

JOSEPH JAMESON

FEBRUARY 24, 1927.—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. 17255]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 17255) for the relief of Joseph Jameson, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

Attached herewith is the report from the Postmaster General and which is made a part of this report.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., January 8, 1926.

HON. NICHOLAS LONGWORTH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Complying with the provisions of the act of January 21, 1914 (38 Stat., 278) I am transmitting herewith the claim of Mr. Joseph Jameson, postmaster at Lorain, Ohio, for credit on account of loss sustained in the burglary of the post office on March 1, 1925, with a copy of the reports of inspectors who investigated the burglary and a summary of the evidence prepared in the office of the solicitor for this department.

I recommend that authority be granted to credit the postmaster in his account with \$10,552.60, the value of public funds and property lost in the burglary.

There is also inclosed copy of a letter from the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, dated December 19, 1925, advising that this action is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very truly yours,

HARRY S. NEW, *Postmaster General.*

POSTMASTER'S CLAIM FOR LOSSES BY BURGLARY, FIRE, ETC.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington.

Post office, Lorain. State of Ohio. Class 1.
Claimant, Joseph Jameson. Volume 10, page 323.
Cause of loss, burglary. Claim filed March 26, 1925.
Date of loss, March 1, 1925 (a. m.).
Case No. 72529-D.
Chief inspector: Report requested March 26, 1925. Report received, March 26, 1925.
Postal: Report requested, March 26, 1925. Report received, April 2, 1925.
Postal funds claimed, \$103.20.
Postage stamps claimed, \$10,540.

LOSS BY BURGLARY

On March 26, 1925, Joseph Jameson, postmaster at Lorain, Ohio, filed in the office of the Solicitor for the Post Office Department a claim for credit under the provisions of the act of January 21, 1914 (38 Stat. 278), as follows:

Postal funds.....	\$103.20
Postage stamps.....	10,540.00

BRIEF

ENTRANCE TO BUILDING

The evidence in this case, including the reports of the inspectors who made the investigation shows that on the night of February 28, 1925, or early morning of March 1, 1925, the Federal building occupied by the post office was entered by four men who overpowered the janitor, the only occupant of the building at the time, as he was about to lock the lobby door; that the janitor was taken to the basement and gagged, bound, and guarded by two men while two others burglarized a vault on the floor above and then left the building about 5 o'clock in the morning. About an hour later the janitor had freed himself sufficiently to make an outcry that attracted pedestrians who released him.

ENTRANCE TO VAULT AND SAFE THEREIN

There are two vaults in the post office, one in the postmaster's room and the other in the money-order room. The burglars attacked the vault in the office of the postmaster but made no attempt to enter the other vault nor were the stamp cabinets near the front window molested. Entrance to the vault was effected by the use of an acetylene torch. The safe within the vault was not opened except that a hole was burned through the door with an acetylene torch large enough for the burglars to reach in and secure a small tin box containing the money taken.

EXTENT OF LOSS

Cash in tin box taken from safe.....	\$103.20
Value of postage stamps:	
200,000 ordinary 1-cent stamps.....	\$2,000.00
400,000 ordinary 2-cent stamps.....	8,000.00
960 stamp books containing twelve 2-cent stamps....	240.00
630 ordinary 3-cent stamps.....	18.90
Miscellaneous.....	190.50
	<hr/> 10,449.40
Total loss.....	10,552.60

Three thousand six hundred and fifty 3-cent stamps, valued at \$109.50, were damaged by the acetylene torch and returned to the department for redemption. Upon being counted it was found that 630, valued at \$18.90, were completely destroyed.

PROTECTION GIVEN TO FUNDS AND STAMPS

The small loss in cash is due to the fact that the burglars were unsuccessful in opening the door of the safe in the vault. The stamp stock was taken from shelves inside of the vault and were all of the lower denominations. The stamps of higher denominations were kept inside of the safe. It appears, therefore, that the public funds and property had received the best protection available in conformity with the regulations. Accordingly, I recommend that Congress by a special act authorize the following credits in the accounts of the postmaster:

Cash.....	\$103. 20
Postage stamps.....	10, 449. 40
Total.....	10, 552. 60

H. J. DONNELLY, *Solicitor.*

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, December 19, 1925.

