



Rural Free Delivery.

Indiana is the first State to co-operate directly with the Postoffice Department in regard to rural delivery. The Governor has signed a bill which provides that five per cent. of the road fund shall be set aside to keep the rural mail routes in good condition.

Many routes have been discontinued during the past winter on account of the condition of the roads. It is said that the policy of the department will be to require bad roads to be repaired as soon as possible, after which a year's notice will be given of the improvements required in order to maintain the routes. Greater care will in future be exercised in initiating routes, so as to make sure that when once started they may not have to be discontinued. In one section recently twenty-seven out of thirty-five applications for rural delivery routes were rejected on account of the quality of the roads.

The Postmaster-General has also directed that no more routes are to be established over roads that require the payment of turnpike tolls by the department, and that routes already established over such roads will be discontinued upon the expiration of the existing contracts. This will probably have the effect of causing other States to follow the example of New Jersey, which has in the last few years through purchase by State or counties transformed most of its toll roads into free highways.

It has been claimed by many that instead of abandoning routes on account of the character or quality of the roads the General Government should, under the authority given to Congress in the Constitution, improve and maintain these roads as post roads. These critics do not seem to realize that, as it is the intention to extend rural delivery over the entire country as rapidly as possible, this would soon imply that the Postoffice Department would have to maintain practically all roads, as towns, counties and States would soon cease to do for themselves what they could get done for them without direct expense to themselves. Such a condition of affairs would be manifestly absurd. We believe most thoroughly that the General Government should bear its share of the cost of developing the road system of this country into a condition similar to that of the great European nations. It should do this in a manner that would tend not to paralyze but to stimulate local efforts either through the building of object lesson roads in all parts of the country, or, better, through co-operation with States or counties as provided for in the Brownlow bill, to the extent at least of constructing and maintaining a trunk system of great interstate highways from which would branch off the State-maintained roads, radiating from which would be the less important highways maintained by the counties and towns. It is high time that this matter should be considered in its breadth, and plans prepared for a truly national highway system.—Good Roads Magazine.

Connecticut's Good Roads.

For the amount of money spent, no State is making more rapid advance than Connecticut in securing good roads. Construction is left with the towns, but the State pays two-thirds the cost where the town has over a million dollars of property taxed, and three-fourths of the cost in towns where the property is below a million dollars. Thus the poorer towns receive most help, yet the richer communities are eager to comply with the act and to appropriate their share of the cost.

Since 1895, when the plan was started, 162 towns out of the 188 in the State have complied with the law, and have commenced road improvement, the results of which are already quite remarkable. During the past two years 138 miles of road have been practically completed. The change in conditions of travel is becoming fully appreciated throughout the State, and there is pressure each year for increase of the appropriations. One very important result is the training given town officials in the art of road construction and repair, so that old, worthless methods are being given up, and the towns are getting more for their money.

In securing the co-operation of practically all the towns and in arousing general interest in road improvement throughout the State, the Connecticut plan seems to have surpassed the State or county method as practiced, say in Massachusetts and in New Jersey. The weak point of the Connecticut system has been the lack of connection between the improved sections of road, but this fault is disappearing with the new constructions made year by year.

Queer British Place Names.

There are some places with curious names in the United Kingdom, as will be seen on reference to the Postoffice Guide. The following places with names significant to our readers will be found in the issue for this year: Hospital, Orphan Homes, Hydropathic, The Ward, Bath, Nursing, The Chart, Great Chart, Cotton, Sheet, Wool, Screen, Shelf, Pill, Glass, Swallow, Lansing, Sound, Salt, Steel, Rum, Burn, Gravel, Stones, Scales, Mumps, Knocks, Great Snoring, Healing, Back, Hand, Ham, Legs, Eye, Tongue, and Coldbackie Tongue—which last sounds like complicated symptoms in Pidgin English.—The Lancet.

The Jordan.

The Jordan's course in a straight line is only sixty miles. Along its stream it measures no fewer than 213 miles.

COWBOYS KILL WHOLE FAMILY.

Father and Four Sons Shot; Three Cowboys Dead—Wire Fence War.

