

RURAL POSTAL CARRIERS SEEK HIGHER WAGES

Declare Bailiff Enters Homes of 125 Underpaid Mail Contractors.

NO BONUS RECEIVED

Association Secretary Will Present Claims of Members At Ottawa.

Abolition of the contract system under which rural mail carriers have been losing on an average of \$325 per year, and the substitution thereof of a mileage rate of \$70; consideration of claims for money lost on these rural routes since 1917, and a betterment of other conditions, are some of the things for which the Canadian Rural Mail Contractors and Postoffice-Railway Association are asking the Dominion government.

The Advertiser, Garfield McKinnon, secretary of this association, today outlined the case which is to be brought to the attention of the authorities at Ottawa next Monday.

"It has been the custom of the department," stated Mr. McKinnon, "to advertise for competitive tenders for 4-year periods. That in itself is bad enough, as new men who know nothing of the costs of keeping up their rigs and feeding their horses, are sure to put in low figures, but the action of the postoffice inspectors, after these tenders are in, makes the situation ten times worse.

Urges Price-Cutting.

"They arrive in the district where tendering has been going on, and proceed at once to set one tenderer up against the other, claiming that like the price that has been asked, and stating that if the figures are not cut down there will be no chance of the tenderer getting the route for which he has put in a bid. The result is, in nearly every case, they get some of those bidding for the work to come away down from the price they originally asked.

"It is a continuation of this practice that has made the lot of the rural mail carrier one of the poorest in the country, and has forced us to bring together an organization of these men in order that we might present our case at Ottawa in the hope of getting some redress.

"What do we ask for? Simply this, that the present contract system be abolished, and that the men who have been carrying on under this unfair method be given a decent living wage, which we consider would be \$70 per mile, and permanent employment, so that they would not be thrown out at the end of every four years by some person who comes in at a cheaper figure and cuts the ground from under their feet."

Figures Presented.

Mr. McKinnon then went into details, giving some figures that have been carefully investigated, and proved, and on which the rural mail carriers base the case they are presenting to the government.

"There are 1,500 rural route carriers in Ontario, and 3,000 in the whole Dominion," he stated. "The average route is 20 miles, and the average cost of maintaining the outfit for this route is \$1,058 per year. The average income is \$732, resulting in an average loss of \$326 per year. You may think these figures are strange, and so they are, but they are absolute facts, and we are prepared to prove them to the hilt. A man on a rural route has to keep two horses, and his expenses consist of hay, oats, straw, horse-shoeing and rig repair.

"As proof of the fact that the carriers cannot make a living on the rate they are paid now, we can cite the fact that in the last two or three years the mail has entered the homes of 125 of the carriers and sold out the effects in whole or in part to satisfy bills for hay and oats.

Occupies Most of Day.

"It is not possible for the route contractors to engage in other work to any extent, in fact the great majority of them do nothing else. I know of a couple of cases where some bread is carried, but such cases are in the great minority, and not worth mentioning.

"Take it this way—the most of the routes start out between 9:30 and 10 in the morning, and return around 5 o'clock in the afternoon, so you see the day is pretty well broken up at both ends, and there is no chance of engaging in any other remunerative work. These carriers are rated as traveling postmasters, and perform all duties that a postmaster could, were he out on that work.

"We are also asking consideration because we did not receive any recognition when the war bonus was being paid to every other branch of the civil service, from the janitors in the buildings, right up to the top man in the service. During all those years, when fear of horses went to prices never heard of before in this country, and when our own living expenses went up just as much as those of the other men who were receiving war bonuses, we received no consideration at all, and not one cent was ever paid to the rural mail carriers on that account. We consider it was unjust treatment, and our men lost heavily all through that time, and we consider that we are entitled to redress now.

Docked Day's Pay.

