

POSTAL EMPLOYEES WORK UNDER AN AWFUL HANDICAP

Lack of Space for Men to Work in Makes Christmas a Trying Time

GREAT CONGESTION

Public Grumbles and Goes on Its Way But the Clerks Must Remain

The inconvenience and discomfort experienced by citizens who have occasion to go to the post office to purchase stamps, register a parcel or post a letter is comparable with the conditions that employees of the post office have to put up with. Without actually viewing the scene behind the counter, the general public can have no conception of the difficulties with which the local post officials have to contend.

A brief glance at the interior Saturday morning revealed unspeakable conditions. In one case, fourteen men were sorting letters in a dark, suffocating corner that was more reminiscent of the Black Hole of Calcutta than aught else. An ordinary employer would not dare ask men or women to work in the restricted space which the men in question were working this morning.

While the general public who visit the post office may grumble and go, the employees must stay with it, grumble as they will. The visitor to the post office who was given the privilege of a brief glance behind the counter, saw great piles of parcels, mail bags, parcels of letters, etc., etc., with barely passage way to cross from one part of the room to another.

Every inch of space seemed to be full up; there was apparently no room for anybody to work there, and as a matter of fact, at first glance, it did not look as if any of the employees were in the building.

But behind the piles of mail and huddled in corners were from twenty to twenty-five men working at great speed trying to cope with the great Christmas mail.

To make confusion worse confounded, at the moment when there did not seem sufficient space to squeeze another postcard into the crowded room, a great dry load of mail matter was brought up to the door. "It is the West mail, six hours late," someone explained.

It must not be supposed that the clerks, sorters, etc., were perturbed by the conditions. They were working under a heavy handicap, but looked as bright a lot as can be seen in a day's march.

One of the young clerks who had a his time that shone like a ray of sunshine.

He sent them each a box of chocolates.

It was impossible to get within a yard of one of the clerks owing to the big pile of parcels which awaited local delivery, while the restricted space allowed the money order and registered parcels department, left no room for more than two men to work at a time, whatever rush there was on.

The restricted working space for the employees of the post office and the woeful lack of accommodation for the public, point to the pressing need for a new post office for Brandon.

COTTON HOSIERY AGAIN ALLOWED IN BRITAIN

London, Dec. 28.—The order prohibiting the importation of cotton hosiery was revoked today.

BRITAIN TO BUILD STANDARDIZED STEAMERS

London, Dec. 28.—The Times says it learns that the Government is working on a program for building a large number of big standardized cargo steamers for Government use.

ALLIES' ANSWER TO GERMANY NEARLY READY

Paris, Dec. 28.—The Allies' answer to Germany's peace proposals is almost finished.

NO PEACE UNTIL VICTORY WON

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—It is abundantly clear from what has happened in the last few days that there can be no peace until the full fruits in this great struggle in which we are engaging have been won.

ROMANIAN OIL WELLS AND PLANTS DESTROYED

London, Dec. 28.—A satisfactory report has been received from the British military mission in Roumania of the destruction, under orders of the Roumanian Government, of the oil wells and refineries in and near the principal oil fields, said an official communication issued last evening.

CHAMPION BASKET-BALL GAMES ON NEW YEAR'S

Impossible to Secure Team for Christmas—Best Players in West Will Compete

Although it was originally planned to have the Winnipeg basketball team play here on Christmas night, this was found impossible, and arrangements have been made whereby they will play the Brandon All-Stars in the Y. M. C. A. on New Year's night. This should prove a stellar attraction for the first night of the new year, as both teams are representative of the very best basketball players in their cities. The Winnipeg have an unbroken string of victories so far this season, and have been champions of the province for the past three seasons, so that they ought to be able to put up a pretty fair exhibition. All of the local All-Stars have figured on championship teams at one time or other, and as they have been practicing hard of late they will no doubt give an excellent account of themselves.

McGuinness, Robinson, Davidson, Hughes and Crawford will compose the quintette who hope to lower the Winnipeg's colors, and with this formidable team, Brandon should be served with the best basketball exhibition it has seen in years. It is more than likely that the local five will play an exhibition game against the College on Christmas morning at 10:15.

Seats for the big match will be on sale Monday and everyone desirous of seeing the best game in years should reserve their seats early.

PATIENTS AT HOSPITAL FOR INSANE ENJOYING CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Concert and Dance Friday Night—Christmas Gifts for All—Excellent Bill of Fare

A foretaste of the good things in store this Christmas for inmates of the hospital for the insane was provided on Friday night. Over five hundred patients attended the assembly hall for their Christmas concert and were given all the good things that provide luncheon in ordinary society dances.

