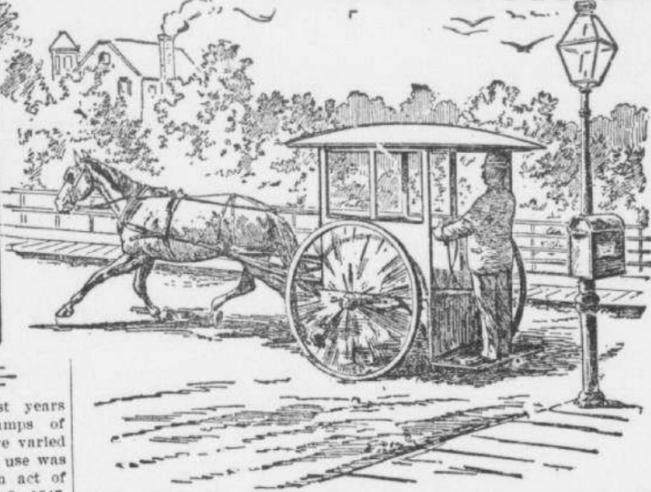


POSTAGE STAMPS and the POSTAL SYSTEM



SINCE the earliest years the postage stamps of this country have varied in design. Their use was sanctioned by an act of Congress March 3, 1847. A tentative issue had been issued at the postoffice of New York and in St. Louis two years before, in 1845, and in Rhode Island in 1846. The first stamps issued were for 5 and 10 cents and bore the portraits of Franklin and Washington. At various times a complete series varying in price from 1 to 90 cents was issued. The portraits used on the stamps were those of Franklin, 1 cent; Jackson, 2-cent; Washington, 3-cent; Lincoln, 5-cent; Jefferson, 10-cent; Clay, 12-cent; Webster, 15-cent; Scott, 24-cent; Hamilton, 30-cent; Perry, 50-cent, and Stanton, 7-cent. Most of these portraits were drawn from marbles, but Stanton was reproduced from a photograph.

Rowland Hill of England was founder of the modern postal system. England, accepting his scheme of postal reform, was the first country to introduce the system of delivering prepaid letters carrying postage stamps. A story has it that Sir Rowland was staying at an inn in northern England. While there he saw the postman deliver to his host's daughter a letter which she returned unopened, as she had not a shilling to pay for its delivery. Moved to compassion by the lingering fondness with which she turned the letter over in her hands, carefully studying every mark on its exterior, Sir Rowland tendered a shilling to the postman, who left the letter. Then the innkeeper's daughter, embarrassed by his kindness, explained that it was unnecessary. She and her brother, unable to pay postage, had arranged a code of communication. While she handled the letter she had learned what he wished her to know.

Whether this story be true or not, Sir Rowland Hill, who was only Mr. Hill at the time, as he was knighted later, early realized the inadequacy of the postal system of England and ardently advocated his system, under which postage should be prepaid.

This first governmental issue of stamped envelopes, stamped letter paper and adhesive labels or stamps in England was in 1840. Three years before, in 1837, stamped wrappers under the name of "go-frees" had been used experimentally and had been recommended to the chancellor of the exchequer for adoption by the government. In Dundee, a printer named James Chalmers printed stamps from ordinary type, washing their backs with gum. He showed them to his neighbors, but made no public mention of them until November, 1837, nine months after Sir Rowland Hill had drawn the attention of the commissioners of the postoffice to the possibilities of using such adhesive stamps when people bought unstamped envelopes to the postoffice.

The postal system derives its very name from the posts placed along Roman roads to mark points where couriers took dispatches. But the modern postal system with its prepaid postage, with its system of levying postal tribute on the basis of weight and not distance, its letter boxes, its delivery of parcels and newspapers and money orders, dates from Sir Rowland Hill.

