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## THE ARIZONA SILVER BELT.

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## THE FIRST POSTAGE STAMPS.

The Thirty-eighth Anniversary of Their Use a History of Their Invention.

(From the Hartford (Conn.) Times.)

Thirty-eight years ago the first postage stamps were used in the United States. For 175 years postage has been collected entirely in money, and in all cases prepayment was optional.

Good old John Haywood, who in 1680 became the "worthy master of the post" at Boston, and the first postmaster in America, employed chance conveyance instead of postage, with "by the kindness of" some traveller as his postal service; and nothing was thought about stamping until 1841, though such men as Franklin, Bache, Pickering and Kendall had been at the head of the Post Office Department, and though the number of offices had come to be nearly 14,000. On the 25th of March, 1840, John M. Niles, of Hartford, became Postmaster General, and signaled his administration by many reforms. He turned the wrong side out of his predecessor's work, and convinced his party and the President that Amos Kendall was not such a great man as has been imagined. It was necessary to cap all by a genuine innovation, and he performed this by suggesting the postage stamp. The suggestion was ridiculed, and Mr. Niles soon afterwards retired. His successor, Charles A. Wickliffe, put the Department into the ancient ruts again, and when Cave Johnson assumed the portfolio on the 5th of March, 1845, he found it

AN HERCULEAN TASK

to renege the reform measures of Mr. Niles. During Wickliffe's administration the number of post offices had increased by only 605, but Johnson saw in his term of office 4,237 offices added to the rolls, and witnessed other tokens of prosperity. Among the measures of Mr. Niles that he adopted was the postage stamp idea. The President converted his Postmaster General from opposing the reduction of postage to a championship of the lowest paying rates, and Johnson garbled his conversion with fathering the suggestion originated six years before. The matter took form as a bill before Congress, and though it was quite the fashion to oppose any Cabinet suggestions, the act authorizing the issue of stamps of 5 and 10-cent denominations was passed, and approved March 9, 1847. The date of the issue was appointed as July 1, but there was a delay in the contractor's work, and the time ran over a month.

On the 5th day of August, soon after the opening of the Postmaster General's office for the day, an old gentleman called to see Mr. Johnson on business. The gentleman was the Hon. Henry Shaw, a New Yorker, who was not a stranger in Washington in those days, and whose home was in Lanesborough, Mass. He was a Berkshire County magnate, a politician of no mean qualifications, and the father of the well-known Henry Shaw, Jr. (Josh Billings). Twenty-three years before, Mr. Shaw had recognized in a youth of 17—

A TANNER'S BOY

who came to Lanesborough to study law—the germs of a great life. He assisted the lad in obtaining a library, and thus inaugurated a friendship that death alone could sever. After twelve years of practice, in the fall of 1830, the young lawyer was elected to Congress from the Eleventh Congressional District of Massachusetts. When Geo. H. Briggs took his seat in December, 1831, he was determined to work, and he carried out his determination so well that his constituents kept him in Congress twelve years. During that time he did long and laborious service as the Chairman of the Committee of the Post Office and Post-roads, and was both in the committee and in Mr. Niles' office the advocate of the reforms above alluded to. In the Twenty-seventh Congress he crowned his series of reforms by inaugurating a movement for reducing the rate of postage to 10 and 5 cents. The House passed the bill, but the Senate did not reach it, and it failed of becoming a law until the following year. Mr. Briggs had passed meanwhile from Washington to Boston, and Mr. Shaw was full of admiration for his friend, whose seven years as Governor of Massachusetts were

GOOD YEARS FOR THE BAY STATE.

Mr. Johnson came into his office, accompanied by the printer of the new stamps, a few minutes after Mr. Shaw had arrived, on that August morning. Sheets of the stamps were laid before the Postmaster General, who, after receiving for them handed them to his visitor to inspect. Mr. Shaw returned them after a hasty glance, and then drawing out his wallet he counted out 15 cents, with which he purchased two of the stamps—the first two ever issued. The 5-cent stamp he kept as a curiosity, and the 10-cent stamp he

presented to Governor Briggs as an appropriate gift.