MY DEAR MR. POSTMASTER GENERAL: I am in receipt of your letter of November 28, relative to the claim of Joseph Jameson, postmaster at Lorain, Ohio, for credit under the provisions of the act of January 21, 1924, on account of the loss of \$103.20 in postal funds and \$10,540 in postage stamps by the burglary of the post office on March 1, 1925.

After reciting the facts in the case, as developed by the department's investigation, you state that you are about to report the facts to Congress with the recommendation that authority be granted to credit the postmaster in his accounts with \$10,552.60, representing the value of the funds and stamps lost in the burglary.

In reply, I have to advise you that your contemplated action would not be in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very truly yours,

H. M. LORD, *Director.*

The POSTMASTER GENERAL.

CLAIM FOR CREDIT OR REIMBURSEMENT

STATE OF OHIO,

County of Lorain, ss:

Personally appeared before me Joseph Jameson, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he was postmaster at Lorain, Ohio, in the county of Lorain, and State of Ohio, on the 1st day of March, 1925; that on said date and at about 5 a. m. o'clock in the morning, as nearly as he can determine, he sustained losses in the amounts and of the character hereinafter set forth, and for which he claims credit; that the said losses did not result from and fault or negligence on the part of affiant, but from burglary, the circumstances of which are fully set forth on page 3 of this claim; that after the said loss occurred there remained in affiant's possession postage stamps and stamped paper of all kinds and descriptions of the value of \$10,540, and no more, and that the amounts so lost are shown by the following calculations:

Postage stamps, etc.

Stamps, etc., on hand at end of previous quarter.....	\$40, 723. 81
Stamps, etc., received from Mar. 1, 1925, to date of loss.....	23, 003. 78
Total to be accounted for.....	63, 727. 59
Stamps, etc., sold from beginning of quarter to date of loss.....	\$15, 642. 98
Authorized dead letter.....	. 44
Stamps, etc., on hand after loss occurred:	
In serviceable condition.....	37, 434. 67
Damaged and returned since to department.....	109. 50
Total accounted for.....	53, 187. 59
Stamps, etc., lost or destroyed.....	10, 540. 00

Postal funds

Cash received from end of previous quarter to date of loss:	
Cash received from sale of stamps and other stamped paper	\$15,642.98
Cash received from box rents	167.00
Cash received from sale of waste paper and twine	26.75
Second-class postage	201.12
Cash transferred from money-order account permits	820.34
Total to be accounted for	16,858.19
Cash deposited, from beginning of quarter to date of loss	\$1,640.59
Cash used by postmaster as salary	600.00
Special delivery service	324.48
Cash paid clerks and employees	5,062.97
City delivery service	8,365.73
Cash paid for other authorized expenditures, motor vehicle	34.53
Drayage	1.75
Mail messenger	333.33
Cash on hand after the loss occurred	391.61
Total accounted for	16,754.99
Cash (postal funds) lost	103.20

No money order shortage.

Affiant therefore claims credit or reimbursement for the following amounts, lost as aforesaid, viz:

For postage stamps, stamped envelopes, newspaper wrappers, and postal cards, \$10,540; for postal funds, \$103.20; for money-order funds, none; for postal-savings cards and stamps, none; for postal-savings funds, none; and for key-deposit funds, none; or for such other amounts as may be found justly due him.

Treasury (war) savings funds, none.

War revenue stamps, etc., none.

DETAILS OF HOW LOSS OCCURRED

Night man was overpowered, outer vault door had combination burned off, inside door lock off and inside safe door had one combination completely burned off and second partly. Everything short was taken from vault and safe the night of February 28, and morning of March 1, 1925.

JOSEPH JAMESON, *Postmaster*.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of March, A. D. 1925.

[SEAL.]

STEPHEN S. KODAK,
Notary Public.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, March 26, 1925.

