

NATIONAL

Under the recent act of congress making appropriations for the postal service for the ensuing fiscal year, the postmaster general may fix the salaries of carriers in the rural delivery service at a rate not exceeding \$900 per annum after July 1, 1907. The highest rate now paid under existing law is \$720 a year. The readjustment of salaries under the new law has not been fully determined, but it is proposed to allow the maximum rate—\$900—to all carriers on routes twenty-four or more miles in length as shown by the records of the department. This will give approximately 22,800 or about 60 per cent of the carriers an advance in salary of \$180 per annum.

A substantial increase in pay for other carriers is contemplated, but the chief beneficiaries of the new law will be those serving the longer routes upon whom the greater hardships of the service fall. Carriers on the shorter routes ranging from twelve to fourteen and from fourteen to sixteen miles in length, now receive \$504 and \$540 a year, respectively, being proportionally better paid than carriers on routes of twenty or more miles.

The pay of substitute rural carriers will also be increased in many cases. At present the law provides that substitutes employed when the regular carriers are on vacation shall be paid at the rate of \$600 per annum, regardless of the rate of pay of the regular carriers. The new law provides that substitute carriers shall receive compensation at the same rate allowed the regular carriers.

This advance in pay for carriers and substitutes, it is estimated, will result in an approximate increase of \$5,900,000 in the cost of the rural delivery service.

The postoffice department is experiencing great embarrassment from inability to secure twine sufficient to fill promptly orders received from postmasters. The twine is used in tying letters in packages after they are assorted by mailing clerks and arranged for dispatch.

There are requisitions on file from postmasters aggregating 100,000 pounds of twine, and numerous telegrams and letters of complaint are received daily because these are not filled immediately.

The contractor has in hand orders for upwards of 400,000 pounds of twine, and promises early shipments to meet the contingency.

There has been a great increase in requisitions from postmasters incident to an apparent unprecedented increase in mail matter which is being handled at the principal postoffices throughout the country. This increase may be fairly illustrated by reference to reports received today from Chicago, showing that the amount of mail which is being handled during the current quarter of the fiscal year at that office exceeds by 20 per cent the amount handled during the same period in 1906.

It is noted in dispatches from Pittsburgh, telling of W. J. Bryan's recent visit there, that after a long lecture he sat up with Col. James M. Guffey until 3 o'clock in the morning, despite the fact that he had to catch an early train. This is no new experience of Mr. Bryan. Indeed, it is rather characteristic of the man. Newspaper men in Washington who traveled with the Nebraskan in his campaigns recall his habits then in respect to sleeping, which are said to have characterized his whole public career. Apparently he can sleep little or much without producing noticeable effect upon his physical vigor or intellectual alertness. While touring the country in his campaigns for president he is known to have gone for weeks at a stretch with less than six hours sleep a day. On these trips he delivered from a half dozen to thirty speeches a day, between daylight and midnight; was usually the last occupant of his car in bed at night, and almost invariably the first up in the morning, looking as fresh and virile as though he had slept all night without having performed unusual labors the day before. Then, again, it is of record that Mr. Bryan once slept twenty-three hours without a break. This was the day after the election of 1900. He went to bed as soon as the returns that night convinced him that he had again been defeated by McKinley, and Mrs. Bryan saw to it that he was not disturbed until the signs in his bedroom denoted that he was awake.

Col. Charles A. Edwards, secretary of the democratic congressional campaign committee, a few weeks ago sent a letter to all the democratic members of the next congress, senators as well as representatives, asking them to contribute \$25 to help defray the expenses of his office until the opening of the next campaign, to the end that he might be able to keep the lamp burning. The other day

Colonel Edwards received the following typewritten reply on a postal card, dated Washington:

"Dear Charlie: I received your letter requesting a contribution to assist you in procuring the services of a stenographer for the prosecution of your 'labor of love.' It is a real pleasure to inclose herewith my personal check for the amount. Allow me to indulge in the pleasing hope that this shall by no means result in 'Love's Labors Lost.' May I ask that you mail me a receipt. Your true friend,
"SENATOR E. Z. MARK."

Colonel Edwards is still hopefully looking for the inclosure.

Have you ever heard the reason why the American government is called "Uncle Sam?" It was because one Samuel Wilson, government inspector of beef and pork at Troy, N. Y., in 1812, had a way of marking his barrels with his own initials and "U. S.," meaning United States. A workman who was something of a wag saw the letters and facetiously remarked that he supposed they stood for "Uncle Sam." The joke was retold and retold until it became a common saying, and the general government has been so nick-named for nearly a hundred years.

The deficiency appropriation bill of the recent congress carried an item appropriating the sum of \$15,000 to reimburse Reed Smoot for expenses incurred in the matter of the protest against his right to retain a seat in the United States senate.

