

TRACING MISSENT LETTERS.

System Adopted by the Postoffice Department.

An interesting example of the methods of the Post Office Department in tracing up a lost or mis-sent letter is the case of a news letter mailed at Cumberland, Md., and addressed to Washington, says the Washington Star. This letter was sent to Frederick, Md., and arrived at Washington 1 day later than expected. Complaint was made to the postal authorities, with the result that it was traced from the time of its deposit in the mail car to that of its arrival in Washington, and the clerk responsible for the error was located.

In the matter of registered letters it is a simple thing to trace them, but where there is no record kept of a letter and the only thing to depend upon is the postmark, it is entirely different. This inquiry passed through four hands before being returned to the complainant, that number of officials being engaged in its care en route.

The original complaint went to the chief clerk of the railway mail service stationed at Baltimore, who forwarded the memorandum to the postmaster at Frederick for information as to how he got hold of the letter addressed to Washington. He replied to the chief clerk that the letter was in a package marked for the Frederick office, but that he did not know how it came to be sent there. The chief clerk at Baltimore then sent an inquiry to the clerk in charge of the train by which the letter was dispatched to Frederick, asking how the letter was disposed of on his train. It went to him by way of the superintendent of the railway mail service, who indorsed it: "Please continue investigation."

The clerk replied from Cumberland that the letter was dispatched in New York & Grafton Railway post office train No. 4, at 2:45 a. m., April 27. This reply came back to Washington and another inquiry was sent to the transfer clerk at Cumberland. He made reply according to the information he had and the matter continued. At last came the reply to the complainant. It read:

"Attention is invited to the report of the superintendent of the third division of the railway mail service, indicating that the railway postal clerk responsible for mis-sending this letter has been located. This office regrets the annoyance caused by this error and hopes the action taken (a reprimand to the clerk and a caution to be more careful in future) will prevent its repetition."

A Wonderful Building.

"Without doubt one of the greatest buildings in the world is in the strange and remote part of the globe which is often alluded to as the 'Forbidden Land,' said Thomas Dawson of England to the Washington Post. "This is the palace of the great lama, in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet. This dignitary's castle is 900 feet long and 37 feet in height. In its stately grandeur and massiveness it is one of the most imposing structures reared by man. The building contains 3,000 rooms, many of them being of great size. It is painted white, except a central portion near the top, which includes the apartments of the chief inmate. It is reported on good authority that the roofs are covered with plates of gold that present a dazzling effulgence under the rays of the sun. Except for its vastness, however, there is nothing about the palace of any special interest except the private apartments of the grand lama."

Offers Prizes for Sharks.

The marine board of Trieste, Austria, has issued a circular in which all Austrian marine officers are instructed to stimulate the killing of sharks. Premiums are offered as follows: For each specimen of shark, of whatever species (the edible ones excepted), up to 5 feet in length, \$2.30; for larger ones, \$4.00, and for very large specimens of the species oxyrinchus spallanzani and odontaspis ferot, \$11.50. For the capture of man-eating sharks premiums of from \$9.50 to \$230 are offered. Fishermen making application for payment are to exhibit the specimens to the nearest harbor officer.

Pope Gets 23,300 Letters a Day.

King Edward receives daily no fewer than 3,000 newspapers and 1,000 letters, while the Czar and the German Emperor receive each from 600 to 700 letters and appeals. The King of Italy is troubled by about 500, and Queen Wilhelmina from 100 to 150. All these, however, are put in the shade by the Pope, who holds first place with from 22,000 to 23,000 letters every day.

No One Buried Alive.

To prevent burial alive a French physician suggests the injection of a solution of fluorescein into corpses. This substance has the property, if there is still some circulatory activity, of staining the skin a deep yellow and the eyeballs an intense green.

A woman never judges a man's ability as a liar by the compliments he hands her.

NO BREAK COMES AS YET

PEACE PLENIPOTENTIARIES STILL LINGER AT PORTSMOUTH.

