

REFORM NEEDED

In the Matter of Weighing the Mail on Railways.

TO PREVENT GRAFT.

The Railroads Have Had A Good Thing of It. But Honest Business Methods Are Hereafter to Be Adopted—Matter Up in Congress.

The Columbia Record's Washington correspondent says it is reasonably certain that congress, at the present session, will provide by definite legislation for readjustment of the methods of weighing the mails carried by the railways of the country.

The average daily weight of mail carried by a given railroad for ninety successive "working" days. As a matter of fact, the mail is weighed for 105 successive days, including Sundays, but instead of reaching the average by dividing the total weight by 105, it is reached by dividing the total weight by 90, the number of what the law terms "working" days.

Naturally, such a division increases the average daily weight, on which the payments by the government are based.

The subject has been considered by every postmaster general for a quarter of a century and opinions have been obtained from several attorneys general of the United States as to the legality of the methods pursued by the postoffice department.

In every instance, the present method has been sustained by these opinions. Congress never has seen fit to change the law and, consequently, every postmaster general has followed the methods of his predecessors in the mail weighing and payments.

Recently, Representative Murdock of Kansas, a member of the post office and postroads committee, delivered a speech in the house in which he asserted that the government annually was paying more money to the railroads for carrying the mails than they were entitled to.

In fact, he said that in the past twenty years \$40,000,000 in excess of rightful charge had been paid to the railroads.

The subject has been discussed pretty fully since the delivery of Mr. Murdock's speech, both among members of congress and in the newspapers.

In consequence of this, a tentative, although informal decision has been reached to change the wording of the present law so that after the act becomes effective, the railroads will be paid, not for an average daily weight of mail struck in any sense at random, but for an exact average found by dividing the total weight for a period of six months, for instance, by the total number of days including Sundays, on which the mail is weighed.

It has been discovered by inquiries that a few of the big railroad systems, like the Pennsylvania and the New York Central, are carrying the great bulk of the mail west of New York and east of Chicago, while other important lines apparently have been discriminated against.

Why this discrimination has been shown will be made a subject of inquiry by congress. It is intimated that some interesting facts may be developed.

European Buzzard. The continuing snow fall in England has continued practically an unprecedented situation, the worst known in 30 years.

MAKING CORN.

PROF. NEWMAN ENDORSES THE WILLIAMSON PLAN.

He Urges Farmers to Experiment With It Next Year, as It Makes Corn.

Prof. C. L. Newman, of Clemson College, who recently visited Darlington County and the Pee Dee section for the purpose of investigating the plan of growing corn originated by Mr. McVey Williamson, has completed his report on the subject.

The peculiar or essential Williamson plan features are: 1. Deep and thorough preparation of seed bed.

2. Deep planting of the seed. The seed is sown four to six inches below the soil level, and almost or quite in contact with the subsoil, but covered to the usual depth.

3. Frequent and partial cultivation in early stages of growth. This is contrary to popular belief and practice. Mr. Williamson styles it "stunting" or retarding the growth of the young corn and of grasses and weeds as well, since very nearly all the soil proper has been ploughed away from the corn row and into the middles, and no fertilizer has been applied.

4. An increase of 200 per cent or more in the number of stalks per acre. With rows 6 1/2 feet the Williamson plan has a little more than 3,500 stalks per acre against a little more than 2,900 if planted in the ordinary manner.

5. Postponing application of fertilizers until corn is given its second cultivation. In ordinary practice this would be about the time corn should be worked the third time.

6. Intentional retardation of early growth of the stalk until its size is reduced one-half or one-fourth its normal development.

7. Augmented development of the ear (following retardation in stalk development,) by cultivation and heavy applications of fertilizers made at appropriate intervals.

8. Since the Williamson plan corn is planted 4 to 6 inches below the level, and is laid by 4 to 6 inches above the level, the inches of soil between the stalks and the soil surface are below the surface when the crop is laid by, and probably perform their nutritive functions better than would be if a part of them were exposed to the air.

9. Mr. Williamson recommends the following amounts of fertilizers applied to an acre: For 50 bushels of corn per acre: Two hundred pounds of cotton seed meal, 200 pounds of acid phosphate, 400 pounds of kainit, 125 pounds of nitrate of soda, 925 pounds, costing about \$9.

