

FOR RURAL DELIVERY

EXPERIMENT IS INDORSED FROM EVERY PLACE.

Reports of the Sections in Which the Mail System Has Been Tried Uniform—The Service, However, Likely to Cost Double What Was Figured on.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The postmasters and the patrons at every one of the forty-four postoffices where rural free delivery has been in operation declare in favor of the plan. The test has been going on only for a limited period, but the offices were so distributed as to make the experiment complete and it was developed at points in thirty-three or thirty-four states. The reports are all in and the data gathered will be transmitted by Postmaster General Wilson in a special report to congress.

When the experiment was first contemplated it was estimated that rural free delivery to cover the whole country would involve an annual expenditure of over \$23,000,000, but the experience already had shows that \$10,000,000 is a conservative figure. The cost of the service is found, of course, to have varied with the character of the country where it was performed, sparsely settled regions heavily increasing the expense. Thus in one county in Massachusetts the difference of conditions necessitated the establishment of the experiment at three points and the postmasters report a variance of several cents between them as to the cost of delivery per letter. The maximum cost of delivering each piece of mail matter was between 5 and 7 cents at Hartsville, Ind., and less than 7 mills at Greenfield, in Franklin county, Mass. The average cost per letter is fixed at little over 3 cents in these rural delivery lines. There are many places, however, where delivery of mail is impossible, and these aggregate a large portion of the country. The least difficulty in the way of the general adoption of the scheme is in the eastern states, though a number of western states, like the country adjacent to Denver, Colo., show comparatively small cost.

Officials believe that the service can be advantageously established in a number of well settled regions. Postmaster General Wilson has not yet drafted his report, but it is believed he will demonstrate the value of the continuance of the experiment for one year.

A MONETARY CONFERENCE

House Committee for the Senate Bill—Will Report Favorably.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The House committee on coinage to-day decided to report favorably the Senate bill for an international monetary conference with amendments authorizing the President if he should see fit to seek an agreement by diplomatic relations instead of a conference. Ten of the seventeen members of the committee were present, three Republicans, six Democrats and one independent, eight of whom are free silver men and there was no dissent to the motion to report the bill to the House. Five Republicans absented themselves.

GEN. SHELBY'S SUCCESSOR

Giles Y. Crenshaw Named by President Cleveland.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The President sent this nomination to the Senate to-day: Giles Y. Crenshaw to be marshal of the United States for the Western district of Missouri.

Sherman's Private Secretary.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—E. J. Babcock, who has been associated with the Ohio senator for about thirteen years, will continue to act as his confidential secretary when he shall assume control of the department of State. Mr. Babcock is now clerk to the Senate committee on foreign affairs.

General Pleasanton's Simple Burial.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—General Alfred Pleasanton, the union cavalry commander, was buried in the Congressional cemetery in the presence of many veterans of the late war. The body, according to his wish, was attired in citizens clothes, with a single yellow bud, the cavalry color, as its only decoration.

Naval Appropriation Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The naval appropriation bill for the next fiscal year has been practically completed by the House committee on naval affairs. The bill carries a total of about \$33,000,000, which is about \$1,000,000 more than the appropriations for the current year.

An Army Officer in Disgrace.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The President has approved the sentence of the court martial in the case of First Lieutenant Frank Owen, Fourteenth Infantry, stationed on the Pacific coast, convicted of falsifying his accounts, and he will be dismissed from the army March 1.

Nebraska Mayor Ousted.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Feb. 22.—After six hours of deliberation the city council, by a vote of 7 to 1, found Mayor Charles W. Stahl guilty of official misconduct and of obstructing the business of the city and the council and ousted him from office.

Sold Robbers at Madison, Kan.

EMPORIA, Kan., Feb. 22.—At Madison, Greenwood county, twenty miles north, last night, T. B. Trotter's hardware store was robbed of arms and ammunition, and, the postoffice safe having been blown open with such force as to force out the whole front of the building, all the stamps, registered packages and money were taken.

No Pardon for an Embezzler.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The President has denied a pardon to W. C. Garvin of Colorado, sentenced to five years' imprisonment for embezzling national bank funds.

