

FORAGING ON THE STATE

Bold Raids Being Made on State Funds by Fusion Officials.

ARE PAID FOR SERVICES NEVER RENDERED

How High Up Officials Have Promoted Treasury Raids— Fresh Bread for Officials and State Bread for Inmates.

BEATRICE, Neb., Aug. 6.—Last week's report concerning the management of the State Institution for Feeble Minded Youth at this place only gave a brief recital of the facts. There are other facts relative to it hitherto unpublished which are worthy of the closest consideration by everybody.

FORAGING ON THE STATE.

Not content with placing an army of incompetents on the payroll, there is positive evidence that, not only have favorites been permitted to furnish their relatives with bed and board, but they have been permitted to draw money from the public treasury for services never rendered. In this connection the name of Judge Sullivan again appears, and that, too, in connection with a very questionable transaction. The facts are these: On the 8th day of August, 1899, Miss Keating voluntarily tendered her resignation as matron to Superintendent Lang. On that day she gave up her keys, moved all of her effects and left the institution. She notified the superintendent that she had resigned. The salary of the matron is \$66.66 per month, and a voucher for \$17.25, the amount due for eight days' service, was made out, and Miss Keating signed it. This voucher recited the fact that it was "in payment in full for all services rendered the state." It was sent to the Board of Public Lands and Buildings for approval. But it was never approved; it was abstracted by somebody and made away with.

He also informed the governor that he did not believe Miss Keating would do such a thing. "Well," said the governor, "just send her a voucher made out for the full amount and see what she will do." Again Superintendent Lang informed him he would do nothing of the kind. "I will sign the voucher on the back in blank," said the superintendent, "and I will leave the matter of making the fraudulent claim to Miss Keating." Superintendent Lang did this very thing, and he also at the same time, on learning that Judge Sullivan was mixed up in the matter, sent the following letter to Judge Sullivan:

"BEATRICE, Neb., Oct. 7, 1899.

"Hon. J. J. Sullivan, Governor.
"My Dear Sir—I learned from some sources that you are not satisfied with the disposition of Miss Abigail Keating. You have written me a short time ago and was courteously and kindly answered. I stated to you the facts—that Miss Keating resigned her position as matron of the institution on the 8th day of August, 1899, and that she moved all of her belongings from this institution, and has acted in no way since that she then notified employees of this institution that she had resigned, that I did not dismiss her, and that at that time it was made public in Beatrice that that was the case. I made out said vouchers for the time served and sent them to the secretary of the institution, who is acting under your advice. I say to you that I am much surprised at the stand you take in this matter. That she has been used kindly and was advised rightly cannot be denied, that she resigned the 8th day of August, 1899, can be supported by the affidavits of the employees of this institution and the press of Beatrice, and that she never returned to this institution. I am dealing in this matter with individuals, and I am sorry to think that we have any man or woman in our ranks that would desire to see any man or woman supported your honor, or ask any party to make any affidavit of service under such circumstances. I have furnished her a blank for record for her to fill out which I presume she will act under your advice. I have the triplicate voucher signed and receipted by her without any erasures, and if such clerical erasures appear on the original voucher as is often the case, I never had any intention of filling out vouchers for any more than time served. I often make the error in filling out for full month when part is only served. The original vouchers corrected show exactly what amount was due for time served. I think our party and state officials have treated you very kindly, and hope that you appreciate the kindness fully. Yours truly,
"BENJAMIN F. LANG, M. D.,
"Superintendent of Institute for Feeble Minded Youth."

At the same time he mailed a voucher signed in blank to Miss Keating, appended to which was the following caustic letter:

"BEATRICE, Neb., Oct. 17, 1899.

