by postmasters to determine the amount of postage required on parcel post packages. The fact that many of the postoffices of the country are now furnished with scales of a limited capacity makes it necessary for the postmaster general to make this very large purchase of scales capable of weighing the parcels of the parcel post system. It is understood that this will be the largest single order ever placed for scales.

Rate on Seeds Not Affected.
It should be said that the act of congress which puts a parcel post into operation does not in any way affect the postage rate on seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions and plants as fixed by section 482 of the postal laws and regulations.

The classification of articles mailable as well as the weight limit, the rates of postage, zone or zones and other conditions of mailability under the act of congress, if the postmaster general shall find on experience that they or any of them are such as to prevent the shipment of articles desirable, or shall permanently render the cost of the service greater than the receipts of the revenue therefrom, he is hereby authorized, subject to the consent of the interstate commerce commission after investigation, to re-form from time to time such classification, weight limit, rates, zone or zones or conditions, in order to promote the service to the public or to insure the receipt of revenue from such service adequate to pay the cost thereof.

Through many years different members of the house and senate have been interested in promoting parcel post legislation. Among the men most active in securing the legislation which soon is to go into effect are Senator Jonathan Bourne of Oregon, Representatives David J. Lewis of Maryland and William Sulzer of New York, who has just been elected governor of that state.

To ascertain conditions surrounding the establishment of the parcel post system in places differing widely in size, climate and industries, Postmaster General Hitchcock recently summoned to Washington, to confer with the special parcel post committee, the postmasters of five typical offices. They are William H. Davis, Pittsburg, Pa.; Daniel T. Gerow, Jacksonville, Fla.; M. H. Jester, Wilmington, Del.; E. M. C. Quimby, Suffolk, Va., and Henry N. Bradley, Charlestown, W. Va.

Confer With Postmasters.
The postmasters of the five largest offices in the country have already appeared before the committee, so Pittsburg was represented as being a large first class office, though smaller than any of the greater five, and as being the center of a tremendous manufacturing area. The postmaster of Pittsburg reported that the board of trade of that city has a special parcel post committee, working toward bringing the consumer and producer nearer to each other by the new system. He also said that many of the merchants are planning to have their city delivered by parcel post.

Wilmington, Del., represented a large farming and manufacturing district, with its mail connections close with Philadelphia, one of the largest offices. Jacksonville is the largest office in Florida, and the outlet for all the mail of the state. It is peculiar in having a special increase of force in winter, the tourist season, and the postmaster said that it was expected that travelers would use the parcel post extensively in sending home five and ten pound packages of fruit.

Suffolk, Va., and Charlestown, W. Va., are both very small second class offices, one in the tide-water district, with large truck interests; the other far inland in an orchard country, with diversified farm products. The postmasters of both offices reported great interest in the parcel post, and said that they had continued inquiries regarding its scope.

From these postmasters the committee was able to glean a great amount of valuable information, which, added to that gained from the recent hearings in Maryland, puts it in a position to plan the details of the service to the greatest advantage of the producing farmer.

NIAGARA MADE BY GLACIER
Columbia River Was Dammed, and Had a Fall of Four Hundred Feet Over Great Cliffs.

That one of the greatest natural wonders in the world was lost with the melting of the Okanogan glacier in the State of Washington, is the opinion of government geologists, who recently have studied a portion of the river bed of the Columbia river in connection with the Grand coulee, the great canyon that at one time was the river bed.

When the Columbia river flowed through the Grand coulee it made Niagara insignificant by comparison. This great river plunged from the upper to the lower valley in a sheer fall of 400 feet over great cliffs. Moses lake is believed to have been at one time part of an old channel of the Columbia river. During the glacial period, recent, as time is measured by the geologist, the valleys of the Northern Cascades and of the Olympic highlands were filled with enormous glaciers, the largest of which reached the plains before they were melted in the warmer air of the lower country.

The greatest of these ice rivers of eastern Washington flowed down the Okanogan valley which it filled to the depth of hundreds of feet. On reaching the Columbia river valley this glacier expanded and seems not only to have dammed the Columbia, but to have filled its great canyon for some distance.

The southern limit of this great Okanogan glacier is marked by a terminal moraine many miles in width. The moraine is formed of dirt and rock material which was pushed along or carried on its surface and stranded where the ice melted, and it includes many huge blocks of basalt and other rocks.

No more impressive scene, the geologists say, can be found in the Big Bend country than is presented by the great cliffs of black basalt below Coulee City, over which the Columbia once poured, but where now desert shrubs are growing in the ancient channel.

When the glacier left the canyon of the Columbia and retreated up the Okanogan valley the river re-assumed its former channel—Indianapolis News.

