

ADVISES A NEW RULE.

Senator Mason Suggests a Way in Which Rural Free Delivery Can Be Improved.

Senator Mason had a conference with the postmaster general for the purpose of securing the issuance of an order which will remove what is known as a discrimination against certain farmers in regard to the delivery of their mail.

It is proposed to have the carriers start one day at the beginning of a route and reverse the order of things the next. This will equalize matters as far as the time of the delivery of the mail is concerned.

Postmaster General Payne now has the matter under consideration and will within the next few days issue an order on the subject.

THE FLORIST INDUSTRY.

Over 6,000 Concerns in the Country with Over \$50,000,000 Invested Capital.

The extent of the florist industry of the United States is shown by the final census statistics, announced recently, on the establishments making the cultivation of flowers and ornamental plants their principal business.

Chicago Men Secure Patents on a New Invention Which Will Do Away with Bootblacks.

A new invention for polishing shoes will be placed on the market within the next few days. The inventors, Johann Krotzopf, 214 Roscoe boulevard, and S. P. Levy, 210 Belmont avenue, of Chicago, have received their patent from Washington and will engage in the manufacture of the device.

The shoe polishing machine is simple in construction and its inventors claim that it meets all requirements. It consists of a boxlike framework, in side of which are placed rotary brushes to polish the toe and heel of a shoe, while sliding brushes put a polish on the sides of the article of footwear.

PRINCE TO BRING CANNON.

Will Present to German-American Veterans, Bronze Gun, Captured from the French.

Prince Henry will bring with him to the United States a bronze cannon as a present from the kaiser to the Central Union of German-American veterans who fought in the war of 1866-1870, cables the Berlin correspondent of the World.

Monument for Great Indian Chief. The Burlington road has decided to erect a monument over the grave of Wapello, one of the three great chiefs of the Sac and Fox nation, who is buried near Agency, Ia., in Wapello county.

Reverberation of Nature. Now that it has been found possible to make paper of a good quality out of seaweed the paper mill proprietors will know what to fall back upon when the forests are exhausted, says the Chicago Tribune.

One of the professors has after figuring on the matter for ten years found that the temperature of the sun is 11,192 degrees. Just keep this fact in your mind, says the Chicago Record-Herald, when the next cold wave comes along.

Horror Cured in Paris. One-third of the street cars of Paris have been moved by horses.

SHOW LARGE GROWTH

Churches of the Country Add Many to Their Enrollment.

The Increase During 1901 Was 2.67 Per Cent, or Greater Than the Gain in Population, Which Was 2.18 Per Cent.

Statistics of the growth of the churches of the United States in 1901 and the order of denominational rank in 1898 and 1901 have been completed by Rev. Dr. H. K. Carroll, who was in charge of the religious statistics of the United States census of 1890.

The Disciples of Christ, whose membership is almost wholly in the middle west, has almost doubled its followers since 1890. Of Christians, Dr. Carroll says that he took his statistics from the mother church at Boston, while his figures are much less than some scientists claim.

Buffalo Becoming Extinct. Steps Necessary to Preserve the American Bison in Yellowstone National Park.

According to reports received from the Yellowstone National park, the buffalo herd within its confines is rapidly disappearing, and unless congress makes further provision threatens to become extinct.

Elk are reported more numerous than any other animal in the park. There are at least 50,000 of them within the park limits.

Boy Gives His All to Charity. Master Michelin, ten years old, the wealthy son of a shoe manufacturer of Paris, got as a Christmas gift a \$4,000 automobile made purposely for him on condition that he would spend the holiday week in distributing free shoes among the children of the tenement districts.

A Possible Explanation. Mrs. Patrick Campbell says she finds that American ladies are the happiest in the world. Perhaps, suggests the Chicago Record-Herald, those with whom Mrs. Patrick has been associating have had unusual luck of late in keeping their cooks.

