

# LOVE IS BEST

By Florence Hodgkinson

## CHAPTER X.—(Continued.)

The girls went up to the Manor that day to lunch by special invitation. Helen was still away, but her mother loved to have Kitty there; and, Alice being at a safe distance, the General made much of them. It was he who proposed to while away the afternoon by showing the girls over the house. "You are not old enough for it to be painful to you, Kitty, and if we are to turn out in December it may be your last chance of seeing the old home. You know nothing is changed since your uncle's time. Mr. Lindon let it to me just as it stood, furniture and plate, even the family pictures included."

Kitty was delighted at the proposal. "There's a picture of father taken when a boy I really want to see, and another of poor little Lillian as a baby. Mr. Lindon must be thankful she died, or he'd have gained very little by his marriage."

They went to the picture gallery first. Kitty talked gaily, but Beryl was strangely silent. As she gazed on the portraits of dead-and-gone Dynevors the strangest feeling of having seen them all before came to her, and when she saw the picture of Lillian Dynevor, painted during her father's absence in Australia as a surprise for him, she had the oldest fancy that once, long ago, she, too, had sat on a low stool dressed in white, with a basket of primroses strewn on her lap.

It must have been fancy, and yet— "We have seen everything now except the old nurseries," said Mrs. Craven. "I never would use them because the last child who had played in them died."

"She fitted up new ones in the other wing, which weren't half so convenient or airy," said the General, with a smile. "So much for superstition." The old nurseries had a deserted air. They had not been used since Nina Lindon's second marriage, and the big cupboards were still full of childish toys. Kitty opened the door of one and took out a large wax doll. Beryl nearly seized on it with a cry of delight. It seemed to her she had known that flaxen-haired baby as long as she had known anything.

"Poor little Lillian!" said Kitty gently. "To think that if she had lived she would have been twenty-two!" "It is a pretty name; but I wonder she was not called after her mother." "Aunt Nina's favorite flowers were lilies," explained Kitty; "but mother 'If you mean it and can stick to it, I will think over what I can do to help you. No, you needn't thank me; it's for your sister's sake, not yours. She's a girl one cannot but respect."

They were nearing the Grange as he spoke. The moon was looming big on the horizon as it neared its setting, and a faint shadowy light rested on the horse and on the little town below, and the quiet gray sea beyond. The Doctor was walking his horse cautiously down the steep descent when he broke into a low, soft whistle.

"By Jove! there's something wrong there! I'm certain there's a man about the place! Hold hard for a minute, will you?" And he handed the reins to Neville.

"Let me come, too!" implored Neville.

"No, wait out here; and, if I shout, leave the horse and come after me. It may have been a policeman marching round."

Neville's ears strained to catch every sound; but there was nothing to be heard, for the Doctor was making his way noiselessly across the grass to the drawing room window, from which, sure enough, a man was cautiously descending with a bag in his hand.

He did not either see or hear the Doctor, for his back was turned towards him, so he was unprepared for the sudden, cat-like spring that the Doctor made upon him. With an oath he dropped his bag and turned furiously upon his assailant. They were unequally matched, for Doctor Drake was of slight build and small in stature, whilst the man whom he tried to hold was broad and proportionately strong.

The burglar's hand sought his pocket; but Doctor Drake was too quick for him. With one hand he kept a steady grip on the man's collar, with the other he sought and found the revolver that was concealed in his coat pocket, and threw it far away from him on the grass, and two rapid shots in quick succession showed that it had exploded.

With a desperate effort he freed himself, hurried the Doctor to the ground with stunning force, and made for the gate; but the shots had brought Neville running to the rescue. The horse, finding himself abandoned and frightened by the quick shots, trotted off towards home; whilst Neville drew back to let the man pass, and sprang upon him with the determination of a bulldog not to relax his hold until others came to the rescue.

His lithe arms clung tightly about the burglar's neck, and he was shouting at the top of his voice as he clung—"Help! help! murder!"

thud and a fall and heavy groan, and up the hill the sound of footsteps running as if life depended on it.

Neville lay a crumpled heap by the gate; and in the rapidly fading light the Doctor saw that the poor fellow was steeped in blood.

"Give chase—he's done for me!" said Neville, with clenched teeth. "He's made off up the hill!" And scarcely knowing what he did, the Doctor did so.