Seeing Is Believing.
A trio of professional story tellers were in a cozy corner of the club spinning yarns. Brown had just told a most unbelievable story and the other two glanced at each other questioningly.

"Well, I assure you, gentlemen," said Brown, "if I hadn't seen it myself I shouldn't have believed it."

APPROVES RULES FOR PARCEL POST

Postmaster General Issues Regulations Governing System.

WHAT MAY BE SENT BY MAIL

Gives American People Opportunity to Send Farm and Factory Products by Mail From and to Any Point in United States.

Postmaster General Hitchcock has just approved the regulations which cover in detail the articles which may or may not be sent by parcel post. These regulations are now being turned off at the government printing office on a "rush order" and they will be distributed as rapidly as possible.

The rules as to what can be sent and what cannot be sent and the instructions for the preparation of mailable articles with other "official advice" are given here as they have just been prepared by the postoffice department in Washington.

The minimum rate will be five cents for the first pound and three cents for each additional pound to any point not exceeding fifty miles from the office of mailing; the local rate, which is five cents for the first pound and one cent for additional pound, applies to all parcels the delivery of which does not involve their transportation on railway lines. The rates increase for each successive one of the eight zones, the maximum rate being twelve cents a pound, which will carry a parcel across the continent or to any of our possessions. Parcels will be limited to eleven pounds in weight and six feet in length and girth combined.

Mailable Perishable Articles.
Butter, lard and perishable articles such as fish, fresh meats, dressed fowls, vegetables, fruits, berries and articles of a similar nature that decay quickly, when so packed or wrapped as to prevent damage to other mail matter, will be accepted for local delivery either at the office of mailing or on any rural route starting therefrom. When enclosed in an inner cover and a strong outer cover of wood, metal, heavy corrugated pasteboard, or other suitable material and wrapped so that nothing can escape from the package, they will be accepted for mailing to any office within the first zone or within a radius of 50 miles. Butter, lard, or any greasy or oily substance intended for delivery at offices beyond the first zone must be suitably packed. Vegetables and fruit that do not decay quickly may be accepted for mailing to any zone if packed so as to prevent damage to other mail matter. Eggs will be accepted for local delivery when securely packed in a basket or other container. Eggs will be accepted for mailing regardless of distance when each egg is wrapped separately and packed in a container.

There is no restriction on salted, dried, smoked or cured meats and other meat products, but fresh meat in any form will be transported only within the first zone. Parcels containing perishable articles must be marked "PERISHABLE," and articles likely to spoil within the time reasonably required for transportation and delivery will not be accepted for mailing.

Manufactured Articles.
Manufacturers or dealers intending to transmit articles in considerable quantities are asked to submit to the postmaster for approval a specimen parcel showing the manner of packing.

When sharp pointed instruments are offered for mailing, the points must be capped or encased. Blades must be bound so that they will remain attached to each other or within their handles or sockets.

In Powders, pepper, snuff, or other similar powders not explosive, or any similar pulverized dry substance, not poisonous, may be sent when enclosed in cases made of metal, wood or other material to render impossible the escape of any of the contents. Flour of all kinds must be put up in such manner as to prevent the package breaking or the flour being scattered in the mails.

Queen Bees and Nursery Stock.
Queen bees, live insects, and dried reptiles may be mailed in accordance with the regulations that now apply to other classes of mail.

Seeds of fruit, nursery stock, and all other plant products for preparation may be mailed under the same conditions.

Confectionery and Soap.
Candies, confectionery, yeast cakes, soap in hard cakes, etc., must be inclosed in boxes and so wrapped as to prevent injury to other mail matter.

Sealed original packages of proprietary articles, such as soaps, tobacco, pills, tablets, etc., put up in fixed quantities by the manufacturer, and not in themselves unmarketable, will be accepted for mailing when properly wrapped.

Millinery.
Fragile articles, such as millinery, toys, musical instruments, etc., and articles consisting wholly or in part of glass, or contained in glass, must be securely packed and the parcel stamped or labeled "FRAGILE."

Unmarketable Matter.
The following matter is declared unmarketable by law: Matter manifestly obscene, lewd, or lascivious; articles intended for preventing conception; articles intended for indecent or immoral purposes; all matter otherwise mailable by law, the outside cover or wrapper of which bears and delineates in language or picture a libelous, scurrilous, defamatory, or threatening character. All such matter, when deposited in a post office or found in the mails, shall be withdrawn and sent to the divisions of dead letters.