For 100 bushels of corn per acre: Four pounds of cotton seed meal, 400 pounds of acid phosphate, 800 pounds of kainit, 300 pounds of nitrate of soda, 1,900 pounds, costing about \$19.

The total cost of fertilizers, cultivation, etc., producing 50 bushels on one acre would vary from \$15 to \$20, and for producing 100 bushels on one acre from \$25 to \$30.

These valuations are based on the market price of the fertilizers (assuming the acid phosphate to be 14 per cent goods) and the average price of labor. The cost of labor varies in different parts of the State and even on adjacent farms.

If the cow pea crop grow with the corn produces one ton of hay, this crop, if left on and in the ground, would add to it about \$12 worth of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. If the cow pea crop would produce two tons of hay, this crop left on and in the ground would add \$24 worth of these fertilizer ingredients.

SERIOUS CHARGES.

MURDER, PILLAGE, RAPE REIGN IN THE CONGO STATE.

"Flagrant Inhumanity" Is Unbridled Say Prominent Authorities in Letter to Secretary Elinh Root.

A letter signed by J. Pierpont Morgan, Dr. Lyman Abbott and other prominent citizens of New York, was addressed to Secretary of State Elinh Root, directing his attention to conditions in the Congo Free State, where it is asserted "flagrant inhumanity exists."

The commission chosen by the chief executive and virtual owner of the Congo to investigate conditions in that state was published. In spite of their natural desire to give all possible credit to their sovereign, the commissioners felt constrained to report the existence of measure and practices of flagrant inhumanity. Among these measures and practices are:

"First, The extraction of a labor tax so oppressive that many laborers on whom it falls have little, if any, freedom. "Second, Appropriation of land to such an extent that the natives are practically prisoners within their own territory.

"Third, The employment under the authority of the government as sentries of cruel, brutish blacks, chosen from hostile tribes, who murder, pillage and rape the people for whose protection the government is avowedly established.

"Fourth, The use of the natives by white representatives of officially recognized companies. "Fifth, The binding of little children to years of labor at uncertain wages by contracts they do not understand and even more serious maltreatment of children supposedly under the immediate care of the government.

"Sixth, Great injustice in the administration of the courts, so that the natives dread the place of Boma, the place where the judicial system is centralized.

"Seventh, The sending out of punitive expeditions, not for the purpose of establishing peace and order, but for the purpose of terrifying the natives into paying a tax which, as administered, even the commissioners regard as inhuman.

"It is to be remembered that these are not charges brought against the Congo government, but findings of the commission appointed by the chief executive of the government to investigate and report on the facts.

"Acting upon these findings, a second commission, also appointed by the king, has recommended measures of reform. No steps have been taken to adopt them. There is no evidence that the Congo government is undertaking seriously to remedy these evils.

The powers which created the Congo government have clearly a right to call that government to account. "Inasmuch as the United States gave its moral support to the establishment of the Congo government, so it is justified in giving its moral support to any undertaking to secure conditions in the Congo that will not disgrace it.

The letter is signed by the Rev. Messrs. Lyman Abbott, Henry Mowbray, Wilford L. Robbins, George William Knox, Charles H. Parkhurst, John P. Peters, Wm. Richards, Grant P. Hatterbury, Percy S. Anton and Messrs. Wm. Jay Schieffelin, Wm. E. Douglas, Charles A. Schiefelin, Spencer Trask, George Haven Putnam, Robert C. Winthrop, Robert C. Ogden, J. Pierpont Morgan, D. Willis James, R. Fulton Cutting, J. Cleveland Cady and W. J. Havemeyer.

The letter of J. Pierpont Morgan, Dr. Lyman Abbott and others, addressed to Secretary Root, urging him to use the moral support of the United States in the direction of correcting abuses said to exist in the Congo region, it was stated at the department today, would be taken into consideration along with other similar communications on the subject.

At El Reno, Okla., a negro soldier assaulted Mrs. T. S. Clifford, wife of a prominent physician at that place. Mrs. Clifford and sister, Mrs. S. H. Clark, were attempting to pass a negro soldier of the Twenty-fifth infantry when he violently grabbed Mrs. Clifford around the waist and threw her into the street, exclaiming that the sidewalk belonged to him.

