

SMALL FAVORS PARCELS POST

DECLARES THAT IT WILL BE TO THE INTEREST OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY AND THAT IT WILL WORK HARDHIP TO NONE—POINTS OUT THAT THE EXPRESS COMPANIES ARE BEHIND MOST OF THE AGITATION.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants' Association have received the following letter from Congressman Small in reply to their recent action relative to Penny Postage and the Parcels Post:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S., WASHINGTON, D. C. March 18th, 1912.

Messrs. O. F. Gilbert, Pres., and E. F. Lamb, Sec'y., Chamber of Commerce, and D. M. Jones, Pres., and C. W. Melick, Sec'y., Merchants' Association, Elizabeth City, N. C.

Gentlemen: I am in receipt of resolution of the Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants' Association respectively, favoring the reduction of postage on first class mail, which embraces letters from two cents to one cent. Permit me to say with respect to this proposition that I shall be gratified to support such legislation when the financial condition of the Post Office Department shall render the same permissible. Under present rates of postage the Department is barely self-sustaining, in fact while the Post Office Department during the last fiscal year showed a small net revenue, still this result was attained by a process of economy in administration which many think impaired somewhat the efficiency of our service, particularly the rural service, and the railway mail service. It does not seem possible to reduce the rate on letter mail without increasing the rate on second-class mail, the loss on the latter consuming the profit on letter mail. While it seems just to increase the second-class rate, still the newspapers and magazines have organized a very insistent propaganda against such action. The Hughes Postal Commission recently reported in favor of increasing the second-class rate from one cent to two cents per pound, and the President and the Post Office Department has approved the same, but it is doubtful at this time whether Congress will find it expedient, or have the courage to make the increase.

In your respective letters of March 4th, enclosing copies of the resolutions adopted you each assert your "unalterable opposition to the Parcels Post Bill now pending in Congress." I have considered this proposition quite carefully and have reached the conclusion that the pending proposition to extend the parcels post ought to be adopted. I make a brief explanation and submit a few reasons for my position. Under the present law the weight of parcels which may be carried in the mails is limited to five pounds, and the postage is 16 cents per pound. Many other nations, including practically all those of Continental Europe, permit parcels of much greater weight to be carried in the mails and at a less rate of postage. In fact the United States has an agreement with a number of other countries, embraced in what is called the International Postal Union, by which parcels may be mailed from any post office in the United States to any office in all of these foreign countries with a maximum weight of 11 pounds and a rate of 12 cents per pound. To illustrate, is mailing a parcel weighing four pounds from Elizabeth City to Hartford we must now pay sixty-four cents, while the same package may be carried from Elizabeth City to London or Berlin or Stockholm or any other office within the Postal Union, for forty-eight cents. The law which has been reported by the committee and is now pending before Congress, proposes in our domestic service to increase the postage to 12 cents per pound. This is the same as now prevails in the International

Postal Union. It is also proposed on that routes to permit parcels to be carried of a maximum weight of 11 pounds, with a charge of five cents for the first pound and gradually decreasing so that the rate for 11 pounds will be 25 cents. I respectfully express the opinion that this proposed increase in the service will be of great benefit to the people as a whole, and will not injure any class of our people.

It is said that this increase will be only the entering wedge, and that it will lead to a further increase in the weight of parcels and to a further decrease in the postage rate. I submit that this further increase will only be made provided it proves profitable, and provided the people demand a further increase.

Now a word upon the general proposition. It appears to me that the carrying of parcels in the mails is a legitimate function of the Post Office Department. Ordinarily one would be opposed to the Government undertaking any service which might be performed as well or better by public service corporations, but this particular function is not one of them. I submit that this is in the line of progress. Increased means of communication and transportation have always served to build up every section of the country. Just as increased mail facilities, the extension of railroad, improved highways, and the introduction of the telegraph and telephone have been the forerunners of progress, so extending the parcels post as I believe will be likewise a blessing.

It is said that extending the parcels post will injure the business of the retail merchants, and that it will build up the department stores in the large cities at the expense of the merchants in the smaller towns and villages. Who has pressed this argument? Upon investigation it will be found that it has been pressed by several organizations under patriotic names have flooded the retail merchants and the commercial organizations of our towns with literature. They claim to represent the smaller communities of the country, but I submit that instead of being altruists, that they are actuated by self-interests, and whether so intended or not, that they are serving the interests of the express companies.