"To show how strict the department is in dealing with the rural mail men," continued Mr. McKinnon, "let me tell you of a case that happened right here in Western Ontario, near Sarnia, where a young lady drives a rural route. It was when the roads in the spring were almost impassable. She started out with her horse in the morning and went along as far as she possibly could.

"Finally her horse could go no further, and the buggy was right down on the axles in the mud. She had to get out and take her horse out and go to a farmer and get another one. He managed to get her buggy out of the mud, and it was no use trying to

go any further with the route, so she had to turn around and drive home as best she could after doing part of her work. As a result she was docked a day's pay because she had not delivered the mail on that day."

The mail men also consider that the practice, which has been in force for a long time of holding back a month's pay, is unwarranted and unfair. "As it is now," explained the secretary, "when a man gets a contract from the department he has to put up two bonds of \$400 each, \$800 in all. When he starts in to work he gets no money at the end of the first month, as it is held back, and working on the route for two months, when he draws a month's salary. This goes right on all the time to the end of his four years, and then he has to wait until a month after he is through before he is paid in full.

Salary Held Back.

"In this way the government really has a month's salary of every rural mail carrier for 49 months, and we claim that there is nothing fair about it, and many of the men are in no position to carry on for two months before getting their first month's salary.

"These contracts are made binding to the last letter. If a man were to die it would be up to his bondsmen to see that the route was carried on at the same price at which he tendered, and no matter how much a man may wish to cancel his contract he cannot do so. We are going to ask for a change there, as we consider that 30 days or two months at the outside should be sufficient to terminate a contract."

The increase in automobile traffic in the country is also an added danger to the rural route carriers, and during the last two or three years there have been several fatal accidents, and a score or more cases where the carriers have been badly injured by being struck by cars when they were over on the wrong side of the road putting mail in boxes that were on that side of the thoroughfare.

Damage Claim Denied.

A test case was made in the courts some time ago to see if damages could be secured, and it was found that the driver of the car was not guilty, and the court held that the driver of the rural route had no business over on the wrong side of the road. In this connection we are going to ask that the boxes shall be all placed on the right hand of the driver of the routes. This is essential as the traffic by the use of cars is increasing all the time, and the danger of being struck by having to go from one side of the road to the other is increasing all the time.

Mr. McKinnon stated, in conclusion, that United States had done away with the contract system some time ago, and the rural mail carriers there were now being paid at the rate of \$75 per mile, and a system of substitute men was also worked out so that the rural carriers could have their holidays as well as the city carriers. At the present time in Canada the rural men have to go out on their routes every day in the week except Sunday. They have not even the statutory holidays.

Mr. McKinnon expects to go to Ottawa at the end of the present week, and there is the possibility of him being accompanied by J. J. Morrison, of Toronto, who is deeply interested in the case.

Experienced oculists say that women retain their eyesight unimpaired many years longer than men.

If commercially practicable methods can be devised for extraction, great quantities of starch can be obtained from the rootstocks of the common swamp cat-tail.

CLARK'S ECONOMY STORES

--- Cash and Carry ---

YOU GET FULL VALUE FOR YOUR DOLLAR WHEN YOU SPEND IT AT ONE OF OUR STORES.

Macaroni 2 lbs. for 25c
Tapioca 3 lbs. for 25c
Gorton's Custard Powder 3 pkgs. for 25c

GRANULATED SUGAR
10 POUNDS 67c
100-LB. BAG \$6.25

Pastry Flour—Our best quality
Pastry Flour this week—
7 lbs. for 35c
12 lbs. for 55c
24 lbs. for \$1.10

KELLOGG'S CORNFLAKES
With Jungledale Books,
2 packages for 20c

Domestic Shortening—
1-lb. cartons 20c
3-lb. pails 55c
H. A. Oleomargarine, lb. 25c

SUNSWEEP PRUNES
California's Nature-Flavored Prunes, put up in dust-proof packages, holding 2 pounds of prunes.
Per package 40c