Hard to Break Away. In Boston they still have lectures on Kipling. How those people do cling to a fad, exclaims the Chicago Record-Herald, when they have once given themselves up to it!

LAUDS WASHINGTON.

Prof. Triggs Says That as Writer He Ranks Above Stevenson.

Chicago University Teacher Declares That Thought and Not Rhetoric Determine the Value of a Literary Production.

If University of Chicago students act upon the advice given them the other day by Prof. Oscar L. Triggs, they will put aside their books on fiction and history, such as those written by Stevenson and Macaulay, and when they want prose works of the highest literary type they will turn to the writings of George Washington.

"In my opinion, the value and the effectiveness of prose, like that of poetry, depends upon the contents and not upon the form in which the matter appears. I believe that action and experience would give a writer's work a higher place than rhetoric and expression. On these grounds I would place Washington and Benjamin Franklin upon a higher literary plane than Stevenson or Macaulay.

Washington wrote but little, but what he did write is based upon knowledge gained by actual experience. Therefore it has practical qualities such as the works of Stevenson and Macaulay wholly lack. Stevenson was a mere rhetorician, and his writings lack the force which is contained in the works of Washington."

Prof. William D. McClintock, of the department of English, attacked the practice of their going when indulged in as a pastime. He declared that the theater goer should expect to be benefited by patronizing the theater, and should choose those operas and dramas which will be of didactic value. In referring to the stage of the time of Shakespeare he said it filled the time occupied by "yellow" journalism to-day by attempting to satisfy the more depraved tastes of man.

WILL BURN OIL OR COAL.

New Type of Transatlantic Steamer Which Has Been Launched at Philadelphia.

Twelve-year-old Mildred Morse, daughter of the president of the New York Shipbuilding company of Camden, N. J., held the honor of christening a new type of transoceanic steamer which will burn either oil or coal in the same furnaces.

The Nevada is the first launched of three vessels being built for the American-Hawaiian Steamship company at Philadelphia. The others will be known as the Nebraska and Texas. The Nevada's equipment is novel. A change from coal to oil can be made in the steamer's furnaces without even a momentary stoppage of the engine.

Great speed is also looked for as the result of using oil as fuel. The Nevada is 371 feet long, 46 feet beam and 34 feet in depth of hold. Her registered tonnage is 4,500.

WILL REQUIRE NEW BUILDING.

Emperor William's Gift to Harvard University Much Larger Than Had Been Supposed.

The gift of Emperor William to Harvard will be a much larger gift than was at first supposed. The emperor's gift consists of casts and some bronzes, illustrating every phase of the German plastic art from the Romanesque period to the renaissance.

The casts number several thousand, and their originals are to be found at every city of the empire where anything distinctive or beautiful is represented. The collection embraces casts of monuments and sculptures and architectural casts. The entire cost of the collection will be defrayed from the emperor's private purse, and is estimated at about 500,000 marks.

BOTTLE'S LONG JOURNEY.

Cast into the Water in Central Illinois, It Finally Reaches the Pacific Coast.

Jessie Wilson the other day at Santa Monica fished from the Pacific a bottle containing a message which came from central Illinois, around Cape Horn. The message was written by Walter Roeder, of Bloomington, Ill., and, after being inclosed in a bottle, was thrown into the Mackinac river. It is supposed to have worked its way into the Atlantic ocean via the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, and continued its wavelong journey until, nearly two years after its start, it bobbed up on the coast of Southern California, 10,000 miles from home. Mr. Roeder in answer to a telegram confirms the message as his own.

Not New on This Side.

The London Daily Mail in its new Year Book gives the United States the credit of being the greatest nation on earth. This information, says the Chicago Record-Herald, will not, however, come to many of us as a clap of thunder out of a clear sky.

Still in the Lead.

It is again announced that Mrs. Maybrick may be released, says the Chicago Record-Herald. This will serve as a reminder that Mrs. Maybrick is still several releases ahead of Miss Stone.

FEAR THE WOMEN.

