

JUBILEE OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE PARCEL POST SYSTEM WAS RECENTLY CELEBRATED

(Montreal Standard)
Fifty years ago a postman rapped with a loud double knock on the door of Miss Geraldine Maines house at Hampstead and handed in a parcel, writes a London correspondent to the London Daily Telegraph.

Double Knock
"It was an historic double knock, for it heralded the first parcel delivery in Britain by the parcel post, which was inaugurated on August 1, 1883.
"Before 1883, parcels could only be sent by private carriers, and when Henry Fawcett, the blind Postmaster-General, instituted the parcel post, the new service was an instantaneous success.

"In the first year 23,000,000 parcels were carried. Today, the Post Offices handles 150,000,000 parcels a year. And as that figure will almost certainly be eclipsed this year, a new wing is being built on Mount Pleasant, which will make it the largest sorting office in the world.

"Hospital" Cases
"One of the most interesting developments is the 'parcel hospital,' where battered boxes, torn labels and such casualties are sent for first aid treatment. An official told me some of the amusing 'cases' they receive.

"Once we received in a loose brown paper parcel, a top hat, in which was packed a goose. The odd spaces were filled up with eggs, and when the parcel was given to us for treatment, it was oozing with yolk.

"There was also the case of an enterprising old lady, who sent a pair of trousers to her son by book post. When she was asked to pay the full rate she pointed out that the regulations stated that anything with open ends could be sent for book post rates.

"A very curious parcel was received from America addressed to Japan. It contained the ashes of a Japanese gentleman, who had been cremated, and was being sent back to his native land for 3s. 6d."

"Many people still send poultry with a 'tie-on-label' round the neck and no wrapping," says the Morning Post. "There have been several instances where some of the official cats retained about all post offices to deal with rats and mice have forgotten their duty as to 'tampering with poultry in transit.' Occasionally a bewildered postman has had to deliver a head and neck and a feather, leaving the post office to pay compensation. It is recommended that poultry be wrapped.

"When butter was first carried Irish farmers frequently dispatched it wrapped in grease-proof paper. In summer it was not unusual for a disappointed addressee in this country to receive an oily piece of paper, the butter having been spread over the parcels and letters of half a town.

"Fragile" Goods
"The official 'Fragile' label has been

gravely misunderstood on occasions, and articles as diverse as a Christmas pudding, wrapped only in a cloth, and a large iron bolt have been discovered sheltering under the protection of this label.

"It is many years since a woman complained that a cream cheese had been sampled during its handling in the post office. The reply of the sorting staff was that the cheese had not been sampled, as it was 'quite uneatable.' It is believed that disciplinary action followed."

"That official and usually cheerful public servant, the post man must often wonder, when stamping his feet on a raw morning, after the customary double knock, why the Government could not have left well enough alone and left parcels to the care of private carriers.

"But, in his more philosophical moments, he probably realizes that nothing, with the exception of registered mail, started in 1841, has made him a more popular national figure than his alacrity with which he distributes this really substantial largesse.

Letters, after all, may bear tidings of misfortune, not to mention bills, whereas a brown-paper parcel, since in England one may discount even the remote possibility of an infernal machine, always produce sa pleasant thrill.

Indeed, a parcel delivered by a private courier, unless it be a gift of exceptional intimacy, does not produce the same pleasureable sense of anticipation as does a postal packet.

"There is something in the uniform of the postman which gives to his parcels a special glow. At Christmas one is just a trifle disappointed when the expected bundles are doled out by a man in mufti.

"His temporary brassard is not enough to take the chill out of the transaction. Some other countries get on very well with private carriers, but there is an atmosphere about the Royal Mail which, hard though it may be to define, would be harder still to dispense with. For all its mechanical improvements, our postal service still retains much of its former romance."

"The British citizen," says the Manchester Guardian, "is accustomed to pay to the general Post office the tribute which he reserves for supreme efficiency. He grumbles at it on the least excuse, as he does at the railways and police and any other organization which, by its unobtrusive competence in handling a vast and complex job, would lull into a sense of its infallibility.

"He has a larger tolerance for the weather and other examples of confessed unreliability, and is duly thankful for such mercies as they vouchsafe. But to the post office he is ruthless; he is accustomed to find it perfect, and perfect it must always be. He

CONVICTIONS FOR CHARGES OF FRAUD FILL MOST OF THE CELLS IN THE PRISONS OF CANADA

Ottawa, Oct. 5.—There were 3,748 prisoners in Canadian penitentiaries at the census on June 1, 1931, of whom 3,704 were males and forty-five females. St. Vincent de Paul had the largest inmate population with 904 and Collin's Bay the smallest with 198. The group age from 22 to 25.9 showed the largest percentage, closely followed by the group from 26 to 30.9 years.