The two denominations of stamps remained in use four years. In July, 1851, appeared a new series of 1 and 3 cents, and soon after a subsequent issue of the additional denominations of 5, 10, 12, 24, 30 and 90 cents. In 1861 this series was called in by Montgomery Blair, Lincoln's Postmaster General, and a new series issued. July 1, 1863, the first 2-cent stamp appeared, and was to accommodate local postage. April 1, 1865, newspaper stamps of 5, 10 and 25 cents were issued, but fell into early disuse. In March, 1869, J. A. J. Creswell, Grant's Postmaster General, brought out a new series, but they did not come into favor, and after two months were superseded by a series of the denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 15, 30 and 90 cents. In 1873 the repeal of the franking privilege made necessary the department stamps of special design. They are as follows: Executive, 1, 2, 3, 6 and 10 cents; State, 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30 and 90 cents; and War and Navy, each, 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30 and 90 cents; and

INTERIOR, JUSTICE AND POST OFFICE, each, the same, excepting the 9-cent stamp. Since December 11, 1875, prepayment stamps for newspapers and periodicals from publication office have been issued. The denominations are 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 24, 30, 43, 60, 72, 84 and 90 cents, and \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5, \$9, \$12, \$24, \$36, \$48 and \$60.

The aggregate issue of postage stamps in 1884 was 1,459,768,560; of newspapers and periodicals stamps, 3,889,400.

The idea of stamped envelopes was also the thought of a Connecticut man. Eleven years after John M. Niles, the Post Office Department was taken by J. D. Hubbard, of the same State, and at his suggestion, in June, 1858, the first issue of stamped envelopes began. The denominations were 3 and 2 cents, and April 25, 1855, a 10-cent envelope was added. In October, 1860, a new series was issued, with additions of 1 and 4 cents, in December, 1860. In war-time were issued envelopes denominated 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 24, 30, 43, 60, 72, 84 and 90 cents. October 1, 1870, this series was changed in design. The first "printed request envelopes" were issued in May, 1865; the first newspaper wrappers in October, 1861, and the first postal cards in May, 1873.

It may be added that, while it is worth remembering that the two Connecticut Postmaster Generals respectively originated the use of postage stamps and stamped envelopes in America, another Connecticut man, Edward Allen, of Norwich, invented the envelope machine, which manufactures 30,000 stamped envelopes per day.

A VERY HEAVY LOAD.

"I ain't gwine ter stay in dis heah country no longer den I ken he p," said an old negro, whose general good humor and satisfied condition rendered this observation significant.

"What's the matter, Eli?" some one asked.

"Never mine what's the matter; I kaint stay in dis country."

"Anybody been abusing you?"

"Yas, sah, da is."

"Infringe on your rights?"

"Sah?"

"Trample upon your rights?"

"Yas, sah, da did. Tramped on me wid heef feel."

"Tell me about it."

"Well, yer knows sah, dat I see er mighty ban' for chillun. I see got some twelve or fifteen at my house, yer know. Dis mawin' while da was all out in de yard it struck me dat dar was a powerful chance o' them, so I ginter count. Wall, sah, I counted twenty-three. 'Look heah, wife, I, 'how come all dese chillun in heah? She sorter vaded de subject, but at las' she acknowledged dat 'de extra chillun 'longed to her sister what wuz run away. Now, boss, how long does yer reckon I had been er totin' dat extra load?"

"I have no idea."

"No, sah, I don't spoz' yer ma. I'd been feedin' dem chillun fur two munts, sah. I thought dat it took a powerful chance to eat, but I didn't think, sah, dat my wife was er stoffin' de ballot box dater way. No, sah, I ain't gwine ter stay heah."

