

W. F. MORGAREIDGE

MARCH 15, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. UNDERHILL, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 816]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 816) for the relief of W. F. Morgareidge, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

During the World War postmasters throughout the United States were called upon, in addition to their regular duties, to handle the sale and distribution of war-savings stamps, thrift stamps, etc., and some of the more central offices were designated as central accounting offices and the postmasters in charge were called upon to distribute the stamps indicated to smaller offices in the surrounding country. For this service the postmasters received no compensation whatever though the work entailed was very considerable.

Under the foregoing plan the postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, W. F. Morgareidge, was designated central accounting officer for the handling of large quantities of war-savings stamps and thrift stamps, not only for Moscow, Idaho, post office, but for other post offices some miles distant from Moscow, Idaho.

During the month of October, 1918, the postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, undertook to ship, and believes that he did ship, certain war-savings stamps and thrift stamps to the postmaster at Potlatch, Idaho, though no record appears in the Potlatch, Idaho, post office that the stamps were received.

Following the above shipment of stamps and the disclosure that the stamps were never received by the postmaster at Potlatch, Idaho, a most careful investigation was made by post-office inspectors, with the result that the postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, W. F. Morgareidge,

was charged with a balance of \$364.30, representing the face value of war savings stamps and thrift stamps which it is believed he shipped to the postmaster at Potlatch, Idaho, but which were never received by the latter postmaster. The post-office inspector reached the conclusion that the evidence in the case was insufficient on which to hold the postmaster at Potlatch, Idaho, accountable for the shortage and likewise insufficient to absolve completely the postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, of responsibility.

Thereupon, at the request of the inspector, Mr. W. F. Morgareidge, postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, remitted to the Post Office Department the sum of \$364.30 on October 6, 1920.

Thereafter, under date of January 31, 1921, Mr. W. F. Morgareidge applied to the Post Office Department for relief under the act of January 21, 1914, as amended by the act of July 2, 1918. However, no relief could be extended by the Post Office Department even had the evidence been conclusive, because more than six months had elapsed since the loss of the funds. There seems no way by which Mr. Morgareidge can be reimbursed except by special act of Congress.

Under all of the circumstances, your committee recommends favorable consideration of H. R. 816.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., January 4, 1926.

HON. CHARLES L. UNDERHILL,
Chairman Committee on Claims,
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. UNDERHILL: I have received your communication of the 21st ultimo, transmitting for a report thereon bill (H. R. 816) for the relief of W. F. Morgareidge, formerly postmaster at Moscow, Idaho.

In conformity with Budget Circular No. 49, issued December 19, 1921, I am referring this bill, together with a statement of the facts in the case, to the Bureau of the Budget with the request to be advised whether or not my report on this proposed legislation is in accord with the financial program of the President.

I shall be pleased to communicate with you further just as soon as a reply is received from the Director of the Bureau of the Budget.

Very truly yours,

HARRY S. NEW, *Postmaster General.*

JANUARY 30, 1926.

HON. CHARLES L. UNDERHILL,
Chairman Committee on Claims,
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. UNDERHILL: In compliance with your request of the 21st ultimo for my opinion as to the merits of bill (H. R. 816) for the relief of W. F. Morgareidge, formerly postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, I am transmitting herewith copies of all material papers on file in the department relating to this case, consisting of correspondence between the department and the former postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, and between the latter and the postmaster at Potlatch, Idaho, and the inspector's report and correspondence between him and both postmasters.

As shown by these papers, Moscow, Idaho, was the central-accounting post office for Latah County in 1918. On account of war conditions the services required of central-accounting postmasters were largely increased and frequently they were unable to secure competent clerical assistance. In furnishing supplies of stamps and other property to the district postmasters under their jurisdiction disputes occasionally arose as to shipments of certain specific supplies. A dispute of this kind developed between the postmaster at Moscow and the postmaster at Potlatch, originally involving three items aggregating \$505.20, but after certain adjustments the amount was reduced to \$364.30.

At the request of the postmaster at Moscow, an investigation was made by a post-office inspector, who reached the conclusion that the evidence was insufficient to hold the postmaster at Potlatch accountable for the shortage and likewise insufficient to completely absolve the postmaster at Moscow of responsibility. Thereupon, at the request of the inspector, Mr. Morgareidge, postmaster at Moscow, remitted the sum of \$364.30 on October 6, 1920.

