

SPEECH OF J. ZEB. WALLER

Before the Rural Carriers of Alamance County, at Their Annual Picnic, May 30th, 1912, at Harnden Park.

(Published by request of The Rural Carriers Association of Alamance County.)

Ladies, Gentlemen, and Fellow Rural Carriers of Alamance County:

While I am always glad to meet with you upon these occasions, yet I am sorry that you have seen fit to call upon me to make these few remarks. To select a subject that will interest you, even were I able to deliver it, is within itself a very difficult task. To talk about politics is considered bad taste, to talk about religion upon such an occasion I fear would fall upon deaf ears, even were I religiously inclined. But both religion and politics is barred by the Civil Service Commission from having any weight in the selections of eligibles for the rural service, and therefore should be omitted here. To talk prohibition while so many blind tigers are abroad in the land and no tax can be had upon every hand, would be out of place, and beside this is not the time. To talk good roads is always an interesting but rather dry subject. Then upon what subject may I find attentive listeners with willing ears. My own individual opinion is that upon occasions of this kind there should be no speeches, or rather as far as my efforts go in that direction, no attempt at speech making. There should be innocent games of amusement, music, songs, and social entertainment, renewing of old friendship, and the making of new friends and acquaintances.

With only this thought in mind, eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow you will have to serve the same old route. Over the same old roads, with the same old horse and vehicle, but to a better and more lovable patrons. Better because you have mingled closer together, and understand one another better, more lovable because of the closer mingling and the better understanding. You feel that your patrons appreciate your service more, and you enter again upon the discharge of your duties with a stronger determination to please than ever before. To talk of rural service has become boring to a great many because all of us feel that we know as much or more about the service than the other fellow. And yet no subject is more appropriate, and should receive greater attention than that which give comfort, intelligence and pleasure to farm life. Therefore in keeping with the occasion I must make a few remarks upon the subject of Rural Free Delivery.

I desire to say here, that I congratulate you upon your splendid organization of rural carriers in this county, and I also want to correct an erroneous impression that I understand prevails among some carriers, as to the attitude of the Post Office Department as regards organization among the rural carriers. I have heard it intimated in times past, not so very much of late, that the department was down upon organization of this character. This is a serious and grievous mistake. The department is in full sympathy and accord with your organization, and lends courage in every way possible to its maintenance and to the good that it is accomplishing. There is nothing that will improve the service more than an active organization. Every county should have its organization, and every carrier should be a full fledged member in good and regular standing. I have no patience or sympathy for the carrier who is such a weakling that he is afraid to join his organization, and if left to me I would see to it that this kind of carrier was excused with indefinite leave, the service would be better off without them, and I stand always for those things which are for the good of the service. I urge each and every one of you to do his or her utmost endeavor to maintain the unrivalled record which the rural branch of the service has established—a record from the viewpoint of morals are far in advance of other branches of the civil service. The last annual computation made showed that out of about 45,000 (forty-five thousand) carriers employed, but 175 were dismissed for cause, this is a record of which you may indeed be proud. Now I desire to give a short history of the beginning of the rural service.

For a good many years the residents of the larger cities had enjoyed the privilege of having their mail delivered to them by carriers at their residences daily. Based upon a recommendation made by Postmaster General Wanamaker, a joint resolution was passed by the Fifty first Congress and approved October 1, 1890, authorizing the postmaster general to test at small towns and villages the practicability and expense of extending the free delivery system to offices of the third and fourth-class and other offices not embraced in the free delivery. The experiment was put on trial and continued until three years later, when Postmaster General Bissell, in his report for the fiscal year 1894 recommended that the service be discontinued or extended to 40,000 other postoffices. Congress accepted the first alternative and discontinued the appropriation. In 1891 in his report on the postal service, and in referring to the then incipient demand for rural delivery, and the recommendation that had been made for the extension of the free delivery system to rural communities Postmaster General Wanamaker said:

"I could not commend anything to the attention of Congress with more confidence than this proposed addition to the postal facilities; first, because it is so easy, and, second, it is so widespread, and it seems to me so patriotic."