DESERVED COMPLIMENT.

Ex-Governor Chamberlain Writes Governor Heyward a Letter.

Governor Heyward to-day received a letter from former Governor D. H. Chamberlain, congratulating him upon the success of his administration. Writing from University Station, Charlottesville, Va., Mr. Chamberlain says: "My dear Governor Heyward: "I am going to take the liberty of sending you my congratulations on the success of your administration, which is so near its close."

"I think it quite likely that you are congratulating yourself, though others are not, on the nearness of the conclusion of your official labors. Such, I think, is apt to be the feeling of the faithful official, who has borne official responsibilities for four years.

Permit me to add that I regard your success as governor as the more remarkable as well as creditable from the fact that you had no previous experience in office.

"I am extremely glad that you have allowed yourself to be made president of the recently organized immigration society. In that capacity I am sure you can do large service for the public. I congratulate you also on the success of your commissioner of immigration, Mr. Watson. He has certainly done what no one before him has been able to do, namely, start a tide of immigration directly to South Carolina and the South—an event, I hope and trust, of large influence for good to the whole South.

"Whenever you can conveniently do so, please give Mr. Watson my personal congratulations, though I have no personal acquaintance with him. My interest in all things in your state is always keen and particularly so in this matter of immigration.

"With great respect and admiration, dear Governor Heyward, I remain Faithfully yours, "D. H. CHAMBERLAIN."

FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

Many of Them Will be Held in Lower Counties.

Prof. J. N. Harper, director of the agricultural department, has given out the following schedule of farmers' institutes for the low country counties, to be held during January and February:

- Leeville, January 4. Ridge Springs, January 5. Johnston, January 7. Graniteville, January 8. Montross, January 9. Williston, January 10. Blackville, January 11. Springfield, January 12. Barnwell, January 14. Allendale, January 15. Hampton, January 17. Beaufort, January 19. Megeeth, January 19. Young's Island, January 21. Summerville, January 24. St. George, January 25. Branchville, January 26. Orangeburg, January 28. Sumter, January 29. Manning, January 31. Foreston, February 1. Georgetown, February 2. Kingstree, February 4. Lake City, February 5. Florence, February 6. Marion, February 7. Wannamaker, February 8. Homewood, February 9. Conway, February 11. Darlington, February 12. Hartsville, February 13. Cheraw, February 14. Chesfield, February 15.

As heretofore, the exhibit cars will go from one institute to another, showing specimens of farm produce, varieties of corn, cotton and other crops suitable to South Carolina, besides exhibits from other departments of the College, showing what Clemson boys are taught to do, etc.

Two Commit Suicide.

At Elthrin, N. Y., although a guard was standing close beside him Wednesday, Frank Delaney, a railroad man, succeeded in a bold attempt to end his life and the life of a woman who occupied a cell in the woman's dormitory of the Elthrin jail. The guard stood close by the man and woman were conferring together, when suddenly Delaney drew from his pocket a bottle of carbolic acid and passed it through the bars. The woman seized it and swallowed its contents. Suddenly Delaney pressed a bottle to his own lips. A guard sprang upon him, but the man fought him heroically for a moment and then collapsed. He died before a physician could be called. When the door of the cell was unlocked a woman lay dying on the floor.

Car Load of Booz.

The Greenville News says on Wednesday before Christmas a solid car load of booze arrived in that city for its people. The News says the whiskey shipments have been large during the past few days, but the shipment received Saturday was a record breaker for this season. The express companies always make arrangements early in December to handle the inevitable whiskey shipments for Christmas. From now on extra express cars will be pressed into service to handle the liquor shipments and also handle the increased business in other lines of shipments.

Very Sad Case.

At Greenville, Pa., because neighbors murmured that he would go mad as a result of blood poisoning that set in after a vicious horse had bitten his thumb off, Samuel Miller, a prosperous farmer, is raving maniac. He attempted to kill his wife to-day and then make way with himself, but was prevented from accomplishing his plan. He inflicted serious injuries on his wife and self before he was overpowered.

HE ROBBED ME.

After Putting Them to Sleep With Doped Whiskey.

