THE RURAL MAIL DELIVERY SYSTEM

(Homestead.)

Great interest is felt in the subject of rural free mail delivery, and we have yet to hear of a farmer who does not special agents of the rural free delivery offices, some country storekeepers in It appears to be true, as many famil-is owing to them that the Boer gen-iar with the Boers have predicted, that the women will shed their blood with the men in defence of the last inch of Transval and Free State territory. Again and again has this prediction been made, but little attention has been paid to it. It is now beginning to have states and one territory. Indeed, the only states where there was no rural delivery were Idaho, Mississippi, Monsome theory that women ought not to be robust can she be criticised. She has almost invariably a fine complexion -bronzed, but ruddy-which lasts even to old age. We are in receipt of a considerable number of inquiries in regard to how a rural community should proceed in order to secure free tana and Wyoming. We are in receipt delivery. One correspondent writes an follows:

"I have noticed a number of times in your valuable paper items and articles referring to rural free mail delivery, a subject of special interest to me. There is no question but we will get it in time, but life is too short to wait long for improvements. It is every man's duty, Improvements. It is every man's duty to help make and get improvements. What would be a greater improvement in this country that rural free mail delivery? I have talked to a great many about it, and all are in favor of it, and when we all want it I can see no good reason why we should not have it event returns that we are like cation of the national head dress of the women of ancestral Holland. The various types of Dutch colffure may be traced among the Boer women.
There is no doubt that we shall hear more and more of the fighting qualities of the Boer women in this war. As the situation of their country becomes more desperate, they will come to the front. Many reports which have been made on this subject have received too little attention.
A colonial soldler with Buller's army writes that before the battle of Colenso he heard the voices of women and children in the Boer trenches. He could have been the beattle of Colenso he heard the voices of women and children in the Boer trenches. He could have been the beattle of the boer trenches. He could have been the beattle of the boer trenches with after the state of the boer trenches. home and rest. Is there any reason why the farmer should not enjoy these con-veniences? I would like to write more on this important subject, but will only ask a question or two and close. How are the trial delivery routes are the are the trial delivery routes arranged? Must they start from some large town and end at another? Do they take in a certain prescribed tornicar? certain prescribed territory? What would be the proper way to go about it to get one established?" We cordially coincide with this corre-

spondent in his advocacy of increased facilities for communication in the rural districts, both by free delivery and by the telephone. As to the method by which the routes are established, the which the routes are established, the regulations of the department require that all service of this kind must be originated upon petitions, presented by the people desiring it, through their senators or representatives in congress. Wherever it is practicable to do so the petition must be accompanied by a rough map showing the country to be traversed, with a general statement as to the number and avocations of the people who are to be served. Where people who are to be served. Where roads are good no rural route should be less than twenty-five miles in length, and there should not be less than one hundred families within each reach of each route. As the purpose is to fur-nish routal free delivery, the petition must not be for service that would be a mere adjunct to city delivery, by giv-

"THE LION OF SOUTH AFRICA." ::

niche beside that of Leonidas; Cronje the National Boer Relief association: the man remains to be known outside his own brave land. The Sunday Post- from the Transvaal who is fighting for Dispatch thus presents him to the and with the people of the Orange Free American people:

fighting countrymen, should capture and has done his duty. It is not the the admiration of the world, since he habit of the people of South Africa to aspirations than any other general. He ready to fight for his country. is second in command of the republican General Cronje is known by reputa the burghers.

