

Weary, Happy "Postie," Toils To Bring Joy to Others ::

Early and late he labors as first aid to Santa Claus

The first harbinger of Christmas to the Post Office is some unknown one—a man usually—of the thousands of purchasers of money orders. He happens away back in November and his money order is for someone, his mother or wife or sister in the Old Country.

After that things begin to happen. Money orders are sold to the extent of half as much again as at ordinary times. As Christmas approaches the outgoing mail gets heavier still, the parcel post work increases; and then as a climax the incoming parcels mount up and the letters flow in with such a growing flow that the delivery

staff has to be doubled.

Then Christmas is past and the Post Office can have a chance to rest.

This year the mail to Brandon is heavier than last. One of the principal reasons for this is of course the letters from the front and from the training camps in England. Regiments from Winnipeg as well as from Brandon took recruits from the city and all these men are writing home.

Then there were the parcels going to the front. No record is kept of the quantities handled here but the parcel post has proved its usefulness beyond question of a doubt and tons of gifts to the men at the front are on their way now and will be delivered

by Christmas morning, brightening the loneliness of the battle front.

In November and the beginning of December, most of these were sent. But while there were tons of parcels many givers sent money orders in preference. While there is undoubtedly a certain appropriateness about the Christmas parcel that no other present can ever quite replace, there is a simplicity about the money order that is very appealing. It is quite certain to be timely, which a gift in a parcel is not. It is easy to send and often far more useful than any other gift.

So for some years the money order has been becoming more popular and

this Christmas it was more used than ever. There was, however, also an increase in the number of parcels sent on account of the thousands of soldiers away from home. Of course they shared in the money orders too.

In November last the Brandon post office sold \$30,000 worth of money orders. The latter part of the month shows the effect of Christmas gift time, some days' business being as high as \$2,000.

For December it is estimated that the amount of orders sold will probably be between \$35,000 and \$40,000. Stamps, too, are sold in large quantities, the increase being about fifty per cent. Almost all the money or-

ders, by the way, are for comparative small sums.

This year the outgoing letters from Brandon have included some for Germany and Austria. For the first Christmas, the city has some 800 interned alien enemies and under certain restrictions as to censorship and number of letters they are allowed to write home.

Outgoing letters are censored at the camp and the post office has only to treat them as ordinary mail matter. The Christmas correspondence of the prisoners has already left, of course and by now should be in the hands of the enemy.

In addition to all this work on the

mail that is leaving Brandon, the Post Office will shortly have a very busy time indeed with mail coming in. Most of the work falls just around Christmas, so that the Post Office Christmas is certainly not a very merry one, from the point of view of the holidayer.

For some days before the 25th parcels and letters increase, approximately doubling in volume. The inside staff of the Post Office works as hard as it can sorting the mail and then the outside men take their turn. Extra parcel post delivery rigs will be employed to take care of the delivery side of that branch of the service.

Part of its duty will be to take the

interned alien enemies their presents from Germany and Austria, mostly from Austria as the majority of the prisoners come from that country. Only a few have come so far but the rest should be arriving now.

Letters to the camp will be plentiful, too. They only mean the same amount of extra work at the Post Office that ordinary letters mean as the censoring is not done there.

For the mail carriers Christmas brings most extra work; but they are doubled in number. Each of the twelve carriers is provided with an assistant. He must have this assistant for two days but he must work on Christmas day.