"Miss Abigail Keating:
"As I understand there has been some talk as to the amount due you from this institution. I have sent out vouchers for you to fill out for time served at this institution and on duty. You will fill out the same and send to them. I trust that you will observe that it is to be a matter of record, and also, that the manner in which you left the institution is known to each and all. In my dealing with the state of Nebraska I observe the same rule that I would in dealing with individuals. That you resigned your position here the 8th day of August, 1899, and turned over the keys of your voluntary act, goes without saying. I regret very much that any person of our party or of the state of Nebraska would ask me to do an act of record that I do not deem prudent. I signed the voucher only on the back, expecting you to fill out for time served. Yours respectfully,
"BENJAMIN F. LANG, M. D.,
"Superintendent."

One week afterwards Superintendent Lang received the following reply from Judge Sullivan, written from Columbus, Neb., on a letterhead of the supreme court:

SUPREME COURT, OF NEBRASKA,
COLUMBUS, Oct. 12, 1899.

"Dr. B. F. Lang:
"Dear Sir—Your favor of recent date received. My view of the matter about which you write me are these: Miss Keating was matron of the institution during August. She was ready and willing to do the work incident to the position and was therefore, a fully and morally entitled to receive the salary. Regarding the work incident to the position, I regret that the justice of her claims, I remain, very truly yours,
"J. J. SULLIVAN."

Miss Keating signed the voucher for the full month, secure to it, and returned it to Superintendent Lang to be forwarded to Lincoln. Superintendent Lang refused to have anything to do with it and sent it back to her. She then sent it to Lincoln, but there must have been quite a wrangle over it, as it was not allowed until October 30th and was not paid until November 27th. (See Voucher B. 4992.)

Appended to the voucher is a letter from Governor Poynter to Auditor Cornell under date of November 23, in which the governor says:

"So far as I am informed Miss Keating was matron at Beatrice and entitled to her full salary until September 1. Evidently a mistake has been made in allowing Miss Keating's voucher for salary from August 1st to August 31st, and then afterwards allowing her a full month for August. She should be allowed for her full month for August, but not double allowance for part of the month."

It would appear from this that the first voucher for \$17.75 had been allowed before the scheme was concocted to draw pay for the full month. If this was done, however, the records fail to disclose it. It favors somewhat of Milkin's "corn meal" and it is possible that it is a problem of that character.

Neither is this the only instance wherein the state treasury has been looted by salary grabs of this nature. Under the superintendency of Dr. Sprague, who preceded Dr. Lang, a benchman of the fusionists, one C. W. Phelps, was steward. He was of a charitable turn of mind, especially in dealing with himself. The first thing he did was to gather remnants of a large family around him at the institution and feed them at the expense of the state. At times, the Phelps family was well represented at the festival board. The number is variously estimated at from five to thirteen, the records of the institution being in such shape that nothing definite can be learned as to the number of people outside the inmates living there at the expense of the state. True to tradition, Phelps became obstreperous, refused to obey the superintendent, and after a period of months, during which time he kept the institution in turmoil, he abdicated. He was a hold-over from the Holcomb administration, and his only recommendation was that he needed the position to support his family.