In the death of Mrs. Helen Hunt Jackson, better known by her modest initials "H. H.," the country loses a writer of peculiarly gracious and pleasing gifts and a woman of wide personal popularity. Though not great in any sense, she was a credit to our literature and our society; and it is not too much to say, we think that her last book, "Ramona," is in style and purpose one of the five or six most effective of American novels.

## Ship Railways.

(From the Christian Advocate.)

It is reported that a ship railway will be built to connect the Bay of Fundy with the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It will carry ships of 1,000 tons or less, and save a large amount of such shipping from encountering the dangers of the Nova Scotian coast and 600 miles of sailing. The railway will be but seventeen miles long, and the company expect to get \$300,000 a year for twenty years from the Canadian Government. Meanwhile, the Tebanu-tepec Ship Railway of Capt. Eady is still in the condition of an unripe project. A recent number of Science contains an interesting argument in its favor. (1) It will cost \$50,000,000, and will carry ships of 5,000 tons burden. The Panama Canal Company has nearly used up \$100,000,000, and its work is so incomplete that \$350,000,000 is a moderate estimate of the total cost; and it is not certain that any amount of money will buy off the Chagres River from inundations. The Nicaragua Canal estimates are \$140,000,000. (2) The Tehantepec route is an average of one thousand miles shorter than the Panama. From Liverpool to San Francisco the saving is 700 miles; from New York to the Golden Gate the saving is 1,200 miles. The Panama scheme is a tide-water level canal; the Nicaragua plan has locks from 12 to 20 in number. (3) The ship railway of Tehantepec would probably save time in transit, at least three days as compared with the Nicaragua. The ship railway will cost least for maintenance. Panama is likely to be vastly expensive. Nicaragua hardly less so. (4) Natural harbors exist at each end of the Tehantepec route; the country is healthy; native labor is abundant and cheap. (5) The point of popular doubt is whether a loaded vessel can be lifted safely and safely dropped into the water after its journey by rail. Of course, all readers know that the largest vessels are docked for repairs. The same methods can be employed to place a ship on a railway track. It is proposed to adjust weights so that no single car-wheel will carry more than nine tons, and 48 cars wheels tested for twenty tons. The ships are to ride on springs, which will cushion them against shocks. The supports to be employed, the inventor claims, will be more than fifty times as strong as those of the best lifting dock in the world.

HEALTHY PROPERTIES OF WATER.

There is no remedy of such general application and none so easily attainable as water, and yet nine persons in ten will pass it by in an emergency to seek for something of less efficacy. There are but few cases of illness where water should not occupy the highest place as a remedial agent. A strip of flannel or a napkin folded lengthwise and wrung out of hot water and applied around the neck of a child that has the croup will usually bring relief in ten minutes. A towel folded several times and quickly wrung out of hot water and applied over the seat of the pain in toothache or neuralgia will generally afford prompt relief. This treatment in colic works like magic. We have known cases that have resisted other treatment for hours yield to this in ten minutes. There is nothing that will so promptly cut short a congestion of the lungs, sore throat or rheumatism as hot water when applied promptly and thoroughly. Pieces of cotton-batting dipped in hot water and kept applied to all sores and new cuts, bruises and sprains is the treatment now generally adopted in hospitals. Sprained ankle has been cured in an hour by showering it with hot water, poured from a height of ten feet. Tepid water acts promptly as an emetic, and hot water taken freely half an hour before bed-time is the best of cathartics in the case of constipation; while it has a most soothing effect on the stomach and bowels. This treatment continued for a few months, with proper attention to diet, will alleviate any case of dyspepsia.—Mining and Scientific Press.

Cincinnati mother.—"Well, my daughter, you were very good in church. Now you shall have lots of nice birthday presents if you can tell me what the sermon was about." Little Cincinnati maiden.—"Oh yes, of course. It was about heaven. Won't it be nice? Nothing but music, gardens and races and base ball games and theaters all the time." "Mercy on us, child! where did you get that idea?" "From the preacher, of course, mamma." The preacher! Why, what did he say?" "He said that up there it would be Sunday all the time."