Mr. Morgareidge has maintained throughout that the missing stamps were shipped to the postmaster at Potlatch, and under date of January 31, 1921, he applied to the department for relief under the act of January 21, 1914 (38 Stat. 278), as amended by the act of July 2, 1918 (40 Stat. 754). However, no relief could be extended him by the department because more than six months had elapsed since the loss occurred and also because the evidence submitted with his claim is not conclusive and indicates the possibility of the shortage having resulted from other discrepancies in his office.

Attention is also called to previous reports on a similar bill made on December 30, 1922, and January 19, 1923, addressed to the chairman of the Committee on Claims, House of Representatives, in response to his request for my opinion as to the merits of bill (H. R. 11435) for the relief of Mr. Morgareidge, then pending in the Sixty-seventh Congress; also my report to the committee under date of February 14, 1924, on bill H. R. 1302, Sixty-eighth Congress, in which I said:

"In view of the additional work required of central-accounting postmasters and the increased responsibilities imposed upon them by the sale of war-savings stamps and other war activities at the time this loss is alleged to have occurred, and the possibility that the loss may have occurred unavoidably and without fault or negligence on the part of the former postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, I have no objection to favorable consideration of the pending bill."

No additional evidence relative to this matter having been received since that time, my report on the pending bill is to the same effect as above stated.

There is also inclosed for your information copy of a letter from the Director, Bureau of the Budget, dated January 23, 1926, in response to my inquiry, advising that my report on this proposed legislation is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very truly yours,

HARRY S. NEW, *Postmaster General.*

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE,
Moscow, Idaho, January 16, 1920.

POSTMASTER, *Potlatch, Idaho.*

DEAR SIR: When I made my final account and remittance of war savings and thrift stamps for the quarter ending December 31, 1918, I sent in all stamps of the issue of 1918 which were returned from the district offices, together with cash for stamps sold, and in the said statement showed a balance due the Government of \$503.08 and at the same time asked the auditor to furnish me with an audit at an early date.

That audit has just come to me and is in the same amount as I showed in the statement, \$503.08.

At the time of making the statement I told the department that three district post offices were not able to check up in their accounts with this office, namely, Potlatch, Princeton, and Park.

A few weeks later the postmaster at Princeton, Idaho, sent in the number of his shortage, leaving only your office and Park still short.

Park was short six stamps, worth the sum of \$25.38 by the December price, which leaves you short the sum of \$478.71.

All of our records show you short 147 stamps, which was off set by a deposit made after Mr. Sudderth went to your office to check for this very shortage, and which you found in cash and designated as a "joke" and said you could explain when you came over.

I want nothing except what is right and what is due the Government, which amount must be paid, but this is not my debt and I do not intend to lose such an amount without placing the whole matter before the proper Government officials for investigation and adjustment.

We know the stamps were sent to your office, which facts are borne out by all our records made in regular form at the time when the stamps were sent.

Give this your immediate attention. We must act promptly and in a decisive way.

W. F. MORGAREIDGE, *Postmaster.*

Attest:

J. A. SUDDERTH, *Assistant Postmaster.*

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE,
Moscow, Idaho, January 16, 1920.

THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,
Division of Stamps:

Your audit under date of January 10, 1920, for the year ending December 31, 1918, in the matter of war saving, thrift, and revenue stamps just received, and I inclose you copy of my letter to the district office responsible for the delinquency.

One year ago, at the time of making my final account, I stated that there was a shortage and asked for an early audit, also stating what offices were short.

At that time three district offices were short, but a little later Princeton, Idaho, sent in the number found against their office, leaving only two—Park, six stamps, and Potlatch, 105—short.

How can I proceed to make these collections in the event they fail to make good?

Of course, I shall see that the deposit is made at Boise, Idaho, but this is not my debt and I wish to protect myself by using the proper Government officials in prosecuting the cases.

W. F. MORGAREIDGE, *Postmaster.*

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE,
Potlatch, Idaho, February 3, 1920.

THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,
Division of Stamps, Washington, D. C.:

Replying to your letter of January 27, 1920, "Grg DS 519."

The amount due the accounting postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, from this office has been in dispute for more than a year, and this is the reason no settlement has been reached.

More than a year ago he was here and the check-up showed a shortage of 58 stamps, which was later reduced to 27 stamps by the discovery of some money that had been overlooked in the check-up.

