WHEN THE MAIL MAN COMES have you ever thought of him as part of a
gigantic distribution empire under the jurisdiction of the government.
Well he is. This empire embraces 1007 first class post offices, 3158
second class offices, 9566 third class, and 31,507 fourth class
offices, in addition to 1501 branch offices and 4879 contract stations.
It embraces the transportation of mail by airplanes, ships, railways,
dog sleds, horse and buggy, auto and on foot. It is an enterprise
with 2.36 per cent of the country population. In the fiscal year 1936
164 million items of mail and parcel post were mailed from the U. S. to
foreign countries and 292 million pieces were received from foreign
countries. The gross revenue of the Postal service was $165 million and it's ex-
penditures 753 million, indicating that our post office is still going
in the red, despite many economies. Oddly enough, we have fewer post
offices today than 35 years ago. In 1901 when the population was 76
million, we had 77,000 post offices and gross income of the service
was $111 million. Today we have 45,000 offices, the population
is estimated at 128 million and gross income was $665 million dollars.
Ten years ago, there were 11,000 more rural routes than there are to-
day, yet service is better and carriers travel further. Better roads
and transportation have been the combined cause.

MELLON THE CONNOISSEUR. Andrew Mellon, former Secretary of the Treasury
under Harding and Coolidge is best known as a financier who reduced
the national debt from 26 to 16 billions. Few identify him as
America's No. 1 art collector. A few days ago, he announced the gift
of the U. S. to art treasures worth $50 million and also $6 million in
cash for a suitable building to house them. This will make
the nation's capital one of the great art centres of the world. Five
years ago, Mellon learned that Stalin, the Soviet Dictator, needed
cash for his Five Year Plan, was willing to sell some priceless paint-
ings from an art gallery in St. Petersburg, long ago established by
the great Empress Catherine. His collectors proceeded to Russia and
for $3 million purchased some of the finest pieces in all the world
including paintings by Holbein, Raphael, Titian, Botticelli, Van Eyck
and others.

BURDICK OF NORTH DAKOTA. Usher L. Burdick of North Dakota is serving
his second term in Congress. He stands over six feet, weighs over
250, was once a football star at Minnesota. He is listed as a
Republican, sits with the Farmer Labor Group, has plenty of pride
and the fighting spirit. This week, dissatisfied with committee assign-
ments, he served notice of intent to fight and filibuster. He can
object to every unanimous consent request which arises for the con-
sideration of bills, to making of extensions of undelivered speeches
in the record, to recesses, and a host of other things. These are re-
ferred to as dilatory tactics and when systematically carried on, can
develope a considerable nuisance value.

PRINTERS REPORT. At the beginning of each session of Congress, the
various agencies, boards, departments, and bureaus send their annual
report to Congress describing activities and explaining expenditures.
To read them all would require a lifetime. Many are of unusual in-
terest. Take the Government Printer's Report showing that the annual
printing bill for last year was nearly 19 million dollars. That's a
quantity of printing. Leading agencies in the matter of running up
huge printing bills are the Treasury Dept. for 1.7 million, Congress
with $2.34 million, WPA with 800,000, Resettlement Administration
with $800,000, Post Office with 2 million, Patent Office with 900,000
and so on. The Government Printing Office among other things printed
81 million envelopes and distributed 862 million pieces of printed
matter last year. Paper for the Congressional Record alone amounted
to 894 tons. The Printing Office in itself is a self contained
community embracing 5500 workers with a cafeteria, credit union,
Legion Lost, orchestra, band, hospital, and group line insurance unit.

BLUEBERRY MAN. In the service of the Government of this country are
thousands of quiet, obscure, soft spoken men and women doing scienti-
fic work for the betterment and comfort of mankind whose contributions
to humanity so often pass unnoticed. Such a man was Dr. Joseph Gold-
berger of the U. S. Health Service who did so much to combat the
ravages of the dread disease known as pellagra and whose death two
years ago pass almost unnoticed. Such a man also was Dr. Frederick V.
Collville who died this week. Forty-nine years ago, he took employment in the Dept. of Agriculture as a botanist. Where other scientists had for fifty years failed in "taming" the wild, straggling, succulent blue-berry which makes such toothsome pie, he patiently devoted himself to the job and succeeded in "taming" this plant, improving the size, color, and quality of the berry and developed blue-berry culture to a point where it has become a profitable industry, yielding a livelihood for thousands of people. Dr. Colville left his imprint upon the sands of Time.

PROLONGED EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE. Congressman Francis D. Culkin of New York has a crow to pick with the movie industry. He doesn't like the things which appear on the screen. Accordingly he has introduced a 32 page bill to regulate them. His bill would set up a Federal Motion Picture Commission, make every motion picture producer take out a license before he could sell or distribute motion pictures and then proceeds to make it unlawful to distribute any motion picture in interstate commerce which "emphasizes sex appeal" which is based on white slavery or commercialized vice, which makes virtue odious or vice attractive, which exhibits persons scantily dressed, which exhibits bedroom or bathroom scenes, which make gambling and drunkenness attractive, which instruct the morally feeble in methods of committing crime, which ridicule public officials, officers of the law, or officers of the Army and Navy, scenes which offend any religious belief, creed or sect, pictures which unduly emphasize bloodshed or violence, and scenes which "unnecessarily prolong expressions or demonstrations of passionate love." Think back over the recent pictures you've seen and figure how many could have been exhibited under this proposed law.

WORLD NAVIES. What with the air full of war talk, you might be interested in the official figures from the report of the Secretary of the Navy as to how our navy compares with that of Great Britain and Japan. These figures are as of June 30, 1936 and therefore the latest available:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total ships Built.</th>
<th>Ships under age, or appropriated for.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>1,080,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>1,224,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>773,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since this report, two additional ships at a cost of 50 million each have been authorized by the President.

DOIN'S UNDER THE DOME. Congressman Hamilton of Virginia, newcomer to Washington reported to police on his first night in the capitol that sneak thieves had stolen an old fashioned night shirt from his car while parked near the Capitol building. To preserve the famous Stradivarius violins in the Library of Congress, many of which are worth a king's ransom, they are permitted to be used in concert work in the capitol for certain periods in the year. According to experts, reasonable use preserves them. When taken out of the Library, they are under constant escort. Committee assignments are not always based on geography, personal aptitude or business background. Witness the experience of Congressman Johnson from Minnesota who was assigned to the Committee on Indian Affairs. When apprised of it, he remarked that he had one Indian in his district. Said Indian is about 41 years old, is made of iron and stands in front of a cigar store in his home town.