A feature that would strike any ordinary visitor was that the beautiful music which provided the main source of harmony for the occasion was played by one of the patients. The marvellous manipulation of the keys, and the exquisite music he drew therefrom would astound people who have the general conception of a limited capacity of men afflicted as being of unsound mind.

The authorities left nothing undone to assist the patients to have all the enjoyment out of the evening which was possible under the natural limitations of the patients.

The male attendants dance with female patients, female attendants, nurses, etc., danced with the male patients, while by tacit consent, male and female officers refrained from dancing with each other.

Thus, as far as it was possible, the patients were made to forget their affliction for the time being.

The assembly hall was beautifully decorated, and everyone present, patients and attendants, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

There will be a great day for the incarcerated ones at the asylum on Monday next. They are looking forward to their Christmas presents as joyfully as the ordinary child looks forward to the coming of Santa Claus.

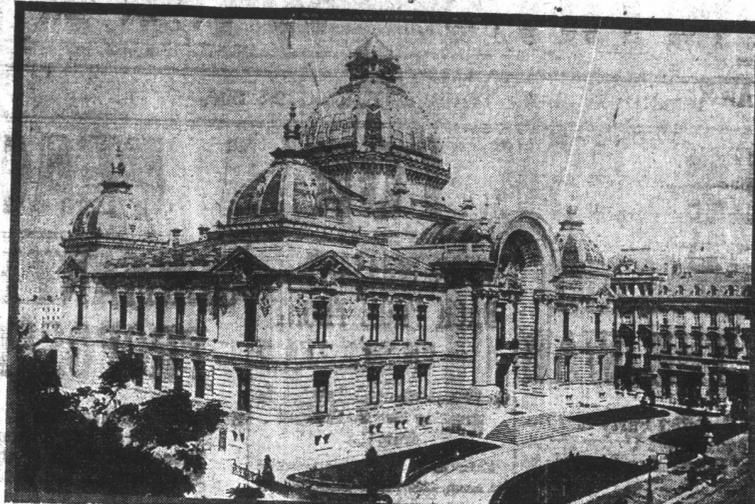
Every one of them will get their presents. The provincial government will see to that; while friends and families will send gifts. A right royal Christmas dinner will be provided, the women will have candy and men will have their smokes, and there will be nothing to indicate to the patients that there is anything amiss with themselves or with the world, this coming Christmas.

DEATH OF GERMAN PRINCE

Amsterdam, Dec. 28.—Advices received here from Berlin say that Prince Knechel von Donnersmarck, one of the German industrial and financial leaders and reputed one of the richest land owners in Germany, is dead. He was eighty-seven years old. The prince was successful in many branches of trade, including the armament, paper-making, coal and iron industries, and also in colonial enterprises.

ARRESTED IN BANK

Montreal, Dec. 28.—Alexander McMillen, of Collingwood, Ont., was arrested while trying to cash a draft in the Quebec bank. The draft was made payable to Luke Burke, of Port Nichol, Ont., who had reported to the bank that it had been stolen from him. The accused pleaded guilty before Judge Lanctot. He was remanded until Wednesday.



THE NATIONAL BANK IN THE ROMANIAN CAPITAL, NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE GERMANS

FITTING REBUKE PRESIDENT WILSON BY THE PREMIER OF NEW ZEALAND

This Statesman, Referring to Wilson's Note, Says: "That I Would Like to See After What Has Taken Place, that this President of the United States be Told Firmly That We Have Carried on the War Thus Far Without His Assistance and So Intend To Carry It on to the End."

London, Dec. 23.—W. F. Massey, Premier of New Zealand speaking at Hornchurch said "It is our duty to go on until the power of Germany is broken and her armies driven back over their own border. Then will be the time for peace. I cannot speak with any authority on the subject of President Wilson's note, but I would like to see, after we have carried on the war thus far without his assistance, and so intend to carry it on to the end."

Reginald McKenna, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking at Pontypool, closed his speech with these words: "I cannot ignore the news of the morning, though it would not be becoming in me to express an opinion on the American note. We have made war in conjunction with our Allies, and in conjunction with them only can we consider overtures or proposals of any kind. Until there has been an interchange of views between the responsible governments I think it would be most prudent to refrain from any expression of opinion upon the situation thus created."

London, Dec. 23.—A Copenhagen dispatch to Reuters says the German Lloyd liner Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm, stranded near the island of Samsø, was floated on Saturday.

The Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm was reported by Berlin on December 17 to have broken through the British blockade after putting to sea from Odda, near Bergen. She was reported to have arrived at Stavanger, escorted by a Zeppelin and two submarines. On December 19th she was reported stranded off Samsø Island.

London, Dec. 23.—Count Czerin Von Ghudent has succeeded Baron Von Buri as Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, according to Reuters' Amsterdam dispatch quoting the Vienna Wiener Zeitung. Count Czerin was also named president of the joint council of ministers. He was minister to Roumania until the time that country entered the war.

Emperor Charles, the dispatch says, has conferred on Baron Buri the brilliancy of the order of St. Stefan for his services as foreign minister and has appointed him common finance minister in place of Prince Conrad Von Hohenlohe, who resigned.

New York, Dec. 23.—The 11,000 ton Lamport and Holt line steamship Voltaire, with a crew of 140, many of them believed to be Americans, which sailed from Liverpool on November 28th, is eleven days overdue at this port and grave fears were expressed last night that the vessel had been lost. Although the Voltaire carried a powerful wireless equipment, no word has been received from her since she sailed.

SLACKERS SENT CONDOLENCE

Kingston, Dec. 28.—A Kingston woman who lost a son at the front received a letter of condolence from a friend who has three eligible sons at home. The woman who suffered the loss replied to the letter stating that she would not accept the condolence until the writer's family was represented at the front.

RADIUM NOT A CANCER CURE

New York, Dec. 28.—After exhaustive tests on rats, mice and guinea-pigs, the use of radium as a cure for cancer and tumors has been found to be a failure, according to the annual report of Dr. Francis Carter Wood, head of the Crocker Cancer Research Men's Christian Association and other which operation is not possible, treatments and special programmes (radium) is successful as a palliative prevailed in the movie halls and soldier theatres, most of the latter being

King's Greetings To Canadians

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—The following messages were sent from His Majesty the King by the Governor-General to be communicated to soldiers and sailors: "I send you, my soldiers and sailors, hearty good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. My grateful thoughts are ever with you for victories gained, for the hardships endured and your unflinching cheerfulness. Another Christmas has come round and we are still at war. But the Empire, confident in you, remains determined to win. May God bless and protect you."

(Signed) GEORGE R. I.

Also the following cable to the stc and wounded: "At this Christmas-tide the queen and I are thinking, more than ever, of the sick and wounded among my sailors and soldiers. From our hearts we wish them strength to bear their sufferings, speedy restoration to health, a peaceful Christmas and many happy years to come."

(Signed) GEORGE R. I.

PATRIOTIC SONGS MAKE NO HITS IN FIGHTING LINES

Men Sing Cheerful Refrains or Love Ditties—Through Hell and Back

St. John, N.B., Dec. 26.—"When you meet the men who are now fighting on the west front you meet pure gold," said Major Rev. C. W. Gordon (Ralph Connor), who arrived in the city on the liner Metagama, fresh from the firing line.

"The spirit of the men is wonderful. Always cheerful, they go into battle with a song on their lips. You can't get them to sing patriotic songs—they will sing, 'I Love a Lassie,' and howl at the top of their voices, but patriotic songs do not seem to please them. Sometimes you hear them sing, 'O Canada,' but it is very seldom they go even that far. The men are changed men when they get to the western front—changed physically, mentally, and spiritually. There is that great love of country which seems to burst from them on every occasion. You wonder why they never sing patriotic songs, but they are carrying out deeds each day, each hour of their lives, that are far above the sentiment expressed in any other language can't begin to describe conditions over there."

Through Hell and Back.

"These men whom you see coming back to you, broken and maimed" (Ralph Connor pointed to a long stream of wounded as they hobbled down the gang plank of the ship), "have been through hell and back. These are the men who go out into a bombardment. They come back to billets broken physically, mentally and spiritually. After three days' rest they are ready to go back and repeat the performance. I used the word 'bombardment,' didn't I? Well, I hate to use that term. It is not what I mean—a new word should be coined. You cannot realize what the word bombardment means to the soldier on the western front."

"Sometimes I feel disgruntled when I read the Canadian papers—I suppose I should not feel so, but I cannot help it. I read about engagements at the front, and they are described in the manner of triumphal processions. Do not get that idea into your head. Every foot of ground traversed is won only after a struggle. One thing the British nation lost, and by a foolish censorship, was the true story of the battle of the Marne, the greatest battle in the history of the world by long odds."

An Irrecoverable Loss.