UNCLE SAM SLOW PAY.

Government in No Hurry to Settle Its Just Obligations.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—A very spirited debate on the general subject of the payment of claims found to be due by the United States was indulged in by the House yesterday during the consideration of the general deficiency appropriation bill. Mr. Richardson of Tennessee had called attention to the apparent inconsistency of an item to pay the costs of defending suits, and the fact that the bill contained no item to pay the judgment.

This furnished Mr. Walker of Massachusetts a text for a lively speech against the "niggardly" and "dishonest" policy of the government, and a severe arraignment of the committee on rules for the tyranny it was said to exercise over the proceedings of the House.

Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio came to the defense of the committee, warmly declaring that the House had made the rules and should abide by them. No one, he said, would resent the exercise of power not conferred on the committee more bitterly than he.

Mr. McKinley Will Rest.

CANTON, Ohio, Feb. 22.—President-elect McKinley has fully recovered his accustomed good health, said Dr. T. H. Phillips this morning, "and I believe is stronger than ever. That does not mean, however, that he will resume his receiving visitors promiscuously, as I have advised emphatically against that custom. What business the President-elect will give his attention to previous to his departure for Washington will be what has been partially arranged beforehand. Special visitors, or those who come by invitation from the major, will be given audience, but not a great deal of this will be transacted. The rest and freedom from official cares obtained the past week have been most beneficial to him."

NOT SETTLED.

Mr. McKinley Undecided as to Several of the Cabinet Assignments.

CANTON, Ohio, Feb. 22.—While it is believed that Colonel J. J. McCook of New York will be invited to come here in a day or two and confer with the President-elect as to a place in the next cabinet the position of Attorney general is not thought to be decided upon for the distinguished New Yorker. The places of postmaster general, secretary of the navy and secretary of the interior as well as attorney general are all believed to be under advisement, although it is still thought that the appointment of Mr. McCook will complete the full list of the personnel of the cabinet.

Russia Against Greece.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 22.—The obstinacy of Greece is causing irritation here. The Novoe Vremya expresses the general feeling and policy of the government in saying that the powers have no idea of altering the policy they have taken. If needs be, the Greek battalions will be disbanded by them and Greece placed in a painful situation by being blockaded. The Mirova Geotoloski says politics is not sentimental and good sense orders the Greeks to retire.

Important Land Decision.

SALINA, Kan., Feb. 22.—The suit pending in the several courts for several years, brought by the United States against the Union Pacific railway company and William Hoard of this county, to cancel the patent to the latter's land, has been decided by the United States supreme court in Hoard's favor. This was a test case, and Judge Garver, who won the case for Mr. Hoard, states that it virtually settles any further question as to the title to a large amount of land in Saline, Dickinson and other counties.

The Joke on Dan Stuart.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 22.—A telegram from Dan Stuart to Rebo, the member who introduced the prize fight resolution, was read to the House this morning. Stuart offered to place one of the best boxes at the ringside at the disposal of the Missouri committee if one should be appointed to see the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight.

Not Guilty of Murder.

LEXINGTON, Mo., Feb. 22.—Ollie Logan, 16 years of age, charged with Joseph Wilkerson with the murder of James Secrease at Odessa, Mo., April 15, was acquitted this morning, the evidence clearly showing that Wilkerson committed the deed. Wilkerson's trial was continued until the June term, he being unable to appear on account of sickness.

E. W. Stephens' Generous Offer.

COLUMBIA, Mo., Feb. 22.—E. W. Stephens announced to-day to the board of trustees of Stephens college that he would make the college a present of \$5,000, provided that an additional \$6,000 was raised, the money to be used to complete the chapel which is now under construction. Mr. Stephens is the publisher of the Columbia Herald.

New Mexico Sheriff Assassinated.

SANTA FE, N. M., Feb. 22.—Sheriff Dow of Eddy county was shot last night by two men concealed between buildings. He died to-day. He was active in the prosecution of cattle thieves. Governor Thornton offered a reward of \$500 for each of his murderers.