The meanest kind of a theft has been arrested at Augusta, Ga. The Chronicle says "in the person of Joe Cloud, a young white man, the police believe they have a most important capture. He is charged with having drugged and robbed several men, and there is enough circumstantial evidence to bind him over upon the first hearing.

Thursday afternoon, shortly after 3 o'clock Policeman Matthews and Wilhelm brought Cloud and an elderly white man named J. A. Alexander, to the barracks. Alexander was very drunk and the arresting officer said, had just recovered from a stupor, indeed, it is believed, by drinking "doped" whiskey. The old man said he was from Elbert county, and complained that he had lost ten dollars in the circumstances of the case are these: Cloud and the old man were seen to enter a shanty in the rear of the old Deventy-Hood store, Alexander being apparently sober at the time. A short while afterwards he was found in the place in an unconscious condition, and Cloud was missing. So was the old man's ten dollars, which he claims to have had on his person. Fortunately, Cloud was located and brought to the barracks at the same time with the Elbert county farmer. Both were taken into custody and will be tried by the recorder. In the meantime officers are at work on the case, and it is believed that they will secure strong evidence against the young man.

"It is charged that Cloud has enticed several men to this shanty, obviously for the purpose of taking a drink on the "quiet," and there administered his drugged liquor. When his victim succumbed to the "dops" and lost full possession of their mental faculties, they usually lost some money. Cloud has been seen to enter the place several times in company with elderly men, and later these men were found in a peculiar state, with some or all of their money missing. Mr. Tom Bresnahan, a clerk in the employ of the Evans Hardware Co., is one of the chief witnesses against Cloud, who is well known to the police."

Little Town and Robbed.

The little town of Williston has another sensation. On last Wednesday night, Mr. Sam Trotter was waylaid and sandbagged while on his way from his store to his home. The distance between the two is not more than a quarter of a mile, and when he reached that part of the street which is shaded by the evergreens in front of the home of Col. E. M. Mixson he received a terrific blow on the back of his head, which felled him in unconsciousness. A piece of two-inch iron pipe bearing blood stains was found at the spot. The motive seems to have been robbery, as the thief succeeded in ransacking his pockets and the money he had with him with the exception of \$10, which was in an inner pocket.

Russia Faces Famine.

While the final results of the crop of 1906 in Russia will not be determined for some time, enough is known to make it clear to Government experts in Washington that the Russian peasant is facing one of the worst famines Russia has known during the last 20 years. According to the preliminary report of the central statistical committee, the entire crop of winter wheat equals 238,000,000 bushels and of spring wheat 299,000,000. The rye crop is 633,000,000 bushels. This makes the wheat crop 100,000,000 bushels short of 1904. The wheat crop of 1906 is the smallest Russia has had since 1901.

Fell Down Shaft.

Elias Lshentan and Joseph Bardeonno were instantly killed in the Colby iron mine at Bessemer, Mich., Wednesday, by falling 500 feet to the bottom of the shaft when a "ship" on which they were riding to the surface was dumped by striking on a projecting beam. Two other miners riding in the skip saved their lives by catching hold of the rope and clinging to it. One of these, Mike Stewardman, was seriously injured by the force his plight was discovered by the other one, who came out of the experience unharmed.

Making Space Pay.

The Japanese do not like to spare the square feet a fence would take up. If a border around a field is necessary it is made of mulberry trees, the leaves of which are good for silk worms. It is said that 15,000 acres, that would otherwise be taken up with fences are used in this manner.

The Largest and Costliest Building Thus Far Undertaken in New York.

The city of immense structures, is the magnificent \$10,000,000 Episcopal cathedral of St. John the Divine, now being erected on Morningside Heights. This will be the greatest sacred edifice in America, and the fourth in importance in the world.

Varieties of Mosquitoes.

About 300 species of mosquitoes have been described, and it is estimated that 200 more exist. Gies recognizes only 36 species in the whole of North America, but Florida alone claims 22 species.

With Sign Language.

A deaf and dumb person who is fairly expert at finger language can speak about forty-three words a minute. In the same space of time a person in possession of his speech will probably speak 150 words.

Banks in Switzerland.