As a boy, he had been famous for his running, and his training stood him in good stead now. Even now he was conscious that he was gaining on the man whom he pursued. He could tell me once the child was never called Lillian or Lilly. She called herself 'Pet' as soon as she could talk, and 'Pet' she remained up to the time of their going abroad.

"And how old was she then?" "Just three. There were nearly four years between her and her little half-sister."

A servant approached with a perplexed face and addressed the General.

"Mr. Lindon wishes to see you, sir."

Kitty Dynevor's cheeks were crimson, her friend's face turned ashen pale.

"I suppose I must see him," growled the General, "and I can't be rude to him under his own roof; but I wish, for all that he had stayed away."

The General went downstairs to receive his unwelcome visitor. Kitty Dynevor, who had not the least desire to meet the man she regarded as her natural enemy, promptly declared she and Miss Lindon must be going home, and in a few minutes they were walking swiftly down the avenue.

But the butler had ushered Mr. Lindon into the library, which commanded a full view of the carriage drive. He was seated by the open door, and she is away from home."

Mr. Lindon sat out his full twenty minutes; but his attention wandered strangely, and General Craven felt certain when he rose to go he was planning some fresh wrong to the Dynevors, for his face was full of a malignant triumph.

"Kate," the old soldier told his wife later on, "I wish with all my heart now I had 5,000 pounds lying idle, and I'd lend it to Harold Dynevor with all the pleasure in life. Lindon's an evil man, if ever there was one, and I'd do something to keep Uplands from his clutches."

Mrs. Craven smiled. Years younger than her husband, there was a good deal of romance left in her still.

"Even though our boy has the good taste to admire a penniless lass with a long pedigree, I tell you this, James, I'd rather Alick married Kitty Dynevor without a silver sixpence than Eustace Lindon's heiress." window, and he distinctly saw the two girls pass. He broke off abruptly in the middle of a sentence to ask: "Are those your daughters, General?"

He knew perfectly that the answer would be in the negative.

"No," said General Craven shortly. "One is Miss Dynevor, the other a young lady engaged in a school near here. I have only one grown-up."

Mr. Lindon went to work carefully. He knew the Wilmots were toadies enough to play into his hands and he promptly put a few cautious questions to his hostess. Who was the young lady staying at Uplands? Where was she governess?

"She is a teacher in a school at Easthill-on-Sea kept by a friend of my own, Mrs. Tanner."

"And what is her name?" Mrs. Wilmot hesitated.

"To tell you the truth, her name is Lindon; but when Mrs. Tanner told me about her I pointed out it might not be pleasing to you that a namesake of yours should fill such a humble position, and the young person agreed to change the second letter of her name, and be Miss Lendon to the world at large."

"It was very considerate of you," said the rich man coldly, "but you have done me an incalculable injury. My only child left her home on April 30, and though I have offered a reward for her recovery, and spent money lavishly on the search, I have never found a trace of her. The girl I saw in the distance today is my daughter, Beryl Lindon, and your protegee will have to dispense with her services, for of course I shall take her home with me."

"Of course," echoed Mrs. Wilmot suavely. "And if Mrs. Tanner had only known the truth she would have communicated you with before."

Mr. Lindon saw his advantage. "For reasons you will understand, I do not care to seek my daughter at Uplands. Perhaps, as her employer is a protegee of yours, you can write in her name requesting Miss Lindon to return to Woodlands at once. I will meet her there, and no doubt everything can be amicably arranged. Naturally I do not want my private concerns discussed all over Easthill, and you and your husband will find it to your advantage to assist me."

Mrs. Wilmot was only too willing; but one difficulty lay in her way—how was she to word her letter? The imperious commands she would have laid on her sister's governess could hardly be addressed to Mr. Lindon's heiress. The master of the Manor saw her hesitation.

"You need not enter into particulars," he explained. "Just write that Mrs. Tanner Lindon, mind—returning to Woodlands tomorrow at 3 o'clock."

He slept soundly that night, for it seemed to him that within twenty-four hours his rebellious world would feel obliged by Miss Lendon—not daughter would be safely in his hands. He little guessed the thrilling events even then taking place at Uplands, or how, after many days, his sin had found him out. Very soon he would have to admit the truth of the poet's words: Though the mills of God grind slowly, Yet they grind exceeding small.