General Accounting Office, Post Office Department Division.

For use in adjusting the claim of Joseph Jameson, postmaster at Lorain, Ohio, for credit on account of losses alleged to have resulted from burglary on or about March 1, 1925, you are requested to furnish in the form below the information indicated therein relative to the stamp account of said postmaster.

EDGAR M. BLESSING, *Solicitor*.

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE,
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT DIVISION.

Respectfully returned to the Solicitor for the Post Office Department with information that the postmaster's accounts as audited show stamps, etc., on hand December 31, 1924, \$40,723.81. Stamps, etc., received to February 28, 1925, \$533.32 (in transit). Stamp sales reported by postmaster: Quarter, 1924, \$24,301.94; quarter, 1924, \$24,399.56.

J. R. McCARL, *Comptroller General*.
By J. R. W.

MAY 13, 1925.

Mr. JOSEPH JAMESON,
Postmaster, Lorain, Ohio.

DEAR SIR: Referring to your claim for credit on account of \$103.20 in postal funds and \$10,540 in postage stamps, reported lost in the burglary of the post office on March 1, 1925, the Third Assistant Postmaster General has referred to me your inquiry of the 23d ultimo as to a difference of \$18.90 between the estimated value of stamps returned to the department by inspectors for redemption and the actual value as determined by the department.

In reply, you are informed that the item of \$18.90 will be given consideration and included in the computations of losses submitted by the inspectors, and your claim for stamps lost will therefore be entertained for \$10,558.90 instead of \$10,540 as originally reported. No action on your part will be necessary.

Very truly yours,

H. J. DONNELLY.

LORAIN, OHIO, *April 23, 1925.*

THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Replying to your letter of April 22, 1925, relative to credit for stamps burned during robbery at this office.

These stamps were checked by two employees and Inspectors Hart and Seigfried, and while the top layers were burned quite bad there were no parts of stamps.

Am writing for information as to who is to pay this difference, \$18.90, as these stamps were turned over to inspectors for credit of \$109.50 and this office had nothing more to do with this transaction.

Please advise as to action this office is to take to obtain full amount of credit.

Yours truly,

JOSEPH JAMESON, *Postmaster.*

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,
Washington, April 22, 1925.

JOSEPH JAMESON,
Postmaster, Lorain, Ohio.

MY DEAR SIR: A statement of credit amounting to \$90.60 will be sent you later to cover the value of the redeemable 3-cent postage stamps recovered by post-office inspectors after the burglary of your office on February 28, 1925. (Case No. 72529-D.)

In counting the stamps this office has allowed credit only for the full stamps and those fragments manifestly more than half a stamp. The stamps were sent to this office by the chief inspector as having an alleged value of \$109.50 and it is possible that the difference between this amount and the amount of credit allowed by the department, namely, \$18.90, may be accounted for by the numerous fragments of less than half a stamp for which credit was disallowed.

The solicitor for the department will receive a copy of this letter for his information.

Sincerely yours,

W. IRVING GLOVER,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Case No. 72529-D.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR,
Washington, April 7, 1925.

SOLICITOR, POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT:

You are informed that this office is in possession of stamps, alleged value \$109.50, recovered by an inspector in the investigation of the above-numbered case, relative to the robbery of the post office at Lorain, Ohio, February 28, 1925.

They will be placed to the credit of Joseph Jameson, postmaster at Lorain, Ohio, in the event that he has not already received credit on account of the loss of this item. Please advise this office on the subject.

RUSH D. SIMMONS, *Chief Inspector.*

APRIL 8, 1925.

CHIEF INSPECTOR:

In reply to the above you are informed that claim for credit by the above-named postmaster is pending in this office.

EDGAR M. BLESSING,
Solicitor, Post Office Department.

APRIL 20, 1925.

SOLICITOR, POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT:

You are informed that I have this day transmitted to Third Assistant, Division of Stamps, the item above described with request that the same be allowed to the credit of Joseph Jameson, postmaster, Lorain, Ohio.