They love Joubert, with his courtly manners and his crafty generalship: but Joubert's qualities are the product of his French ancestry, and he does not appeal to their racial instincts with the force of his subordinate, Cronje, the veritable farmer-soldier, who will stand for al time as the type of the Beer In the state of the strate of the strate of the strate of the strate we first heard of Cronje in 1881, when he was elected Commandant General of the strate the strate of the strate of the strate of the strate of the strate he was elected Commandant General of the strate of the str

for all time as the type of the Boer in war and peace. Cronje is, first of all, a farmer. His life as a civilian is that of a patriarch. He rules his own little tribe with ab-the burgher troops of Potchefstroom di-vision. Against him was pitted Major Clarke of the British army in that year of warfare which ended at Majuba hill. Major Clarke capitulated to General Cronje. The peace papers were signed by them solute authority, in the true biblical by them. Way, and imposes upon it the obligation of the colligation of the solution of way, and imposes upon it the obligations of worshiping God and of tilling

His farm, which is near Potchefstrom, covers 12,000 acres. Any Boer farm would strike an American as a crude

There are no pictures on the walls. True Boer as he is, Cronje despises art in all its forms. His reading is con-fined to the bible, which he knows by heart, and a weekly newspaper in the Dutch tongue published in Pretoria. That a man should find pleasure in books or paintings or the manifesta-tions of nature, is to him beyond un-derstanding. He comprehends such ec-centrics under the designations "root. Cronje took command of the united True Boer as he is, Cronje despises art in all its forms. His reading is con-southern border of the Transvaal. Gen-transvaal. Gen-transvaal. Gen-transvaal. Gen-to all feking, but he was ordered to join Commandant Lubbe's Free State forces at Magersfontein when it was learned that General Methuen, with 24,000 men, was on his way to relieve Kimberley. Cronje brought 5,009 men only with him. Cronje took command of the united nerstanding. He comprehends such ec-centries under the designations "rooi-neks." which is applied impartially to Englishmen, Americans and other un-welcome foreigners. He is a stient man, simple and God-fearing, inspired by a passionate deter-imination that his race shall be form

fearing, inspired by a passionate deter-mination that his race shall be free, not alone from alien dominion, but also "rooinek" whom he met in Johannes-burg ventured to remark that the earth revilved round the sun and not the sun ound the earth. "How can that be," demanded Cronje,

"when the bible tells us that Joshua caused the sun to stand still that he might slaughter his enemies?"

That settled the question. Joshua is his favorite biblical character-his military and religious ideal. To his family and dependents and the This family and dependents and the to the Dors to the Dors ability to that the story of the Hebrew leader's bloody fights with his enemies, and in going forth against the English he is generals, our leaders confer with the spiritual exaltation that nerved Joshua to vanguish the Philis-

Cronje, the soldier, has carved his By P. Louter Wessels, Secretary of Pieter Arnoldus Cronie, the general State, may well be called the "Lion of It is fitting that he, beyond all his South Africa." He has proved his valor

more fully represents the Boer and his worship a hero. Every man stands

forces, but he is first in the hearts of tion in the Orange Free State, although his life has been spent beyond the Vaal. They love Joubert, with his courtly Like many of our people, he is of Hu-

portant position and figured conspicuously in the settlement of these diffi-culties. Let me say here that we of South Africa considered Gladstone the fairest statesman England ever had. Cronje has a great heart as well as a

would strike an American as a crude essay in agriculture, but Cronje's is somewhat superior to his neighbors'. Still, the greater part of it is unfenced and untilled. The homestead is a stone building of one story. There are half a dozen replaced for \$500. The floors through out the dwelling consist of the native earth, beaten flat and glazed with buil-lock's blood. There are no pictures on the walls. the Free State should send men to the

the streets of our capital with his face set. He did not want the difficulty setnot alone from alien dominion, but also from the influences of modern luxury. To him the old and new testament are said he would ride the length and him that he laughed scornfully when a 'reolnek' whom he met in Johannes. do it with ten times that force.

do it with ten times that force. While we welcome Cronje as the lead-er of the Free State forces, we wish that our brave old Gideon Joubert were able to take the field. He fought in the Basuto war. His strategical planning was marvelous. Indeed, the art of strat-and lyddite shells charged with poison-

The Boer women fought side by side to their husbands, as ordinary women native wars. Often the trekking Boers favor it. Indeed the only objectors, acwith the men in their heroic defense of would be. They cooked the food, car- would to construct a laager to resist cording to the official reports of the Koodoosrand.