## CHAPTER XI.

While the girls were at the Manor, and Harold was out on the farm, Mrs. Dynevor had a visitor. That was nothing remarkable, for the gentle mistress of the Uplands was popular both with rich and poor. The "county" visited her as frequently as if she had been a peeress, and her humbler neighbors liked to come and tell her their joys and sorrows, sure that if she could give little help in money her sympathy was never missing. But this particular visitor was utterly unexpected, seeing it was eight years since Mrs. Dynevor had seen her, and nearly seven since she had heard of her.

"If you please, ma'am, Mrs. Ransom would like to see you. She says you may not remember her married name, but she was Miss Kitty's nurse long ago."

"It must be Bridget Gordon," exclaimed Mrs. Dynevor, in surprise. "I heard she married very well; but what in the world can have brought her back to Easthill? Ask her in, please, Dorcas."

The years had evidently passed prosperously to Mrs. Ransom. She looked as though life had gone easily with her. She was a pleasant, kind-faced woman of 40, handsomely though quietly dressed in black. She had always been a little above her position, and, as Kitty said, Mrs. Lindon had treated her more as an humble companion than a maid. Kitty did not know that Bridget had been forced to leave her aunt, sorely against her own and her mistress' wish, and that she had always disliked Eustace Lindon.

"I am very glad to see you, Bridget," said Mrs. Dynevor. "Won't you take off your things and spend the afternoon with me? I should like you to see my Kitty; she is quite a woman grown."

"I should like to see her," said Mrs. Ransom; "but, ma'am, I've really come to tell you a painful story, and I'd rather get it over before Miss Kitty's return. But first may I ask just this: In all the years since my lady died, have you ever seen Mr. Lindon or his daughter?"

"Never once; but I understand that Mr. Lindon is now staying at Easthill for a few days."

"Ah!" Mrs. Ransom looked relieved. "It's strange, you may think, for me to come after all these years; but I felt, though I might not do any good, it would be wrong not to tell you. I can't prove my words, because there's a missing link or two in the chain; but I'm as sure as mortal can be that there was something wrong about Mrs. Lindon's will, and that her husband has no real claim to the Manor."

Mrs. Dynevor started. She thought of the mortgage on Uplands, now held by Lindon, of her boy's troubled face and dark future. If any happy chance could discover a flaw in Eustace Lindon's title to the Manor it would be new life to her.

## THE NATION'S EXPANSION.

I. H. Lionberger Discusses Cause and Effect on Territorial Growth.

The Central Branch of the Y. M. C. A. entertained a number of its members and friends last night at one of its series of popular talks, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The speaker of the evening was Mr. I. H. Lionberger, who presented the subject, "Expansion of the United States." He held that the history of the growth of nations demonstrated that the acquisitions were the result of "inevitable tendencies." This was particularly true of the growth of Germany and France, and especially so of England. The territory was acquired, not because of the behests of the wiser men of the times, but because of a seeming impulse of the people that compelled the population to occupy a new territory, and the nation felt it a duty to defend its people, wherever they might be. It had been so in the United States in the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory in 1803, Florida in 1819, Texas in 1845, California in 1848, and Alaska in 1867. In each instance the best intellects of the time were opposed to annexation, and the arguments presented at the time were about the same as those that had been presented in the last few years. But in opposition to these views the vast expense of territory had been added. He held that nations expanded by accident, rather than by logical reasoning of the statesmen.

## Ravages of Fruit Pests.

The attention of fruit growers in New Zealand is being seriously directed to the question of the eradication of fruit pests. But for the ravages of the codlin moth and kindred pests New Zealand has excellent facilities for doing a large export fruit trade.

Life is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things in which smiles and kindnesses, and small obligations, given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart.—Sir Humphrey Davy.

## WILD RUMORS AFLOAT

Reports Go Round London That Chamberlain Is Reconsidering.

## TALK OF THE RECALL OF MILNER

Round Table Conference with Liberal Leaders in Contemplation—The Stories Denied—The Mouthpiece of Colonial Secretary.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—Public attention has again turned to South Africa by the dispatch of reinforcements and the publication of Lord Roberts' mail despatches.