Special Messenger From Oyster Bay in Conference With Witte and Baron Rosen, But Purpose of Visit Not Made Public.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H.—President Roosevelt is energetically continuing his efforts to save the peace conference from shipwreck. The sensation of the day was a mysterious visit paid by M. Witte and Baron de Rosen to the navy yard when Mr. Pierce delivered to them a message in writing from President Roosevelt which has been brought from Oyster Bay by a confidential messenger named McGaw. Then for about three hours Mr. Witte and Baron de Rosen remained at the yard, and it is believed were in direct or indirect communication with the president. After their return to the hotel they absolutely declined to make any statement.

It is assumed the president's message was the result of Baron Kaneko's visit to Oyster Bay.

The arrangements for the reception of the president's message were completed. Secretary Pierce occupied a room at the Rockingham hotel for the purpose. When Mr. McGaw arrived he was at once ushered to the apartment of Secretary Pierce and there his message was delivered. Mr. Pierce, accompanied by Mr. McGaw at once set out for the navy yard, where an appointment had been made with Mr. Witte and Baron de Rosen, and the message was finally presented to the Russians.

As the situation now stands Mr. Witte could not, if he would, compromise on either article five (Sakhalin) or article nine (indenture). The instructions given him by the emperor before he left St. Petersburg precluded the possibility of either, and it can be stated that up to the present hour every message he has received indirectly from his emperor shows no sign of any change of mind. And from the private advices the advisors whom the emperor is consulting seem practically unanimous in their support of the view that further concessions are inconsistent with Russia's "dignity and honor," and that unless Japan is prepared to yield something substantial—no less than articles ten or eleven, but upon articles five and nine—it is better to continue the war.

Although it seems to be hoping against hope, there is still a possibility that the emperor will take president's advice and take the only step which the president thinks can save the conference from shipwreck. The president's suggestion is not general, and vague, but quite concrete. If it is finally rejected it is said not to involve a specific answer, but Mr. Witte is anxious that the emperor shall have full time to deliberate and the Japanese have no desire to force the issue. They will welcome a few days' delay if the delay keeps the door to peace open.

There is a strong intimation that the Japanese are prepared to make a proposition when the conference reassembles. But there is nothing to indicate that they are prepared to recede on either article 5 or article 9. On articles 10 and 11 they might forego, but that would hardly bring peace nearer. Five and 9 remain now, as at the beginning, the seemingly insurmountable obstacles to peace.

Article 10 of Japan's demands provides that the Russian warships interned in neutral ports shall be turned over to Japan. Articles eleven calls for the limitation of Russia's naval power in the far east.

The protocol is being prepared in French by Mr. Plancon, one of the Russian secretaries, in collaboration with the Japanese secretaries, who make an English translation of the document. The protocol is to be a faithful photograph of the proceedings, showing in condensed form the arguments advanced on each side in support of the position taken by each of the different articles. When the Japanese take an exception to the verbiage employed by Mr. Plancon the exact words to be used are agreed to by them, and if an issue arises which they cannot adjust it is referred to the respective chiefs. Baron Kuomura and Mr. Witte.

PLENTY OF DELAY

PEACE PLENIPOTENTIARIES DO NOTHING AT THEIR MEETING.

ARE NO DEVELOPMENTS

EFFORT NOW SEEMINGLY IS TO KEEP THE ENVOYS TOGETHER

President Roosevelt is Working Directly With the Emperor of St. Petersburg and the Lesser Lights Waiting.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H.—The morning session of the peace conference was a complete blank so far as developments were concerned. It was not even a real session of the plenipotentiaries, but was given up to an attempt on the part of the secretaries to settle some dispute which arose as soon as the consideration of the protocols began. It was claimed up-n each side that the corrections which should have gone into the French text and into the English translation had not been made, and it was therefore decided to give the secretaries an opportunity to adjust their differences as best they could and at a formal session promulgation of the text and translation should be made. Then such disputed points as arose were to be settled by the plenipotentiaries themselves. It is stated that Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira and Mr. Witte and Baron Rosen remained in the respective private quarters while the conference room was given up to the secretaries. An intimation is given however, that during the morning the plenipotentiaries themselves were in private consultation. This would be very significant if true, but no confirmation is obtainable.