"Not twenty people in Canada know the true story of the battle of the Marne; no more know the true story of the first battle of Ypres. By the censorship, the first grip, the impact of first telling, has passed forever; it can never be recovered by any writer. When you realize the wonderful epics that have been written and woven about comparatively small incidents, when you speak of them in the same breath with the Marne and Ypres, and when you remember that they have lived for thousands of years, all down through the corridor of time they have come, and yet the fresh and virgin touch of wonder, of gallantry, of heroism which lies in the story of the battle of the Marne and of the battle of Ypres lies covered with dust because of a foolish censorship, and can never be recovered by the nation in the fullest sense, for the force of first telling has gone from them, forever departed—a force of first telling which would have caused the blood and brawn of Britain to rise to a man and say, 'Thousands may fall, but yet we carry on.'"

OLD MAN FOUND DEAD

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—Edward Newell, seventy-two years old, was found dead in a vacant house on James street east, at 4:45 Sunday. He is thought to have committed suicide. The deceased was a widower.

According to those who reside in the same house with him, Newell had been despondent for several days, and left on Saturday afternoon. When he did not return that night a search was made for him.

Efforts are being made to revive the bull moose, but Col. Roosevelt refuses to consent to blood transfusion if he is to furnish the sanguineous fluid.

NO HOME SO POOR AS TO BE WITHOUT CHRISTMAS CHEER

Chairman of Relief Committee Declares There is No Extreme Poverty in City

SOME WORTHY POOR

Few Families Where Sickness or Misfortune Has Overtaken Bread-Winners

"There is no extreme poverty in Brandon this Christmas," said Ald. Fletcher in the city.

"There are but six families obtaining relief in the city."

"There is no hardship suffered through lack of employment."

"There is less poverty in Brandon at the present time than has been the case for many years past at this season of the year."

Thus spoke Alderman Fletcher, who is at the head of the relief committee. He explained that none of the relief given was due to lack of employment, which has been the most prolific cause of hardship in other years. He also held that prohibition had something to do with the present improved conditions. There are, however, cases of want, which can easily be explained through causes other than unemployment or extravagant living. Of the half-dozen cases dealt with, there are two or three where the husbands were in prison and the city had to provide for the families. The remainder of the cases were explained by circumstances which fell on the victims through no fault of their own, but because of illness of the bread-winners of the families.

"No, we shall not be content with doling out the usual measure of relief at this season of the year," said Ald. Fletcher in the true seasonable spirit.

"We shall see to it that the families shall not go without their Christmas cheer, and" with a smile, "we shall send them a little extra to help them to forget their hardships and enjoy the festivities of the season."

"There are cases in the city where there is no sickness, no extravagance and no unemployment, but there is little left after the ordinary expenses have been met, to secure anything in the way of luxuries for the family."

"There are children in the city whose parents are working regularly, but there is always a matter of grave doubt as to whether Santa Claus will visit their homes."

"But there is no doubt in any case if the relief committee, the churches, the Salvation Army or any of several other organizations of the city will be of any service in what is happening."

"All of those organizations are determined that there shall be no want of cheer in Brandon this Christmas if they can help it. Let the people be extravagant, lazy, or drunken, if they will, the hand of sweet charity shall not be stayed," says Ald. Fletcher.

EVERY RESOURCE, EVERY POWER TO BE ORGANIZED

Toronto, Dec. 23.—Thrilled by a burst of eloquence that revealed the feeling animating his words, the citizens of Toronto last night tumultuously acclaimed the reply of the prime minister of Canada to the suggestions of peace that have been heard of late. It was the last of the series of National Service meetings addressed by Sir Robert Borden across the continent.

Sir Robert devoted the main portion of his address to the aims of the National Service commission, going over practically the same ground as in former speeches. Toward the close, however, he adverted to the question of peace and evidently chose his utterances with great care.

"We seek peace, but not a mere truce, of which Germany and Austria will take advantage to sharpen their swords or renew the conflict. The message I bring to you from the great western country is that the purpose of the nation will never be fulfilled till every resource and every power is organized to bring about a complete realization of the aims and objects with which Canada entered upon the war."

"ARABIA" NOT IN SERVICE OF ALLIES WHEN SUNK

Washington, D.C., Dec. 26.—An official report from the British government on the British liner Arabia, sunk by a submarine without warning in the Mediterranean, declares the Arabia was not at that or any previous time in the service of the Allies. Germany claims in a note to the American government that the Arabia was an armed auxiliary. The British report was made in answer to an inquiry from the state department, and further information probably will be asked to clear up doubtful points after that at hand has been forwarded to Germany.

What the world's neutrals need is a box of troches for their voices.

There remains time to do a great deal of effective Christmas shopping.