"Crimes Against Property," was by far the largest group, comprising 69.1 per cent of the total offenses. In Crimes Against Order and Peace, breaches of the Drug Act was the chief crime. The inmates for this offence in the British Columbia Penitentiary constituted 67.3 per cent of the total offenders of the Drug Act. This was due to the fact that the Chinese population in British Columbia were the chief offenders as seventy-nine out of ninety-nine Drug Act offenders in the British Columbia penitentiary were Chinese.

Canadian-born prisoners were 69.6 per cent, 11.9 per cent British born, 19.2 per cent foreign born and .3 per cent unascertained. It was shown that 41.4 per cent of all prisoners reported were of British stock; 27.5 per cent French; 21.4 per cent of foreign racial origin; 1.5 per cent North American Indian and 8.2 per cent not given.

There were 60.7 per cent employed at the time of the commission of the crime, 33.2 per cent unemployed and 6.1 per cent unascertained.

The per centage of unmarried was 62.4 and 32.4 per cent were married; 4.1 per cent were widowed; 0.8 per cent were separated and divorced and 0.3 per cent whose marital condition was unascertained. Of the resident males 62.9 per cent were single, 32.0 per cent married and 4.0 per cent widowed; while of the female inmates 16.6 per cent were single, 60.0 per cent were married and 18.3 per cent widowed.

There were 80.2 per cent from urban centres and only 14.2 per cent from country districts. The Maritime and Prairie Provinces show a greater percentage of rural prisoners than Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.

There were 3,653 inmates in penitentiaries over 18 years of age, 716 or 19.6 per cent were abisistent; 2,225 or 60.9 per cent were temperate; 548 or 15 per cent were intemperate and 164 or 4.5 per cent were unascertained. There were 143 drug addicts, of whom 142 were male and one female.

The number of prisoners with physical defects was 669 or 17.8 per cent of the total inmate population. Defective eyesight, bodily deformity and other physical defects which include hernia, varicose veins, diseases of neck

seldom has the opportunity of realizing the magnitude of its tasks.

"One such opportunity comes when the post office celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of parcel postage."

glands, heart trouble syphilis, tuberculosis, etc., were the three largest groups. The percentage of the total offences committed by physical defectives was 17.8 and that murder and attempted murder 27 per cent., se offences other than rape 29.4 per cent., and forgery, fraud and false pretences 53.8 per cent groups are the most strikingly above the average for this class.

It was noted that 68.4 per cent of juvenile delinquents in penitentiaries came from homes the conditions of which were described as good or fair.

HIS CATSUP HAD A KICK

Grandby, Que., Oct. 6.—Alfred Gilet, 25, this city, was fined \$200 and costs by Judge emay at Sweetsburg yesterday because local police would not believe that he liked catsup enough to go to the cellar to get it at 2 o'clock in the morning.

Gilet was seen entering the cellar of the building in which he lived early in the morning by a resident who not recognizing the tenant, notified police. They investigated and found Gilet standing in the cellar, a bottle of catsup in each hand. Gilet explained that he had gone to the cellar to get it from a supply he had stored there.

Police, however, were not satisfied with the explanation and after a short search uncovered a tiny still hidden in a cupboard. It was complete and in good working order.

Gilet was held by police until the arrival of Constable Keiller, R.C.M. under arrest. Later in the day he pleaded guilty before Judge Lemay to a charge of having a still in his possession and was fined \$200 and costs. Gilet can spend three months in jail if he cannot pay the fine.

HELL IS VERY HIDEOUS, VISITOR PROCLAIMS

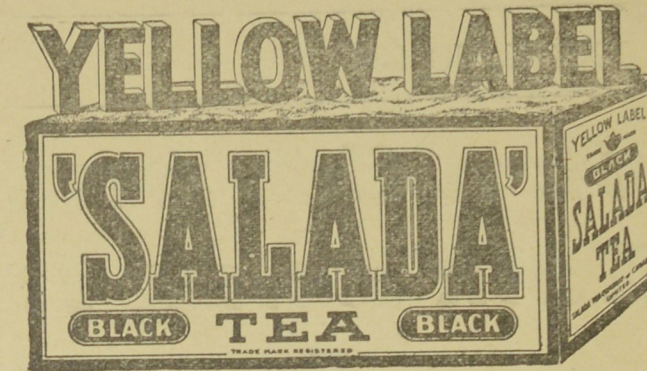
London, Oct. 6.—F. W. Fitzsimmons, eminent anthropologist of South Africa, recounted in a book published Friday a personal visit to heaven and hell.

Saying he visited under the guidance of a spirit control, he wrote of the beauties of paradise and the chilly murkiness and hideous human shapes in hell.

The book is called "Opening the Psychic Door."

Feminine beauties swarm in the movies. Why is it so hard to find a masculine goodlooker who fulfills every requirement?

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The honeymoon is over, according to Clyde Moore, when he won't let her sit on his newly-pressed trousers. The high-priced surgeon seems to deal in upper cuts.

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