The Zinc Combine.

BETHLEHEM, Pa., Feb. 22.—It was announced last night that the Lehigh Zinc and Iron company and the Florence Zinc works have entered the gigantic zinc combine, the capital of which is \$10,000,000.

M'COOK ON THE TREATY.

The New Yorker Believes in Preparing for War Despite Arbitration.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Colonel John J. McCook, who may be in President McKinley's cabinet, touched on the subject of the general arbitration treaty in the course of a speech at the annual reunion and banquet of the Alumni Association of Lafayette college.

FOUND DEAD BY A CHILD.

The Wife of a Postmaster and a Young Man Shot.

FALLS VILLAGE, CONN., Feb. 22.—When he awoke this morning, the 10-year-old son of Postmaster Walter Chapin found the corpse of his mother in the dining room of their home and nearby the dead body of Charles Mead, about 25 years old, the son of Ralph P. Mead, formerly of Falls Village, but now of Scotland, Conn. Some distance away was a revolver with several chambers empty.

Chapin, who is engaged as superintendent of Henry Bishop's factory at Sheffield, Mass., was summoned home upon the discovery of the double tragedy. The supposition is that Mead killed Mrs. Chapin and himself, but at present the facts in the case are not known.

LIKE THE CRONIN CASE.

The Body of a Chicagoan Found in a Hot Springs Sewer.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Feb. 22.—An inquest was held this morning on the body of Robert Muerling of Chicago, which was found yesterday jammed in a sewer main. Investigation strengthens the belief that he was murdered, as it would have been possible for him to have replaced the cap on the manhole if it had been suicide. The body was decayed so badly that the jury is unable to determine yet in what manner he met death. The only way by which it could be identified was by the collar found in a coat pocket and the disappearance is unaccounted for.

For the Fellows Family.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—It was while stumping the South for the Palmer and Buckner ticket that Colonel J. R. Fellows caught the cold that probably caused his death, and Republicans, including Messrs. McKinley, Hanna and Carnegie, have promised to contribute for his family \$50,000, which sum it is proposed to raise to \$100,000. Colonel Fellows gave away nearly all his money and there is a \$20,000 mortgage on the home. Edward Lauterbach is the father of the relief movement, and he and Senator Platt are pushing it.

Leland Charges Fraud.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 22.—Cyrus Leland, whose administration as chairman of the county board of Doniphan county was the subject of an offensive petition offered in the Senate a few days ago, has been conducting an investigation of the matter and to-day says the petition is a fraud. He finds that the names of numerous citizens on the petition were put there without their consent or knowledge, and that fraudulent means were resorted to to obtain the signatures of others.

May Come to America.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Prince Chimy has given Oscar Hammerstein an option on her services at the Olympic music hall in this city, and he has a week to decide whether he will pay the salary asked, which is something like \$2,000 a week and expenses. It is thought that Gypsy Rigo will accompany the princess to this country, if she shall come.

Arkansas's Governor Against the Treaty.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 22.—Governor Jones replied to a telegram from the chairman of the national arbitration committee that he was not in favor of ratification either with or without amendment, closing: "In my judgment it is a trap for the United States into which we should never be led with my consent."

Bushnell Haps Newspapers.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Feb. 22.—At the Y. M. C. A. state convention to-day Governor Bushnell made an address in which he said that he hoped that the influence of the Y. M. C. A. on newspaper men would keep them from stating every morning who was going to be appointed United States Senator from Ohio.

Pingree's Majority in Court.

DETROIT, Mich., Feb. 22.—Arguments were heard by the judges of the circuit court, sitting en banc to-day, on the application for a mandamus to compel the election of a mayor to succeed Governor Pingree, who, it is alleged, vacated the office of mayor in becoming governor.

An Electric Car Struck.

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—During the thunderstorm early this morning lightning struck a Forty-third street electric car full of workmen on their way to the stock yards. All were badly shocked and one man, Zach Root, had to be removed in an ambulance. The car was badly damaged.

A Blizzard in North Dakota.

