

THE POSTAL JOURNAL

All communications, matter for publication, etc., to be sent to "Editor of Postal Journal," Calgary, Alta.

VOL. II.

MARCH 30, 1917.

No. 13

PER CAPITA TAX.

By the Secretary-Treasurer.

These three words mean very much more than would appear at first sight. To the average member, although perhaps loath to admit it, they signify nothing except another expense to meet, in many cases unwillingly. Many, although paying perhaps cheerfully, never give the matter a second thought. Others again are never tired of trying to devise means of reducing the amount to the lowest possible minimum. A few of our members—I should have said enthusiastic members—are eager to see the amount substantially increased. Now I ask you, which policy do you advocate? Would you like to see the per capita tax reduced, remain at the present figure, or increased? At present the per capita tax is 75c per annum, being an increase of 25c over the original figure, found necessary owing to so many of our members being absent on active service and the agreement made at the Vancouver Convention that this Association carry all such members during their absence.

Now figure out the object of this tax. It is for meeting all expenses incurred by your Association, such as printing, stationery, postage, telegrams, expenses of officers to Convention and to defray expenses of delegations to Ottawa or elsewhere, when found necessary to send a delegation in the interests of the Association. It is almost impossible to give an estimate of the lowest possible minimum yearly expense, for it depends entirely upon where the Con-

vention is held, the location of officers, and whether it be found necessary to meet the expense incurred by sending a delegation to Ottawa. There are approximately 2,200 clerks employed in city post offices in the Dominion, leaving out chief clerks, etc. Should we be successful in getting 75 per cent of these clerks as members—a conservative estimate—we would have a membership of 1,650 plus perhaps 200 clerks employed in semi-staff offices, a total of 1,850. A per capita tax of 25c on this number would realize \$462.50. Would this be sufficient to meet expenses if the Convention should be held either in the extreme East or West? Would it not be better to have a substantial balance in hand after meeting all expenses and perhaps allowing a grant to certain small offices in order to enable them to be directly represented at Convention? Get down to details and admit to yourself that an Association which is not worth more financial support than less than half of one cent per week is not worth running. The large branch is apt to think that because they pay a large sum, as against a small amount received from a small office, that they are paying too much, whereas they are only paying the same in proportion to membership. They are better off by reason of their share being larger for the branch funds benefit in like proportion. Association and co-operation are very near relatives, why therefore should not the large office help the small office? I have figured out the amount of per capita tax paid into this Association by the very small offices since we first started and I find