Fifty years ago, in Switzerland, 180,000 depositors possessed \$12,000,000 in 187 savings banks. There are now 1,400,000 depositors possessing \$1,000,000,000 in more than 800 savings banks.

Asia Cotton Crop.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg, Russia, says the cotton harvest in central Asia is extremely good, 17,000 carloads instead of the usual 12,000 being available for export. Railroads will require special facilities to transport the cotton.

DISPENSER BRODIE

MAKES STATEMENT AS TO THE SPRINGFIELD DISPENSARY

In Reply to Charges About a Recent Fire Which Destroyed Building and Contents

Having published an article respecting the destruction of the Springfield dispensary recently by fire in justice to Dispenser Brodie we publish the article below:

Springfield, S. C., Dec. 26, 1906. Editor Times and Democrat: I beg that you will give me space in your valuable paper to state the plain unvarnished facts as they are in regard to the following communication, which appeared in your columns a few weeks ago headed "The Burning of Dispensary." That communication stated that a serious condition prevailed in Springfield on account of the warring factions into which the town had been drawn on account of the dispensary. When in fact and in truth the factions have existed for five or six years on account of personal and political differences, in which the delegation which went to Columbia to see the governor and which delegation gave the bureau its information always got the worst of it, as the records will fully show, and chafing under this, they have seized this opportunity to destroy me and the dispensary and the friends of the same.

There were a number of fires in Springfield and a number of buildings were destroyed, among them the building in which the dispensary was kept, and insinuations that the dispensary people knew or had anything to do with it has never been made except by these enemies of mine. The feeling has been so high against me on account of the reasons given above that I have regularly hired a man to sleep in the dispensary at night for its protection. As to any threats of shooting any one by the dispensary people, such a statement is entirely unfounded, but on the contrary the brother and grandson of the incendiary have been on the streets on the Sabbath night with their shot guns. In regard to the statement that the mayor and a better element will have a clash with the dispenser and his friends, I desire to say that there is an element of good people in and around Springfield, but that they are hands off, regarding the matter as a personal one.

That there was a delegation headed by the mayor is an error, it was in fact headed by a man who has not been admitted to the bar, but as times go, perhaps if a good people desire to do a thing, and the practices they may ask the Norris-O'Connell Company, of Columbia, and numerous others, who have had dealings with him. In regard to the dispensary liquor that was sold, a "tiger" liquor, there was a car load of liquor shipped to the dispenser, and stored in the depot, and the negro porter and others stole \$45.25 worth of it, and some of the delegation who went to the governor purchased some of the liquor from the negro for the purpose of drinking it, when they found full well it was stolen, and the negro is now in the county jail as Orangeburg awaiting trial for the same, and others going free. Some of the crowd against the dispensary went into the depot, opened the cases and filled their pockets with the dispensary whiskey.

This same delegation which went to the governor or part of it, informed Chief State Constable Hammett, and had my premises searched by five constables, the result of which the public can get from these gentlemen. The purpose was to reëlect, on me, but they did me a favor.

The county board of control through one of its members demanded of the incendiary that he should be charged against me and appear before the county board at Orangeburg and they returned to appear. The county board, which is an excellent one, desired the investigation, saying they would know no one in the discharge of a public duty, but still they refused and go to the governor and into the newspapers to attempt to blacken my character, rather than meet the issue squarely, when they knew that no tribunal would for a moment consider their slanderous charges. They have appealed to Caesar, by causing an unwilling to be judged, but I feel just to say that there were two highly respected gentlemen from Springfield who went to Columbia the same day, but I am informed that they went on other business, business connected with bank. I have never had any experience with newspapers in my life and but for the unjust things at me from my enemies I would not have appeared at this time and only that the public may have the facts as they are I have written this paper, by causing an unwilling to be judged, but I feel just to say that there were two highly respected gentlemen from Springfield who went to Columbia the same day, but I am informed that they went on other business, business connected with bank. I have never had any experience with newspapers in my life and but for the unjust things at me from my enemies I would not have appeared at this time and only that the public may have the facts as they are I have written this paper, by causing an unwilling to be judged, but I feel just to say that there were two highly respected gentlemen from Springfield who went to Columbia the same day, but I am informed that they went on other business, business connected with bank. 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