We must not take a narrow view of this proposition. All of us recall the time when rural delivery routes were first proposed that the merchants in many small villages opposed their establishment. They said it would keep the farmers away from the postoffice and would deter them from trading with them. Yet wherever rural routes have been established, they have been a blessing, they have been in the line of progress.

I wish the gentlemen who are members of the Merchants' Association, and who are members of your progressive Chamber of Commerce to know how reluctantly I have disagreed with any position they might take, or with any request they might make. I have endeavored to cultivate the disposition of serving in so far as I can the interests and the best interests of all my constituents. This question of extending the parcels post has become a mooted one. I have received protests similar to yours in opposition, and I have received numerous petitions from farmers' organizations favoring the same. All my constituents had a right to demand under these circumstances that I study the problem with the sole purpose of getting at the truth and pursuing the course which seemed to be right and in the interest of the people. This I have conscientiously done, and I have given you my conclusion, and a brief resume of my reasons therefor.

I am, most respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
JNO. H. SMALL

C. W. V. CLASS HOLD ENJOYABLE SOCIAL

The C. W. V. Class of Blackwell Memorial church held a very enjoyable social last Tuesday night.

NEW INDUSTRY FOR MANTEO

Mr. S. A. Griffin, one of the leading merchants of Manteo and one of the most wide-awake business men in this section was in the city recently, just returning from a business trip to Norfolk.

While in Elizabeth City Mr. Griffin, tion by a representative of the Advance spoke of a new industry that he is establishing on Roanoke Island.

The people of Roanoke Island, as a rule, are truckers or fishermen. While prices are good their fish and their truck products are shipped to the Northern markets, bringing good returns. But at the close of the season, when prices have declined, it no longer pays to ship to the northern markets in large quantities. At certain seasons, then, the fisherman has more fish than he can dispose of to advantage; at other times there is no market for the products of the farm.

Mr. Griffin conceived the idea of stopping this waste by providing a home market for fish and vegetables. He experimented on a small scale last year, enough to convince himself that the proposition could be made to pay. This year, with his son, Mr. C. L. Griffin, he has organized the Burnside Packing Company with a plant having a capacity to handle two million herring during the season. Later in the summer it is Mr. Griffin's plan to turn the plant into a tomato cannery. This will not alone give fishermen and farmers a market for their product, but while the plant is running up to its capacity, will give employment to about twenty-five operatives.

The company takes its name from the fact that the plant stands on the site of the old fort which Burnside occupied during the War for Secession. Mr. Griffin expects to handle not only herring, but other fish as well, and also to can herring rice.

The season has been most unfavorable to the new enterprise in its beginning. Bad weather prevented fishing for many weeks and as a result herring are still high—too high for the Burnside Packing Company to handle to much advantage—and very scarce.

Mr. Griffin has a splendid record as a successful business man, however, and he will no doubt be successful in making the Burnside Packing Company a successful institution.

PRUDEN BANKS UP FOR FORGERY

Judge Sawyer had a forger up before him yesterday morning.

Pruden Banks, colored, was tried upon the charge of forging the endorsement of Mr. D. C. Perry to a check given by Mr. E. P. Aydtlett. The check was five dollars given by Mr. Aydtlett in payment for coal. Banks was in the employment of Mr. Perry at the time. He sold coal, collected for it from several people, among whom was Judge Sawyer himself, and failed to turn the money over to Mr. Perry, but went to Norfolk instead.

When Judge Sawyer paid him his coal bill, he told Banks that if he spent the money and did not turn it over to Mr. Perry, he would put him in jail. Banks laughingly told him that Mr. Perry should have the money all right.

MRS. C. H. FOREST PAINFULLY INJURED

Mrs. C. H. Forest was run down by a street car in Norfolk Tuesday night and was very painfully injured, and probably seriously hurt.

Her mother, Mrs. Vette Morgan, of this city, went to Norfolk Wednesday morning to be in attendance upon her.

In alighting from one car she was struck by another moving car. A severe gash was made in her head and her body was covered with bruises. She was taken at once to a hospital where she received surgical attention. Reports from Norfolk yesterday stated that she was doing very well with her injuries.