St. Francis, Kan.—Eight men were killed in a battle between settlers and cowboys. James Berry and his four sons recently came to this county, and each took up a homestead, the five men taking more than a square mile of lands formerly fenced by the cattle kings as ranges. The Berrys were time and again warned off, but refused to go. Wire fences were strung around their place by the settlers, and they were warned not to cut the strands, but whenever necessary they cut them.

A few days ago, while returning to their homes from a trip to this town, they found their property again fenced in, and, leaving their horses, they cut the wires. Just as they had finished the cutting a gang of fifteen cowboys rode over a hill and, without saying a word, began firing at the Berrys, who jumped on their horses and escaped. John, the eldest boy, being badly wounded.

Soon after the Berrys reached their home the cowboys dashed up, and, before they could reach cover, the father and one son were killed. The remaining three reached the cabin, and, getting their rifles, returned the fire. They killed three of the cowboys and were themselves killed.

The settlers are much worked up over the murders and are banding together for protection.

OVER \$400,000 IN REED ESTATE.

Former Speaker Leaves That Amount After Payment of Debts.

New York City.—The late Thomas B. Reed, former Speaker of the House of Representatives according to the official report, left a personal estate valued at \$431,000, after providing for the payment of debts and the expenses of administration. The gross personally amounted to \$629,533, consisting chiefly of stocks and securities. By his will Mr. Reed's property goes to his wife.

Sporting Brevities.

There are over 200 horses in training at the Columbus, Ohio, track.

The American Power Boat Association has been formed at New York City.

The Chicago Riding and Driving Club will shortly occupy a \$40,000 club house.

Yale beat Harvard by a half point for chief honors in the intercollegiate championships.

Hugh McLean has defeated Bobby Walther in a twenty-mile motor paced race at the Coliseum at Providence, R. I.

The National Game.

Lonis Lepine is hitting the ball hard for Rochester.

The once mighty Lajoie has hitting at a .200 clip this season.

Baltimore has signed Bert Myers to play second base in place of Fox.

Hickman continues to win games for the Clevelands by his fine stick work.

Tinker, of the Chicago Nationals, plays his position after the style of Dahlen.

Fruit and Vegetable are in poor shape and going down in value in New York Americans.

LABOR WORLD.

Calgary, Can., carpenters have struck for higher wages.

Spain has a legal eight-hour day that the courts have no power to interfere with.

An unusual amount of unemployed labor is an existing condition in Sheffield, England.

It is stated that more than 15,000 women are employed on the six principal French railways.

Machinists on strike at Quincy, Ill., have agreed to a settlement of their strike by arbitration.

The Miners' Union, of Lanarkshire, Scotland, has added \$30,000 to its credit in the past six months.

The trades unions of the State of New York have increased in membership 53,000 in twelve months.

It is said that the membership of the Carriage and Wagon Workers' International Union now numbers 178,000.

Employees at the G. T. R. shops in London, Canada, are to receive an increase in their salaries of one cent an hour.

The International Brotherhood of Papermakers has declined to amalgamate with the pulp, sulphite and mill workers.

At Duluth, Minn., the strike of the Cooks' and Waiters' Union is ended, the strikers having gained everything they asked for.

The number of members of the Amalgamated Society of British Engineers has increased during the year 2300 from 90,945 to 93,232.

Foreigners, mostly Italians and Poles, employed as contractors' helpers at Buffalo, N. Y., have formed a union. They want more pay and fewer hours of work.

About 30,000 musicians of the country, or ninety-five per cent., were represented at the Federation of Musicians' National Convention held recently at Indianapolis, Ind.

Light From Bacteria.

What a miserable, dried-up, derelict world this would be without those alleged enemies of mankind—bacteria! Why we do not begin to appreciate their manifold importance in physiology and the arts. The possibilities in Professor Hans Molisch's discovery of a bacteria lamp light cannot be estimated. Farewell to gas and electric light monopolies! A simple glass tube is lined with salpeter and gelatine inoculated with bacteria. Two days after inoculation the jar becomes illuminated with a wonderful bluish-green light, caused by the immovable bacteria which have developed in the time. The light will burn brightly from two to three weeks. It is a perfectly cold light, too, a desideratum in summer.—Victor Smith, in

HAZOC OF FOREST FIRES

Destructive Flames in New York State, New England and Canada.