Men of Germany View with Alarm Their Invasion of Business Life.

Make Bitter Complaint in Columns of the Press, Many Urging Need of Legislation for Suppression of "Feminine Peril."

The rapidly growing invasion of business life by German women has precipitated a vigorous protest on the part of the male wage-earners of the empire. Columns of bitter complaint have been published in the metropolitan newspapers, many of the locked-out sex urging the need of legislation for the suppression of the "feminine peril."

Numerous cases are reported where heads of families have become dependent on the earnings of their own daughters. High-class clerical positions in which men have hitherto been supreme are daily falling into the hands of women. The men's cause has been given an additional setback by the publication of letters from business colleges, merchants and manufacturers asserting that experience proves that the average girl is not only cheaper but also more capable than the average male office assistant.

Women are not allowing the men to monopolize the discussion. They declare that women are compelled to work in Germany because the men of the nation have inherited objections to taking dowryless brides. Women, they allege, will be forced to desert the household as long as the selfish matrimonial traditions of the country are recognized and practiced.

A PHENOMENAL YEAR.

Receipts at the New York Post Office Aggregate \$13,000,000 for Year 1901.

The receipts from stamps, postal cards and envelopes at the New York post office have more than quadrupled in less than 30 years.

For 1901 they will aggregate about \$13,000,000. In 1873 they aggregated \$3,000,000 in round numbers.

"The business of the New York post office for this year has been phenomenal," said Postmaster Van Cott. "Our receipts for stamps, postal cards and envelopes for this month will exceed \$1,200,000. The average monthly receipts will exceed \$1,000,000. In 1873, when the postage was three cents, the total receipts for the year were about \$3,000,000. In 1888, when I first came here, they ranged from \$400,000 to \$600,000 a month. This year, with two-cent postage, our receipts have exceeded \$1,000,000 a month, and for December will approach \$1,250,000. Of course much of this increase is due to the growth of the city, general prosperity and the fact that many of the largest corporations in the country have established their main offices in New York. These receipts are exclusive of the revenues from the money order business, and the transactions of that department for this year represent \$160,000,000."

EGYPTIAN COTTON IN ARIZONA

Government Stations Demonstrate the Practicability of Raising Crop in United States.

That the United States may be enabled to raise at home the Egyptian cotton now imported is believed. Tests made in Salt River valley have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the department of agriculture that Egyptian cotton can be successfully, and perhaps profitably, raised in the southwest.

At the government stations, near Phoenix, nearly an acre was planted to the Egyptian seed, and a planting of the same size was made on the Chandler tract, in the eastern and higher part of the valley. The crop has just been gathered, and the cotton is the finest ever seen in the department and the yield was better than that of the average Egyptian cotton in its native soil.

In many respects the valleys of southern Arizona, New Mexico and of old Mexico are similar to the Valley of the Nile. The soil is almost identical, there is little difference in climate, and irrigation is as necessary as in Egypt.

In picking the Indians are much more satisfactory as workmen than any others.

To Investigate Coal Supply.

A royal commission has been appointed to inquire into the coal resources of Great Britain. The questions to be covered by the commission's inquiries will include the rate of possible exhaustion of British coal fields, the effect of the export of coal on the home supply, the possibility of a reduction in its cost by cheaper transportation and whether the coal mining industry of Great Britain, under the existing conditions, is maintaining its competitive power with foreign coal fields, etc.

The commission is composed of 17 members and includes the chairman of railroad companies, the heads of big colliery companies, prominent engineers and geologists. William Lawies Jackson, M. P., chairman of the Great Northern Railway company, is president of the commission.

Forest Fires.

More than \$50,000,000 worth of timber was destroyed by forest fires last year.

HAD LONG STRUGGLE

Women of Methodist Church to Be Given Place in Conference.

The New Constitution Adopted in Which Provision is Made for Their Admission as Delegates with Unrestricted Rights.