The earliest official notice of a postal service in the American colonies is found in the records of the general court of Massachusetts in 1639. The house of Richard Fairbanks in Boston was under the ruling of the court designated as the place for all letters brought from across the seas or to be sent thither. He was allowed a penny for every letter which he received or sent. In Virginia, every planter was required to provide a messenger to carry letters as they arrived at his plantation to the next one. He forfeited a hoghead of tobacco should he fail to do so. In 1672, the government of New York established a monthly post between New York and Boston. In 1692 the office of postmaster general for

America was created. Benjamin Franklin, who had been appointed postmaster of Philadelphia in 1737, was given the office in 1753. He visited all the important postoffices. Though his reforms made the office bring in a clear revenue, he was removed by the king in 1774, but shortly after was appointed to the same office by the Continental Congress. The first postmaster of the United States of America was Samuel Osgood. When he took charge of the department the country had seventy-five postoffices.

The charge for the delivery of letters was based on distances covered and varied from 6 cents for thirty miles to 25 cents for 450 miles. Until 1863, distance was the basis of cost. In that year a uniform rate of postage ignoring the distance was fixed at 3 cents. Oct. 1, 1883, this was reduced to 2 cents. During the early days of Alaskan development, every letter delivered in Nome cost the government \$1.

Though the use of adhesive postage stamps was authorized in 1847, prepayment by stamps was not made compulsory until 1856. A uniform free delivery system was not instituted until 1863, though the penny post existed in a number of cities in 1862, the carriers remunerating themselves by the collection of a voluntary fee of from 1 to 2 cents for each piece of mail delivered.

A convention held in Paris in 1879 made various improvements in the regulations and provided for a postal union to consider revision of all pending rules at least every five years. The International Postal Union thus effected works constantly for the simplification and identification of postal systems. The rate fixed by the first convention, of 5 cents for each half unit of weight for ordinary letters still prevails, save that recently special conventions reducing it to 2 cents have been arranged between this country and England and this country and Germany.

POPULAR SCIENCE

M. Lacroix, a member of the French Academy of Sciences, read a paper before that learned society on the manufacture of sapphires. He has discovered practically the composition of the precious stone, and has succeeded in obtaining some specimens which almost resemble the real stone. It can not be said that M. Lacroix has yet discovered the exact process, for those which he has obtained would not impose upon a skilled lapidary who subjected them to a severe test.

The climbing perch (Anabas Scandens), of which six examples have recently been received at the London Zoological Gardens, is an interesting case of a fish which is able to spend a considerable time out of its native element. The climbing perch is able to make some progress on land by the movement of its pectoral and ventral fins. It is even able to climb trees, and has been found in a palm tree several feet from the ground. It is difficult to get it to display these peculiarities in confinement.

The little black people of Africa, so dramatically described by Stanley, are not the only pygmies produced by that wonderful continent. In Liberia and Sierra Leone are found pygmy hippopotamuses, some specimens of which have recently been sent to England. These animals are described as being more like pigs in their habits than like their gigantic relatives. A good mud-hole is quite sufficient for them. They seem to prefer solitude in their native haunts, going about singly, and when two are seen in company they almost invariably consist of a mother and her calf.

President Schurman of Cornell University calls attention to the need of the development of a type of engineer specially skilled in everything relating to hydraulics. Water, he remarks, is destined from now on to play a great part in the economic development of the United States. It is hereafter to be used on a vast scale for power and for irrigation, as well as for navigation. The maximum benefit to be got from the use of water will be sought in the East from navigation and power, and in the West from irrigation and power.

One of the unexplained phenomena of what Prof. T. G. Bonney calls the "world's ice mantle," is the alternate advance and retreat of the glaciers. At present, says Prof. Bonney, only in Scandinavia, and perhaps at Mount St.

Ellas, are the glaciers beginning to advance in notable numbers. In the Alps a general retreat of the glaciers began about 1831. At first it was rapid, but the rate afterward slackened. Toward the end of the nineteenth century a glacier here and there slightly retraced its steps, but the majority are still either slowly shrinking or stationary.