Pure Raspberry Jam, 1-lb. glass jars, each 25c
Canned Peaches, per tin 28c
Canned Pears, per tin 25c
Canned Corn 2 tins for 25c

BANANAS—SPECIAL
Extra choice quality, large fruit.
Per dozen 35c

Cocoa, pure unsweetened cocoa of fine quality, 2 lbs. for 25c
Seedless Raisins, large package, fancy fruit, per pkg. 22c

CLARKE SPECIAL TEA
A few chests of this excellent Tea to go at the old price. Per pound 43c

Brooms, 5-string brooms, each 39c
Snap Hand Cleaner, per tin, 18c

CHOICE CREAMERY BUTTER, PER POUND 39c

2 in 1 Shoe Polish, 2 tins, 25c
Nugget Shoe Polish, 2 tins, 25c
Mack's No-Rub 6 for 25c

CLARK'S ECONOMY STORES
719 RICHMOND STREET. 169 ADELAIDE STREET.
754 DUNDAS STREET. 574 ADELAIDE STREET.

SIDE LIGHTS AT OTTAWA

BY RANDOLPH J. CHURCHILL.
Staff Correspondent The London Advertiser.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Ottawa, May 17.—The use of oleomargarine undoubtedly has caused many a tilt in a happy household, but probably it never before wrought as much havoc as it did here in the house when it split each of the three parties asunder.

The battle, happily, was not fought along party lines, and so when the vote was taken it found Liberals opposing Liberals, and Conservatives opposing Conservatives. The Progressive party suffered the least of the three, for its stand was previously determined in caucus.

The leaders of the parties took no part in the debate. In fact, both Premier W. L. Mackenzie King and Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen were absent from the house during the evening session, probably preparing speeches for the debate on the naval issue.

Members of the cabinet, however, took part in the debate. The Hon. W. S. Fielding presented a strange sight in attacking the stand taken by Hon. W. R. Motherwell, minister of agriculture, and when the count was taken Hon. James Munnick and Hon. Mr. Fielding were on a side opposite to Hon. G. P. Graham and Hon. Mr. Motherwell.

The vote showed 44 Liberals opposing the sale of oleo, with 22 favoring it, while the Conservatives counted 13 for it, and 6 opposed. Contrary to expectations, the Progressives almost solidly supported the sale of oleomargarine. The vote was 45 to 6.

Members from Western Ontario were divided on the issue. A. L. Hodgins, Middlesex East, Donald Sutherland, Oxford South, and W. L. Stansell, Elgin East, opposed the sale of the product, while W. D. Euler, Waterloo North, W. Forrester, Perth South, W. Black, Huron South, W. G. Good, Brant, D. J. Sinclair, Oxford North, W. Elliott, Waterloo North, J. D. F. Drummond, Middlesex West, B. W. Fansher, Lambton East, and H. McKillop, Elgin West, favored the marketing of oleo.

W. L. STANSELL and Donald Sutherland, both representing ridings where dairying is carried on extensively, spoke to some length opposing the sale of oleomargarine.

HON. HUGH GUTHRIE, Conservative member for South Waterloo,

slipped into a pool of hot water during the naval debate, when he intimated that the government had proven inconsistent by "flopping" on the question of the navy. He was immediately greeted by mingled cries from the government side, accusing him of being an adept at the very same acrobatic stunt.

The accusation was put into plain words by William Duff of Lunenburg, and L. H. Martell of Hants, N. S., who stated that any accusation of "flopping" came with ill-grace from the lips of Mr. Guthrie, when the ex-minister's personal political

record was considered.

WITH one exception, every member from Western Ontario who was in Ottawa at the time, attended the luncheon given by His Excellency the Governor-General at the Government House today. Altogether nearly 150 members of Parliament were the guests of Lord Byng. The one exception, Mr. Fansher of East Lambton, was entertained at a similar luncheon last week.