The long struggle for official recognition in the conferences by women of the Methodist church is probably ended, at last, and, it is claimed that the women have won, says the New York Tribune. A statement to this effect has just been made by Dr. Stephen L. Baldwin, recording secretary of the Mission Society of the Methodist Episcopal church, who says that the returns from the conferences are so far in that it is certain the new constitution is adopted.

The new constitution was submitted at the general conference of the church held in Chicago in 1900, approved by it, and referred for decision to the conferences throughout the world. The principal changes are that it gives women the right to sit as delegates in the general conference; it gives laymen's electoral meetings authority to vote on constitutional questions, and it changes the vote necessary in the general conference to amend the constitution from three-fourths to two-thirds.

Dr. Baldwin said in an interview: "The subject of admitting women as delegates was first agitated at the general conference held in New York in 1883. At the general conference in 1896 six women were elected, but two withdrew. Another long discussion took place, and it was decided that the women might take their seats 'with title in dispute.' The four declined to accept this condition and withdrew. The question was submitted again to the church, but although a large majority of the ministers voted in favor of admitting women on equal terms, it was defeated, because the required three-fourths vote in favor was not obtained. Last year the general conference accepted the new constitution, which contained the desired clause. The various sectional conferences have all been heard from except a few in foreign fields, and more than the required three-quarters vote is assured."

NEW CARRIAGE CALL.

The Man with the Fog-Horn Voice Displaced at New York by Electric Signal Lights.

Much clamor and confusion will be done away with at the Metropolitan opera house by the installation of an illuminated carriage call system, which will signal to waiting coachmen a half mile distant. The proper numbers will be flashed from a conspicuous place commanding the stretches of pavement where the carriages, cabs and automobiles now crowd and jam the crossings after opera hours.

Operators stationed at the entrances will give numbered checks, and, without the aid of the man with the foghorn voice, calling one's vehicle will be only a matter of switching a series of levers arranged somewhat like a typewriter board. The figures from 1 to 9 can be shown in each of the three large apertures, so that carriage calls may be numbered up in the hundreds and changed every two seconds. The principle of the device is similar to that of the shifting advertising legends written in colored incandescent lights.

The owners of several theaters are waiting to adopt the system if the test at the opera house is as successful as seems probable. The inventor is Mortimer Norden, secretary of the Norden-Bittener Electric company.

RAGGED BUT HONEST.

Needy Errand Boy in New York City Returns Fat Pocketbook Which He Picked Up.

A remarkable display of honesty on the part of an errand boy in tattered clothes has aroused much interest in Morrisania. Harry Hunt, 15 years old, who works 12 hours a day in a drug store and takes his weekly wages by three dollars to his mother as his share toward the support of the family, found on the street a pocketbook containing gold and paper to the value of \$110 and jewels worth \$400 more. He ran as fast as his legs could carry him to the nearest police station and turned over the purse.

After counting the money Sergt. McGann looked at the boy and found that his shoes were badly worn, his stockings had holes in them and his clothes were ragged. "Why didn't you take some of the money and buy some new shoes?" asked the sergeant. "I need the shoes," replied the lad, "but the money wasn't mine. I ran here as quick as I could so no one could say I stole it."

Envelope Causes Death.

James Hicks, a prominent iron manufacturer of Cincinnati, O., died in the Waldorf-Astoria at New York the other day of blood poisoning. He came to New York city about a week ago. A few days later he was licking an envelope, when the sharp edge of the paper cut his lip, and blood poisoning set in. Mr. Hicks was prominently identified with the Cincinnati Corrugated Iron company and the Piqua rolling mills. His widow, who is a daughter of ex-Mayor Thomas, of Cincinnati, arrived in the city in the evening and accompanied the body to Cincinnati, where the burial took place.

Huge Iron Pillar in India. The largest wrought-iron pillar is at Delhi, in India. It is 60 feet high and weighs 17 tons.

FASTER STEAMSHIPS.

New Line to Cut the Time Across the Atlantic Ocean.

