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MAIL SERVICE IN DENMARK.

The kingdom of Denmark is located in Europe, and together with Norway and Sweden is called Scandinavia. It has an area of 13,784 square miles and a population of 2,000,000 inhabitants.

Up to the year 1653, the postal service in Denmark was in bad condition, but in this year King Christian V reformed the mail service in Denmark, and at that time Norway belonged to Denmark, where his son Ulrich Christian was postmaster. King Christian leased the mail service to a man named Paul Klingenberg for the term of 30 years. Under his administration, the Danish postal service improved, and the income was so large that Klingenberg asked for a prolongation of his contract. King Christian, who at that time was at war against Sweden, needed money, and granted the privilege, and received in return a large loan from the postal lessee.

Klingenberg demanded that until the loan be returned, he and his heirs should remain sole postal lessees. But after a service of 32 years, Klingenberg, on account of financial troubles, asked to be relieved from his contract. Therefore King Christian, on March 14th, 1685, installed the young Count Christian Gyldenløve as postal lessee, and the King paid 12,000 reichsthaler (1 reigls — Rigs — thaler equal to 40 cents). The reason for this extraordinary generosity on the part of the King being that Count Christian was a mere boy of 11 years, and lived always abroad. The postal

service was only a present to him. But he (or rather the King) authorized the uncle of the young Count, in company with Andreas von Engelberg and Jens Rosenheim, to conduct the mail service.

Shortly before his death, Count Gyldenløve hired the postal service privilege to postmaster Levete of Copenhagen for 14,000 Rigsdaler per year, but his heirs remained postal lessees.

Postmaster Lerche improved the roads and established more stations in the large territory.

The successor of Count Gyldenløve was his wife, Countess Dorothea, who took postal matters in her own hand. She installed and dismissed postmasters, and postal contracts were made in her name, although she had able and energetic post-directors. Her assistant was Christian Christoph Erland, who had risen by his own efforts from postal clerk to Postmaster-General. Erland received high privileges from Countess Dorothea, who sent him throughout the land to improve the postal roads and stations.

Under Erland's administration, the Danish postal service flourished, and the revenue had increased from 22,000 Rigsdaler (first year) to 28,000 Rigsdaler in the last year of Erland's administration.

Meantime King Frederick IV had surrendered the throne of Denmark, and on September 22nd, 1703, on her application to be recognized, and installed the Countess Dorothea as Royal Danish Postal Lessee. But the larger increase of work and revenues of the postal service was found of such high value that