GRAND FORKS, N. D., Feb. 22.—Snow began to fall yesterday and has continued since, with a high, cold north wind. Every available snow plow has been sent out in all directions, together with a large force of snow shovellers, to keep incoming trains moving.

Calhoun's Grandson Drowned.

MIDDLEBORO, Ky., Feb. 22.—The body of Noel T. Calhoun, grandson of the famous nullifier, John C. Calhoun, was found floating in the Kentucky river near Hyden. He was a large lumber dealer.

JANEWAY'S WIFE.



MADISON JANEWAY was always pointed out as a "self-made man" and was well satisfied with his own handiwork, for content radiated from his full face and from his figure, which had lost its youthful muscle under creeping waves of flesh. Mr. Janeway had satisfied his ambitions as far as it is possible for a man to do it. Fortunately for his content these aspirations were of the kind that are most often realized. He had a handsome wife and three bright children; he was president of the state bank, an institution known to be founded on the rock of sound finance; he had been mayor of Shawnee and was a member of the legislature. So much of earthly glory had fallen to his share.

When he read the obituary of another self-made man he always nodded his head sagely as much as to say: "I know how it goes; I started with nothing myself." In fact Mr. Janeway's election to the legislature came of the admiration the electors had for a man of the people. When his constituents hired a band and went to congratulate him they found him ready with a speech. He said: "Fellow-citizens, I will not try to hide from you my deep gratification at the result of the election, I wanted to be elected—I have wanted a good many things and I've generally got them. But not without working. I started with nothing—I did chores for my keep, I went to school when I could, I picked up a penny here and a penny there; I did any honest work that I could find. And where am I now? President of a bank, ex-mayor and member of the legislature. I thank you, friends, for your votes, yet I feel that I have won my own way; that I am one, a private, perhaps, in the great army of self-made men." He bowed and retired amid loud applause. In another, this speech would have provoked criticism, but one of the privileges of the self-made man is to praise his maker without stint.

Mr. and Mrs. Janeway had just come from a visit to their new house, which their architect assured them was in the purest style of the gothic renaissance. But they were sure, too, which seemed to them of far more importance, that it was the finest house in town and quite eclipsed Mrs. Morgan's red-brick mansion.

They were to move into it at once and Mrs. Janeway went about the old house planning what should be left behind, as not coming up to the artistic standard of the new place. "Come here a minute, Madison," she called from an obscure entry back of the dining-room.

Mr. Janeway laid down his paper and went to her, followed by Florry, their youngest child. "What is it, my dear?" he asked.

"Hadm't we better pack this away—the frame's so shabby that it isn't fit for the new house?" She pointed to a faded photograph, hanging in a dark corner. It was the likeness of a plain woman, with a broad mouth and eyes widely separated; the hair was parted and drawn back from the forehead like two curtains; a watch-chain picked out in gilt encircled her neck and her lips and cheeks were touched with carmine, giving the face a ghastly pretense of life.

Mr. Janeway stared at it meditatively. "I hadn't noticed it for a long time," he said.

"Who are you?" Florry asked, looking at the picture as if she saw it for the first time.

"Why, Florry, that was my first wife," he answered, surprised that she had not known it before.

"Was she my mamma, too?" "No—no," he replied, hastily. "She was Sarah Deering."

"Wasn't she any relation to me?" the child persisted. She was but eight years old and the ramifications of kinship were yet a mystery to her.

"Of course not," her mother said, rather sharply. "Your papa was married to her when he was very young—long before he lived here or knew me. I thought you had heard this before." She turned to her husband. "Maddy's, shall I lay this picture away?"

Mr. Janeway looked at her attentively—it was it zeal for an artistic ensemble or was there a lurking jealousy of the woman who had come before? "Pack it away if you like," he said, turning away. "It is shabby."

Long after his wife and children were sleeping Mr. Janeway sat smoking and thinking complacently of his success. He, Madison Janeway, had begun with nothing and at 50 he had won the things he had longed for at 20. The evening and closing of the door attracted his attention. He looked up. A woman walked across the room. A plain woman, with an honest, ugly face and a short, thick figure.