RUSH D. SIMMONS, *Chief Inspector.*

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,
Washington, April 28, 1925.

The SOLICITOR, POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT:

Inclosed herewith for appropriate attention is a letter, dated April 23, received from the postmaster at Lorain, Ohio, who requests information as to the manner of handling a difference amounting to \$18.90 in a lot of damaged stamps recovered by post-office inspectors after the burglary of his office on February 28, 1925 (case No. 72529-D), and sent to this office as representing a value of \$109.50, and the credit amounting to \$90.60 allowed by this office for the same stamps.

A copy of the department's letter of April 22 to the postmaster at Lorain, was furnished your office for use in adjusting his claim.

W. IRVING GLOVER,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.

72529-D. Lorain, Ohio. Robbery of post office.

INSPECTOR IN CHARGE,
Cincinnati, Ohio:

In compliance with the request contained in the report of Inspectors Siegfried and Hart, dated March 18, 1925, I return herewith the charred remains of a \$20 bill for use in the prosecution of James Burke, who was arrested in connection with the robbery of the post office at Lorain, Ohio, on February 28, 1925. The portion of the bill transmitted will not be redeemed by the Treasury and is of no value except as evidence in the case.

Chief Inspector.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR,
Toledo, Ohio, March 13, 1925.

Case No. 72,529-D.

Subject: Lorain, Ohio, burglary of post office.

INSPECTOR IN CHARGE,
Cincinnati, Ohio:

The above-numbered case relates to the burglary of the post office at Lorain, Lorain County, Ohio, which occurred on the night of February 28, 1925. In this burglary, stamps and funds of the office were stolen, and a registered pouch cut open and the contents rifled.

Personal investigation was made at Lorain, Gibsonburg, Helena, and Tiffin, Ohio, March 1, and at Toledo, Ohio, subsequent to that date. It was found that at least four men participated in this robbery. Lorain, Ohio, is an office of the first class, and is located in a Government building. It is not an all-night office and the last clerk on duty leaves the office at about 10 p. m. On this occasion, he left at about the usual time, leaving the janitor alone on duty.

The janitor, Pearl C. Robinson, (colored) states that at about 11.10 p. m., on the night of February 28, 1925, he went into the lobby of the office to close and

lock the front door for the night. As he entered the lobby, three men came from behind a pillar, next to the door, and stuck guns in his face. At the same time, one of the men pulled his cap over his eyes and commanded him to return to the workroom. Here he was handcuffed and gagged. He was then taken to the basement of the office where he was placed in chair and securely bound thereto by the use of wire and rope. Here he was compelled to remain under guard while others were at work on the floor above. Two men were with him practically all of the time, and during this time he could hear men conversing on the floor above. The gag used in this instance, was adhesive tape, 3 inches in width, which was securely placed over his mouth and tied to a large steam pipe, back of his head. In this position he remained until released by the police the next morning.

As nearly as Robinson can remember, these men left at about 5 a. m. As soon as they were gone, he made frantic efforts to release himself. After more than an hour's work, Robinson was able to move the gag sufficiently to enable him to make an outcry. This attracted the attention of pedestrians, who upon discovering his predicament, notified the police, who in turn notified the postmaster. Mr. Birdseye, post-office inspector in charge, was at once notified, and he at once called the police of all of the near-by cities, and Inspectors Cochrane, Siegfried, and Ulch.

During the time that Robinson was held a prisoner in the basement of the office, the burglars burned through the door of the vault in the postmaster's office, and also in the safe in this vault. They were unable to open this safe, however, but succeeded in securing a part of the currency which it contained, through the hole burned in the door.