This is Expected to Be Accomplished by the Substitution of the Turbine Engine—Will Benefit Trade and Travel.

To clip from 24 to 36 hours from the record time for crossing the Atlantic is the promise of the New York & European Steamship company, a new transatlantic steamship line, which offers assurance of a speedy fulfillment of its pledge, says the New York Tribune. This company, which has already applied for pier privileges in New York city and formulated the larger part of its plans, expects by the substitution of the turbine engine for that now in use to secure a constant speed of 30 knots an hour in its new boats. Such a speed will mean that passengers can be carried from this country to Europe in a little more than four days. The success that has attended the use of the turbine engine in Europe, and especially the remarkable speed that has been secured thereby, has naturally raised the question as to its adaptability for transatlantic steamers. In New York city a strong company has been organized and plans have been pretty well completed for this new line. To cut off a day in the time of crossing the Atlantic will mean to bring enormous profits to the steamship company which succeeds in doing it. Fast mails, not only of this country but those which are beginning to pass through from Australia and the far east, will naturally fall to the steamship company that can handle them quickest. Delivered at Queenstown, these mails could, according to the plans of the New York & European company, be carried in three days and seven hours, a reduction of two days from the present time. Of the importance and value of the turbine engine Prof. R. H. Thurston recently spoke at length before the Society of Mechanical Engineers.

CLAIM HOME OF CARNEGIE.

The Heirs of a Georgia Planter Sue for the Possession of a \$2,000,000 Island.

Andrew Carnegie will be made a party to a suit for property valued at \$2,000,000 which will be brought against the wife of his brother by heirs of Robert Stafford, the Sea Island-cotton king. Papers in the action have just been prepared. The suit will be to secure the title to Cumberland island, off the coast of Georgia, which Mr. Carnegie and his sister-in-law have made a beautiful park and midsea home. In the papers on file in the case it is alleged that Robert Stafford bought the island now in dispute in 1848. He had \$300 at that time and went to the island alone to raise cotton. He was successful and in the second year of his work there married Elizabeth Barnaby, who was employed by a Georgia planter, and, though her ancestors were white she had been sold into slavery. It is the descendants of this woman and Robert Stafford who are now contending for the \$2,000,000.

NEW GUN SHIELDS A SUCCESS.

Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles Much Pleased with Test at Bethlehem, Pa.

The Bethlehem Steel company's new gun shields were tested the other day at the proving grounds near Bethlehem, Pa., in the presence of Gen. Miles and officers of the bureau of ordnance and fortifications of the war department. The shields were subjected to severe tests and scored a splendid success. Gen. Miles said that the company's own designed shields are an improvement on all others. There were two shields of Krupp armor, three inches thick, and they were fired on by three-inch guns half a dozen times without effect. A five-inch gun, however, sent a 50-pound projectile clear through one. The experiment test was conducted by Lieut. Meigs, the company's ordnance expert. Gen. Miles expressed the hope that the government will adopt the new shields.

Yachtman Weds Girl He Rescued.

At the parochial residence of St. John's Roman Catholic church in Stamford, Conn., Arthur M. Bradley and Miss Terese M. Smith, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Smith, were married. Mr. Bradley is one of the best-known yachtmen of that place. Mr. Bradley is wealthy and Miss Smith was not. He is a Protestant, she a Catholic. She has spent a great deal of time on the water. She came to be a fine sailor. Last fall Miss Smith ventured out alone in a lake boat. The wind was heavy and the boat was knocked down by a treacherous gust. Her position was one of peril. Mr. Bradley went to her rescue. The acquaintance ripened into a love match.

London Apes Are Duped.

Considerable flutter was created in London by the announcement that King Edward had appeared in a frock coat with deep, turned-up velvet cuffs. Hundreds of fashionable men immediately rushed to their tailors and ordered similar garments, in spite of their extraordinary novelty. Consternation now prevails, as it is learned that what the king wore was a frock overcoat, on which velvet cuffs are often seen.