This is a revelation at which even England stands aghast.

It appears to be true, as many famil-

Transvaal and Free State territory. Again and again has this prediction

been made, but little attention has been paid to it. It is now beginning to have a terrible significance. Statements made from time to time by British sol-diers give confirmation of it. A war in which women take part will be awful beyond edscription. They will surely urge their men to the last pitch of descention while the energy will of desperation, while the enemy will have the alternative of killing women or being ruthlessly slaughtered them-

Such a war as this has never taken place in modern times. The most strik-ing instance of it is the great struggle of the Dutch, the ancestors of the Boers, against Spanish tyranny, in which women not only fought, but in several instances led men. Motley tells how the Dutch women tore out the hearts of the Spaniards and flung them in the faces of the enemy.

The Boer woman is a strange figure, apart from this age, uncouth, heroic, possessing boundless courage and the bigotry of her husband in an exagger-

With the 3,000 Boers who resisted for a week the assault of 50,000 British troops in that death hole in the Modder river were the wives, sweethearts, chil-dren and other women relatives of the defenders. They had accompanied the original army of 10,000 Boers which resisted Methuen's advance and slaughtered the Highland brigade at Magers-

to look after them at home. They would have been left to the mercy of the Kaffirs.

To set the example, Mrs. Cronje, wife of the ablest general of the Boers, ac-companied her husband. He is a rich man, probably a millionaire, but in the Transvaal the rich are as ready as the

of the great and rich man of the Trans-vaal doing her duty under the murder ons fire of 50,000 soldiers! That simple oid Boer housewife made coffee, cooked Basuto war. His strategical planning was marvelous. Indeed, the art of strat-egy is born in South Africa. There is something about the topography of the country which leds itself to such skill and wars with the natives have added to the Boers' ability to stand off the something about. There is no more she thought about. There is no more heroic spectacle than this in all history

Even when the British general offered and accustome dto all the hardships of campaigning. These qualities have been developed by the successive treks, or developed by the successive treks, or immigrations, they have made and the times. He hates politics. He does not com-prehend the ambition that would lead another man to make political capital out of the great regard that his gener-alship has won for him. In 1895 he was strongly urged to oppose Kruger for the presidency, but he refused. Hoberts is an Irishman and a magnifi-cent fighter. Personal daring has had, no less to do with his advancement than skillful generalship. He hates political capital there are always men in line for pro-

sary they fought with their rifles. It a circle, while the men, resting on them, is owing to them that the Boer gen- would shoot the advancing blacks with whose places of business the office is

THEIR COUNTRY IN THE INTRENCHMENTS.

A STAR FOR Y ALL DE ADDRESS OF THE REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY ADDRESS OF THE PROPER

exception god shots, good horsewomen

SWEETHEARTS AND WIVES FIGHT FOR

ried ammunition, and nursed the wound- the onslaught of a horde of Zulus. The ed at most times, but whenever neces- great trek wagons would be placed in system, are the postmasters at small

stand behind with axe in hand to chop off the heads of any Zulus who should crawl under the wagons. With all these combative qualities the Boer woman sets up an example of true womanhood by raising an enormous family. In personal appearance she is not displeasing, as many ill-natured and ill-mannered writers assert she is. Only upon the artificial and unwhole-some theory that women ought not to

The Boer woman is the absolute ruler of her household within doors. Her husband spends much of his time hunting and looking after his cattle and Kaffirs. When he comes home to smoke his pipe on the stoep he interferes in no way with his vrouw. Mrs. Kruger has no opinions on politics except those of her able husband, but at home she is the ruler and saves every cent of the president's salary, it is said.