There was also dispute as to 13 of this 27, which this office claimed not received, a certain shipment appearing to be short that number of the amount called for by the invoice, but owing to the fact that the shipment was not checked at the precise moment it was opened, I will concede the 13 stamps in dispute in this particular instance.

There was a further dispute as to a remittance made by this office on September 30, 1918, of \$505.20. With this remittance we sent our requisition for war-savings stamps and thrift stamps, but we deny ever having received anything in return for this remittance, and we assert that the postmaster at Moscow has no proof that he sent us the stock we ordered in return for that remittance. This is where he gets his claim for the other 120 war-savings stamps.

When he was here checking up with this office as mentioned above, he stated he had no proof that he had shipped those stamps but felt sure he had done so. As showing his own uncertainty in the matter I quote from a letter he wrote this office on January 20, 1919, after the above-mentioned check-up, as follows:

"POSTMASTER,
Potlatch, Idaho.

"DEAR SIR: We have made every search for the missing stamps or an amount of cash equivalent to same, but have not located either.

"On October 3 I sent you by registered mail a package of 10,000 stamped envelopes for the Potlatch Lumber Co., and it is quite possible that the war-savings stamps were sent inside on the boxes of envelopes. Wish you would personally examine any and all boxes yet on hand and see what if anything can be found.

"W. F. MORTGAREIDGE."

On his claim of 147 war-savings stamps I demand credit or my remittance of \$505.20 made on September 30, 1918, and am ready and willing to pay the difference on or before February 10 as requested in your letter.

Very truly yours,

WALTER A. FISCUS, *Postmaster.*

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE,
Moscow, Idaho, February 12, 1920.

THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,
Division of Stamps, Washington, D. C.:

Answering yours of January 27, 1920, "Grg DS 519," I have to report as follows:

First. The postmaster at Potlatch, Idaho, had not made satisfactory adjustment of his account.

Second. The postmaster at Park, Idaho, has made no settlement of her shortage of six war savings stamps, series of 1918.

Third. The postmaster at Potlatch, Idaho, made a cash tender to me of the sum of \$113.40, which was rejected.

Our records show Potlatch short 147 war savings stamps of the series of 1918, toward which he found and deposited with this office cash in the sum of \$145, which amount was credited to his account.

I ask that proceedings be started at once, that the deficiencies may be collected and the above-named officials exonerated from further responsibility.

W. F. MORGAREIDGE, *Postmaster.*

POTLATCH, IDAHO, March 27, 1920.

Mr. J. R. FULLINWIDER,
Post Office Inspector, Spokane, Wash.

SIR: In reply to the complaint of W. F. Morgareidge, postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, to which this reply is attached, the first point of difference noted is in his statement of the number of war-savings stamps short on his visit to this office on August 13, 1918.

Our recollection is that the number was much less than that given by him, less than 100, considerably less as we remember it, though we do not claim to be able to state the precise number, as we made no memorandum at the time. This, however, is not material to the case, as the real difference between the two offices at this time turns upon the facts as to a shipment of war-savings stamps and thrift stamps claimed to have been made by the Moscow postmaster to this office on October 1, 1918, and which we claim we did not receive. This matter will be dealt with later in this reply in detail. In connection with this visit to this office in August, 1918, the Moscow postmaster quotes a letter written a day later by Mr. L. N. Balch, assistant postmaster relative to the discovery of one one hundred forty-five dollars (sic.) that had been overlooked on the previous day. He also offers some comment on this incident.

It seems as if the Moscow postmaster has gone out of his way to make this statement and in commenting on it—as the facts are in no way bearing upon the point at issue—his purpose evidently being to create the impression that improper methods of handling Government money are practiced at this office. In this connection Mr. Balch submits herewith a statement under oath.

Next we note that Mr. Morgareidge purports to quote our letter of January 9, 1919, relative to our remittance of September 30, 1918, which has been previously referred to herein. This quotation is not from our letter of January 9, 1919, but is a part and only a part, of our remittance letter of September 30, 1918. The carbon copy of our letter of January 9, 1919, is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

Under date of September 30, 1918, this office made a remittance and requisition to the postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, substantially as follows:

Remittance:	
Draft.....	\$420. 00
Paid war-savings stamps.....	25. 20
Redeemed thrift-stamp cards.....	60. 00
Total.....	505. 20
Requisition:	
106 war-savings stamps.....	445. 20
240 thrift stamps.....	60. 00
Total.....	505. 20

Our claim is that we never have received anything in return for this remittance. The Moscow postmaster claims the requisition was filled and sent. Even so, that is not proof that we received the stamps. We assert that we have not now, nor ever had had any record or any evidence whatever going to show that those stamps ever reached this office.