Rumors have been in circulation that Mr. Chamberlain has reconsidered his South African policy and was contemplating a round-table conference with Mr. John Morley and Sir William Harcourt and the recall of Sir Alfred Milner. The Daily Mail says it is able to assert, on Mr. Chamberlain's authority, that the story is a fabrication and that the government retains the most absolute confidence in Sir Alfred Milner. "Mr. Chamberlain flatly denies," says the Mail, "that he has had any communication with any member of the opposition on the subject of the war."

Lord Roberts' despatches are not regarded as giving any further elucidation of the conduct of the war, but they are interesting as proving that throughout the campaign he never had sufficient men, horses or supplies to cover such a vast field of operation.

Lord Roberts asserts deliberately that the permanent tranquillity of the republic "depends on the complete disarmament of the inhabitants, a task difficult, I admit, but attainable with time and patience."

Looking at all the circumstances, Lord Roberts says the campaign is "unique in the annals of war" and he pays the highest tribute to the gallantry and worth of the troops, declaring that "no finer force ever took the field under the British flag."

There is a general idea that the despatches have suffered considerable excision at the hands of the war office. They do not throw any further light on the summary retirement of General Colville or any other matters relating to the campaign which the public is anxious to hear.

The appearance of bubonic plague at Capetown seems likely to add to the difficulties of the situation. The authorities there have decided upon a wholesale extermination of rats. Should the disease spread it will necessitate changes in the military arrangements.

Today Sir Alfred Milner makes another earnest appeal to employers to allow as many men as possible to enroll in the colonial mounted defense force.

From Delagoa Bay it is reported that the British have occupied Ermelo and Carolina, which until recently were Boer depots.

The Boers held up a Natal mail train near Vlakfontein. The few soldiers on board exhausted their cartridges, and the Boers then robbed the passengers, afterward allowing the train to proceed.

## OUTLINING THE KING'S SPEECH.

British Cabinet Council Holds Session to Frame the Document.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—The cabinet meeting today will presumably settle the terms of King Edward's speech at the opening of his first parliament, February 19, which may be expected to partially repeat his majesty's speech to the privy council on accession day, expressing thanks for the condolences and expressions of loyalty, referring to his deep sense of the responsibility of his new position and announcing his determination to work for the welfare of all classes.

## Recommend Wyoming Men.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Senators Warren and Clark and Representative Mondell of Wyoming have recommended for appointment as officers in the regular army under the new reorganization act, all the Wyoming men now in the volunteer service. They are: Lieutenant L. L. Dietrick, Cheyenne; Lieutenant Charles H. Burritt, Buffalo; Captain George R. Shannon, Laramie; Captain Thomas Miller, Buffalo; Captain Loren Cheever, Sheridan; Captain Ira L. Fredenhall, Cheyenne. Of these officers, Dietrick, Burritt, Miller and Cheever are in the Philippines, Shannon is in Cuba, and Fredenhall in China.

## Union Pacific's High Figure.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—A new high figure was scored by Union Pacific common today, when 129,400 shares sold up to 95, a rise of three and one-eighth. In addition to the buying by banking interests considerable stock was taken by traders on the notion that in some way the stockholders would receive valuable rights in connection with the Southern Pacific purchase. Halle & Stieglitz bought heavily all day.

## Another Railroad Combine.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8.—The Tribune tomorrow will say that according to reports received here today a new Milwaukee & St. Paul deal is being planned, with President J. J. Hill of the Great Northern left out. According to this story the Pennsylvania, Milwaukee & St. Paul and Northern Pacific are to be merged into one system.

## ANOTHER HARRIMAN SYSTEM.

Missouri Pacific, "Katy," Rio Grande and Two Other Roads.

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—The Tribune tomorrow will say: A scheme is under consideration whereby the Missouri Pacific, the two Rio Grande roads, the Colorado Southern, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas and the St. Louis & San Francisco are to be grouped in one system. The proposed plan would mean the formation of a Harriman southwestern railroad system.

## FINANCING BY UNION PACIFIC.

Plan for New Acquisition is Agreed on by the Executive Committee.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—A plan for financing the acquisition of controlling interests in the Southern Pacific on behalf of the Union Pacific was today agreed upon by the executive committee of the Union Pacific, which will make an official announcement tomorrow.