Over 25,000 men are working in the mines, mills and smelters of Butte, M. T., and their wages alone amount to \$2,000,000 per year.

## Dealer of the Miner.

(From the Prescott Courier.)

The old Arizona Miner is a thing of the past. It is no longer a living newspaper. It was tenacious of life, did not want to be a cadaver, but fate was against it. The Miner was, at the time of the demise, the oldest paper in Arizona. The first number was published in Chino valley, 20 miles north of Prescott, March 9, 1864, so that it lived just 21 years, 5 months and 6 days. Richard C. McCormick, who was the first Secretary of the Territory, brought the old press and material from New Mexico.

His name never appeared as editor and proprietor, but he was both, all the same. His first publisher was Tisdale A. Hand, who was a pretty good printer. He was succeeded by the good hearted E. A. Betts, who died of a wound given him by an Indian. Robert Meacham was McCormick's next publisher. He, too, is dead. The Miner was first published semi-monthly. It was small in those days. The editor and proprietor of the Courier purchased the paper from Mr. McCormick in the summer of 1867 and soon thereafter sold one-half of it to Mr. B. H. Weaver. Buying Mr. W. out soon after, we continued to edit, publish and edit the paper until 1874 when we disposed of the concern to T. J. Butler, who, in turn, sold the office to the late proprietor. It is proper to state that we issued the Miner daily, and it was at once the oldest weekly and the only daily in Arizona. We have full files of the weekly up to 1875, and would not trade the mine for the Sterling mill and mine, as they contain a complete history of events which happened in the Territory from the date of its organization. It was for a long time the only paper in Arizona, and its subscribers resided in every camp from Tubac to Chino valley and from Fort Bowie to Yuma.

A Marvelous Salt Lake

Sir Peter Lumsden, who was recently disappointed in not meeting the Russian Commission on the Afghan boundary, has turned his late travels in the East to good account. He recently read a paper before the Royal Geographical Society, London, in which he described the Murghab Valley and its people. He also quoted from Captain Yate a very interesting account of the salt lake of Yan-Oulan. The valley of the lake is said to be some six miles square, surrounded by high hills so difficult of ascent that there is but a single ford by which baggage animals can reach it. The bed of the lake is one mass of solid salt, perfectly level, covered by an inch or two of water. To ride over it was like riding over ice or cement. After scraping away a surface sediment, pure white salt is found, whose bottom no one has ever reached. There is another lake close by which is much larger, in which the salt is not so pure. These deposits have hitherto been used only by a small population of Tekke Turkomans. The lake is about 1,430 feet above the sea level.

Strange Spectacle.

An Albany, N. Y., dispatch says: Considerable excitement has been caused in Cohoes by a strange sight at the residence of Mrs. Thomas Wood, whose infant child died on Wednesday. While the undertaker was preparing the body for burial, one of the parties present suddenly declared that the figures of a cross and chalice could be seen on the white cloth that covered the child's face. The others looked and saw the figures. Word went out of the wonder, and people flocked to the house, until it became necessary to call the police to keep back the crowd. The cloth was frequently wet with water, but the figures remained. The spots where they were outlined were more of a glistening white shade than the remainder of the cloth when it was wet. About 12 o'clock yesterday the shadow disappeared. Many believe it to have been a miracle.

Occasionally a copy of Babyhood strays into the hands of a very young man. One of these, who happens to be an editor, has just said in his paper, at the close of a most eulogistic review: "But though this wonderful magazine tells a thousand wonderful things, we have searched its successive issues in vain for a solution of the one vexed problem of our life—how to hold a cry-baby without his clothes all gathering up under his arms, and making us wish we had never been born."

The anthem of "God Save the Queen" was first publicly sung by Henry Carey, as his composition at a dinner given in honor of the victory of Admiral Vernon at Portobello, 1759.