Intoxicants, Poisons and Inflammable Materials.
Spirituous, vinous, malted, fermented, or other intoxicating liquors of any kind; poisons of every kind, and articles and compositions containing poison, poisonous animals, insects and

reptiles; explosives of every kind; inflammable materials (which are held to include matches, kerosene oil, gasoline, naphtha, benzine, turpentine, denatured alcohol, etc.); infernal machines, and mechanical, chemical or other devices or compositions which may ignite or explode; disease germs or scabs, and other natural or artificial articles, compositions or materials of whatever kind which may kill, or in any wise injure another or damage the mail or other property.

Pistols, Animals and Birds.
Pistols or revolvers, whether in detached parts or otherwise; live or dead (and not stuffed) animals, birds, or poultry, except as elsewhere provided; raw hides or pelts, guano, or any article having a bad odor will not be admitted to the mails.

Treatment of Undeliverable Parcels.
Perishable matter will be delivered as promptly as possible, but if such matter can not be delivered and becomes offensive and injurious to health, postmasters may destroy it, or the injurious or offensive portion thereof.

Undeliverable Perishable Matter.
Which in its nature does not become offensive or injurious to health may be delivered by postmasters to the proper local municipal authority to be distributed to hospitals, asylums or other charitable or reformatory institutions. If there is no such municipal authority, the matter may be delivered to any charitable institution or organization making application therefor. If no application is made, the matter will be destroyed at the expiration of two weeks.

Parcels Improperly Packed.
Postmasters will refuse to receive for mailing parcels not properly indorsed or packed for safe shipment.

When parcels on which the postage is wholly unpaid or insufficiently prepaid is deposited for local delivery and the sender is unknown, notice of detention need not be sent but such matter will be delivered and the deficient postage collected from the addressee by the carrier. If the addressee refuses to pay the postage the matter will be sent to the Division of Dead Letters.

Insurance on Parcels.
A mailable parcel on which the postage is fully prepaid may be insured against loss in an amount equivalent to its actual value, but not to exceed \$50, on payment of a fee of ten cents in parcel post stamps, such stamps to be affixed.

When a parcel is insured, the sender will be given a receipt showing the office and date of mailing and number of the parcel.

When a return receipt is desired by the sender of an insured parcel the postmaster at the mailing office will note the request on the margin of the insurance tag, and the postmaster at the office of address will obtain from the addressee a receipt and mail it to the sender.

The liability for indemnity shall cease when delivery has been effected.

Forwarding of Parcels.
Parcels may be remailed or forwarded on the payment of additional postage at the rate which would be chargeable if they were originally mailed at the forwarding office, in which case the necessary stamps will be affixed by the forwarding postmaster. Payment must be made every time the parcel is forwarded.

Preparation for Mailing.
Parcels must be prepared for mailing in such manner that the contents can be easily examined. A parcel will not be accepted for mailing unless it bears the name and address of the sender preceded by the word "From." In addition to the name and address of the sender, which is required, it will be permissible to write or print on the covering of a parcel, or on a tag or label attached to it, the occupation of the sender, and to indicate in a small space by means of marks, letters, numbers, names or other brief description, the character of the parcel, but ample space must be left on the address side for the full address in legible characters and for the necessary postage stamps. Inscriptions such as "Merry Christmas," "Please do not open until Christmas," "Happy New Year," "With best wishes," and the like, may be placed on the covering of the parcel in such manner as not to interfere with the address.

Distinctive Stamps.
The law requires that the postage on all matter must be prepaid by distinctive parcel post stamps affixed. Postmasters cannot receive for mailing parcels that do not bear such stamps.

Parcel post stamps are not valid for the payment of postage on matter of the first, second, and third classes, and when used for that purpose, the matter to which they are affixed shall be treated as "held for postage."

Maps and Guides.
Parcel post maps, with accompanying guides, are to be sold to the public at their cost, 75 cents, through the chief clerk of the post office department. In ordering maps care should be taken to specify the post office from which the postage rates are to be determined.

Wedding Bells.
Miss Mary C. Belknap, the well-known settlement worker of Cleveland, said in a suffrage debate: "Oh, that is not an argument—that is a prophecy, a prophecy that woman, given the vote, wouldn't know how to use it."

"Now it's my opinion that the men who think that are as badly in the dark about women as Jenks was about the widowed stenographer."

"Jenks, you know, got to taking a young and pretty stenographer out to lunch, and to matinees, and to concerts; and when any one asked him about her, he'd smile and say: 'Oh, another conquest!'"

"Oh, you see, thought he'd made a conquest; but the widow, standing beside Jenks a month later at the altar—the widow knew she'd made an annexation."