Semi-official admissions made tonight are already directly in line with what has already been published. The Central Pacific will be taken out of the Southern Pacific system and annexed separately to the Union Pacific. The directors do not want to assume any direct burden on behalf of the Union Pacific, so will issue debenture bonds secured by the Southern Pacific stock purchased, the bonds being redeemable at par at the company's option or exchangeable for Union Pacific stock at par within a limited period. It is also said that two Southern Pacific bonds may be exchanged for one Union Pacific.

Union Pacific was a market leader again today. Both common and preferred rose violently. Over 125,000 shares of common was sold. The heaviest buyer was John W. Gates. All his brokers were on the floor. He bought 40,000 shares. Other heavy buyers were: Keesel, Loew & Co., Jacob Field, A. Houseman, William Oliver, Wasserman Bros., C. A. Missing, Halle & Stieglitz and Clarke, Dodge & Co. It is said that a large amount of stock was purchased by the interests recently in control of the Southern Pacific, and this list of brokers indicates that.

## WILL OPPOSE SENATE BILL.

Republicans Discuss War Revenue Amendments.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The republican members of the ways and means committee met this afternoon to formulate a plan of action relative to the war revenue bill, but no definite conclusion was reached beyond the decision to nonconcur in the senate amendments.

The action of the senate in substituting an entirely new bill for the bill as it passed the house, is looked upon as a distinct invasion of the prerogative of the house to initiate revenue legislation and at the meeting today some of the members favored radical action to sustain what they consider the constitutional rights of the house to originate revenue legislation. The plan was to ignore the bill in its present form and to pass another entirely new revenue bill. But this was regarded as entirely too radical.

Another proposition, and the one that met with most favor, was to report back the bill to the house tomorrow with a recommendation of non-concurrence, but without a request for a conference. This would require the senate to ask for a conference if any was to be held.

## NO MORE APPOINTMENTS.

Wait Awhile for Creation of a Vacancy in the List of Generals.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—It is said at the war office that no more general officers of the army will be appointed until the senate has acted on those sent in on Tuesday. One reason is that there will be no vacancy in the list of generals unless General Miles is confirmed in the higher rank. Unless a vacancy occurs in that manner it is predicted that it will be filled by the appointment of Colonel C. Bates, who was yesterday nominated a brigadier general. Such an appointment would prevent the appointment of Brigadier General Wade or Merriam to a major generalship for some time.

Under the present plan Brigadier General Schwan, nominated yesterday, will be retired immediately after his confirmation, and Colonel Daggett of the Fourteenth infantry will be appointed to the vacancy.

## FOR BRANCH MINT IN OMAHA.

House Committee Will Favorably Report the Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The house committee on coinage weights and measures decided to report favorably on the bill establishing a branch mint at Omaha and appropriating \$100,000 therefor. Sutherland of the Fifth district of Nebraska was the member of the sub-committee that took initial action.

## Attacks Statue of Virgin.

LONDON, Feb. 7.—Hilderbrand de Britto Lyra, a relative of the president of Brazil, Dr. Campos Salles, was incarcerated in an asylum for the insane today after committing a sacrilegious outrage in a Roman Catholic church at Mallock Bath, a place a few miles south of Mallock, in the county of Derby. Lyra suddenly appeared in the church this morning during service, jumped over the altar rails and attacked a statue of the Virgin Mary.

## Morgan Opposes Subsidy.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The senate had both day and night sessions today. At the day session the pension bill appropriating \$144,000,000 was passed after a few minutes consideration. The ship subsidy bill was then taken up, and Messrs. McLaurin and Morgan, both democrats, made speeches on it. Mr. McLaurin announced his intention to support the bill and Mr. Morgan opposed it in vigorous language. Packers deny the rumor vbg

## PURDY DENIES THE RUMOR.

Rock Island Does Not Contemplate Buying Mexican Central.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8.—President Warren G. Purdy of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad today made an absolute denial of the report circulated on Wall street that the Rock Island system had acquired a controlling interest in the Mexican Central railroad. "There is nothing at all in that report," said President Purdy. "No such action is contemplated."