Subsequently the delivery of mail by carriers in strictly rural communities as agitated, and petitions were presented to Congress from National Grange, and Patrons of Husbandry, National Farmers' Congress, and State Farmers' Alliances, praying that Congress grant to them the free delivery of mails in rural communities. On January 5 1892, a bill was introduced by the Hon. James O'Donnell, representative from the State of Michigan, entitled "A Bill to Extend the Free Delivery System of Mails to Rural Communities." This bill was very comprehensive in its scope and by its terms and provisions contemplated a system of rural delivery on the precise lines under which it is today operated. The bill carried with it an appropriation of \$6,000,000. On May 28 1892, the Postoffice Appropriation Bill being before the house, Mr. O'Donnell spoke to his bill and said that the owners and tenants of the 4,000,000 farms in this country feel it their due that they shall be placed upon the same footing with the people of the cities and towns that the Postoffice Department should extend to them the same privileges accorded to the urban residents of the nation, that in addition to these strong appeals for justice, which alone should cause prompt recognition, the press of all shades of opinion was almost unanimous in seconding the demand; and that the institution of rural delivery would promote the prosperity of the farmer, brighten the home, enhance farm values, and contribute to the general advancement of our people and industries.

In the debate which followed Mr. O'Donnell's speech, Mr. Houk of Ohio, Mr. Ray of New York, and Mr. Watson of Georgia took part, and the reading of the Appropriation Bill by items was reached, Mr. Watson offered an amendment appropriating the sum of \$100,000 to be used in "experimental free delivery in the country as distinct from cities and towns." On that amendment Mr. Henderson of North Carolina raised a point of order, which was sustained, and the amendment accordingly rejected. Mr. Watson offered a substitute for his previous amendment which was likewise rejected on a point of order.

During the second session of the Fifty first Congress on February 1 1893, Mr. Watson of Georgia, offered an amendment to the pending Postoffice Appropriation Bill authorizing the expenditure of \$10,000 for experimental free delivery in rural communities other than cities and towns, which amendment was adopted. Postmaster General Bissell declined to institute the experiment the money appropriated was not spent. In the Act-making appropriation for the Postoffice Department for the fiscal year to be applied by the postmaster-general for experimental free delivery in rural communities, but Postmaster General Wilson declined to expend any part of the sum appropriated, giving as a reason that the department had not been able to make any plan by which a satisfactory test could be conducted.

(Continued on Page Six)

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY OBSERVER, Charlotte, N. C.

Passed Pension Bill Washington, May 30.—The senate celebrated Decoration Day by passing the annual pension appropriation bill after fifteen minutes consideration. The measure carried \$165,500 an increase of almost \$13,000,000, over the amount appropriated by the house. The increase includes \$12,500,000, for expenses caused by the heavy volume of work growing out of the recent enactment of the so-called dollar a day pension law.	Paint Lick Sick Lady Paint Lick, Ky.—Mrs. Mary Freeman, of this place, says: "Before I commenced to take Cardui, I suffered so much from womanly trouble, I was so weak that I was down on my back nearly all the time. Cardui has done me more good than any medicine I ever took in my life. You need not be afraid to take Cardui. It is no new experiment. Composed of gentle-acting, herb ingredients, it has been found to safely relieve headache, backache and similar female troubles. Try it for your troubles."	Terrible Picture of Suffering Clinton, Ky.—Mrs. M. C. McElroy, in a letter from Clinton, writes: "For six years, I was a sufferer from female troubles. I could not eat, and could not stand on my feet, without suffering great pain. I had lost hope. After using Cardui a week, I began to improve. Now I feel better than in six years. Fifty years of success in actual practice, is positive proof, furnished by those who have used it, that Cardui can always be relied on for relieving female weakness and disease. Try Cardui, today, now!
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