Damage to Property Up in the N. E.—Game Animals and Birds Killed by the Thousands.

New York City.—Reports from the northeastern counties of New York, from all the New England States and from Canada, show that the property loss by the forest fires will go well into the millions. Villages in Maine and in New Brunswick, Canada, have been wiped out, but so far as known, two women near St. John, N. B., are the only victims of the flames.

Definite information is lacking from the Adirondack counties. It is known that great tracts of woodland have been swept by fire in eight counties, that hotels and cottages have been burned, and that thousands of game birds and animals have been destroyed.

Estimates place the loss at from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 in New York State. In Maine the forest fires are fiercest, have wiped out small settlements and devastated great areas of timber land. The damage to property is estimated at \$2,000,000, and the crops from the farmers may be a total failure from drought. In the rest of New England the forest fires have caused a loss of \$1,000,000.

The greatest loss in all probability will be in Canada, as the fires cover 1000 miles of territory. The damage so far reported is greatest near St. John, N. B. One village was wholly destroyed and 200 persons are homeless. Two women, in trying to save their cows, were caught in the flames.

From New Brunswick the fires have extended southwest through the Province of Quebec, and news came of forest lands ablaze in Ontario. The entire section of the country northeast from New York has had no rain for a month, and in some places for six weeks. The latest news had no promise that the fires would be checked.

The smoke that spread over the whole of this portion of the country was everywhere reported to be particularly irritating to eyes and throats.

The Devastated Area.

Washington, D. C.—The United States Weather Bureau saw no relief from the lurid pall of smoke which had settled over the entire eastern section of the country on the Atlantic side, the Alleghenies and as far south as Washington. Nothing but wind or rain would dissipate the smoke, which was caused by the great New York and New England forest fires, and neither wind nor rain could be predicted shortly, according to the reports received from Weather Bureau stations throughout the smoke affected country.

The area covered by the forest fires was declared to be something less than 200,000 square miles, the burned area, of course, being much less than this amount.

ROOSEVELT IN WASHINGTON.

During his visit to the White House, President Roosevelt gave 1,000 free speeches.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt returned to Washington from his trip of more than two months' duration throughout the West. He was given a hearty reception by the people of the capital, who lined the sidewalks as his carriage, escorted by the battalion of High School cadets, was driven to the White House. He looked to the picture of health.

A large crowd of people repaired to the rear of the White House, where the Marine Band gave a concert in honor of the arrival home of the Chief Executive. The President made a brief speech to the gathering, saying:

"My friends and neighbors, I thank you very, very much for coming here to greet me this afternoon, and I have appreciated more than I can say the welcome back home that I have received to-day. I have been absent over two months and I have traveled many miles. During this time one thing has struck me, and that is the substantialness of the American people. One can travel from ocean to ocean and from Canada to the Gulf and always be at home among one's fellow-Americans. I thank you again, my friends, and now I am going in to my own folks."

Mr. Roosevelt and his party traveled over 14,000 miles on railroads and several hundred miles in stage coaches and carriages, but not an accident marred their journey. During the sixty-five days that he spent on the road he made 265 speeches. One of the features of the trip was the non-partisan spirit displayed in the reception of the President everywhere. The crowds in the different places visited were orderly and friendly, and gave the Secret Service men little cause for concern.

WOMEN WATCHED LYNCHING.

Negro Hanged to a Telegraph Pole on a Crowded Street.

Greenville, Miss.—John Dennis, colored, was lynched here by 200 men. The negro had attempted to assault a young lady who was returning home from the telephone exchange where she worked.

While the streets were crowded with women shoppers the men went to the jail, demanded admittance and were refused. Securing a railway rail they battered down the door of the prison.

Dennis was taken to the telephone exchange and hanged on the cross-arm of a telephone pole. Many women witnessed the lynching. The negro only asked time to pray.

Richmond's New Cathedral.

The cornerstone of the new Catholic Cathedral, at Richmond, Va., was laid with elaborate ceremony.

