

NEW POSTMASTER ASSUMES DUTIES

C. M. Atkinson Retires From the Hibbing Office—Submits Re- port on Development.

(Range Bureau of the News Tribune.)
HIBBING, Oct. 1.—Hibbing has a new postmaster this morning in the person of Thomas J. Godfrey, who succeeds C. M. Atkinson. Mr. Godfrey was recommended for appointment by Congressman Miller early in July, and received his commission about a month later, but did not care to assume charge of the office until the close of the postoffice quarter, which came last night.

Mr. Godfrey is an old resident of Hibbing, and is one of the most popular and likeable men in the city, and will undoubtedly make a good postmaster. For a time he was connected with the Oliver Iron Mining company, and about six years ago he left the company to engage in the clothing business, an enterprise in which he has been very successful. Mr. Godfrey will continue the clothing business under the management of Leo J. Kilduff.

If second class postoffices are put under the civil service rules — and President Taft promises to recommend such a move—Mr. Godfrey will remain the postmaster at Hibbing as long as he lives, or as long as he wants the job.

Mr. Atkinson retires from the government service with no regrets, and has long looked for the day of release from a position that was anything but pleasant or profitable to him. He will take over the personal management of his newspaper business; and will make a number of improvements looking to the bettering of the plant and the newspaper.

When Mr. Atkinson assumed charge of the postoffice on July 1, 1906, the yearly postal receipts were under \$17,000, while for the current year the income will exceed \$25,000. In four years the Hibbing postoffice has earned better than \$10,000 a year for the government. Money order business is not counted as postal receipts.

During his administration of the office, Mr. Atkinson made many improvements in the service, and was only prevented from making others by the seemingly penurious attitude of the postoffice department.

Mr. Atkinson labored industriously during his entire term in an endeavor to secure a better postal service for the thousands of people residing at the several mining locations just east and west of the city, and who are entitled to some relief. The postoffice department steadily refused to see the necessity for action, and the "nothing doing" sign was continually on display. There are several thousand people in the territory mentioned, and their only means for getting mail is through the Hibbing postoffice, which many cannot reach until after the closing hour. It is hoped Postmaster Godfrey will fare better, as it is his intention to take up the work at once.

Among the more notable improvements made during the past four years was the addition of more room, thus providing for doubling the lobby space; a better arrangement for Sunday and holiday delivery; the placing of more boxes, and the separating of the banking from the postal end of the business. A rear entrance was provided, going away with the hauling of incoming and outgoing mail through the front lobby. Screening was placed over the fixtures, which permits of leaving the office lobby open on Sundays and holidays. A sub-station was established at the Palace pharmacy, in the lower end of the city. The free delivery was extended to the Penobscot location. A registry department was established, and a clerk secured therefor. Two additional clerks and one carrier were secured, and many minor improvements, looking to the betterment of the service, have been made from time to time. It has been a point of conscience with the working force to have the mail distributed and the general delivery window open on the minute.

The present working force is as good as can be found in any second class office in the country, and consists of Earl A. Ellsworth, assistant postmaster, who will be retained under Postmaster Godfrey; Miss Rose McElroy, money order clerk and chief clerk; Oscar V. Lilledale, dispatcher; Miss Ivy Brist, registry clerk; Miss Mae Brophy, utility clerk; Miss Irene Lauzon, substitute clerk; Theodore Macey, general delivery clerk; Barney Karon, messenger; Ernest L. Everett, Brent S. Doty, Charles G. Johnson, Joseph Panter, city carriers. Miss McElroy and Mr. Everett are the only employes who were in the office at the time Mr. Atkinson became postmaster.