

1776, owing to the absence of Franklin.

Richard Bache served as Postmaster-General until January 28, 1782, when Ebenezer Hazard was appointed in his place. Hazard had been deputy postmaster at New York under Franklin, and in a memorial to Congress in November 1776 prayed for an increase of his compensation as such, declaring that he was not able to employ an assistant.

Samuel Osgoode of Mass., was the first Postmaster-General under Washington, and a copy of his first report, dated Dec. 9, 1789, two months after his appointment is now among the archives of the P. O. department.

The growth of the American postal system from this time to the introduction of railroads, nearly fifty years which may be called the stage-coach era, fully kept pace with the growth of the country, and it may be interesting to note, in these days of large postal deficits, that from 1789 to 1834 these were only eleven years in which the Post Office department did not turn in some surplus to the Treasury.

The mail was originally confined to letters, and not until 1792 were newspapers admitted by law, and then at the rate of one cent a paper for the first hundred miles, and a cent and a half for longer distances. At this rate the postage on a daily paper at the subscription price of eight dollars a year, would be four dollars and sixty-eight cents for any distance over a hundred miles.

The entire revenue of the post office in the first year of Mr. Jefferson's administration would not now pay the salaries of one-half the letter carriers in the city of Philadelphia alone,

Of the two hundred thousand post offices

listed in the Directory of the Universal Postal Union, which practically includes the postal system of the world, over seventy thousand are in this country.

The Post office Department of the United States is the largest business machine that has ever existed in the world, and is daily engaged in the strenuous task of keeping pace with and outstripping the growth of our country and its adoption of all the forces of modern progress, whether material or social.

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A new postal departure, which is of particular interest to travellers, has just been instituted in the Grand Duchy of Baden. The scheme is this; Supposing that in the course of a journey you want to despatch a telegram, all that you have to do is to write your message on a postcard with the intimation that you wish it wired, affix the requisite amount of stamps, and drop it into the letterbox attached to the train. When the train stops the box will be cleared and the wire sent off without further trouble to you. Postal reformers in other countries will doubtless make a note of this.

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One of the best papers for young people ever published is the *Youth's Realm*, of Boston. It is devoted to the interests of boys and girls, both young and old. It is always well illustrated, and its columns are filled with interesting puzzles, games, new experiments, scientific notes and good stories. It also devotes considerable space to stamps. The regular price of the *Realm* is 35c per year but by special arrangements we are enabled to give both it and the *ADVOCATE* for one year for 35c. Not 35c each but the two papers for 35c.