MUSIC A LA GOLF.

Gives a Freshness and Variety to Criticism.

In these days, when golf is crowding in popularity every other form of outdoor sport, it is also—in England, at least—giving a freshness and variety to musical criticism which will be appreciated by the lay mind that is not educated up to a knowledge of the technical terms usually employed in describing musical events, says an exchange. Here is a report taken from a recent London paper, of a classical concert at St. James' hall: "An enormous crowd assembled last Monday night to witness the foursome competition over the St. James hall links. Punctually at 8 o'clock Dr. Joachim drove off from the tee, Signor Platti responding with a lovely low shot, which left Mr. Gibson within easy reach of the green with his brassie. Mr. Ries fozzled the second subject and Dr. Joachim was badly bunkered, but using his niblick on the G string in masterly style laid his ball dead, and the first movement was halved amid great enthusiasm. Starting one up at the scherzo, Signor Platti began the second movement, and outdrove Dr. Joachim by at least twenty bars. Mr. Gibson approached cleverly, and in the trio there was nothing to choose between the opponents, the coda (con sordini) resulting in another half. Mr. Gibson and Signor Platti were now dorny, but the latter, being obliged to play pawky round a dangerous pizzicato passage, lost a good deal of ground, as Dr. Joachim's drive and Mr. Ries' second were both long and straight."

"The living can only see the dead as they were in life," she returned. "You sold the farm, didn't you?" Mr. Janeway felt as if a reproach lay in the observation. "Yes, I sold the farm," he said. "I needed the money to put into other investments."

"I worked hard on that place," she said, crossing her hands—very rough, worn hands. "I worked very hard these three years—I tried to save all I could, Maddy."

"You were a good wife, Sarah," he replied; "and both of us had our burdens, I guess."

"And it was my money that bought the farm—you had nothing when you came courting me, did you, Maddy? And you said that my being thirty years old and you being just of age made no difference."

"Yes, I suppose I said that, and I'm sure I always tried to be good to you," he said in answer to that unspoken reproach that seemed to lie behind her spoken words. "I tried to treat you well."

"The money that came to me just before I died from Uncle John must have been a help—I left it and the farm to you, Maddy." Her dull eyes seemed to force him to acknowledge his debt.

"Yes—yes—Sarah. I know that I owe much to you. Without your help and money I should have had a much harder time getting on my feet. Yet I think I should have succeeded in any case." Mr. Janeway could not forbear offering this tribute to his self-esteem. "However, I gratefully acknowledge your aid, Sarah."

"You have another wife now, Maddy, and children," she said. "But I was first. I believed in you, and I worked for you, oh, so willingly. I know that you were different from me—I knew that you had hopes that stupid Sarah could never understand. I knew that I was your companion in your work, but not in your hopes. I knew that we were growing further apart every year that we lived together. I knew that while I was getting to be worked out and middle-aged, that you were only coming to your prime. I knew that it was best that I died when I did—before I came to be a drag on you. Yet, Maddy, before her and your children, I think you ought not to shame me, for I was your faithful wife—the wife of your youth, and I gave you all I had to give—my money, my love, my toil."

Before Mr. Janeway could answer she was gone and he sat alone. The next day, however, he took the old photograph downtown and ordered for it a gorgeous frame. When it was returned he hung it in his new library, where it looked strangely alien between a St. Cecilia and the Arabian Falconer, bought at the instigation of the architect.

Florry, with a child's quickness, noticed the fine new gilt frame that surrounded the ugly, good face. "What have you done to the lady?" she asked. "Aren't you going to pack her away, like mamma said?"

"No, the picture is to stay here. Do you remember who I said it was?" "Yes—it was your first wife."