Shortly after Poynter entered upon the discharge of his duties Dr. Sprague went to him and laid the Phelps case in his hands. Poynter told him he had no interest in Phelps any more than in thousands of other men, and that if Phelps was a disturbing character he should be summarily dismissed. Relying on this, Dr. Sprague gave Phelps thirty days notice to quit the institution. Phelps paid no attention to the notice. The first notice was given March 1st. On the last day of March, seeing that Phelps had taken no action towards moving his effects, Dr. Sprague gave him a written notice announcing his dismissal. This notice Phelps took to the governor, and, though having authorized Dr. Sprague to remove Phelps, Governor Poynter, for some unknown reason, turned a complete somersault, and instead of upholding the superintendent, told Phelps to return to the institution and stay there. He was relieved of his duties on the last day of March, but stayed at the institution with his family until June 5th, at which time both he and Dr. Sprague retired. Having nothing but spare time on his hands, Phelps turned his attention to creating discord, going among the employees and telling them that they might with impunity disobey the orders of the superintendent, that he had a "pull" with Governor Poynter and would back them up. When the change came and Phelps had to go perfect bedlam reigned. However, since April 1st, Phelps' salary had been held up. He had performed no services and was entitled to no pay. But he got his pay, and, like the Keating case, it was through the instrumentality of Governor Poynter. Dr. Sprague resisted payment of the claim, protested that Phelps had not worked at the institution and was therefore not entitled to draw any pay, and, on learning that Governor Poynter was aiding Phelps in his effort to get the money, filed with the auditor a sworn statement (September 18th) to the effect that he discharged Phelps April 1st, and that from that date until June 15th Phelps was neither steward nor employed in any capacity at the institution. That he (Sprague) did not withdraw any request on the governor for the discharge of Phelps, nor consent to his remaining. That he made no request on the governor to discharge him for he discharged himself, as under the law as interpreted by Holcomb and the State Board, he had a right and the authority to do. In the face of this, Governor Poynter wrote the following letter to Auditor Cornell, being careful, however, not to make oath to it:

"I hereby certify that Mr. C. W. Phelps was steward of the institution at Beatrice until June 29, 1899. Prior to that time Dr. Sprague, the superintendent, requested the removal of Phelps from the stewardship, but subsequently withdrew the request and agreed with me that Mr. Phelps should be retained, and he was retained until June 29th.
"W. A. POYNTER, Governor."

Here it is one official under oath declares that Phelps was discharged April 1st and another "certifies" that he was not. The one who made the oath was at the institution and in charge of it, and certainly ought to speak advisedly. The other was at the capitol at Lincoln, forty miles away, and had no way of knowing the facts other than by hearsay. There is a glaring inconsistency in the statements of the two men. Sprague says under oath that Phelps did not perform the services for which he wanted pay, that he never consented to Phelps remaining at the institution and he never recalled his request for removal. Poynter "certifies" that he did.

At any rate Poynter and Phelps carried the day and Phelps, in addition to living with several of his family at the institution and doing nothing for nearly three months, was allowed and paid \$222.21, the full salary for that time. (See Voucher B. 3442.)

STALE BREAD FOR INMATES.
Considerable feeling has been aroused over the reported fact that Contractor Wolf, who furnished bread to the institution for the second quarter of the present year, delivered two kinds—fresh bread for the officials and employees and stale bread for the inmates. When asked what became of his stale bread Mr. Wolf, without realizing perhaps the force or significance of the statement, replied: "I sell it to the institute."

"Do you sell two grades of bread to the institute?"

"Well, some of it is better than the other. The old man (meaning his delivery clerk) takes out some fresh bread every morning, but I don't know whether he leaves any at the institute or not. What I send out there for the institute is the unsold bread I get returned from the grocery stores."

"Do you ever take stale bread back from the grocery stores?"

"Yes."

"What do you do with it?"

"I sell it to the institute."

"Do you take back any stale bread from the institute?"

"No."

Other bakers are required to sell their stale bread, and do it every day, for five cents a barrel. It is used for food for hogs and horses. Not so with Contractor Wolf. He sold his to the state for \$2.40 per hundred pounds. When asked about it Superintendent Lang persisted in a flat denial and declared that, so far as he knew, there was not a word of truth in it. He said that he and his wife used the same quality of bread supplied to the inmates. The bread received was received by the steward and not by Superintendent Lang and Superintendent Lang would therefore know little or nothing about the quality of the material delivered. However, the authority for the statement that stale bread was delivered is Contractor Wolf, the man who delivered the goods.

A DEPLORABLE SPECTACLE.
To close the chapter, which is but a partial recitation of the facts, it is enough to say that the Beatrice institution of itself presents a bitter arraignment of the fusion party. It is not a pleasant subject for contemplation that this institute, designed to care for almost helpless and defenseless people, should be converted into a political mad-house and maintained as a resort for broken-down politicians and party henchmen. It is bad enough that the state should be required to support an army of political parasites without having the treasury exposed to the rapacity and perfidy of this same element. It is no doubt true that the records speak they would disclose some startling facts.