The remarkable fact that the earliest known ancestor, or primitive type, of the modern whale bore heavy armor on its back, in the form of strong, bony plates has recently been set forth by the German paleontologist, Dr. Abel. The plates occasionally found associated with the remains of the primeval form of whale have generally been regarded as having belonged to gigantic turtles, but the German investigations show that they were part of the skeleton itself. They resemble in their character the impenetrable bony shells of the huge glyptodonts that formerly inhabited South America. The suggestion is made that at the time when they carried armor whales were amphibious creatures, living on the coasts and needing special protection from breakers and from sharks.

Seeing and Listening.
"Here's a sort of queer thing," said a nearsighted man. "I am very nearsighted. Strong glasses are indispensable to me for ordinary, general seeing in my goings about, but when I sit down to read I take off my glasses and bring the print up to within the natural focus of the eye. It seems to me that reading with the natural eye I can read with a more intimate and a clearer understanding."
"So much for my reading without spectacles, and now here is the thing that is queer to me. If when I am reading thus, with my glasses off, somebody comes along to speak to me, why, then, to get a clear understanding of that question I must have on my spectacles."
"So I say, or I would say if this happened at home where I know the people, 'Wait a minute till I get on my spectacles,' and I would put them on, and then say, 'Now go ahead,' and read, with my spectacles on, with my power of seeing at its best, with the sharpest definition of things in general to the eye, I get the clearest apprehension of things said to me."
"So in reading I do best with my glasses off, but in understanding things said to me, in listening, I do best with my glasses on. There is one modification to this—where there is no light, as in a dark room, where I can't see, I can understand equally well with or without glasses."—New York Sun.

HOW BABY FOOLED NURSE.



Sterner Measures Necessary.
"Really," said Nervey, "I want you to be my wife. Come, now, don't say 'No.'"
"Mr. Nervey," replied the heiress, "I wouldn't think of saying 'No' to you—"
"Ah!"
"It wouldn't have any effect on you, so I think the best thing I can do is to yell for the police."—The Catholic Standard and Times.

Cheap Board.
New Curate—"Can any of you tell me how much it costs to board an automobile here?"
Old Resident—"About thirty dollars, I think."
Young M. D.—"But it only costs twenty-five to board a horse."
Miss Stenographer—"And it only costs five cents to board a trolley."—Success Magazine.

The Only One.
"You say your son is hard to manage, Mr. Jims. Does he display any natural bent?"
"Yes, I think he is going to be a crook."—Baltimore American.

When a man goes to town to visit, it is thought funny if he remains two days, but a woman is expected to remain at least two months, and have parties given in her honor.

The fools are not all dead yet, and what is more, they never will be.

Senator Beveridge, during a recent visit to Portland, talked about oratory.

"The campaign," he said, "has given us oratory more remarkable for quantity than quality. True oratory is that which brings results, is that which converts an audience of enemies to an audience of supporters. Such oratory is rare.

"I have a friend whose wife, a 'suffragette,' is a great orator. Her speeches from the platform are wonderful, and her husband, the other day, gave me an illustration of the efficiency of her private speeches.

"An agent called on my wife this afternoon," he said, "and tried to sell her a new wrinkle eradicator."

"Did he succeed?"

"He left in half an hour," was the answer, "with a gross of bottles of wrinkle eradicator of my wife's own manufacture that he had purchased from her."

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fitch*

He was one of those long, sad-faced men who never seem to be able to resist talking to their fellow passengers in a train or any similar conveyance, and, seating himself next to an inoffensive individual smoking a big black cigar and reading a paper, he at once began to worry him with questions.

"Sir," he said, "will you allow your boy to smoke cigarettes when he grows up?"

"I've never given the question a minute's thought," replied the other.

The other man panted for breath.

"And," he went on, faintly, "will you allow him to drink?"

Again the smoker answered that he had never thought about it.

"Oh," gasped the sad-faced man, "can such people exist! To think—"

But then the other man interrupted him.

