

here and there, but often we see them writing letters in this strain, Dear Sir,— I regret this error, etc., etc. The natural enemies a dispatcher has are legion. It always appears that the aforementioned "joints, 'way down the line," specialize on "laying" for him, each on a different tack, he omitted to notice an uncancelled stamp, or a prohibited letter or paper, or that so and so went to so and so, and so on, and so it goes that often he craves for the trenches, to rest his tired brain.

To be a dispatcher I once had a craving,  
The thing looked so simple and easy to me;  
A day's pay I was docked, which nigh sent  
me raving,  
A "Register" bound East, I had shipped  
C. and V.

HEB.

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### MUTUAL AID.

Clause 9 of the recent convention agenda, which called for the consideration of the desirability of organizing a Mutual Aid Society, did not receive the attention that many hoped and expected that it would. This was due, probably, to the fact that whoever was sponsor for the resolution had not very much information to work on nor was much effort made to get the assembly interested in the movement. However, those who are anxious to see such a scheme in operation need not be discouraged as, in any event, no definite action could have been taken by the convention. As the report showed, this question was referred to the Legislation Committee, who are expected to report to the next convention. They, it is to be presumed, will either advise that the idea be dropped or they will be prepared to recommend some scheme which will be in such shape that it could at once come into operation. Whatever one may have against such a society, it must be generally admitted that it embraces one of the fundamental points of practical fraternalism. Theoretical fraternity is very cheap and abounds everywhere, but we are afraid that the practical side of it is oftentimes lacking where it should most be seen. Referring to the annual statement, issued by the Calgary Mutual Aid Society, which report appeared in the Journal dated January 7th last, we find that during the year five men received benefits amounting to an aggregate of \$130 and some thirty odd members participated in share-out which amounted to \$272.50. It will be seen then that some forty men were protected against sickness for the small sum of roughly \$140.00

This is the financial side of it, which of course everyone is interested in, altho' the more important point of view is that forty men were prepared to pay into a fund with the object of helping their fellow clerk should he fall sick. At present only about four or five of our branches have the strength to run such an aid on their own, but with an Association-wide Society in existence, all members could participate, no matter how small the branch to which he belonged and, furthermore, it would come cheaper on those men situated in the larger branches than it would while running their own individual affair.

At convention one delegate stated that he felt certain that it would not find favour in his branch and, therefore, he did not see why they should have it forced on them. This argument, it will be seen, it quite unsound, as any member of any branch could participate or none. So long as enough members were procured to run the society successfully, it would not matter in the least whether the entire membership of a branch refrained from joining. Sooner or later, for the sake of practical fraternity, some such idea will have to be inaugurated by this association. For the present the whole question is in the hands of a thoroughly competent committee, which can be relied upon to weigh carefully all the pros and cons, obtain all the information possible and, no matter which way they report, satisfy next convention on this very interesting subject.

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### WHY?

The National Federation of Post Office Clerks of the United States, in order to fittingly commemorate another anniversary of their organization, converted their monthly official organ into a hundred page, interesting magazine for the month of August. Among the many articles, were a number written by the several vice-presidents and district organizers giving many varied reasons why postal clerks should join the association. We are glad to be able to give a few extracts from some of these able articles.

The greatest failing a postal clerk has is narrowness. His greatest foe is isolation. The unusual circumstances surrounding his occupation make for both. He enters a peculiar and isolated craft through an unusual door when he becomes a part of the service. The service narrows his range of thought and hampers his vision until he is a postal employee, pure and simple without ties, or associations or in-