

himself, that easy dissemination of reading matter is a subsidy to publishers that should be exterminated, as he candidly suggests, by freight rates, if it cannot survive in the face of the 50 to 900 per cent periodical postage raise.

In Russia no one reads unless he has money enough to pay high postage, that amply covers the cost of transportation and accordingly meets the ideal postal principle as enunciated by Mr. Burleson and supported by Mr. Claude Kitchin, in the last postal amendment passed by Congress.

The figures claimed by Mr. Burleson and Mr. Kitchin for their zoning rate system are an absurdity, in the light of the charges for more difficult freight given by the Wells Fargo Express Company; and the Wells Fargo Express Company quoting rates 20 to 35 per cent lower than the Government, giving a quicker and a more difficult service and delivery, has in addition paid dividends to its stock-holders. In the light of such an absurdity it is useless to discuss figures or efficiency of this character with Mr. Burleson.

The whole matter is fundamentally one involving the principle of the postal function in its relation to the people of the country. It is not a dividend-paying department—for no department of the Government should expect to pay dividends like a Wall Street corporation. It is a function that benefits the people as a whole; it is the modern form of free highways against the toll-road principle, and no one except these postal reactionaries would attempt to re-establish the toll-road principle and apply it either to our highways or our postal department. When it is not such a function it has no place either in the cabinet or a Government department.

HERE AND THERE.

Delegates to convention should wear the Association button, and so help the reception committee of the Toronto Branch.

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The Association has been passing through strenuous times, and when the whole story is

told at convention we know that criticism of the expenditure of the Association's money will turn into expressions of satisfaction.

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No organization can accomplish much without the aid of the medium of exchange—money—any more than Dobbin can perform a hard day's work without his hay and oats. This nod should receive more than a wink from the few branches whose per capita tax is long overdue.

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"The Postal and Telegraph Clerks' Association of Great Britain in conference at Southport, recently, agreed with a scheme for amalgamation with the Postmen's Federation. The incoming executive was authorized to take steps to contest four seats at the general election under the auspices of the Labour Party."—News item. How well our confreres across the pond know the value of direct representation in the Commons Chamber.

BRANCH NOTES.

Saskatoon.

The deep sympathy of the staff is tendered to Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Fuller in the sad loss, after a long illness, of their little daughter.

To those of us who are inclined to kick at trifles it would be as well to look around. We would surely find others whose afflictions are infinitely greater and are borne without complaint. We are happy to report that the wife of our treasurer, Mrs. R. D. Torbet, is home again after undergoing a serious operation. Says Bob: "Sure, it'll cost two three dollars, but she's doing fine, mon." So we should worry.

It is reported that in the House, on May 11th, one Col. John Currie took exception to civil servants asking the country for justice, and stating what *he* would do. Who is Col. John Currie, anyway, that he presumes to appoint himself judge and jury over several thousand civil servants? The trouble with the gallant Colonel is that he was born