Give Him Time.
"You're a pretty old man to be begging," said the lady to the man at the back door.
"Yes, ma'am," replied the man with his hat in his hand.
"Have you been begging all your life?"
"Not yet, ma'am."

STORIES OF CAMP AND WAR

QUEER FREAKS OF BULLETS

Michigan Infantryman Had Miraculous Escape at Peach Orchard When Hit Over His Heart.

At the battle of Peach Orchard, when McClellan was making his change of base, a Michigan Infantryman fell to the ground as if shot dead, and was left lying in a heap as the regiment changed position. The bullet that had hit him first struck the barrel of his gun, then glanced and struck off a button of his coat, tore the watch out of his vest pocket, and struck the man just over the heart, where it was stopped by a song book in his shirt pocket. He was unconscious for three quarters of an hour, and it was a full month before the black-and-blue spot disappeared.

At Pittsburgh Landing a member of the 12th Michigan Infantry stooped to give a wounded man a drink from his canteen. While in this act a bullet aimed at his breast struck the canteen and buried itself in the leg of a horse. The canteen was split open and dropped to the ground in halves.

At the second battle of Bull Run a New York infantryman was passing tobacco to a comrade when a bullet struck the plug, glanced off, and buried itself in a knapsack. The tobacco was rolled up like a ball of shavings, and carried a hundred feet away. Directly in the line of the bullet was the head of a lieutenant, and had not the bullet been deflected, he would certainly have been wounded or killed thereby. As it was, he had both eyes filled with tobacco dust, and had to be led to the rear.

At Brandy Station one of Custer's troopers had his left stirrup-strap cut away by a grape-shot, which passed between his leg and the horse, blistering the skin as if a red-hot iron had been used. He dismounted to ascertain the extent of his injuries, and, as he bent over, a bullet knocked his hat off and killed his horse.

In the same fight a trooper had suffered several days with a toothache. In a hand-to-hand conflict he received a pistol ball in the right cheek. It knocked out his aching tooth, and passed out through the left corner of his mouth. The joy of getting rid of the toothache was so great that the trooper could not be made to go to the rear to have his wound dressed.

East Tennessee News.
Sherman's army, marching through East Tennessee, where the people were generous, but very ignorant and natural, came one day to the foot of the Cumberland mountains. There appeared a good old lady with a snuff stick in her mouth.

"Which way is the count'cent?" asked Sherman.

"I didn't know," said she, with a look of wonderment, "that the county had any sent."

"I suppose there are some moonshine stilleries up in these mountains?"

"I reckon so."

"That is bad for the people—very bad."

"What, whisky bad?" shouted the old lady, her eyes opening with amazement. "Why, whisky is the best thing in the world. That's what saved Bill Feller's life."

"Bill Fellers is dead—died five years ago," interrupted a bystander.

"That's what killed him then—didn't drink any whisky. Poor Bill, how he must have suffered."

It Was of No Account.
While riding in a street car at Cincinnati, an unsophisticated recruit from an up-state regiment noticed a veteran from Illinois sitting next to him pass a conductor a quarter in payment for his fare. The conductor passed him back 15 cents. The man apparently hadn't noticed the shortage in his change, so the recruit leaned over and said:

"Excuse me, but I think that conductor deliberately cheated you."

"How's that?"

"Why, he gave you back only 15 cents out of the quarter."

"Oh, well," answered the veteran nonchalantly, "he'll have a hard time getting rid of the quarter."

The Green Chevrons.
In 1856 Hospital Steward J. H. Parks was on duty at Fort Ontario, Oswego City, N. Y. At that time the Federal excitement was at its height, and men were being secretly enlisted for the Irish cause. One day when he was in the city in uniform, with the emerald-green chevrons on, he was accosted by a son of Erin.

"Are you enlistin'?"

"Yes."

"Is it for the Fenians ye are?"

"No."

"Then what is the grane on your arm for?"

"Not the General Joshua."

When General Sherman was in the mountains of east Tennessee—where nearly every family ran a still and made their own whisky—an old darky came into camp.

"What's your name?" asked the general.

"Mah name's Joshua, Cap'n."

"Joshua, eh? Are you that same Joshua spoken of in Holy Writ—the Joshua who made the sun stand still?"

"No, Cap'n," was the hasty answer; "twarn't me. Ah'm de Joshua dat makes the moonshine."

Ireland on Top.
A general was riding down a road near camp one rainy day when an Irish teamster with a heavily loaded wagon called to him to get out of the road. The general wore a long cape and his rank was not apparent. Taking a back, he yanked it off and said gruffly:

"I shall not go out of the road for an ass."

"Then, bedad, I will," said the ready-witted Irishman, pulling his horses to one side.