

2-214800

PATHE GAZETTE: 40/97.

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas is almost here so here is a timely warning, father's got his own reminder and a good one too. Those Christmas presents will have to be posted much earlier if they are to get there on time. After all you can still write on the label "do not open 'till Christmas Day" to make sure the Christmas pudding is not attacked on Christmas Eve. Yes the proof of the greeting is still in the pudding. This year owing to war conditions the postman's job is going to be very, very, difficult. There will be the same avalanche of parcels but with fewer staff to deal with them and many other complications being that so many people have been obliged to change their address and sometimes more than once. The lucky owner of this house must have had a grand sense of humour. The blackout doesn't make things any brighter either. Collecting letters in the half light is a big problem and transportation no less so and with the blackout period getting longer and longer, the delay is unavoidable. The result is the job of the postmen and sorters is not an enviable one. Many an address will look alright on an envelope but it simply isn't there any more, so the letter has to go into a special pigeon hole until the owner can be traced. That doesn't stop the postman from trying to deliver the goods, and often he will turn up at a house with a parcel for yet another tenant who has gone away, indeed there isn't much left to stay in.

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So the parcel goes back to the Post Office until the owner applies for it or his new address is traced. Remember just to let the Post Office know of your new address immediately on the special free forms provided, and don't forget to tell your friends. Another point is that this Christmas the Post Office won't be able to get as many temporary staff as usual as so many are in the services. The postman has another problem in finding your house in the black-out, just as you sometimes have. Many other difficulties pop up or drop down like this. Somebody said that there was no present like the time and no time like the present. If you should be a little before time, well so much the better. Just do this. She's not going to be late for one, she's doing her bit to help the post authorities to do their's. Follow her good example and post now, but in any case not later than the 18th of December.