

the necessity of an increased diffusion of a general knowledge of the subject appeals very strongly to the scientists connected with the bureau of forestry of the department of agriculture.

A PRETTY SCENE ENACTED ON THE streets of Lincoln, Neb., in which Colonel Alexander Hogeland, "the newsboys' friend," figured is described by the Lincoln Star in this way: "Colonel Hogeland asked the lads if they knew the Lord's prayer. Nearly every hand went up, and when one of the grimy-faced urchins was asked to step up on the platform and repeat the words of the familiar invocation he unhesitatingly took his place by the side of the veteran philanthropist and, clasping his dirty hands in front of him, repeated the prayer word for word. There were few dry eyes in that street crowd by the time the boy had finished."

A MONUMENT TO PIGEONS IS TO BE erected in Paris. The London Chronicle says that M. Fremit, the famous sculptor, has received a commission for a monument to the memory of the pigeons which carried messages during the siege of Paris. The Chronicle says that at the commencement of this siege the institution of the pigeon post was of marked service, and thousands of letters and dispatches were sent out from Paris by this means. Writings were photographed and reduced to so minute a size that not a word could be read without the aid of a very powerful magnifying glass; hence one bird could carry many missives. In one instance a cage containing a couple of homing pigeons was appended to a balloon, with a notice offering a reward of 100 francs to any one who would send them back with news of the outer world. But the Prussians captured the balloon, and sent back word that the pigeons were both welcome and tender, and had made a good pie.

MR. CHARLES F. RAND OF WASHINGTON, D. C., claims to have been the first volunteer for the civil war. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says: "A certificate in the capitol of New York state at Albany attests the priority of Dr. Rand's tender of his services. The certificate is signed by the mayor and two prominent citizens of Batavia, N. Y., also by the county clerk and the sheriff of Genesee county, stating that in less than ten minutes after the call of President Lincoln, April 15, 1861, for 75,000 volunteers was taken from the wires the name of Charles F. Rand was enrolled as a soldier. Among all the war records at Washington there is none of an earlier enlistment than that of Dr. Rand, and the honor has therefore been given him by common consent. Not only was Dr. Rand the first volunteer for the civil war, but he was also the first soldier to win the congressional medal of honor for distinguished gallantry in action. This event occurred at Blackburn's Ford, Va., in less than three months after his enlistment. His command was ordered to retreat, and every man obeyed, save young Rand, at the time but 18 years of age. The rest of his battalion, numbering 500 men, were swept in disorder from the field, but Rand held his ground, notwithstanding the fact that the field was plowed by shot and shell all about him. The enemy finally absolutely refused to fire at the boy standing bravely alone and shooting at them as coolly as if he had a thousand men at his back. Rand then crept across a deep ravine and joined the command of Gen. A. H. Barnum."

OUTSIDE OF THE TELEGRAPH AND NEWS-paper offices, the difficulties of obtaining news during periods of severe storms are not generally understood. During the recent storms in May great injury was done to the telegraph wires but the daily papers came out each morning with the news of the world and the various methods devised to obtain this news are described by a writer in the Chicago Inter-Ocean in this way: "One night the wires were down between Omaha and Council Bluffs, just across the river. An electric light tower had been blown down upon them. All telegraphic communication with Omaha was cut off, but the messages came as usual and almost as quickly. But they did a lot of traveling to get across the river. First they were telegraphed from Chicago to St. Louis, then to Kansas City, from Kansas City to Denver, and from Denver back to Omaha, making a distance of 2,000 miles to get across the Missouri river. This might have been shortened if the wires between Omaha and Kansas City had not been down also. Recently the connection between Denver and San Francisco was broken. Dispatches were sent out from Chicago as usual, but could get no

farther than Denver. There could be no question of their lying over a day or two. They simply had to go through. And they went, but by a roundabout way. First they were sent back east, via Kansas City to St. Louis, and from there telegraphed down to El Paso, where they got on the Southern Pacific system and reached San Francisco by the way of Los Angeles. They traveled 2,000 miles out of the way to get there, but the morning papers had all the news the next morning. The operator at Sioux City got a wire to St. Paul, Minn., and from there the dispatches ran down to Chicago and thence back to Omaha. In this case it certainly was an illustration of the proverb, "The longest way round is the shortest way home."

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWENTY-FIVE years Valley Forge Day, June 19, was celebrated on that historic ground. Speeches were delivered, poems read, and hymns were sung recalling the sufferings of the American soldiers during the winter of 125 years ago. The Philadelphia Public Ledger says: "Every effort is to be made for the completing of definite arrangements for preserving the camp grounds as a permanent object lesson for the nation. This State Park comprises 210 acres, and last spring the legislature appropriated \$74,500 to extend the limits of the reservation by 800 additional acres in order that every portion of the original site may come under the control of the commonwealth. There is a possibility that the park may be made a national one. It is planned to restore the spot to as near its original condition as possible. The entrenchments are to be cleared of their accumulations of rubbish, roads are to be laid out and the several points of interest marked." There is a spot where tradition says Washington knelt to pray for courage and on June 19, 1903, the cornerstone of a chapel was there laid.