"Look here, sir," he said, "you mean well, no doubt, but let me tell you that I've been a confirmed bachelor for the last thirty-five years!"

Then, at last, the sad-faced man was silent. He had something to think about.

You Can Get Allen's Foot-Ease FREE
Write Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y., for a free sample of Allen's Foot-Ease. It cures sweating, hot, swollen, itching feet. It makes new or tight shoes easy. A certain cure for corns, ingrowing nails and bunions. All drug stores sell it. 25c. Don't accept any substitute.

If a man could ever get enough money to support his family in all they want it would be just his luck to have another one to support.

HOWARD E. BURTON, Assayer and Chemist, Leadville, Colo. Specimen prices: Gold, silver, lead, \$1.00; gold, silver, 75c; gold, 50c; zinc or copper, 31c. Mailing envelopes and full price list sent on application. Control and sample work solicited. References: Carbonate National Bank.

Next to his beard, a certain type of man seems to think the kind of necktie he wears is the surest sign how smart he is.

FITS St. Vitus Dance and Nervous Dis-eases permanently cured by Dr. J. H. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Sent by P. O. #2 trial bottle and treatise. Dr. J. H. Kline, Ltd., 981 Arch st., Phila., Pa.

Taxi-typewriters in New York hotels where a person may write a half hour for 10 cents, are the latest addition to the coin-in-the-slot family.

ONLY ONE "BROMO QUININE"
That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for the signature of E. W. GROVE. Used the world over to cure a cold in one day. 25c.

Optimism is the way you can feel about a thing that is going to happen until it happens.

Thousands of country people know that in time of sudden mishap or accident Hamilton Wizard Oil is the best substitute for the family doctor. That is why it is so often found upon the shelf.

A Canadian has invented a brick-laying machine by which two men and a boy can do the work of seven men.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

The baseball season has opened at the University of Idaho, and between 3 and 40 men have been out to practice this week on the athletic field.

IF YOU'VE NEVER WORN SLICKER
you've yet to learn the bodily comfort it gives in the wettest weather

MADE FOR HARD SERVICE AND GUARANTEED WATERPROOF

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Color more goods brighter and faster colors than any other dye. One 10c package colors silk, wool and cotton equally well and is guaranteed to give perfect results. Ask dealer, or we send post paid at 10c a package. Write for free booklet, how to dye, bleach and mix colors. MONROE DRUG CO., Quincy, Illinois.

This is One of the 40,366

Testimonials received in two years. "Ours is a New England farmer's home, and as we are twenty miles from a large town, we are obliged to depend very largely upon family medicines we keep on hand all the time.

"First and Foremost among them is Hood's Sarsaparilla, which we have always found a true friend and helper. When I had suffered dreadfully from dyspepsia, without finding relief, Hood's Sarsaparilla gave me positive help, and when I had used four bottles I was in better health than for many years. I have found Hood's Sarsaparilla.

"A Great Spring Medicine to build one up when strength is most needed, to create an appetite, and in short to regulate the whole system. I have lately been taking Sarsatabs, which I find convenient, easy to take, and also very beneficial." Mrs. E. L. Berry, West Troy, Me.

Hood's Sarsaparilla combines the utmost remedial values of more than 20 different ingredients, each greatly strengthened and enriched by this peculiar combination.

Begin taking Hood's Sarsaparilla today. Get it in the usual liquid form or in chocolate tablets known as Sarsatabs. 100 Doses One Dollar.

ASK PARDON FOR YOUNGER.

Mayor of Kansas City Recommends the Move.

Absolute pardon for Cole Younger, one of the famous Kansas bandits, is requested in a letter to Governor Johnson from James A. Reed, former mayor of Kansas City, Mo. He says the former bandit is now promoting a suburban railroad scheme and is handicapped by the fact that his Minnesota parole granted several years ago carried conditions. Reed recites that the bank robbery at Northfield, Minn., for which crime several of the Younger boys were sent to the penitentiary, grew out of conditions created by the civil war, that Younger has been a good citizen and claims that he has observed the conditions of his pardon.