WILL DISCUSS HOOKWORM

The Pasquotank county board of health, composed of J. B. Flora, Chairman; George M. Scott, Chairman of Board of County Commissioners; W. M. Hinton, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Dr. A. L. Pendleton, Dr. W. J. Lumsden, Dr. Zenas Fearing, County Health Officer and Dr. J. Fearing, City Health Officer, will hold a meeting next Saturday morning at ten o'clock in the Chamber of Commerce rooms for the purpose of taking some action in regard to the hook worm campaign.

The Hook Worm Commission has made a proposition to the County Commissioners several times to open a dispensary in this county. The proposition has been refused upon the advice of the County Health Officer, because the people of this section were not afflicted with the disease to an extent to warrant opening up the dispensary. Recently a campaign has been conducted in Gates county, in which it was discovered that a large number of people were infected with the hook worm disease and it has been discovered in other nearby counties. A number of people believe that the disease exists in this county and the campaign will prove that it is more prevalent than it is thought to be.

MEDAL CONTEST AT HIGH SCHOOL 29TH.

A declamation and recitation contest will be held in the auditorium of the high school by the pupils of the graded school on the evening of March 29th.

The contest will be between the pupils of the high school and of the grammar school, in which four medals will be awarded by Superintendent Sheep for excellency. Two medals will be awarded to high school pupils, one to a girl for the best recitation and one to a boy for the best declamation; and two medals will be awarded to pupils in the grammar school. One to a boy for the best declamation, and one to a girl for the best recitation.

CITIZENS BANK WILL PAY FOUR PER CENT

Beginning April 1st, the Citizen's Bank will raise the rate of interest on savings account from three to four per cent. Paying large dividends to its stockholders, open on Saturday evening from six to eight o'clock, this latest announcement is not a surprise to the patrons of this prosperous bank.

STEAMER JONES MAKE FIRST TRIP

The new steamer "Jones" made her first trip to Kitty Hawk last Saturday.

This steamer is owned by the North River and Pasquotank Steamboat Company. She was purchased a sharpie, in Beaufort and has been rebuilt into a commodious freight and passenger steamer, especially adapted for the route between Elizabeth City and Kitty Hawk and intermediate points. She will ply regularly on this run and will maintain an every other day schedule, leaving Elizabeth City one day and returning next day in time to make the proper connections with the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Capt. W. J. Tate of Kitty Hawk is master of the Jones.

MERCANTILE BANK ADVANCES RATE ON SAVINGS DEPOSITS

The Mercantile Bank, commencing April 1st, 1912, will pay four per cent interest on time deposits.

This bank has never paid one depositor more than another. Has always treated its customers alike; the smaller one receiving the same as the larger one; and will continue the same policy.

G. M. SCOTT, Pres.

FISHERMEN ARE RESISTING LAW

A very unfortunate situation has developed off the Carolina coast, where the Dare county fishermen are wont to cast their nets. Fish laws are very stringent, and fishermen are forbidden to set their nets within a specified distance of the inlets through which the fish enter the sound.

It is claimed that in time past the enforcement of the law has been very lax. Some claim that the whole trouble is due to this fact, and that those who are causing the trouble are the ones favored by the former commissioner.

Others claim that the fishermen have no way of being certain when they are violating the law. Forbidden waters are supposed to be marked off by buoys and it is declared that many of these buoys were shifted during the freeze of the past winter or moved by some other agency and that the commissioner refuses to regard them as a certain criterion. So some fishermen who have set their nets in good faith have been compelled to take them up. This entails no little inconvenience and works hardship, in view of the fact especially that the season has been a very unfavorable one and the fishermen is hard put to it to make a livelihood at best.

It is reported that in one or two instances Commissioner Vann, in ordering nets moved, has met with open defiance of the law. He expects therefore to make his rounds in the government boat El Frieda armed with special authority from Governor Kitchin.

WELL ESTABLISHED IN NEW QUARTERS

Since the first of January Lavenstein has occupied his new store on Main street. But in the moving of a large stock of goods there is bound to be considerable confusion, and before everything is in its place many changes have to be made. And plans at Lavenstein's have been changed again and again since the new building was first occupied.