The dress of these women is exceed-ingly picturesque and varied. One in-evitable feature of it is a large sun bonnet, necessitated by the fierce Af-rican sun. This is evidently a modifi-cation of the national head dress of the women of ancestral Holland. The various types of Dutch colffure may be traced among the Bear women

dren in the Boer trenches. He could hardly believe his own ears, but after the battle a drummer of the King's Own Borderers told him that in the middle of the charge he saw women carrying belts of cartridges to their husbands. They walked across the open middle of the charge he saw women carrying belts of cartridges to their husbands. They walked across the open ground behind the first line of trenches, which was swept by bullets. Behind were littlec hildren carrying bags of bullets. Many were killed.

When the women went back from the trenches carrying empty belts the Eng-lish thought the Boers were retreating and redoubled their fire.

A sergeant of the Scots Fusileers says that the Boers bury their dead in a sort of well and that in them were many bodies of women and children. Many foreign observers have warned the British that if they conquer the Boer men they cannot conquer the wo-men. One of these observers is Dr. A. Men. One of these observers is D. A. Kuyper, an éducated Dutchman and a member of the States General of Hol-land. He writes in the Revue des Deux Mondes, the leading French mag-azine. He explains that he is an ad-

mirer of British institutions and that for that reason he is particularly grieved to see England engaged in a war of conquest against a free people.

He declares that England can only succeed by exterminating the Boer race, because the women will fight after all the men are dead. He concludes:

"As long as the lioness of the Transvaal, surrounded by her cubs, shall roar against England from the summit of the Drakensberg, the Boers will not



skillful generalship. His most famous achievement was

Robs.

also hears a title which commemorates his great achievements in arms.

He is a student, an organizer, an en-gineer. He is as cold as ice. In his eyes a line of infantry is no more than a scythe, a body of cavairy no more than a projectile. Of personal valor he may be richly capable, but his method of warfare does not give it opportuni-ties. He has a brain that can plan great, tedious operations, foreseeing difficulties and overcoming them in ad-vance. Come. If you see a boy and a man fighting and the boy is doing pretty well you do not interfere, do you? But once let the man overpower the boy and you will separate them. The South African Republic and the vance. A good proportion of the troops that have taken Cavite will be needed to garrison it. In this hotbed of the in-surrection we have absolutely no friends. The women who smiled at us from the roadside will assist with in-formation their brothers, their hus-

there are always men in line for pro motion.

His most famous achievement was the march from Cabul to Kandahar. With 19,600 men he crossed the great mountain ranges of Afghanistan, a dis-tance of 300 miles, in twenty days, and then crushed the formidable Ayoub Khan. The empire rang out with that march, and it was only one of the many martial feats of the indomitable "Little Bobs" Mr. brother, C. H. Wessels, is chair-

obs." General Lord Kitchener of Khartoum Iso bears a title which commemorates is great achievements in arms. He is a type of the modern soldier. but I tell them to wait. The time may

A CHISEL IN HIS HEAD.

surgical operations ever attempted in wound was over the nose and had taken surgical operations ever attempted in Maryland was successfully performed came coremost and cut through flexb. at St. Joseph's hospital, in Baltimore, when Prof. Louis McLane Tiffany, aswhen Prof. Louis McLane Tiffany, as-sisted by Dr. Carey Gamble and other surgeons of the hospital, removed from from the under lip to the right side of the head of Charles C. Barker a steel the nose at its top. The flesh was then chisel four and one-nalf inches long, laid back and a portion of the superior