L. W. THAVIS.

A Washington special to the World-Herald says:

"The United States is setting an example of administrative efficiency in the canal zone that is a perfect wonder to the nations of tropic America," said Congressman E. M. Pollard of Nebraska, who was in Washington today after a trip to the canal zone.

"The success of the government in establishing sanitary conditions which have made Panama an attractive place of residence compared to many capitals of the tropical regions of South America," continued Mr. Pollard, "has done more to convince the Latin American peoples of the real desirability of the friendship of the United States than anything else could. The zone region used to be dreaded as one of the worst hotbeds of disease in the tropical world. Today it has the record of a less death rate than of New York city, and there has not been a case of yellow fever since November, 1905. I did not see a mosquito while I was there."

"At a reception while we were on the zone the minister to Peru talked to me at length about this phase of American administration. He said the people of his country were taking the greatest interest. They wanted to learn how these North Americans did it. The next day the minister from Venezuela talked to me in the same strain. The authorities of the zone told me that several South American governments had made requests that the United States permit some of its experts in this service to accept engagements with them for the purpose of introducing American methods of sanitation and administration in their cities. I am assured that so far as possible this government is going to comply with such requests. I firmly believe that nothing we could do would go farther to cement friendly relations with the Latin American peoples. Indeed some of the South Americans with whom I talked declared that the appearance of the great North American republic as a tropic power meant a revelation for the whole tropical world. It meant, they thought, the introduction of the business and governmental methods of the north in southern cities and countries which would mean better living conditions and in a few years would do away with the terrors that the tropics have always had for people from the temperate climates. With that would come a boom in development of the immense resources of these countries, a turning of enterprise and capital to the tropics and such growth as has never been thought of."

"The canal country is in excellent condition. The labor problem has been solved by the assurance that Spanish and Italian labor can be secured in ample numbers. The engineers declare they will be able to open the canal in eight years. There is no uncertainty about any engineering proposition. Foundations for the great locks and for the Gatun dam have been assured. Half the cut at Culebra has been accomplished and the building of the locks is the greatest matter now before the engineers."

TOLSTOI IN HIS HOME.

By all odds the most interesting national feature that Russia allowed me to see was Count Tolstoi. And yet I had never read any of Tolstoi's novels before meeting him, and my notions of his altruism were vague, indeed—about what the ideas are of people who have never been in Russia or seen Tolstoi, and who, on learning that you

have been there and met him, ask immediately: "Say, on the level, is he a faker or not?"

Once and for all, so far as my simple intercourse with him is concerned, it may be most boldly declared that he never was a faker—no more of one when he was sampling all the vices he could hear of than he is now in urging others not to follow his example as an explorer of Vice.

The man at Yasnaya Polyana, in 1896, was a fairly well preserved old gentleman, with white beard, sunken gray eyes, overhanging bushy eyebrows, and a slight stoop in the shoulders, which were carrying, I think, pretty close to seventy years of age.

The place looked neglected and unkempt in many respects, but the two remaining wings of the old mansion were roomy and comfortable. Eight children of the original sixteen were living at the time of my visit, ranging in years from thirty and over to fourteen. The countess was the "boss" of the establishment in and out of the house. What she said of a morning constituted the law for the day, so far as work was concerned. She had assistants and I think a superintendent, to help her, but she was the final authority in matters of management.

The count did not appear to take any active part in the direction of affairs. He spent his time writing, riding, walking and visiting with the guests, of whom there were a goodly number. At one time he may have worked in the fields with the peasants, but in July of 1896 he did not share any of their toil—at least I personally did not see him at work among them.

What the countess really thought about the whole business I never found out. We had one short conversation about the count and his work, during which she delivered herself of these remarks: "You will hear many things here that I do not agree with—I believe it is better to be and do than to preach." I judged from these sentiments that Tolstoiism as a cult had not captured her. But that she thought much of the count as a man and husband was evident from her solicitous care of him.—The late Josiah Flynt, in Success Magazine.

PEARLS FROM THE SULU SEA.

Many and beautiful pearls are found in the Sulu sea and the possibilities of that body of water seem unlimited. The greatest pearl ever claimed from the sea in the Sulu archipelago was recently marketed in Singapore for 60,000 pesos, nearly \$30,000. It is the size of a small marble, perfectly round and of perfect color. The gem was found by a poor Moro fisherman and was promptly seized by the sultan of Sulu. Then Governor Steever interfered and took the part of the poor fisherman. Under the old Moro law, in force when the American troops first took charge of Jolo, all pearls of unusual size must be sent to the sultan, who in return made the finder a "present." The only alternative the finder of a large pearl had was to sell his treasure privately to the pearl traders.