## HE GETS MORE TROOPS

Lord Kitchener to Be Reinforced by Thirty Thousand Mounted Men.

## THE SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION

Ten Thousand of the New Troops Will Be Available Soon—Hard Pressed on All Sides British Commander Looks to England for Assistance.

LONDON, Feb. 7.—The following announcement has been issued by the war office:

"In view of the recent Boer activity in various directions, the government has decided, in addition to the recently equipped forces for South Africa, to reinforce Lord Kitchener by 30,000 more mounted troops, beyond those already landed in Cape Colony.

Recruiting for the imperial yeomanry has proceeded so rapidly that it is believed 10,000 will soon be available.

"The South African mounted constabulary, including those recruited in the colonies, may be relied upon to extend to 8,000, and the new colonial contingents to replace those withdrawn will probably reach 5,000. "The remainder of the force will be made up of cavalry and mounted infantry from the home establishment. The enlistment of volunteers to replace those that have already served a year in South Africa is also being proceeded with. Arrangements have been made for the prompt equipment and transportation of the forces. The first consignment will leave on the Aurania February 19."

Lourenzo Marquez, Feb. 7.—The railroad has been cut by the Boers fifty-three kilometers from here.

The war office has notified the yeomanry recruiting stations that it is desired to enroll an additional 5,000 yeomanry.

CAPETOWN, Feb. 7.—A party of Imperial Yeomanry came into contact with the invaders near Prince Albert Cape Colony, and an officer and some men are missing.

The Gazette announces that General Brabant has been appointed to the command of the force being raised for the defense of Cape Colony, with Colonel Gouard as his chief of staff.

His headquarters will be at East London, from which point he will advance northward and westward, gradually clearing the colony of invaders and enabling the imperial forces to concentrate ultimately on the territory of the republics.

## WAY TO BEAT TWINE COMBINE.

Iowa Farmer Discovers That Velvet Weed Fiber is as Strong as Hemp.

CHICAGO, Feb. 7.—A special to the Times-Herald from Creston, Ia., says: State Senator Clark of Page county has made public a way to beat the twine combine. At a farmers' institute he displayed a piece of twine and a piece of rope, resembling a good quality of hemp. These, he explained, were made from velvet weed, or abutilon, which grows rankly on almost every farm and has been considered useless.

The discovery that the weed could be thus utilized was made by D. D. Weir, a farmer, living near Clarinda. Mr. Weir discovered the strength of the fibre of the weed about two months ago. He picked up a few strands from the ground after they had lain there rotting since last summer and found them very strong. They were separated into threads as fine as the best hemp. He endeavored to secure a patent, but found that a discovery of that nature could not be patented. A machine for making it could be patented, but the use of the weed for making twine and rope must be left free to everybody.

## Want McKinley to Stay Away.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Feb. 7.—The Confederate Veterans' association of Savannah passed resolutions against the invitation to President McKinley to attend the reunion of confederate veterans in Memphis. The association calls upon General Gordon, commander-in-chief, to name some other city than Memphis as the place for the reunion, and says it will not send delegates to Memphis if the invitation to the president is adhered to.

## Rumor as to Queen's Will.

LONDON, Feb. 6.—The latest rumor regarding Queen Victoria's will is that it bequeaths £140,000 each to the duke of Connaught, Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice, and includes liberal legacies for the duchess of Albany and a number of the queen's grandchildren. The bulk her private fortune goes to King Edward and both Balfour and Osborne house are given to the king.

## Sioux Falls in Hard Luck.

SIoux FALLS, S. D., Feb. 6.—Andrew Carnegie has, through Senator Pettigrew, made a proffer of a \$25,000 donation to the city of Sioux Falls for a public library building, but the conditions are such that it is doubtful if it can be accepted. A couple of years ago W. H. Lyon gave to the city a magnificent stone building for library purposes and to accept the Carnegie gift means the abandonment of the Lyon building.

## All Want Free Delivery.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Rural free delivery routes are being asked for from nearly every county in Nebraska. Their usefulness is being realized, consequently Senator Thurston's mail is unusually heavy on account of maps and petitions for the establishment of routes being sent him for favorable endorsement. Today he recommended routes for Bradshaw, Hanson, Hastings and Wahoo. Two of these proposed routes will serve 900 people.