One instance is recited where a young lady, who was an official at the institution and who is now an official at another institution, disposed of about \$50 worth of brushes manufactured by the inmates and made no report of it, but she never paid over the money to the state. This is only one instance of dishonesty; there are said to be many others.

OUTRAGE ON TAXPAYERS.

Perhaps one of the most shameful outrages that has been perpetrated on the taxpayers of the state by the fusion regency is the maintenance of the name of Mrs. Thomas upon the pay roll of the state. Mrs. Thomas has her name on the pay roll because, and only because, she is the mother of State Oil Inspector Sprecher, who is reputed to be Governor Poynter's most trusted orderly. She is a woman who has crossed the meridian of life, being about 60 years of age. She has held the position of matron, first at Lincoln, then at Norfolk, and was from Norfolk transferred to Beatrice.

At Beatrice she stubbornly refused to perform any of the duties incident to the position, and the duties of matron are being performed by the wife of the superintendent, who draws a salary of \$25 per month. Thus, two persons are on the pay roll for the same office, and the state pays \$91.66 per month, simply that the mother of a leading fusion politician may have her name on the pay roll and live in luxury. The wife of the superintendent is not envious of her position and, according to her own words, she is "forced to do the work in order to prevent disease, sickness and death among the inmates as a result of filth and uncleanness, as Matron Thomas refuses to perform the duties." Ever since she has been at the institution at Beatrice she has, with her 18-year-old daughter, lived luxuriously in apartments at the institute, drawn a salary of \$66.66 per month and refused to perform the duties of matron.

Only a few weeks ago Superintendent Lang resolved to submit to the indignities no longer and summarily dismissed for insubordination Matron Thomas, Miss Mutz, Miss Candee, Miss Brady, Miss Spanogie and Miss Larson.

All provisions, or nearly so, are supplied by contracts, and the rule is to award contracts to the lowest bidder. The evil of this is, that the contracts are let in omnibus form, and, as usualy results, the state pays more for an article by contract than it could buy it for in the open market. By conspiring with the steward a contractor can reap a rich harvest, and to all outside appearances it would be legitimate.

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Old Pennsylvania Law.

By a peculiar arrangement of the Pennsylvania election law votes are not canvassed for the candidate for whom they are cast, but for the ticket or tickets upon which his name appears. Thus in the election of Chester (Chester is a strong republican county and contains the town of Chester with its large shipyards), both parties agreed last year upon Joseph Hemphill for common pleas judge. This is the way the official canvass was declared: Joseph Hemphill, republican, 8,132 votes; Joseph Hemphill, democrat, 4,371 votes; Joseph Hemphill, fusion, 1,643 votes; Joseph Hemphill, scattering, 374 votes. There was no other candidate in the field.

Lived 133 Years.

In San Diego county, California, recently there died at the great age of 133 years Augustine, chief of the Sequoia tribe of Indians. He had ruled the tribe over 100 years, and in all that time had never been incapacitated by sickness for more than one day at a time.

TRANS-PACIFIC TRADE

HAS INCREASED FOURFOLD WITHIN SEVEN YEARS.

Importance of Manila as a Distributing Market for China and Japan—Hawaii and Australia Now Large Buyers of American Produce.

The market which the people of the United States will be able to make in the Philippines, while amounting to many millions of dollars, is, however, a small item compared to that which opens to them through the possession of the Philippines as an entrepot for the distribution of American goods in the Orient. Grouped around Manila as a point of distribution lies the most densely populated part of the world. More than 80,000,000 of people form the population of Japan, Asiatic Russia, China, French Cochinchina, Siam, British India, Australasia, the Dutch East Indies, etc., all of which are nearer to Manila, as a point of distribution, than any other great commercial center, while such cities as Canton, Shanghai and others are as near Manila as Havana is to the city of New York.