Ten Years for a Lyncher.

Samuel Mitchell, white, who led the mob that lynched Thomas Gilyard, a negro, at Joplin, Mo., recently was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. Gilyard killed a policeman who was trying to arrest him.

Bid for Raising the Main Rejected.

The Secretary of the Treasury, at Havana, Cuba, rejected the bid of T. J. C. Castañón, the only one received, for the raising of the Maine. The Secretary will again advertise for bids.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

Samuel Smiles is probably the living author in England. The armored cruiser King Alfred has selected to take the Prince and Princess of Wales to India in the autumn.

Henry Somerset has retired from the presidency of the British men's Temperance Union because of ill health.

Entertaining a king is an expensive affair. The recent visit of King Edward to Dalkeith palace cost the Duke of Buccleuch about \$25,000.

Justice Fletcher Ladd, of the Supreme Court in the Philippines, has signed because of his wife's illness, and will return to his home in New Zealand.

Wilfrid Lawson is known as England's "Grand Old Man of Temperance." He is seventy-three years old, and has devoted forty years of his life to the championship of temperance.

Senator Hawley is a devotee of the steamboat for this summer. He and his wife will be a luster in Chesapeake Bay, and will go up the Hudson, Lake George and Lake Champlain.

In La Farge, the artist, is a tall man slightly bald, with a narrow chest and bent shoulders. His eyes are set, black, piercing. And while he is there is a dry sort of smile playing around his mouth.

It is pointed out that Judge Maxwell, who died recently in Florida, was the survivor, properly speaking, of the Caledonia Senate, which met at Montgomery, Ala., on March 4, 1861, and was presided over by Alexander Stephens.

Associate Justice Harlan, of the United States Supreme Court, is seventy years old. Under the law he may retire from the bench on full pay, but it is not the slightest prospect that he will do so, as he is hale and hearty and has the vigor of many healthy men of his age.

Jefferson Davis Arch.

Richmond, Special.—The special committee of the Jefferson Davis Memorial Association which has been in session here, consulting with the advisory board, decided late Thursday night to report to the association that it is impracticable to do anything in the way of securing an arch for \$50,000, the amount of the bid of Artist Gidebread, whose design was accepted. The association may decide to do away with the arch, or call for new bids for a new arch.

Troubles Settled.

Norfolk, Special.—W. W. Haywood, third vice president of the International Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, who has been in Portsmouth for two weeks, in the interest of the trackmen of the Seaboard Air Line system, says that the grievances of the men have all been settled satisfactorily. Grand President John T. Wilson arrived here today and paid a visit to General Manager Barr. The latter was discussed and it is believed over \$100 a year, others not so much.

Another Coal Strike in Sight.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Special.—Another dark strike cloud loomed up on the horizon of the anthracite coal region Tuesday. The executive boards of the United Mine Workers, in session here, endorsed the selection of their three district presidents on the board of conciliation, authorized by the strike commission and if these members are not recognized by the operators the executive boards will contemplate calling a convention of Mine Workers to declare a general suspension of work until their members are given recognition.

Southern Yarns Not Affected.

Philadelphia, Special.—The Evening Telegraph says one hundred thousand textile workers are now on strike. The commission men say this has not yet affected the trade in Shreveport, Southern yarns, but will do so if the strike continues. The strike is yet too new and too big to form any idea of the result. The dyers have some money reserved, but the other strikers have no funds. The present average opinion is that the strike will last two to three weeks.

Gas Company Sold.

Knoxville, Tenn., Special.—The Knoxville Gas Company has passed into the hands of Farson, Leech & Company, of New York. The price is said to be \$250,000. The new owners will spend \$100,000 in improvements. The same New York company owns the gas plants at Evansville, Ind., and Spokane, Washington.

The fool shows his folly and knows it not, but the wise guy knows his folly and shows it not.

Daniel Again Nominated.

Richmond, Special.—John Warwick Daniel was declared the nominee of the State Democratic party as his own successor for the United States Senate. He had no opposition. Under the party primary law, State Chairman Ellison declared him the nominee. Daniel's name was the only one presented under the law. He is now serving his third term in the Senate.