

**TELLS OF COST OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT**

POSTMASTER GEN. NEW

**Gives Idea of Some Features of Operation of His Bureau; Service Has Mainfold Angles; Details**

Postmaster General Harry S. New, writing in Nation's Business Magazine says:  
It is a matter of general belief that the government cannot carry on any feature of its business as cheaply as it may be obtained from private enterprise. That is for the most part true, but it cannot be said of those features of the Post Office department over which its management has entire control.

**The Motor Service**  
Take for instance, the department's motor service. We have in this about 5,600 vehicles of all descriptions, at an annual operating cost of about \$15,000,000. The department felt that a substantial saving might be made through inviting bids from transfer companies, and these were asked for in thirty-five cities with a view to substituting private service for government service if the bids warranted. Bids were offered in twenty-seven of these cities. In every city the private bidder asked more than the cost at which we were giving the service. The aggregate of the lowest bids received was \$1,050,803, whereas our own cost, including operation, maintenance and overhead in these cities, amounted to \$658,076, a difference of \$392,727 in favor of the government.

**About Rents**  
Much, too, is said about our rents. I believe the government could save a great deal in this direction by owning its buildings, and that it should own them, but this is a matter of gradual development. To build post offices wherever required would run into the billions, and this can only come with time. Everybody knows that rents were never higher than at present, and yet the department has succeeded in shaving down its price per foot on leases from \$1.40 where it was in 1921, to a fraction less than 90 cents.

**LIBERTY BELL RUNG ON NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**Marks Opening of Sesquicentennial Year; History of This Famous Bell**

On New Year's Eve the tones of the Liberty Bell were broadcast by radio for the first time in history, when 1-9-2-6 was tapped out by Mrs. W. Freeland Kendrick, wife of the Mayor of Philadelphia, announcing the dawn of the Sesquicentennial year; a year to be made memorable by the Sesquicentennial International Exposition commemorating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of American Independence, which opens in Philadelphia on June 3.

The famous relic has not been rung since 1835, when it cracked as it tolled the sad tidings of the funeral of Chief Justice John Marshall. Since then it has been lightly tapped twice, once on February 11, 1915, when its reverberations were caught up by telephone and carried across the continent.

The Liberty Bell was originally cast by Thomas Lister, of Whitechapel, London, and arrived in Philadelphia in the latter part of August, 1752. It was then known as the Province Bell. It was hung on tresses in Independence Square to try out its tone before it was raised to the tower. Early in September "it was cracked by the stroke of the clapper during a test without any violence," according to a contemporary account, and was recast. It was recast twice in Philadelphia. For some time it hung in the steeple of Independence Hall, where it remained until the steeple was taken down, July 16, 1781. Then it was lowered into the brick tower, where it remained until 1846. During the following years it was moved several times and was finally placed in its present position in Independence Hall.

Few people realize the dimensions of the bell. The circumference around the lip is 12 feet, around the crown 7 feet 6 inches, from the lip to the crown it is 3 feet, and its weight is 2080 pounds.

The greatest event in the history of the bell was recorded when its notes pealed forth to announce the proclamation of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 1776, and by doing so gained for itself the name by which it has since become famous.

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**MAKING SUGAR FROM CORN, NEW PROCESS**

RIVAL OF CANE AND BEET

**Twenty-five Pounds from Bushel in Illinois Factory and 18,000 Bushels Used Daily, Report**

Field corn is coming to the front as a rival of sugar cane and beets in the manufacture of granulated sugar, according to a statement issued by the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation, which declares this may point the way to greater prosperity in the corn belt.

"More than 450,000 pounds of corn sugar are made daily in one Illinois factory," the Foundation points out. "Making 25 pounds of sugar from one bushel of corn, this plant is now using 18,000 bushels of corn every day, or more than 5,500,000 bushels a year. Several such factories would make quite a hole in the corn surplus, even in years of high yields and tend to keep corn prices at a more satisfactory level."

**Heavy Consumption**  
The United States consumes around ten billion pounds of cane and beet sugar annually, eight billion of which is imported. The use of 300,000,000 bushels of corn a year for sugar making apparently would eliminate the necessity of importing great quantities of the cane product. This would not injure the business of the cane and beet sugar growers of America, as they produce only around two billion pounds a year, or one-fifth of that what is used in the United States.

"In addition to the 25 pounds of sugar made from each bushel of corn," the Foundation states, "one and one-half pounds of corn oil and 15 pounds of corn syrup is extracted. The remaining fourteen and one-half pounds is a gluten stock food, containing 21.6 per cent protein and is practically equal to whole wheat as a feed for animals. The white sugar now being manufactured from corn is not like the yellow, wartime emergency product, which proved unsatisfactory for table use. The new process of manufacturing sugar from corn was developed in 1923."

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**ELEPHANTS PASSING BUT WE HAVE FORDS**

**Economic Value of Pachyderm Is Exceeded by Modern Invention**

The Manchester Guardian grieves for the passing elephant in South Africa and says:

"Just as Babbitt has supplanted the buffalo in the middle west, or in South Africa there is a danger of such creatures as the elephant, the white rhinoceros and the sable antelope vanishing."

Why, then, be disturbed about the Manchester Guardian's supplanting what? the sabre-toothed tiger and the great Irish elk? But none of us who enjoy that admirable paper would restore his predecessors in peopling Great Britain.

Would he, then, have us exterminate the mid-west's Babbitts to restore the American bison? That impressive creature is, we are told, safe from extinction. Most of us and our children have seen them.

Why, then, be disturbed about the elephant? If the world can use elephants only as a curiosity or to give pleasure to those who shoot them, we shall keep a few in wild-game preserves, and a few in zoological parks; and who'll be worse off?

As a beast of burden we are sure that Henry Ford can make a mechanical elephant that will outdo all the elephants of which Kipling ever wrote, even though it does not live on peanuts, says the Nation's Business.

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308,645,888 coins were made by United States mints last year, but as that is less than three pieces for each man, woman and child, they won't sound very loud rattling in the pockets of the people.

The fact that education costs money is realized when the colleges set out to secure winning athletic coaches.

We are told to play the game, and many are willing to play most any kind of one provided they don't have to work.

It cost the world \$350,000,000,000 to get rid of the idea that war is a good thing, but this ancient notion seems to prevail around the coal regions to some extent.

The modern man does not wear armor like his way back ancestors, but he sometimes has a quite thick bony protection for his skull.

Illinois produces 75 per cent of the country's fluospar, ten per cent of its pyrites, four per cent of its petroleum and over one per cent of its natural gas.

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**Telephone Service Must Go On**

**EVERY** telephone added to this system during the past ten years has required an average investment higher than for those installed ten years ago. This condition will apply to each telephone added for many years, if present price levels hold. The company is powerless to control these advances.

THE blizzards of winter and the cyclones and thunderstorms of summer are the implacable enemies of the telephone service. Experience covering many years has enabled the Bell System to develop the best forms of protection and the best weapons of defense in this warfare.

Modern improved construction and the development of a highly trained and alert organization have made interruptions much less frequent and have cut down the average length of time in which service is suspended.

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