Inspectors Siegfried and Hart immediately began an invoice of the stock to ascertain the amount of the loss. The loss, as computed by them, is the subject of a special report. The loss is as follows:

	Value
200,000 ordinary 1-cent stamps.....	\$2,000.00
400,000 ordinary 2-cent stamps.....	8,000.00
960 stamp books, containing twelve 2-cent stamps.....	240.00
3,650 ordinary 3-cent stamps, burned.....	109.50

At about 11 a. m., of March 1, 1925, word was received by long-distance telephone that an automobile, containing four men was struck by a Pennsylvania Railroad passenger train at Helena, Ohio, and that one of the men was severely injured and taken to a hospital at Tiffin, Ohio. At Tiffin, Ohio, it was found that the injured man was Jack Peer, a man with a long police record, but he died before an interview could be had. Descriptions were secured from the persons who witnessed the accident, and through the assistance of Emory Moore, trainmaster of the Pennsylvania Railroad, who was on the passenger train at the time of the accident, a positive identification was made of James Burke, alias "Scats." Other persons also made positive identification of Burke.

Burke was placed under arrest, and it was found that he was suffering much from some injury. He denied that he was one of the persons in the automobile which was wrecked in the accident at Helena, and stated that he had received his injuries at Wauseon, Ohio, on the Friday previous. He could not give any satisfactory evidence to substantiate these statements and he was committed to the Lucas County Jail, Toledo, Ohio.

Up to the present time, enough evidence has been secured to hold Burke for the grand jury, and it is thought that a conviction can be eventually secured. George Knapp and Patrick Ginty, of the Lorain police force, can identify the tread of a tire on the right rear wheel of the car used in the robbery. The tracks made by this car were examined by the above-named officers. They state that these tracks appeared in the court at the rear of the post office. This track was also examined by Edward Andy, special-delivery messenger, who will also be able to make this identification. The tire of the right rear wheel of the automobile has been procured and is held as evidence in the case. It is thought that the identification of this tire, together with the fact that rubber hose, such as is used on acetylene torches, revolvers, and gags were found in the car, will be sufficient to secure an indictment. Burke's record as a criminal can also be submitted, which will have its effect with the grand jury in returning a "true bill."

The evidence secured up to the present time will be given to the United States attorney, for his recommendation in the matter.

Form 567-D is inclosed herewith.

As one of the members of this gang is under arrest, the closing of the case is recommended.

GEORGE F. ULCH, *Inspector.*

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR,
Cleveland, Ohio, March 18, 1925.

Case No. 72529-D Special.

Subject: Lorain, Ohio. Robbery of post office; relative to loss sustained.

INSPECTOR IN CHARGE,
Cincinnati, Ohio:

The following special report, submitted in connection with case of above number, relates to the robbery of the post office at Lorain, Ohio, on March 1, 1925, and results from personal investigation at that office on March 1 to 3, and 16, 1925.

Our investigation has been confined mainly to checking the accounts at Lorain for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of the loss. It is our understanding that Inspector Ulch has submitted a report with the result of investigation relative to the apprehension of the burglars, etc.

At about 11 p. m., on February 28, 1925, while John Robinson was in the lobby of the post office, which is located in a Federal building, he was overpowered by three men and taken by them to the basement of the building where he was tied to a chair, handcuffed, and gagged. From statements made by Mr. Robinson there appears to have been four burglars who were engaged either upon the upper floor in gaining entrance to the vault or in guarding him from 11 p. m., on February 28 to 5 a. m., on March 1. Mr. Robinson was the only employee on duty in the office between the hours stated. Some time after 5 a. m. he was able to partially remove the gag and, at 6.35, attracted pedestrians by his outcry and soon afterwards was released by police officials.

There are two vaults in the post office at Lorain, one in the postmaster's room and the other in the money-order room at the other end of the building. The burglars attacked the vault in the office of the postmaster but made no attempt to enter the vault in the money-order section, nor were the two stamp cabinets near a front window molested. The vault in the postmaster's office is equipped with an inner safe. In the vault proper there were stored 2 two hundred thousand packages of 2-cent stamps, 1 two hundred thousand package of 1-cent stamps, and 1 box of five hundred and forty 2-cent stamp books, 12 stamps to the book, valued at 25 cents each, and these stamps and the stamp books were stolen and seem to represent the only loss of this character. Entrance to the vault was gained by the use of an acetylene torch. The safe within the vault contained stamps of large denominations and a small amount of postal funds. The door to this safe was burned with the acetylene torch to the extent of providing a hole large enough for one of the burglars to have reached in and secured the money contained in a small tin box near the point where the drilling or burning was made, but the door held and complete entrance to the safe was not gained. This box apparently contained \$103.70 which represented the last requisition filled on February 28. It was evident that the money was burned, in part, before it was taken from the box, in fact a charred or partially burned \$20 bill was found on the floor at the base of the safe, which apparently had been dropped there by the burglars, and a 50-cent piece was found in the bottom of the tin receptacle.