While we have no disposition whatever to question the sincerity of the Moscow postmaster's belief that he sent those stamps, as he claims he did, yet we must invite attention to certain facts that appear to show that he himself was quite uncertain in regard to matter at the time. For instance, he visited this office again in January, 1919, on this same business, and while here stated he had no proof that he had shipped the stamps, but felt sure he had done so.

On January 20, 1919, a day or two after his visit here, he wrote as follows:

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE,
Moscow, Idaho, January 20, 1919.

POSTMASTER,
Potlatch, Idaho.

DEAR SIR: We have made every search for the missing stamps or an amount of cash equivalent to same, but have not located either.

On the 3d day of October, I sent you by registered mail a package of 10,000 No. 13 3-cent envelopes for the Potlatch Lumber Co., and it is quite possible that the war savings stamps were sent inside on the boxes of envelopes. Wish you would personally examine any and all boxes yet on hand and see what if anything can be found.

W. F. MORGAREIDGE, *Postmaster.*

P. S.—I do not have receipt for above.

W. F. M.

Does not this letter reveal a wholly uncertain state of mind on Mr. Morgareidge's part as to what had been done in the matter? Is it possible he could have written that letter if he knew what he had done with those stamps? It should also be borne in mind that this letter was written after he had had abundant time and opportunity to search his memory and his records.

WALTER A. FISCUS,
Postmaster, Potlatch, Idaho.

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE,
Potlatch, Idaho.

To whom it may concern:

Referring to the statement made by Mr. Morgareidge, postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, relative to certain war savings stamp funds I had in my pocket in August, 1918, the facts are as follows:

On or about August 13, 1918, in the performance of my duties as assistant postmaster, and according to our usual custom, I left the Potlatch post office on my way to the Potlatch State Bank for the purpose of depositing or otherwise disposing of funds belonging to the United States Government and arising from the sale of war savings stamps, postage stamps, the money-order business, or from any source. This was shortly before 3 o'clock p. m. on the date given above. I had money belonging to three, or perhaps four, different funds, all of which were to be kept separate from each other. Thus, having more different funds than I could well carry in my hands, I put \$145 in bills in my own pocket-book—there being none of my own money therein—and put it in my pocket, intending to purchase a draft therewith for remitting to our depository. For some reason which I can not now remember, I forgot to do so and did not recall having said money in my pocket until the next time I took the book from my pocket, which was late August 13 or early August 14, when this money was remitted to the postmaster at Moscow, together with some other money that had been taken in the intervening time. (Sic.)

I have been in the Potlatch post office nearly 10 years, and to the best of my recollection this was the third or perhaps the fourth time I have thus carried Government money to the bank in my pocket, and the first time I ever failed to make the proper disposition of it. Nor have I ever under any circumstances been in the habit of carrying money belonging to the United States on my person.

L. N. BALCH,
Assistant Postmaster.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE,
Spokane, Wash., April 6, 1920.

POSTMASTER, *Potlatch, Idaho:*

This is to advise that registers 0316 and 0317 were dispatched from the Moscow, Idaho, post office to Potlatch, Idaho, on October 4, 1918, and were handled by Clerk Boyd, of this service, and registers 0332 and 0333 were dispatched from Moscow, Idaho, post office to Potlatch, Idaho, on October 7, 1918, and register 0337 was dispatched from Moscow, Idaho, to Potlatch, Idaho, on October 8, and that the last three-mentioned registers were handled by Clerk John W. Nelson, of this service.

GEORGE H. ADDLEMAN,
Chief Clerk.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR.

Subject: Moscow to Potlatch, Idaho; adjustment of difference in war-savings stamp accounts at these offices.

Case No. 56183-C: Report examined, approved, and forwarded to chief inspector, November 15, 1920. Chas. B. Welter, acting post-office inspector, in charge division.