THURSDAY afternoon a reception will be given in the Parliament

Buildings to Lady Astor by Speaker Rodolphe Lemieux and Mrs. Lemieux. Every member of Parliament has been invited to pay his respects to the first lady member of the British House of Commons.

CARRY MOTION TO ADJOURN HOUSE

OTTAWA, May 17.—(By Canadian Press.)—The prime minister's resolution that the house adjourn from Tuesday night until Friday next week passed the house this afternoon.

PLANS NATIONAL MARKET

OTTAWA, May 17.—(By the Canadian Press.)—The passage of an act creating a national wheat marketing agency with powers similar to those of the Canada Wheat Board of 1919, and to become effective when two or more of the provinces have conferred upon this agency powers possessed by the late wheat board, was recommended to parliament today by the

house committee on agriculture. This action was taken as a result of the resolution introduced by R. M. Johnson, Progressive, of Moose Jaw, and was approved on a vote of 32 to 28.

The Liberals voted almost solidly against the resolution, but the Progressives were supported by several of the Conservatives. An amendment to the resolution offered by A. R. McMaster, Liberal, aiming to strike out any compulsory features was previously voted down by 34 to 27.

A WHIRLWIND SALE OF DRUGS AND TOILETRIES

FOR THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

RUSH SPECIAL
On Saturday Afternoon only, from 1 till 6,
5 GROSS
PEPSODENT TOOTH PASTE
Regular 50c
2 for 50c
To purchasers of other goods only.

75c
Le Secret Shampoo
2 for 75c

Have you tried
Orange Blossom Talcum
Flesh and White 25c and 40c
FREE A 25c "Perfect" Powder Puff FREE on request, with each 40c tin.

50c
Palmolive Shampoo
29c

RUSH SPECIAL
On Saturday Morning only, from 8 till 12,
2 GROSS
ELCAYA CREAM
Regular 75c
2 for 75c
To purchasers of other goods other than Palmolive Soap.

PATENTS

\$1.25 Squibb's Liquid Petrolatum 88c
75c Nujol 59c
\$1.50 Nujol \$1.19
\$2.25 Hall's Wine \$1.99

EGG PRESERVER
20c full one-pound tins.
You cannot be too particular in the selection of your Water Glass.
Friday and Saturday.
Special 14c

50c Thermogene 39c
Vincarnis \$1.50
Heavy Petrolatum, P. D. & Co. \$1.00
Zymole Trochys 25c
35c Electric Oil 24c
35c Eclair's Ready Relief 28c
25c Chase's K. and L. Pills 19c
15c Nuxated Iron 79c
25c Cascarets 39c
60c Cascarets 49c
50c Williams' Pink Pills 33c

WHILE THEY LAST
Here's your LAST OPPORTUNITY to secure a genuine
Cairncross' Super Quality Hot Water Bottle at 1/2 Price
2 For \$2.99 2 For \$3.49

"ORIENTAL" RUM AND QUININE
This reliable Hair Tonic we recommend as the most superior requisite for restoring the natural beauty of your hair and removing dandruff.
75c

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We reserve the right to limit quantities sold each customer. No goods charged or delivered at these CUT PRICES.

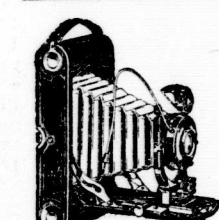
INSURE POSITIVE SUCCESS
in your baking—use only
"PURITY" BAKING POWDER
1/2 lb. 1 lb.
25c 50c

TOILET ARTICLES

50c Watkins Coconut Shampoo 39c
35c Odeon 24c
60c Odeon 48c
60c Hind's Honey and Almond Cream 44c

POMPEIAN TOILETRIES
Face Powder 60c
Night Cream 50c and \$1.00
Massage Cream 60c
Day Cream 60c
Bloom 60c
Talcum 30c