machine when the varse leading over the bridge ownership. It owns absolutely its own adviced saring or direction with the other one was not. The selfunction and taken to St. Joseph's count passengers a distance of the offer and the other of the order same routed with the other one was not. The sharp tool hurded with the force requested the rights of the same to St. Joseph's count in the world, Next to Paris It is the stimulation of the next successful paralysis and was brought to the offer and the second the successful paralysis and was brought to the offer and the world. Next to Paris It is the production of the next successful paralysis and was brought to the offer and the successful paralysis and was brought to the offer and the world. Next to Paris It is the production of the next successful paralysis and was brought to the force requestion of the successful paralysis and was brought to the offer and showed his surmise to be correct. The sharp tool hurded with the force requestion and showed his surmise to be correct. The sharp tool hurded with the force requestion and showed his surmise to be correct. The sharp tool hurded with the force requestion and showed his surmise to be correct. The sharp tool hurded with the force requestion and showed his surmise to be correct. The sharp tool hurded with the force requestion and showed his surmise to be correct. The sharp tool hurded with the force requestion the more frame and the mole and showed his surmise to be correct. The sharp tool hurde with the force requestion the more sharp tool hurde with the force requestion and showed the next correct of the more sharp tool hurded with the force requestion and showed the surmise to be correct. The sharp tool hurde with the force request of the force shore shore the surmise to be correct. The sharp tool hurde with the force request of the shore shore the surmise to be correct. The sharp tool hurde with the force request of the shore the surmise to be correct. The sharp tool hurde with the force request of the surmise

One of the most difficult and peculiar j of a bullet, had entered where the

maxillary removed with bone forceps.

The sharp tool huried with the force equal of any. When Good Stomach, one of the Sloux Indians with the Nouveau Cirque in Paris, was picked up in the street drunk and inarticulate, the police speni in hunting all over the city and sur-rounding country for an interpreter of the Sloux language. They did not find-one. When the noble red man regained the mastery of his vocal chords it was found that he spoke nothing but Eng-lish. The set of the exist of the side seams, so that is found that he spoke nothing but Eng-lish.



Das Marinas, Province of Cavite, Jan. | tangas and Cavite. We shall have to suit he is carrying on the work like 3 .- "Your soldiers sometimes get drunk follow them to the end of the island.

and our Moros never do," said one of General Otis may have to wait some the Sulu chieftains to General Bates, time before he has troops enough to the Sulu chieftains to General Bates, the before he more than the islands of favor is to drive the whole population "and your soldiers are equally strange Samar and Levte as yet unocupied, he of the southern provinces before us of good will. I accept no offers from about women. If they find a strange Samar and Leyte as yet unocupied, he those who want to fight for the Boers, girl alone and unprotected in the woods needs every man of the 65,000. girl alone and unprotected in the woods | needs every man of the 65,000.

they give her food and take her to a A good proportion of the troops that

Even the natives of Luzon are now friends. The women who smiled at us it is necessary to penetrate to very re-aware of the superb characteristics of from the roadside will assist with in-plorer and the missionary have not car. bands or their fathers who are beyond a fact, if they do not understand it, for our line.

they understand very little about us. The great surpassing military virtue and we understand very little about of the Filipino soldier is that he keeps them. Before the outbreak it was inexplicable to them how a soldier who contact. This is especially and wondergets drunk can fight. Now they know fully true of the Caviteltes. They keep that the soldier who gets drunk will just without the range of our rifles, fight. The process of education is slow going before us or following us up. Anand costly. Last spring when our forces entered a

town, if there was any one left behind, he was either ol dor feeble. In this province of Cavite, where we are the most bitterly hated, as our column

most bitterly hated, as our coumn marched unopposed from Imus to Das Marinas yesterday, the women and children were in the nipa houses which lined the roadside. Some of them had fruit to sell to the soldiers. Many of them smiled as if they were really sin-them smiled as if they were really sin-

ed about six pairs of American soldiers

"That is a very straight story. Very likely he could, and very likely he did. Let him go," said the general, Let him go," said the general. The opinion of the whole army is not the opinion of General Bates. We often hear the expression "That the only good Filipino is a dead one. Shoot ev-ery man jack of them that we find snooping around our lines." The plan which many officers openly forms to do do not be a back a population.

until famine and distress make them

cry for mercy .- Post-Dispatch.

Cannibal Don't Like White Man.