THE INSPECTOR IN CHARGE,
Spokane, Wash:

The above-numbered case relating to an investigation with a view of adjusting the differences in the war-savings accounts of the former central accounting office at Moscow, Idaho, and the district office at Potlatch, Idaho, for the year ended 1918, is returned with the following report after personal investigation at Moscow, May 13, and Potlatch, Idaho, May 14, 1920, and subsequent dates.

The case is based upon complaint of the postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, to the effect that a final audit of the 1918 war-savings account at his office showed a balance due the United States of \$503.08, of which \$477.70 was charged to the office at Potlatch, and six war-savings stamps valued at \$25.30 being charged to the post office at Park, Idaho.

Investigation disclosed that the differences existing between the two offices (Moscow and Potlatch) were based upon a remittance made by the Potlatch office October 1, 1918, to the central accounting office at Moscow, the remittance being made under register No. 190, and consisting of a draft for \$420; paid war-savings stamps \$25.20 and redeemed thrift cards \$60, making a total of \$505.20, the Moscow office admitting the receipt of the remittance but not being able to show where the stock was returned or the Potlatch office given credit for same by reducing fixed credits.

During the 1918 drive there was more or less confusion at a number of offices in an effort to properly keep the accounts, and this was somewhat the condition at the Moscow and Potlatch offices, and in view of this fact an accurate check could not be made as to the transactions between the two offices.

Postmaster Fiscus, at Potlatch, claims that he was short 13 war savings stamps in a previous remittance from Moscow, amounting to \$54.60, but as he had no witness to the contents at the time of opening the register he made the amount good, and in making an audit of his account October 1, 1918, he found that he was long in his postal account in the sum of \$58.80, an amount equal to 14 war savings stamps, making a total of 27 stamps, the value of which in September was \$113.40. This amount was forwarded to the postmaster at Moscow, who in turn deposited same with the postmaster at Boise, Idaho. The amount, \$25.38, due from the post office at Park, Idaho, was properly adjusted, making a total of \$138.78 accounted for. The entire shortage being \$503.08, there was still a balance due the United States of \$364.30.

As above stated, there is no question as to the receipt of the remittance made by the Potlatch office October 1, 1918, but no evidence whatever can be produced by the Moscow office to the effect that the Potlatch office received credit in any manner for this remittance, and in this connection attention is invited to quotations from communications written by the postmaster at Moscow to the postmaster at Potlatch. Under date of January 20, 1919, the postmaster writes as follows:

"We have made every search for the missing stamps or an amount of cash equivalent to same, but have not located either.

"On the 3d day of October I sent you by registered mail a package of 10,000 No. 13 3-cent envelopes for the Potlatch Lumber Co., and it is quite possible that the war savings stamps were sent inside of the boxes of envelopes. Wish you would personally examine any and all boxes yet on hand and see what, if anything, can be found."

The following paragraph is quoted from a letter addressed to the postmaster at Potlatch under date of January 16, 1920:

"We know the stamps were sent to your office, which facts are borne out by all our records made in regular form at the time when the stamps were sent."

As above stated, the postmaster at Moscow has no record whatever that the value of the remittance received from Potlatch was returned to that office, and his letter under date of January 20, 1919, quoted above would so indicate.

Two registered packages were dispatched from Moscow to Potlatch October 4, 1918. One containing 10,000 envelopes and the other 1,000 wrappers, all for the Potlatch Mercantile Co. If the stamps were sent by the Moscow office, they were sent as ordinary mail and stolen en route, or sent in some manner which was in violation of the rules and regulations. Postmaster Fiscus, at Potlatch, states that he made no inquiry concerning this remittance, believing that the Moscow office intended to reduce his fixed credit, as at that time he had more stamps on hand than were necessary. If sent by Moscow, the remittance should have been accompanied by duplicate invoice for the receipt of the receiving postmaster. No such receipt can be found, and Postmaster Morgareidge, at Moscow, claims that the matter was never taken up with the Potlatch office with a view of obtaining such receipt.

To me it seems a peculiar coincidence that the shortage in the Moscow accounts should be practically the same as the amount claimed to have been remitted by the Potlatch office and for which they received no credit. However, both postmasters enjoy excellent standing in the communities, and I have no reason to doubt the honesty of either.