Mr. Janeway took her on his knee. "Florry," he began soberly, "when I was a little boy I was very poor—as poor as the Galts—a family celebrated in the town for ill-luck and poverty. I went to school when I could, but that was mighty little, for I had to work most of the time. Sometimes I'd get most discouraged, but I had to work just the same. One year I worked for a man named Deering; he had a daughter, and when she found how much I wanted to go to school she lent me some money—money she had saved by pinching and scraping. After awhile her father died and she married me. I had nothing and she owned a good farm, but she married me. In six years she died and left everything to me. She gave me my start. She was a good woman, and believed in me when nobody else did. The other night papa dreamed that he saw her and talked to her, and it made him feel ashamed that he had seemed to forget her." Mr. Janeway felt that he was making a handsome reparation, but he was a man who aimed to do right—it was necessary to his self-esteem.

The child wriggled from his arms and walked away with an awed glance at the picture.

Mr. Janeway stared at it musingly. "Are you satisfied now, Sarah?" he caught himself saying. "Pshaw—that dream holds to me still," he exclaimed, "but anyhow I've done her justice."

And though the architect declared that the photograph quite spoiled the effect of the library and begged that it might be banished to some back room, Mr. Janeway was firm, and the dull, good face of his first wife kept its place between the St. Cecilia and the Arabian Falconer.

Singing as an Antidote to Consumption.

It is asserted that singing is a corrective of the too common tendency to pulmonary complaints. An eminent physician observes on the subject: "The Germans are seldom afflicted with consumption and this, I believe, is in part occasioned by the strength which their lungs acquire by exercising them in vocal music, for this constitutes an essential branch of their education."

SOME LATE NEW THINGS.

An adjustable handle for carrying traveling bags is arranged so that it can be fastened to either side of the bag by riveting a pair of brackets into which the ends of the handle lock to each side of the bag, thus allowing the bag to be carried either flat or edgewise, as desired.

Pneumatic car-fenders have recently been patented, consisting of a number of elastic tubes set in metal frames shaped like ordinary fenders.

A new folding table has a drawer set in the under portion of the table top in such a manner that it cannot be removed when the legs are folded up, the legs covering the front of the drawer.

A recent improvement in monkey wrenches consists of a lever lying parallel with the handle to tighten the grip of the jaws. To operate it the lever is raised and the jaws screwed as tight as possible by means of the usual thumbcrew, when the lever is forced downward, thus closing the jaws more tightly together.

To remove coats and hats out of the way and yet place them where they can be reached easily when wanted a new device consists of a bracket or rack to hold a number of coats and hats attached to a rod running up to the ceiling of the room in such a manner that it can be raised or lowered to the desired height and fastened either by a thumbcrew or spring catch.

A recently patented coin separator and distributor has a long, flat metal feed chute into which the coins are dropped at one end, the other end being lower, so that the coins will roll down to the coin-holders, each holder having an opening into the chute through which the coin drops, the size of the coin determining which tube it belongs in.

The heating of flat and sad irons by electricity has just been patented, the device having the inside next to the bottom hollowed out and several coils of wire placed therein, connected with an electric circuit by means of wires running to an electric lamp socket, the passage of the current through the coils heating the bottom of the iron.

A handy little coin package is made of metal and is fitted with a sliding section around the barrel portion, which can be closed and fastened with a loop when the package is full.

How Little Things Do Harm. Oftentimes it is little faults, little carelessness in conduct, little blemishes in character, the "no harms" that make fairly good people almost useless, so far as their influence goes. There was a great light house out at sea. One night the men lighted the lamps, as usual. Some time afterward they saw that there appeared no light upon the water where ordinarily there was a bright lane of beams. They examined their lamps—they were burning brightly. But they looked outside and there were millions of little insects on the glass, so thickly piled there that the light could not get through. In the morning they learned that a ship had been wrecked close by because the light had been obscured by the insects. Here is the lesson, says Dr. Miller: The lamp may be burning brightly in your soul or in mine; but little faults—pride, ugly temper, selfishness, half-heartedness, bad habits of tongue, carelessness about paying debts or keeping promises, a hundred other things—may so cloud our lives as to obscure the image of God in our souls. Perhaps some soul has been lost because your lamp does not shine out with a clear light. We counsel you young people to be good, beautiful in character, faithful in all duties—careful not in the smallest way to dim the luster of God's grace within.

In Italy there are more theaters in proportion to the population than in any other country.