Delay, with the president working directly with the emperor at St. Petersburg through Ambassador Meyer and with the peace forces of the world, financial and otherwise, bringing what influence they can to bear, means hope. To quote again the words uttered by a high and competent authority "If the conference can be prolonged into next week the influences brought to bear upon the Russian emperor will be irresistible."

The Russians got away from the hotel first, Mr. Witte, Baron de Rosen and Mr. Naboukoff. Mr. Witte's secretary, entering their motor car. They appeared excessively gay, greeting the crowd assembled to see them off with broad smiles and cheery "good morning," and the physiognomy readers instantly translated what they had seen as a certain anxiety that peace would virtually be arranged.

To the more careful observers, however, the smiles of the Russians appeared forced, and beneath the gay exterior, there was an expression of anxiety.

Baron Komura, Mr. Takahira, Mr. Sato, and Mr. Adachi appeared on the main veranda with faces composed and inscrutable as ever. They, too, smiled in response to the greetings of their partisans, but there was no excessive manifestation of exuberance.

The popular belief was that the issue would be decided soon, but the Associated Press had what it considered certain warrant for the statement that such would not be the case. Were it to go to a complete showdown of hands a rupture was certain since the long cablegram of instructions which Mr. Witte received from this government would not permit him to accept the compromise which it was understood Japan was prepared to offer as a result of the president's heroic endeavors to save the conference.

The rumor telegraphed to the Associated Press was confirmed but it requires an important explanatory statement. The cablegram from St. Petersburg was sent before Mr. Witte had communicated to the emperor the contents of the communication from President Roosevelt, delivered to him at the navy yard. Hence it was necessarily to be accepted as the emperor's last word and Mr. Witte, who, there is reason to believe is personally in sympathy with the compromise suggested, went to the conference prepared to "spare for time." It was believed that at the conclusion of the sitting an adjournment will be taken upon some pretext or other, in order to give Mr. Witte an opportunity to hear further from his government

NEBRASKA NOTES

S. R. Fletcher, of Bancroft has been allowed \$10 by the county board for the purpose of collecting a suitable exhibit to be shown at the state fair in behalf of Cuming county.

An 8-year-old boy, Mathias Moritz of Geneva, has been sent to the Reform school, the charge being that he started a fire in an implement house in Grafton and was generally incorrigible.

Jerome, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Paulk, residing northeast of Wood River, had a bad runaway with a team of horses and a wagon. In turning a sharp corner the wagon upset and fell on the boy, injuring him quite severely about the legs.

E. Carsten, living a short distance west of Albion has sold his farm for \$102.50 an acre, the same having been purchased a few years since for about one-half the price for which it was sold.

Word has reached Geneva that while out with a fishing party at Geneseo, Ill., Benjamin Brooke was drowned. He lived for several years with the family of C. A. Warner in Chelsea township, and M. Warner sent orders to send the body to Geneva for burial.

The Woodman of the World of Wahoo have unveiled three monuments at the graves of deceased members in Sunrise cemetery. They were assisted by the degree team of Sovereign camp of Omaha. The brothers at whose graves monuments have been erected are Louis Monteen, J. A. Johnson and Eric Lindskog.

The Dobbs family at Rockford have held a reunion the occasion being the 74th birthday anniversary of Mrs. Mary J. Dobbs, one of the pioneer settlers of Gage county. About 100 members of the family were in attendance.

John Wallinger, one of the prominent farmers residing in Eight Mile Grove precinct at Plattsmouth has been found dead at the home of his son-in-law Antone Schaefer. Heart disease is thought to have been the cause of his sudden death. He was about 70 years of age.

The canning factory at Auburn is employing two shifts of men now and running night and day. The sweet corn is ripening so fast that some apprehension is felt as to whether they will be able to pack all the corn. Enough men cannot be secured to assist in the work and an agent has been sent to Omaha and South Omaha to get the required help.

E. Corbin, of Wood River the Union Pacific florist, has sold a fine farm near Cairo through Mitchell & Fraught of Wood River to George A. Husbell of Lincoln. The place is a quarter section and the consideration was \$5,800.

Richard Leonard, the boy who was arrested in Beatrice for stealing a horse and buggy at Fairbury, has been taken back to Boone, Ia., by his parents, who stated that their son was of unsound mind and that he had recently escaped from a feeble minded institute in Iowa.