Cannibalism is not so prevalent today as it was a quarter of a century ago. ried civilizing influences. There are many tribes of sayages, however, now in a semi-civilized state, who, not so many years ago, were the worst kind of cannibals. A missionary the other day who has just returned from a sojourn of many years among cannibals, gave some interesting information about this. All the present generation, he said, are converted to civilized prac-tices, in large part, and only the old folks retain memories of the barbarous

"Once," said the missionary, "when a new young man came to join me, one of the first things he confided to me was sidering its number, its poor marks-manship and the incapability of the that he was very anxious to see and talk to a real live cannibal. According-ly I sent for one of the old, gray-headed men of the tribe, who had been a fierce warrior in days gone by. He was a tail and stately fellow, and he sainted us profoundly as he entered. As he could speak only his native language.

'And people of your own color?'

Which tasted the best-white man

While the dress skirt still fits smooth

ly about the hips, the marked advan-tage of graceful lines is not ignored.

questioned reign for two seasons to come, and in the hands of various noted ateliers they are increasing with extraordinary rapidity.

The skirt flares out prettily, but

I had to interpret for the curlous young Of course their outposts man. "'Have you really eaten human flesh?" he asked. "I interpreted this, and the tame old

if not, they ate us.

"Yes, whenever they could be "Yes, whenever they could be "Yes, and the search of the search of the "Did you eat white men?"

aught

"'Always, when we made war, we ate our captives, if we were victorious;

or black? "Black man best; nice and juicy. White man tough and too salty."

abnormally on the best French models. Skirts in pleated form will have un-

Next summer will witness at Newport the society debut of Miss May Goelet, who is heiress to \$20,000,000 in her own

drawers. "I picked them up in a field," he said.

within two or three miles of the post-office in the city. The route must start from a postoffice, but does not neces-sarily end at one, though it often passes by country postoffices and renders serv-ice so good as to lead to the discontinuance of such offices. When the petition and may have been

When the petition and may have been presented through the congressman, as above indicated, the department di-rects a special agent to examine the proposed route, map it out more exactly and bond the carrier. The special agents have no authority to lay out a route without previous instructions to make the survey, and no route must be put in operation after survey without

specific instructions. When the order is issued for its es-tablishment the postmaster of the distributing office is advised of the length and boundaries of the routes which the carriers must follow. The carriers are placed under his control, and their pay. is \$400 per annum. The postmaster is also directed to see that boxes are put up by the patrons of the delivery at convenient points, so that the carrier can place mail matter in them and take it from them without alighting from his vehicle. This is the substance of the regulations for establishing free ural routes. Another correspondent raises the rural

question of rural mail delivery in con-nection with star routes in the follow-

nection with star routes in the follow-ing letter: "What method should one take to procure rural mail delivery? Could it be carried in connection with a star route, or would it have to be alone?" The first inquiry in this letter has al-ready been sufficiently answered. Under

present regulations the rural delivery route is wholly independent of star routes in the same territory, and frequently leads to their discontinuance as well as the discontinuance of small postoffices, because furnishing better service. A bill was introduced in conbetter gress February 13th, however, to extend free delivery of mail along star routes. The first section provides that all contracts for carrying mail on star routes made after the passage of the act shall include the deposit in proper boxes, placed along the line of the routes for this purpose, without charge to the ad-dressees of any mail matter that may be entrusted to the carrier for such disbe entrusted to the carrier for such dis-tribution, by any postmaster on the road. The remaining sections of the bill consist of details, merely, as to how it is proposed to carry on the free rural distribution in connection with star routes. Should the bill pass, it will at the next letting of star routes, establish free rural delivery very generally all over the country.

The Butter and Cheese Makers' association of Minnesota has adopted reso lutions asking legislation establishing a board of examiners whose duty if shall be to examine all butter and cheese makers as to their qualifications. The resolution is based on the allega-tion that incompetent men are injur-ing the reputation of the state as a "cuit adeed" butter state. It is said butter state. It in m "gilt-edged" that there are men in the state who are taking charge of factories for the a month.