On a shelf near the point where the burning of the door or combination took place there were stored three thousand six hundred and fifty 3-cent stamps which were practically destroyed by fire. We were present at the time the safe door was finally opened and removed these stamps from the safe, the value of which is \$109.50. In accordance with your memorandum, dated March 5, 1925, these stamps are herewith in order that they may be forwarded to the department with this report for count and destruction, and to the end that the postmaster at Lorain, Ohio, may be given credit in the sum of \$109.50. The following represents the loss of stamps and stamp paper and postal funds, as determined by our count of stock and audit of the postal account:

Stamps lost

Stamps, etc., on hand Dec. 31, 1925	\$40, 723. 81
Received Jan. 1 to Feb. 28, 1925	23, 003. 78
Total to be accounted for	63, 727. 59
Sold to date of loss, Mar. 1, 1925	\$15, 642. 98
Dead-letter bill, authorized	. 44
In serviceable condition after loss	37, 434. 67
Forwarded to department, damaged	109. 50
Total accounted for	53, 187. 59
Stamps lost	10, 540. 00

Loss of postal funds

Debit:	
Amount on hand Jan. 1, 1925	None.
Sales to date of loss	\$15, 642. 98
Second-class matter	201. 12
Permit matter	820. 34
Sale of waste, etc	26. 75
Box rents	167. 00
Total to be accounted for	\$16, 858. 19
Credit:	
Amount deposited since close of quarter	\$1, 640. 59
Postmaster's salary	600. 00
Paid clerks	5, 062. 97
Paid carriers	8, 365. 73
Paid special-delivery messengers	324. 48
Paid mail messenger	333. 33
Miscellaneous	1. 75
Motor-vehicle service	34. 53
Shortage made good	15. 03
Cash on hand	376. 58
Total accounted for	16, 754. 99
Amount lost	103. 20

Transmitted herewith is the charred \$20 bill previously referred to in this report. If it should develop that this partially burned bill can be duplicated, the new \$20 bill obtained should be forwarded to the postmaster at Lorain, Ohio, and the loss of postal funds reduced by that amount, while the charred bill, after having been canceled, should be returned to the chief inspector for reference to you for use as evidence against James Burke, who has been arrested and is being held for the robbery, and against any of the others who may be later apprehended.

The postmaster at Lorain is entitled to reimbursement in full for the loss sustained and it is recommended accordingly. However, the loss of postal funds, as indicated above, should be reduced by \$20 in the event the charred bill herewith is duplicated and the new money forwarded to him. It is further recommended that the postmaster at Lorain, Ohio, be given credit in the sum of \$109.50 for the destruction in greater part, by burning, of the three thousand six hundred and fifty 3-cent stamps transmitted herewith.

CHAS. C. HART,
S. E. SIEGFRIED,
Post Office Inspectors.

Statement of the Board of Directors for the year ended December 31, 1957.
The Board of Directors of the Company has the honor to acknowledge the
cooperation and assistance of the various departments of the Company in
the preparation of this statement.

The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Company
as of December 31, 1957.

Assets	Liabilities
Cash	Accounts payable
Accounts receivable	Notes payable
Inventory	Long-term debt
Fixed assets	Deferred income taxes
	Other liabilities
Total assets	Total liabilities

The above statement is based on the books and records of the Company and
is true and correct to the best of the knowledge of the Board of Directors.

Very truly yours,
The Board of Directors

By _____, Secretary