Reference is made by the postmaster at Moscow concerning Government funds being carried on the person of Assistant Postmaster Balch, who is a man 60 years of age and was postmaster at Potlatch for four years previous to the appointment of Mr. Fiscus, and has been assistant postmaster during the incumbency of the latter. While he overlooked to make a deposit of war-savings funds which he carried to the bank in his pocket, it was simply an oversight and in no way should it reflect on his honesty.

There was also a dispute between these two offices relative to the fixed credit of \$15 proprietary stamps, and in this connection it can be stated that this feature has been satisfactorily adjusted.

Inasmuch as the Moscow office could not produce any evidence that the Potlatch office was given credit for the remittance made October 1, 1918, the postmaster at Moscow was requested to make good the balance due the United States, \$364.30, which he did, forwarding draft No. 50669, issued by the Moscow National Bank in favor of the postmaster at Boise, under date of October 6, 1920.

Believing the case warrants no further attention, it is recommended that the same be closed.

J. R. FULLINWIDER,
Post-Office Inspector.

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE,
Potlatch, Idaho, September 30, 1918.

POSTMASTER, *Moscow, Idaho:*

Herewith please find:

Draft.....	\$420. 00
Paid war-savings stamps.....	25. 20

For which please send war-savings stamps (105)..... 445. 20

Also 15 redeemed thrift-stamp cards, \$60, for which please send thrift stamps (240).

WALTER A. FISCUS, *Postmaster.*

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE WAR SAVINGS STAMP ACCOUNT WITH POTLATCH,
IDAHO, FOR THE YEAR 1918

Jan. 1, 1918, war savings stamps furnished.....	88	July 24, 1918, credit allowed (stamps).....	147
July 2, 1918, war savings stamps furnished.....	150	July 31, 1918, credit allowed (stamps).....	40
July 4, 1918, war savings stamps furnished.....	500	Aug. 6, 1918, credit allowed (stamps).....	60
July 17, 1918, war savings stamps furnished.....	300	Aug. 9, 1918, credit allowed (stamps).....	27
Total credit extended....	1, 038	Aug. 13, 1918, credit allowed (stamps).....	17
		Aug. 14, 1918, credit allowed (stamps).....	63
		Aug. 15, 1918, credit allowed (stamps).....	60
		Aug. 19, 1918, credit allowed (stamps).....	25
		Aug. 22, 1918, credit allowed (stamps).....	10
		Aug. 28, 1918, credit allowed (stamps).....	25
		Nov. 23, 1918, credit allowed (stamps).....	254
		Dec. 28, 1918, credit allowed (stamps).....	105
		Jan. 7, 1919, credit allowed (stamps).....	58
		Jan. 7, 1919, shortage.....	147
			1, 038
		Sept. 14, 1918, credit by cash..	\$145. 00

The above can be verified by the records and files in the post office at Moscow, Idaho, and does not include thrift stamps furnished, for the reason that there never appeared any difference in the accounts of this office and the Potlatch office, except as to war savings stamps.

_____, *Postmaster.*

I certify that I made the entries in our records, and that each and every entry was made at the time the stamps were counted, checked, and forwarded or received, as the case may have been, and to best of my information and belief is true and correct in every particular.

_____, *Assistant Postmaster.*

JANUARY 23, 1926.

MY DEAR MR. POSTMASTER GENERAL: I am in receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, relative to the request of the chairman, Committee on Claims, House of Representatives, for a report on the bill (H. R. 816) for the relief of W. F. Morgareidge, formerly postmaster at Moscow, Idaho, in the sum of \$364.30, representing the value of war-savings stamps and thrift stamps reported lost in transit to the office at Potlatch, Idaho, on or about August 13, 1918, which the former postmaster was required to pay.

In your statement of facts concerning the case you state that the postmaster's claim for relief under the act of January 21, 1914, as amended by the act of July 2, 1918, was disapproved by the department because six months had elapsed since the loss occurred "and also because the evidence submitted with his claim is not conclusive and indicates the possibility of the shortage having resulted from other discrepancies in his office." However, it appears that considerable additional work was required of central accounting postmasters, and increased responsibilities were imposed upon them, by the sale of war-savings stamps and

other war activities at the time this loss is alleged to have occurred, and for this reason principally you propose to say to the committee that you have no objection to favorable consideration of the pending bill.

In reply to your letter I have to inform you that the proposed report would not be in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

_____, *Director.*

The POSTMASTER GENERAL.