\$1.25 Mary Garden Face Powder 99c
75c Simon's Face Powder 59c
35c Melba Talcum 24c
40c Melody Talcum 2 for 40c
\$1.00 Piver's Face Powder 22c
Azura, Floramye, Safranor or Le Trefle 79c
Jergen's Violet Shampoo 50c

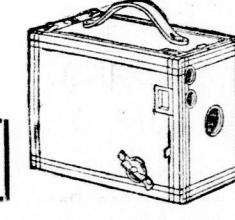


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50c Bromo Seltzer 39c
15c Klovah Health Salts 2 for 25c
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70c Kellogg's Asthma Remedy 45c
60c Asprolax 88c
\$1.00 Vinol 79c
\$1.10 Tanlac 79c
\$1.25 Pinkham's Vegetable Compound 99c
25c Mentholatum 18c
50c Mentholatum 36c
50c Zam-Buk 36c
50c Cuticura Ointment 43c
30c Cuticura Ointment 23c

WAMPOLE'S GRAPE SALTS
A good Spring Medicine 50c

\$1.20 Glycothymoline 99c
65c Glycothymoline 55c
35c Glycothymoline 79c
\$1.00 Antiphlogistine 24c
35c Listerine 45c
65c Listerine 96c
\$1.20 Listerine 15c
\$1.00 Pyorrhoeic Tooth Powder 99c

Friday Morning Only
50c
FRUIT-A-TIVES
2 for 50c

To purchasers of other goods, and only two boxes to a customer.

Friday Afternoon Only,
75c Pinaud's
AURORA FACE POWDER 54c
FREE—A "Perfect" Powder Puff with each box.

Saturday Evening Only
To the first 75 customers after 7 o'clock Saturday Evening, we will give
FREE
A \$1.00 PACKAGE OF
YEAST VITAMINE TABLETS

Ask for a Dainty Sample of
Armand Face Powder
given FREE with each POWDER PUFF.

50c
M. S. C. Coconut Oil Shampoo
2 for 50c

50c
"Wellworth" Tooth Paste
2 for 50c
A 25c Tooth Brush FREE with each two tubes.

SOAPS At PRICES That Will Compel You To BUY
25c Snap 17c
15c Vinolia Soaps—Violet, Almond, Sweet Pea, Crabapple and White Iris 3 for 25c
10c Boracic and Cold Cream Soap 3 for 25c

30c Cuticura Soap 22c
20c Boracic and Cold Cream Soap 2 for 35c
20c Vinolia Bath Tablets 2 for 35c
35c Vinolia Castile Soap, 2 for 40c

For That Cough,
"WELLWORTH" LINSEED, LICORICE AND CHLORODYNE
Regular 25c 2 for 35c
Regular 75c 2 for 75c

A Good Tonic
75c "WELLWORTH" BLAUD PILLS
100 pills in each bottle; a full month's medicine 2 FOR 75c

WHILE IT LASTS—10 GROSS
Palmolive Soap, Reg. 10c 5 for 25c SATURDAY ONLY.
Not more than five cakes to a customer, and only to purchasers of other goods than Eleya Cream.
No soap sold at this price after 12 o'clock noon.

60c Kolynos Tooth Paste 39c
50c Pebecco 39c

TOOTH PASTES
Vinolia, Minty's, Colgate's, Corson's 25c

The Greatest Soap—WOODBURY'S 25c

75c Lavona de Compose 59c
50c Canadian Hair Dye 44c
75c Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur 49c
\$1.25 Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur 99c
35c Danderine 28c
60c Danderine 48c
\$1.25 Danderine 79c
\$1.25 Glover's Mange Remedy 88c
50c Menton's Shaving Cream 39c
35c Palmolive Shaving Cream 28c
Vinolia Shaving Stick Refills 25c
Woodbury's Shaving Stick Refills 25c
\$1.25 D. & R. Cold Cream 99c
75c D. & R. Cold Cream 64c
50c D. & R. Cold Cream 44c
50c Palmolive Vanishing Cream 39c

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