THE TRUSTEES OF TULPEHOCKEN REformed church at Lebanon, Pa., recently discovered that the deed wherein Casper Wistar of Philadelphia, early in the eighteenth century, conveyed the property on which the reformed church was built, stipulated that each year one red rose should be delivered as rental to the Wistar heirs. On June 1 the trustees of this church invited the Wistar heirs to be present and a score of them accepted an invitation where a very pretty ceremony took place in the delivery to them of a large number of red roses which included the arrearages. The Wistar family had also made a contribution to the organ fund of this church on condition that the representatives of the family receive one white rose annually. This obligation was also discharged in a very interesting ceremony.

MR. ROOSEVELT EVIDENTLY APPREciates the seriousness of the frauds in the postoffice department. Under date of June 24, the president sent to the attorney general a letter in which he suggested the appointment of special counsel to assist in the prosecution of these cases. As a result of this letter, two lawyers outside of the federal service have been retained, Charles Bonaparte of Baltimore and Holmes Conrad, former solicitor general, have been retained for this special service.

EVERY DAY CONTRIBUTES A NEW CHAPter to the postoffice scandal. Mr. Madden, the third postmaster general, while visiting in Detroit, heard something to the disadvantage of his record. Consequently Mr. Madden immediately dispatched a letter to the postmaster general demanding an investigation. In that letter Mr. Madden said some very unkind things concerning Mr. Wynne, the first assistant postmaster general, and Mr. Bristow, the fourth assistant postmaster general. Mr. Madden was so incensed that he gave out a copy of his letter to the postmaster general before the original had reached his superior officer. The results are told by the Washington correspondent for the Des Moines Register and Leader in this way: "Not since the postoffice investigation begun has the situation been so congested as tonight. Third Assistant Madden's action in making public a letter addressed to the postmaster general twelve hours in advance of its receipt, is regarded as a most flagrant violation of the rules of propriety, and absolutely uncalled for and others with Payne are unable to find language to express their amazement and condemnation. It is admitted an explanation of the facts in the case of the registry books contract would have ended the matter. Madden was not charged with impropriety or irregularity. The postoffice officials say he must

have imagined he was under suspicion and gone to pieces in a moment of fury. His letter and the premature publication has developed a serious phase to the whole matter. Now the fat is in the fire. Bristow and Wynne are incensed, Payne is disgusted and there's no telling what will be the end. It is admitted Madden has seriously impaired his usefulness at an inopportune moment. There had been a lull in the surface features of the investigation. The president has taken a hand in the hope conclusions might be reached quietly. Madden's letter and manner of publicity has seriously complicated matters."

FOLLOWING CLOSE UPON THE SEVERAL developments in the postoffice department, comes the charge that extensive frauds are suspected in connection with the purchase of seed by the department of agriculture. The Washington correspondent for the Cincinnati Enquirer says that it is alleged that the government has lost large sums of money, either through irregular practices or negligence, or both. It is said that shortages occurred in all seed shipments sent out by the department, that packets were divided into the smallest compass, by which means the light weight of the packets sent out was concealed; that the cheapest kinds of seeds were frequently and knowingly substituted for the costly varieties; that the cheapest kind of paper, much below the standard required, was used to pack seeds, by which the contractor saved several thousand dollars.

AS A RESULT OF THESE ALLEGED IRREGularities, the department of agriculture refused to pay the sum of \$18,000 which the Market Gardeners' association, having the contract to supply the government with seeds, claimed was due to it. Last year congress appropriated \$108,874 for the purchase of seeds and it is said that all this sum with the exception of \$18,000 has been paid to this association. The question has been submitted to the court of claims for adjudication and referring to the pending case the Washington correspondent for the Cincinnati Enquirer says: "It is claimed that though the contractor failed to begin the assembling of seeds preparatory to shipping them until two months after the time stipulated by law, the penalty of \$25 a day was not inflicted; but few of the representatives received the seed due them in the proper shape, which led to floods of protests, which were more or less ignored; that the employees of the contractors were instructed to put all packets short in weight; that a certain officer of the department of agriculture was interested in a machine used for a time by the contractor in making the packets for the seed, though there were supposed to be a number of government inspectors watching the packing and shipping of the seed. It is alleged that abuses were allowed to continue until all of the government funds had been spent, with the exception of \$18,000; that the abuses were called to the attention of the proper authorities, but no action was taken, until certain protests had become too loud to be longer ignored."

THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA BOASTS OF a citizen who claims to have found and returned to the owners more valuables and money than any other man living. This citizen's name is Isaac Banks and he declares that he has found valuables to the amount of \$2,000,000 and that every bit of this has gone back to the owner. The Philadelphia correspondent of the Chicago Inter-Ocean tells the story of Mr. Banks' finds and says: "It was not all cash, but nearly all of it was negotiable—negotiable bonds and stocks and diamonds and pearls and sapphires, watches, rings and tiaras, things which are surely profitable enough. And Mr. Banks found, too, a good deal of cash—sufficient, indeed, had he kept it, to have made him a rich man. But of the whole \$2,000,000 not one penny did he keep. It would seem that Mr. Banks must have gotten, for finding so much money, some very large and generous reward. These are the rewards that he received for restoring valuables worth \$2,000,000 to their owners: In cash, \$50; in presents (gloves, neckties, books, etc.), \$100."

AN INTERESTING APPLICATION FOR A pension was recently received by the pension department from Kentucky. This application follows: "Dear Gentlemen: I served three years in the federal army, in a Pennsylvania regiment, and contracted the itch while at the front. Since that time I have had to scratch myself continually. This takes time from my business duties, and I think I am physically incapacitated as a result, and deserve a pension. Please let me know if I can have one, and what will be the amount."