The commerce of this section, of which Manila may be made a great commercial center, now amounts to more than \$2,000,000,000 per annum, and its annual purchases \$1,200,000,000 per annum, or an average of \$100,000,000 a month. Practically all this vast sum which it sends to other parts of the world is expended for the class of goods for which the people of the United States are now seeking a market. Cotton and cotton goods, breadstuffs, provisions, dairy products, manufactures of iron, steel and wood, the products of the farm and factory, are demanded by the people of that part of the world.

In most cases the apparent disposition is for these countries to purchase from the people of the United States rather than from any other section or people. China, which in 1889 took only 2.5 per cent of her imports from the United States, in 1898 took 8.2 per cent of her imports from this country. Japan, which in 1883 took only 6.8 per cent of her imports from the United States, took 14.4 per cent of her imports from this country in 1898. Our exports to China, which in the fiscal year 1893 were but \$3,900,457, were in 1899 \$14,493,440. Our exports to Japan, which in 1893 were \$3,195,494, were \$17,264,688 in 1899, and in the fiscal year of 1900 reached \$25,000,000. To British Australasia our exports, which in 1894 were \$8,131,939, were in 1899 \$19,777,129, and reached \$25,000,000 in 1900. To the Hawaiian Islands our exports in 1893 were \$2,827,663, and in 1899 \$9,305,470, while those of the fiscal year 1900 were \$14,000,000. To the Philippines our exports in 1897 were less than \$100,000, and in the year 1900 exceeded \$2,000,000. Taking Asia as a whole, our exports, which in 1893 were but \$16,222,354, were in 1899 \$48,360,161, and in 1900 amounted to \$65,000,000, or four times those of 1893. To Oceania our exports, which in 1893 were \$1,199,477, were in 1900 in excess of \$40,000,000. Thus our exportations to Asia and Oceania, which in 1893 were \$27,000,000, were in 1900 upward of \$100,000,000, or four times those of seven years ago.

That such fields still remain open to us in the Orient is, however, shown by the following table, prepared by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics from the latest available data, showing the value of the imports and exports of the Orient and the share of the United States therein:

	Imports.	Exports.
British East Indies	\$221,552,365	\$365,217,000
British Australasia	277,879,000	278,798,000
China	146,977,000	110,848,000
Japan	128,751,000	82,877,000
Straits Settlements	109,965,000	97,822,000
Dutch East Indies	66,458,000	80,801,000
Russia, Asiatic	21,579,000	29,456,000
Siam	18,284,000	25,280,000
Philippine Islands	14,300,000	18,569,000
Hawaiian Islands	7,165,000	15,436,000
Mauritius	15,019,000	18,652,000
Persia	25,476,000	15,654,000
Ceylon	20,722,000	14,641,000
Hongkong	20,900,000	10,900,000
French East Indies	790,665	3,088,000
Korea	8,088,000	2,482,000
Total Asia and Oceania	\$1,114,987,000	\$1,163,153,000

BENEFIT OF COLONIES.

Their Commercial and Financial Relation to Mother Countries.

An official publication of the bureau of statistics, issued some months ago, shows that the colonies, protectorates, and dependencies of the world number 136. They occupy two-fifths of the land surface of the globe, and their population is one-third of the entire people of the earth. Their total imports average \$1,500,000,000 worth of goods annually, and of this vast sum more than 40 per cent is purchased from the mother country. Of their exports, which considerably exceed imports, 40 per cent go to the mother country. Large sums are annually expended in the construction of roads, canals, railways, telegraphs, postal service, schools, etc., but in most cases the present annual expenditures are produced by local revenues or are represented by local obligations.

The revenues of the British colonies in 1897 were \$752,000,000, and their expenditures \$745,000,000. While the public debt in the more important and active of these communities aggregates a large sum, it is represented by canals, railways, public highways, harbors, irrigation, and other public improvements intended to stimulate commerce and production, the railroads in operation in the British colonies alone aggregating 55,000 miles, and is in no instance assumed by or a charge upon the mother country.

