



## HOW PARCEL POST RATES ARE FIXED

Charges Are Regulated Under the Zone System.

### BIG ENTERPRISE LAUNCHED

Eleven Pounds Is the Limit in Weight for a Single Package—Anything That Will Not Injure Other Mail Can 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 transmission of merchandise by what is known as the parcel post. For years there has been a demand for such a system of inexpensive transmission of merchandise, but it was not until the last session of congress a bill was passed which would put the parcel post into operation, but only it must be said in little more than an experimental way.

It is the intention of Uncle Sam to start rather slowly in the parcel post matter. He wants to find out 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. 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 proportion which its proponents say they believe it is destined to assume.

**Zone System Explained.**

It is to exaggeration to say that thousands upon thousands of parcels 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 the system which made provision 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. Accompanying the map is a table showing the rate of postage per pound for each zone from Washington to places within all the zones.

Each unit contains an area thirty miles square. Now each unit is a circle from the zone which is drawn and so every unit in the country no matter where it is situated will have zones drawn from it just exactly as Washington has them drawn from it. For instance, take Keokuk, Ia., which is in a unit in the fifth zone. From that it will be drawn circles exactly as they are drawn from Washington and they will be numbered from Keokuk as number one, just as they are numbered from Washington as number one. Of course, however, zone six will have a different geographical position, as related to Keokuk than it has as related to 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.

**How Rates Are Fixed.**

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 zone. 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 to 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 Keokuk, Ia., that it will cost to send it to Atlanta, Ga., because both Atlanta and Keokuk are in the fourth zone from Washington.

## 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 are not without interest, 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 parcels 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 foods, 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.

**Forwarding of Parcels.**

Parcels may be mailed or forwarded on the payment of additional postage at the rate which would be chargeable if they were originally mailed at the forwarding office.

**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, which must be written 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 contents, but ample space must be left on the address side for the full address in legible characters and for necessary postage stamps.

**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 inclosed 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 in such manner as to prevent the escape of the flour being scattered in the mails.**

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**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 in close containers, 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 exact quantities by the manufacturer, and not in themselves unmailable, 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."

**Unmailable Matter.**

The following matter is declared unmailable by law:

Matter manifestly obscene, lewd, or lascivious; articles intended for preventing conception; articles intended for indecent or immoral purposes; all matter otherwise unmailable by law, the outside cover or wrapper of which bears and delineation or language of a libelous, scurrilous, defamatory, or threatening character. All such matter, when deposited in a postoffice 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 every 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, benzene, turpentine, denatured alcohol, etc.; infernal machines, and mechanical, chemical or other devices or compositions which may explode or explode; disease germs or scabs, and other natural or artificial articles, compositions or materials of whatever kind, which may kill, or in any way injure another or damage the mail or other property.

**Pistols, Animals and Birds.**

Pistols or revolvers, whether in detached parts or complete; live or dead (and not stuffed) animals, birds, or poultry, except as elsewhere provided; raw hides or pelts, gunnys, 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 cannot be delivered and it comes offensive and injurious to health, postmasters may destroy it or the injurious or offensive portion thereof.

**Parcels Improperly Packed.**

Postmasters will refuse to receive for mailing parcels not properly inclosed 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 delinquent postage collected from 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 in payment of a fee of ten cents in parcel post stamps, such stamps to be affixed.

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## HAD ALL THE REQUISITES

Seemingly. Extraordinary. Essential. Are Needed for the Practice of the Law in Florida.

Will Irwin, the author, was holding forth upon the superiority of California over Florida as a winter resort. "Florida," he said, "is too hot. This is due to the fetid air of the swamps."

"There's a story about a young man who was being examined for admission to the Florida bar. The examination ran thus: 'Young man are you married?'

"Yes, sir."

"Can you ride?"

"Yes, sir."

"Do you own a horse?"

"Yes, sir."

"Is he a good swimmer?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then, young man, I welcome you to the practice of law in this district."

## RINGWORM ON CHILD'S FACE

Stratford, Iowa.—Three years ago this winter my seven-year-old son had ringworm on the face. First it was in small red spots which had a rough crust on the top. When they started they looked like little red dots and then they got bigger, about the size of a bird's egg. They had a white ring around them, and grew continually worse and soon spread over his face and legs. The child suffered terrible itching and burning, so that he could not sleep nights. He scratched them and they looked fearful. He was cross when he had them. We used several bottles of Nidmet, but nothing helped.

"I saw where a child had a rash on the face and was cured by Cuticura Soap and Ointment and I decided to use them. I used Cuticura Soap and Ointment about one month, and the cure was complete." (Signed) Mrs. Barbara Prim, Jan. 20, 1918.

"Cuticura Soap and Ointment sold throughout the world. Sample of each free with 2¢ Skin Book. Address: 'Cuticura, Dept. A, Boston.'"

THE CASE.

Brownson—You're not looking well, old fellow.

Woodson—No, indeed. I'm always feeling poorly before Christmas.

No Longer Interested.

Theodore Lane, who resided at the home of his parents, 7349 Holton avenue, had a toothache one day morning. It was a bad toothache, too, and Theodore left the neighborhood long ago. It was a bad toothache, too, and Theodore left the neighborhood long ago.

"I don't know," answered the youngster.

"Don't know. Why, what do you mean?"

"It's out."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mother Gray's Sweet Powder for the Face. Mother Gray's Sweet Powder for the Face. Mother Gray's Sweet Powder for the Face.

Cecilia.

"Unforintely the girl in the boat with him when he regaled the boat did not know how to swim."

That was unfortunate. "From." "For him, yes. You see, she changed him under the surface, and stood on his face to keep her head above water."

Lucky Star.

"This is the third time you have been here for food," said the woman at the kitchen door. "The third time." "Are you always out of work?" "Yes," replied the dinner. "I guess I was born under a lucky star."

Way of Some Ministers.

Bishop W. P. McWhorter, Methodist Episcopal minister, told the story of how horses—they'll work all night in the lead but will balk when placed elsewhere.