

POSTAL WORKERS' PAY IS NOT UP TO 'LINE OF DECENCY'

Bill Pending in Congress to
Grant Living Wage to
Faithful Employees.

Some time ago The Indianapolis Times printed a series of stories showing that Indiana postal employees—clerks, carriers, etc.—were entitled to more salary. Here is a general story written for this paper.—Editor's Note.

By CHARLES P. STEWART
NEA Service Writer

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Your Indiana mail carrier is a mighty dependable chap. He's so dependable you hardly realize you're receiving the service he renders day by day.

There are so few, if any, exceptions, that it's safe to set this down as a fact, anywhere, without any qualifications at all.

The odds are many to one that you like your mail carrier. He's polite and accommodating.

You couldn't stand it, considering how frequent your contacts with him are, if he were grouchy, as, unfortunately, some public servants are.

His Job Is Hard

Your mail carrier's work, physically, is hard. Toting that sack is no light stunt.

Walking, walking, always walking may be all right when the weather's fine, but in time of storm it's no joke; it may mean real suffering.

Your mail carrier is a man of some education; he has to be. He's a mine of information on the subject of Uncle Sam's mails. This means he must have had experience.

He must be a diplomat and more or less of a business man. Absolute honesty is vital, of course.

Your mail man, in short, is equipped make more money at some other

\$1,755 Is Maximum

For the mail carrier, as for everyone else, the cost of living has gone up. Realizing this, Congress raised pay in 1920 to a maximum of \$1,800 a year, but out of this comes \$45 for rent, so that the net maximum is \$1,755.

he present maximum was fixed on the supposition that the cost of living had reached its peak. This hasn't proved to be the case, and the National Association of Letter Carriers says frankly that today its members are hard put to it to live.

The mailman, it's to be remembered, isn't like an unskilled laborer, to whom \$1,755 might seem pretty fair. He has a certain amount of front to maintain. He's expected to look spruce and neat. The two uniforms a year he must buy, which cost to \$20, now are \$46 apiece. It's just a sample.

Family Needs \$2,052

The mail carrier has a family, too, and Congressional Record published figures recently which, taking Detroit as a representative city, fixed \$2,052.36 as the smallest sum on which a family of five could live decently in 1923.

The mail carrier and his family, then, are \$297.36 below the decency line, even supposing the carrier receives the maximum and doesn't lose a working hour out of the year, a practical impossibility, of course.

Accordingly Senator Edge of New Jersey and Representative Kelly of Pennsylvania have joint bills pending in Congress to advance city carriers to \$2,000 on entering the service, to \$2,200 after the second year and to \$2,400 after the third.

Parcel Post Loses

President Coolidge is, regrettably, against the increase. The carriers are entitled to more, he says, but he adds that the increase, he fears, would impose on the Treasury an additional drain it can't stand.

Maybe so, replies Congressman Kelly, but consider that the postoffice is the only enterprise which hasn't increased its charges to meet increased operating costs.

He estimates parcel post losses to the department at \$205,206,944.96 annually, simply because no such increase has been made.

The National Association of Letter Carriers submits that patrons of the parcel post are making this saving at the carriers' expense. It doesn't seem to them quite fair.

BONDSEN RELEASED

Waldron Pastor Held in Jail; Second Arson Trial April 21.

By Times Special
SHELBYVILLE, Ind., March 22.—The Rev. Ulysses S. Johnson, pastor of the Waldron Baptist Church, charged with burning his church, remained in jail here today, unable to secure bondmen.

The four men who had provided bond of \$5,000 for Rev. Johnson, appeared in court here with him and asked to be released.

Rev. Johnson will face trial for the second time on charge of arson, April 21. The first jury disagreed.

THEN HE USED FLATTERY

Police Sergeant Lures Feline Prowler With Pretty Phrases.

"Kitty, kitty, nice kitty."

After a few such phrases, Sergeant Allison was soon from the garage of Mrs. Pearl Myers, 2913 Moore Ave., triumphantly carrying the reason for a report to police of an attempt to steal the Myers' automobile. "Kitty," who was quite large, emphatically meowed denial of any thieving motives.

County Track Meet

By Times Special
CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind., March 22.—Entry blanks for a county track meet under the auspices of the Crawfordsville High School were sent to every high school in the county. The date of the meet is set for April 18.

While Hugo Dinswide, track coach, is in charge of the arrangements, the assistance of Head Coach L. J. C. Freeman and Athletic Manager Homer Bliddle has been volunteered. The meet will be held at the Wabash College athletic field.

He Deserves More Money



Big 'Cats' Know They're About to Hit Road

Louisville and Terre Haute Will See Ringling This Season.

By United Press
BRIDGEPORT, Conn., March 22.—The "cats"—striped tigers, tawny lions and lean leopards of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey family—know they are about to leave their close winter quarters and hit the open road, Old Bill Gottschalk says.

In his capacity as caretaker at the big show's winter home, Bill and the cats have kept company for a score of years. They know, Bill says.

Tails Get Attention

So do the polar bears, swaying at their pendulous exercises; so do the trained horses, for is not the silken sheen of their four-foot tails the subject of special attention these days.

But the camels, they don't know that.

A second sense tells most of the animals their winter sleep is over, Old Bill opines.

A cage full of trained lions lolling in the straw and offal of winter is about as unemotional an exhibition of still life as can be imagined.

Smell of Paint

But when Bill threw open a barn door and let in the breath of spring from the lot, the pulse-quenching smells of pine and paint and a mild breeze that brought the merry ring of an anvil from the blacksmith's shop across the way—then even the cats got it and a couple of them frolicked with the stump of Bill's stick and took a playful swipe at the corporal's nearest sleeve.

Next Sunday the circus moves to New York for a month's stand. After that it hits the road. This year they're going to play Louisville and Terre Haute, having missed these towns for several seasons.

ASSESSMENT CUT LANDS IN COURT

Injunction Asked in McCray Bank Appraisal Case.

The reduction assessment of \$95,000 to \$2,000 upon the value of the Discount and Deposit State Bank of Kentland was before the Newton Circuit Court today. Governor McCray was president of the bank.

Board of school trustees filed suit to join John G. Davis, county auditor, in enforcing the State board's appraisal of \$3,000 upon the defunct Kentland Bank.

No action will be taken by the State board to defend its action before the Newton court, John J. Brown, chairman, said.

"The action may not have been legal, but it was done in interest of equity and justice," Brown commented. "The board, in fact, stated in a letter to Davis that it doubted its legal authority in the matter but that it was convinced of the justness."

Davis, a brother-in-law of Governor McCray, protested against the \$3,000 assessment.

Even as individuals they are unwilling to quit, not only from genuine love of the service with which they are identified, but, and especially now, when it's admittedly working under difficulties from lack of adequate funds, because they feel it wouldn't be fair to desert it in an emergency.

However, postal employees do wear out, and when this happens it's hard to find good men to fill vacancies—the pay's too low.

Entitled to It, Says New

By NEA Service

WASHINGTON, March 22.—It didn't look much a few days ago as if the mail carriers, and other postal employees, stood a chance of an increase in pay.

"They're more than entitled to it," Postmaster General Harry New admitted, in effect, "but the postal department is losing money now, and all departments are trying to cut down, so what can we do?"

But the question didn't prove as easy to shelf as that.

"Something must be done," insisted the Chamber of Commerce, "in the interest of the department.

The postal workers are a rarely loyal class. They concede that they mustn't use and they won't use labor's one weapon—the strike—no matter how urgent their need.

It is, indeed, agree the higher officials of the department.

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