Of the 136 colonies, protectorates, de-

pendencies and "spheres of influence,"

which make up the total list, two-fifths belong to Great Britain, their area (including the native fiefdom states of India) being considerably more than one-half the grand total of colonial population. France is next in order in number, area and population of colonies, though the area controlled by France is about one-third that of Great Britain, and the population of her colonies less than one-sixth of those of Great Britain. Commerce between the successful colonies and their mother countries is in nearly all cases placed on practically the same basis as that with other countries, goods from home countries receiving in the vast majority of cases no advantages over those from other countries in import duties, and other exactions of this character.

We have given to Porto Rico and Hawaii vastly better treatment than is usual with colonies since we make the ratio of duty on commerce between Porto Rico and the United States but 15 per cent of that with other countries, and even that but temporary; while in the case of Hawaii, which voluntarily asked admission, we have continued and enlarged the freedom of interchange which already existed under reciprocity.

THE WAR WITH SPAIN.

Its Beginning and Ending from Our Diplomatic Standpoint.

The instructions given to Minister Woodford for his guidance at Madrid directed him to impress upon the government of Spain the sincere wish of the United States to lend its aid in securing a peace honorable alike to Spain and the people of Cuba. A new administration in the Spanish government encouraged the hope that a change of policy might be adopted which would result in the pacification of Cuba, but this hope was doomed to disappointment. After long and patient negotiation in the interest of peace, to the evils which had so long pressed upon this country in consequence of the insurrection, was added a series of incidents that rendered necessary, on April 21, 1898, an armed intervention to terminate the humiliation imposed by the condition of affairs. The brief and brilliant period of war with Spain was followed by preliminaries of peace, signed on August 12, providing for the relinquishment of sovereignty over Cuba, the cession of Porto Rico and other islands belonging to Spain in the West Indies, together with an island in the Ladronez, to be selected by the United States, and the occupation of territory in the city and vicinity of Manila, pending the conclusion of a treaty of peace which should determine the control, disposition, and government of the Philippines.

When the commissioners of the United States, sent to Paris to negotiate a treaty of peace with the representatives of Spain, confronted the problem of settlement, it became evident that the interests of the population of the Philippine Islands, the peace of the world, and the consistent completion of the task of the pacification undertaken by the government alike demanded a cession of the entire Philippine archipelago to the United States. At the same time justice to a foreign foe and the magnanimous spirit of the American people seemed to require a recognition of the actual expenditures of Spain in the internal improvement of the islands, and the sum of \$20,000,000 was agreed upon as a suitable compensation for the transfer of this great archipelago, whose extensive public lands, estimated at one-half the whole area of the islands, rich in mineral wealth and forests of valuable timber, will prove abundantly sufficient to justify this expenditure and to provide resources for a future government.

Our Mails on the Ocean.

One of the favorite claims put forth by American free traders who oppose legislation for the upbuilding of our shipping in the foreign trade is the one which pretends that the subsidies paid by Great Britain is merely for the carriage of mails, and they endeavor to create the impression that it is a purely business transaction, having no regard for the interests of the British ships thus subsidized. But the fallacy of this claim is apparent when we find an eminent Briton, a member of Parliament, and famous for his agitation in favor of reduced charges for mail transportation—J. Henniker Heaton—make the following quotation in a letter to the British Postmaster General a few years ago. Said Mr. Heaton:

"When, however, I introduced a resolution on the subject on March 30 last, Mr. H. H. Fowler, then Secretary to the Treasury, stated that already, even at the present high charges, there is a loss of £265,000 a year, or £1,000 a day, on the foreign and colonial service of the British postoffice."