Agnes Czaplak, a fourteen-year-old girl, has died at the home of her parents near Durcan. The girl died of injuries received while working in the hay fields on her parents farm. She was driving a hay rake when the horses ran away and she was caught in the rake and had several ribs broken besides other internal injuries.

J. E. Reed, fireman at the water and light plant at Syracuse was seriously burned and the lighting station almost completely wrecked by an explosion of gas. Mr. Reed had discovered a leakage of gas in one of the pipes leading from the gas machine and went into the pit to repair the leakage. According to his story he lighted a match and the explosion followed, burning his body and blowing out the entire north end of the brick building and tearing the roof almost entirely from the structure. The damage amounts to nearly \$1,000.

Four employees of the Lone Star Carnival company in Beatrice have attached a carload of baggage belonging to the company on the Burlington tracks, claiming that there was due them the sum of \$38.27 for services rendered. Two other men, Milton Macey and Fred Schwaner are members of the band, and Herman Vanouest and Ferdinand Mayer are acrobats.

PUT ON PRESSURE

ENERGETIC STEPP TAKEN BY FRANCE TO BRING MOROCCO TO TIME.

REDRESS FOR AN ARREST

FAILURE TO COMPLY MEANS THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF A PORT

Algerian Prisoner in Meantime Held in Custody by Authorities of Fez—Taft Party Will Separate at Hong Kong.

PARIS.—As the result of a special meeting of the council of minister it was announced that a military demonstration will be made against Morocco unless the sultan promptly yields to the French demands for the release of the French Algerian citizen, a merchant named Bouzian who was unjustly arrested at Gharb, Moroccan town on the Algeria frontier.

Instructions were sent to the French minister at Fez, St. Ren-Taillander, to make a final and imperative demand on the sultan. The minister was informed that if the demand should be refused the entire personnel of the legation was to depart from Morocco and a military movement would simultaneously begin along the Algerian frontier.

It is the intention of the military authorities to occupy a Moroccan border town, probably Oudjda owing to its strategic command of the route to the Moroccan capital. However, the officials are confident that the sultan will yield before the threat of using military force.

The demonstration as planned, is somewhat similar to that which an American squadron made at Tangier to compel the release of Ion Perdicaris, who was captured by the bandit Raisuli. The French authorities decried a naval demonstration as inexpedient, owing to possible international complications resulting from other countries sending warships to observe the demonstration, while military movement against Morocco would be largely a police measure not involving the general question of French authority in Morocco. The persistent refusal of the sultan to yield, however, might compel the French to advance further than border town. Germany has thus far approved the French demands for redress, but fears are expressed in some quarters that the sultan will refuse to yield in the hope of securing the aid of Germany. Practically all the leading powers have approved the determination of the French government to adopt a firm course.

The communication does not refer to the peace negotiations, although it is understood that the minister informally discussed the general prospects of war. A military demonstration against Morocco was considered by the ministers to be preferable to a naval demonstration. The latter might involve international complications as other powers, notably Germany would probably send ships for the purpose of observing the French demonstration. However, France is the only power capable of executing military demonstration without transporting troops as there is a large force of French and native Algerian troops now stationed in Algeria close to the Moroccan border. The French headquarters is a Lalla Marnia, sixteen miles from the Moroccan town of Oudjda the occupation of which would place the French within 200 miles of the Moroccan capital of Fez.

ELEKED REAL ESTATE MAN.

SEWARD, Neb.—A prominent real estate dealer of this place was nicely confounded the other day. A gentleman looking for land stopped at the Windsor and inquired for a good farm. He was taken in tow by a dealer with listed properties for sale driven over the county, furnished the best cigars, etc. He finally decided on a farm north of town. He wanted to look at it again, however before he paid for it, but the day was so hot he thought he would wait, as he was wearing a heavy suit and did not want to cash his check until he bought the land. The obliging R. E. D. took him to a clothing store and "stood" for a swell summer outfit. The farm proved satisfactory, but it was too late when they returned to town to cash checks, and that night the well-dressed gentleman left town for other parts, not even asking for his hotel bill.