But to do so placed the finder's life in jeopardy, for if the trader could not buy the gem at his own price he could report the matter to the sultan, who had the power to seize the finder and execute him. Under American rule, however, this law has been abolished. The finder of this \$30,000 pearl, knowing this fact when his find was seized by the sultan, speedily made a trip to Jolo and reported the matter to Governor Steever. The matter was taken to court, and the sultan forced to give up the pearl. The governor commissioned the Jolo Trading company to sell the pearl for the finder, the company receiving 20 per cent for so doing.

So far as known this pearl is the largest ever taken from the Sulu sea, though owing to the secrecy practiced in selling the gems before American rule in Sulu there may have been greater finds. Three years ago a pearl found somewhere to the south of Jolo was carried to Batavia, and there sold to a European buyer for \$18,000. During the recent fair at Jolo, given by the government for the purpose of bringing the Moros together, Captain Trans of the Jolo Trading company exhibited a magnificent black pearl valued at \$7,000, a rare gem of unusual size and beauty.

Fred Whittemore of Lincoln, former state bank examiner, was Monday afternoon appointed receiver of the Citizens' Bank of Pirth. The appointment was made by Judge Holmes of the district court on application of the state examining board through Attorney General Thompson. With the application of the board for the appointment of a receiver, was filed the report of Examiner E. S. Mickey, who was placed in charge of the affairs of the bank as soon as the conditions existing in the institution were discovered.

The state board, in applying for the appointment of a receiver, relates the history of the bank's troubles so far as it came into contact with them. It declares that on March 19, the bank was insolvent, and the person in charge

of them, W. J. Crandall, cashier, had abandoned the bank, which was in an insolvent condition. While not charging Mr. Crandall with dishonest management of the bank's affairs, both the board and Mr. Mickey, in his report, do not attempt to mince matters in detailing their discoveries as to the actions of the cashier and his use of the bank's funds. One paragraph of the board's petition reads as follows:

"From the examination by E. S. Mickey it was found that the Citizens' bank is insolvent; that said bank at the time said W. J. Crandall, cashier, abandoned it, and previously thereto, had been conducting its business in an unsafe and unauthorized manner and was jeopardizing the interests of the depositors of the said bank."

GOLD LOSS FROM ABRASION.

Shipped in Form of Coin Depreciation is Serious.

"When the banks ship gold across the Atlantic," said a banker, "they prefer to ship it in bars rather than in coin. It loses less that way."

"It loses less?"
"Yes, sir. If \$1,000,000 in gold coin is shipped across the seas it is only \$999,800 on its arrival. It loses from twelve to fifteen ounces, about \$200, through abrasion, through knocking about with the motion of the waves. The sea makes gold lose weight, you see, the same as it does human beings."

"Gold bars lose less. In fine weather they will lose only about \$100 to each \$1,000,000. In the ugliest weather they don't lose more than \$150, whereas in like conditions gold coins have been known to lose \$300. As gold shipments of \$10,000,000 often occur, to make these shipments in gold bar instead of gold coin is a saving of \$100 or more. It is odd to think when you cross in one of those gold-laden ships that every wave that hits the boats clips off 10 to 15 cents from its golden cargo."

Why Teetotalers Shouldn't Chew.

"You have sworn off drinking during Lent, eh?" said the skate salesman. "Yet I see you chewing plug tobacco. Don't you know that plug tobacco is full of rum?"

"Nonsense," said the millinery salesman, with an uncomfortable smile.

"It is the truth. I once worked in a tobacco factory. I'll tell you how the average plug tobacco is made. The leaves first are banded up and steamed. Then they are dried. Then they are thrown into a vat containing hot licorice syrup. The heat of the syrup penetrates every pore of the tobacco, giving it the sweetness that you chewers love."

"The sweetened plugs are now dried, first in drying rooms, then in the sun. And finally they are sprinkled with liquor—some with Jamaica rum, some with whisky, some with brandy."

"A millinery salesman should never chew tobacco because the habit is untidy. Above all things he should never chew it during a Lenten swear off, each mouthful being the same as a mild drink."

Joseph R. Burton, ex-statesman, said all he wanted to in his great vindication speech the other night, but not in exactly the words he intended to use. He had it committed to paper in the first draft of his intended speech, that the president was a cross between a turkey gobbler and a bull dog. Friends prevailed upon him to strike out the offensive language, which he reluctantly did, but the spirit of hatred and revenge was in no way mitigated by the absence of coarse invective. Burton evidently believes that the president was inspired by motives of fear and jealousy to persecute him for a technical violation of law in which the spirit of disobedience was entirely lacking. Burton the strong, Burton the valiant, Burton the brave! The president was sharp enough to see in him a rival for popular favor and he set about to shove him onto the sliding and lock the switch. That is Burton's story for it, and it will be told and retold times without number, for the aggrieved legal adviser for the Rialto don't-get-rich-too-quickly aggregation is about to start a weekly newspaper through the columns of which his vindication may be made perpetual.

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