The difference between the subsidy-paying British nation and our own is that the former loses about \$2,000,000 on the transaction, while the United States, on the other hand, earns about \$2,900,000 a year net, over expenses, for the carriage of its foreign mails. The passage of the ship subsidy bill now pending in Congress, however, will effect a needed reform in the carriage of American mails, and at the same time build up our shipping trade to its old-time pre-eminence.

Porto Rico Prosperous.

The imports and exports of Porto Rico for the month of May, 1900, were each about 100 per cent greater than for the corresponding month of the year 1899. This is the poverty and distress to which the Democratic platform said the Republicans had doomed the island.

RURAL FREE DELIVERY.

How This Republican Policy Was Established.

Rural free delivery of mail is the offspring of the McKinley administration of the postoffice department. Its development from the insignificant beginning of 44 routes and an appropriation of \$40,000 for the fiscal year which closed in 1897 to its present magnificent proportions, with the rural routes numbered by the thousands and an appropriation of \$1,750,000 voted for its further extension during the present fiscal year, has all been brought about by the McKinley government.

A movement to broaden the free delivery of the mails was started by Postmaster General Wanamaker, under the Republican administration of Gen. Harrison. It took the form of village free delivery, and was more an extension of city delivery to smaller communities than a free delivery to farmers. But, limited as was its scope and successful though it was in increasing postal receipts and postal facilities, it encountered Democratic opposition; and when Mr. Cleveland came in, his postmaster general, fearing its effect in popularizing Republican principles and disseminating Republican literature, ordered it dropped.

It was a Republican administration that conceived and executed the idea of brightening the home of the farmer, educating his children, increasing the value of his land, compelling the improvement of the roads, and bringing him news of the markets and of the weather, so as to secure him a better price for his crops by delivering his daily mail to him on his farm. Every Democratic house of representatives since the idea was first broached of carrying the mails to the rural districts has declared against it. The Forty-third Congress, with a Democrat from North Carolina as chairman of the committee on postoffices and post-roads, proclaimed the plan impossible and turned it down. Postmaster General Bissell, Postmaster General Wilson, and First Assistant Postmaster General Jones, in the Cleveland administration, all took up the cry of extravagance and impossibility of execution. Consequently, little or nothing was done to give the farmers access to the mails till Cleveland went out of office.

When First Assistant Postmaster General Perry S. Heath took up the rural service under the direction of the president and the postmaster general, in March, 1897, it was languishing to the point of extinguishment, and in a few months more would have been starved to death, like Mr. Wanamaker's village delivery. The official reports of the postoffice department record that it was almost with surprise that President McKinley and those to whom he entrusted the administration of postal affairs learned that there was such a thing as an experimental rural free-delivery mail service in progress.

They at once grasped its possibilities and advocated its immediate development, and a Republican congress generously seconded their efforts. Under their vivifying touch it has grown until there is now not a state in the union that has not felt the civilizing and educational influence of rural free mail delivery, and not one that does not desire a further expansion of the service. On the 1st of June, 1900, there were 1,200 rural services in actual operation and 2,000 applications for an extension of the system in process of establishment by special agents detailed for that purpose.

The appropriations for the rural free delivery service have been increased from \$50,000, in the fiscal year 1897-98, to \$150,000 in 1898-99; then to \$450,000 in 1899-1900, and lastly to \$1,750,000 for the present fiscal year, 1900-1901.

Three years' experience has shown that in well-selected rural districts the mails can be distributed to the domiciles of the addressees or in boxes placed within reasonable distance of the farmer's home, at some cross-road or other convenient spot, at a cost per piece not exceeding that of the free delivery in many of the cities of the United States. In the vast majority of communities where it has been tested the rural free delivery service has obtained so strong a hold that public sentiment would not permit its discontinuance. It has been a revolution, and revolutions do not move backward.

It costs very little more than the old colonial style of postal service which it supersedes, and it invariably brings a large and compensating increase in the amount of postal receipts turned into the treasury. But even if it does cost more than the obsolete old plan, are not the farmers entitled