Realizing that every effort would be made to get the stock in shipshape in time for the spring opening, an Advance reporter stopped in at Lavenstein's this week to look things over.

To get inside was a real pleasure. Abundant light, excellent ventilation and scrupulous cleanliness combine to make this store one of the most inviting stopping places that one could find anywhere.

Each one of the floors is handsomely furnished and special care has been taken to provide for the comfort of customers and visitors—soft green carpets in the aisles and on the stairways, chairs here and there for those who may tire of standing, and up on the second floor a reception and rest room for ladies who have finished their shopping.

On the first floor of this store will be found the dry-goods and notions department and also men's ready made clothing and furnishings.

On the second floor will be found the ladies' ready-to-wear department and that of boy's clothing. A special millinery department will also be found on this floor.

Plans for the use of the floor space in the third floor are not yet complete.

Announcement of the spring opening of this firm has been carried in the advertising columns of the last two issues of the Advance. The management promises that the event will be a revelation in the matter of prices, variety and quality. At any rate the opportunity to see the store at its best advantage will be an exceptional one.

DRUMMERS' SUPPER SATURDAY NIGHT

The Drummers' Supper will be held Saturday night in the dining rooms of the Southern hotel. Invitations have been issued to all of the traveling men in Elizabeth City. A very interesting program has been prepared. A number of prominent business men will make short addresses.

ONLY TWO DAYS SUPERIOR COURT

DELAYED BY BIG SUIT IN CAMDEN COUNTY FOUR DAYS LATE AND FEW CASES WILL BE DISPOSED OF—PERQUIMANS COUNTY COURT TO CONVENE MONDAY.

Spring term of Pasquotank Superior Court convened here this morning with his honor Judge Bragaw presiding. The court has been very much delayed and there will be only two days of it.

The Camden county big law suit between Weston and the Roper Lumber Company is the cause of the delay in opening-court here. This suit was begun the middle of last week in Camden county, and the remainder of the week of Camden court was consumed in the case. Saturday night little progress had been made in the case, and Judge Bragaw decided to continue Camden county court until the trial was ended. There was almost an army of witnesses who gave testimony on one side or the other; and there are a large number of lawyers, the most able in North Carolina and Virginia who have fought every inch of the ground. All of this has consumed much of the Court's time. The case went to the jury late yesterday afternoon, but the verdict had not been learned when the Advance went to press.

This suit is really between the Richmond Cedar Works and the Roper Lumber Company, two big lumber corporations and a large tract of timber land in Camden county is involved. This tract contains a large quantity of valuable timber. This suit is one of the biggest law suits ever to occur in Eastern North Carolina.

The Court here to-day and to-morrow will be devoted to the jail cases, there are a number of them, mostly blind tiger cases.

Court will adjourn Saturday night and Judge Bragaw will go to Hertford Monday to convene the spring term of Perquimans county court.

SMOKER MONDAY NIGHT

Good cigars, good fellowship, good speeches, and a good spread—these were some of the good things that went along with the smoker held by the local merchants' association in the Chamber of Commerce rooms last Monday night. The attendance was not as large as it should have been but otherwise no detail was lacking to make the evening a very enjoyable one.

Short and informal addresses were made by State Organizer W. F. Eller, a guest of the association, by D. M. Jones and E. F. Lamb. George J. Spencer, the recently elected attorney of the organization was welcomed to the association, and made an appropriate response. Editor Peele was called on after the spread to explain his position on the parcels post; but intimating that his views had already been set forth at some length in his paper he took the occasion to speak of the value and worth of the Merchants' Association.

Mr. Eller's address was along the line of the need of organization in all business and the relation between the local and the state association. Mr. Lamb urged the worth of co-operation and noted how much more could be accomplished by a number of men working together as a unit than could be undertaken by the same number working separately.

ENTERTAINED EMBROIDERY CLUB

Mrs. Claude B. Williams delightfully entertained the "Three-thirties" embroidery club at her home on Road street Wednesday afternoon of this week. Those present were Mrs. Bill C. Sawyer, Mrs. Everett Thompson, Mrs. Wayland Hayes, Mrs. Roscoe Foreman, Mrs. J. G. Fearing, Mrs. Robert Fearing, Mrs. H. D. Walker, and Miss Beulah Fulmer.