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there. Do you happen to know—er—Allan?"  
"Yes. Very well indeed."  
"But you don't know why he left?"  
"Why," answered Minot, "I suppose because George Harrowby gave him twenty-four hours to get out of town."  
Again the Chicago man laughed. "That can't have been the reason," he said. "I happen to know."  
"Just how," inquired Minot, "do you happen to know?"  
The Westerner smiled at Minot with a broad, engaging smile. "I fancy I neglected to introduce myself," he said. "I make automobiles in Chicago—and my name's George Harrowby."  
"You—you—" Minot's head went round dizzily. "Oh, no," he said firmly. "I don't believe it."  
The other's smile grew even broader.

**UNCLE SAM, CARRIER**

to the shop, which receives the order, and through the mail her parcel will be delivered within six hours. In this way she is not obliged to make the long trip downtown. In emergencies this is a time saver for the kitchen; although the greatest advantage is the possibility of the housewife's dealing directly with her farmer friend—the much abused producer—and obtaining an order in a day or overnight. It saves a trip to the big markets, especially when only a limited quantity of stuff is wanted; say a head of lettuce or a spring chicken. There are hundreds of such producers within reach of the parcel post, whether it be overnight or a few miles away.

IT has even been used, in Washington, D. C., by a bachelor who was very critical of the laundry work he required. He was especially jealous of fine silk shirts, which were washed by a trustworthy laundress living in the extreme northeastern section of the capital, four miles from his residence near Sheridan Circle. Suddenly obliged to go away, he mailed his linen to the laundress, who returned it to him the next evening by parcel post. No letters, no telephone messages, no instructions! She knew that whenever he sent odd pieces that way he required them back at once, and with this understanding the parcel post filled the gap and she did not have to lose a minute's time. In a Western town an enterprising laundry has this sign, "Our delivery service under the supervision and direction of the United States government." It uses the parcel post.

Although the department is not ready to recommend a countrywide adoption of the custom of sending babies by parcel post, such a thing has been done. Little Janet Saxis, who weighs forty and a half pounds, was "posted" at Pine Hollow, at a cost of forty-five cents. She went by wagon, parcel post, fully tagged and stamped.

In Kansas, Mrs. E. H. Staley, of Wellington, received her two-year-old nephew by parcel post from his grandmother, at Stratford, Oklahoma, where the tot had been left for a visit three weeks previously. The boy wore a tag about his neck, showing it had cost eighteen cents to send him through the mails. He was transported twenty-five miles by rural route before reaching the railroad. He rode with the mail clerks, shared his lunch with them,—or theirs was shared by him,—and arrived in good condition.

Occasionally there arises a puzzling question. Motion picture films have been carried exclusively by express companies, because they are inflammable and as such cannot be sent through the mails. At the instance of the manager of a motion film producing company the department has to pass upon his contention that motion films must be transported in the mails because kodak films are. Inasmuch as both are made of the same material, and in many cases by the same company, the discrimination is attacked. Should the department decide that motion films, in proper containers, are admissible to the mails, the postal revenue will be increased a million dollars annually.

**BUT**, as in everything else, it requires co-operation to bring about the maximum of efficiency. In this instance we want the people to make as great use of the parcel post system as they can; for the prohibitive regulations are few and simple indeed. They are easily remembered, almost elemental. If they act of one accord as partners of Uncle Sam, Carrier, by doing their part, in seeing that they comply with the regulations, and properly and adequately protect the contents of the package, they will find that the system will work like a fine watch. The system is in its infancy, because it is

"Don't blame you a bit, my boy," he said. "Must have been a bit of a mixup down here. Then too, I don't look like an Englishman. Don't want to. I'm an American now, and I like it."  
"You mean you're the real Lord Harrowby?"  
"That's what I mean—take it slowly, Mr. Minot. I'm George, and if Allan ever gets his eyes on me I won't have to prove who I am. He'll know, the kid will. But by the way—what I want now is to meet this chap who claims to be me—also his friend, Mr. Trimmer."  
"Of course you do. I saw them out in the lobby a minute ago," Minot rose. "I'll bring them in. But—but—"  
"What is it?"  
"Oh, never mind. I believe you."  
To be continued next Sunday

**UNCLE SAM, CARRIER**

little more than a year old; but, so far as its utility and its popularity are concerned, it has demonstrated that it is entitled to a permanent place as one of the necessities of the day, just as we find streetcars indispensable. If the public will do its part the Postoffice Department can much more easily bring about beneficial changes, whether by reduction of rates, increases in distance of zones, greater weight or size limits, and such other changes that a trial and time alone can successfully indicate and bring about.

The percentage of loss and damage has been relatively small, as has also been the number of complaints of delay or unsatisfactory service. To a certain extent these troubles arose from the fact that the public did not take kindly to distinctive parcel post stamps, and when announcement was made that the mandatory use of the special issue was discontinued the change was favorably received. As a result the complaints on account of delay, nondelivery of parcels, and loss of postage, due to ignorance of the distinctive stamp requirement, have been eliminated. Public patronage of the postal service is simplified and facilitated by having a single variety of stamps valid for all purposes, and at the same time it has also served to reduce substantially the cost of administration, by enabling employees of the department to relax their vigilance in scrutinizing the kind of stamps used, as was necessary before.

**A**NOTHER feature is that of the precanceled postage stamps, whose advantages are not yet known by even senders of large quantities of mail. The precanceled stamps—which are canceled in bulk by printing on them in two black horizontal lines the name of the postoffice at which they are to be used—ought to be used more largely. Their advantage to those whose interests require large purchases of stamps is no less than the advantage derived by the government, because it effects a considerable saving in time and expense.

Cancellation by hand is a slow process. A clerk working industriously for eight hours could cancel the stamps on not more than 5,000 packages. When it is borne in mind that perhaps 1,000,000,000 packages will be handled during the present year, the time, labor, and expense involved in canceling becomes apparent. In other words, it would require one industrious man, working eight hours a day every day of the year, 548 years to dispose of 1,000,000,000 packages. If he worked—were it possible—day and night, allowing for no time to sleep or eat, he could not do it, because it would take him 182 years and eight months! And don't forget that to count 1,000,000,000 it requires, at the rate of one a second, thirty-one years and eight months.

So, it will be readily seen, the volume of business done by the postoffices of the country in one year is beyond the grasp of the mind, because the separate pieces that are handled run into the billions!

So let Uncle Sam, Carrier, and the people get together! The parcel post is an institution worthy of the United States; although its advantages were recognized and put into operation in Europe many years ago. It carries into the remotest cabin of this country all those comforts of home that the regulations permit, and there are few, if any, that are prohibited. It stops neither for time, for distance, nor for elements. Anything that must go to the address of any resident of the United States, whether continental or in the Philippines or in Alaska or in our other dominions, the parcel post will take it. It is for us, the people, and it plays no favorites!

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