The Younger boys were formerly identified with Jesse and Frank James.

Is America Too Big?

Chicago.—Patriotism of the "good old kind" is antiquated and practically worthless in these modern times, according to Francis W. Parker, in an address last night to the Sons of the American Revolution.

At least this is the case in the United States, he said, because the United States is too big to be loved. He declared that no American loves his land in the same way that the Swiss and the Norwegians love their lands.

"Neither," continued the speaker, "have we Americans any dynasties to love and around which to center our love of country. We cannot love the house of Roosevelt or the house of Deane, or of J. Hamilton Lewis.

Pettit's Eye Salve for 25c relieves tired or overworked eyes, stops eye aches, congested, inflamed or sore eyes. All druggists or Howard Bros., Buffalo, N. Y.

The water wagon is 'way up like an airship when you climb on, but as close to the ground as the grass when you fall off.

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days.
PAZO OINTMENT is guaranteed to cure any case of itching, blind, bleeding or protruding piles in 6 to 14 days or money refunded. 50c.

And every city man looks forward to the time when he will have a garden and raise his own chickens.—Chicago News.

Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna
acts gently yet promptly on the bowels; cleanses the system effectually; assists one in overcoming habitual constipation permanently.

To get its beneficial effects, always buy the genuine.

MANUFACTURED BY THE
CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.
SOLD BY LEADING DRUGGISTS 50¢ A BOTTLE

CRESCENT Egg-Phosphate BAKING POWDER
A FULL POUND 25c. Get it from your Grocer

WILL DO ALL THAT ANY HIGH PRICED POWDER WILL DO AND DO IT BETTER

SPORN'S DISTEMPER CURT
Pink Eye, Epizootic, Shipping Fever and Catarrh of Eye

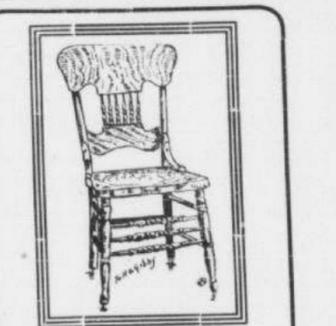
Sure cure and preventive, no matter how horses at any age are affected. "Exp. 100" is given on the tongue; acts on the blood and glands, expels the poisonous germs from the body. Cures Distemper in Horses and Sheep and Cholera in Poultry. Latest selling live temper in Doses and Sump and Cholera in Poultry. Largest selling live temper remedy. Cures Leg Grippe among human beings and is a fine Kill-germ remedy. One and one-half lbs. \$5 and \$10 a dozen. Cut this out. Keep it. Show to your dealer, who will get it for you. Free Booklet, "Distemper, Cures and Causes." Special agents wanted.

SPORN MEDICAL CO., Chemists and GOSHEN, IND., U. S. A.

MAPLEINE
A flavoring used the same as lemon or vanilla. By dissolving granulated sugar in water and adding Mapleine, a delicious syrup is made and a syrup better than maple. Mapleine is sold by grocers. If not send 35c for 2 oz. bottle and recipe book. Crescent Mfg. Co., Seattle, Wa.

No matter how much good luck a man may have, he always manages to have enough of the other kind to break the monotony.

The University of Wisconsin is teaching farmers, mechanics, housekeepers, blacksmiths and electricians by correspondence, in all parts of the state.



This long post Rock Elm Dining Chair finished in rich golden oak, with red imitation leather seat.

A set of six chairs delivered to your nearest railroad station for

\$9.50
Money Must Accompany Order.
Tull & Gibbs, Spokane, - - - Wash.



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4 Light house windows only 82c. Larger sizes at higher prices. We have our own mill and we sell windows and doors at about half the price asked by the ordinary dealer. We have only One Price, and we safe delivery guaranteed.

Fire doors, the world's standard doors, only \$1.25 per door, for sizes not larger than 2 ft. 8 in. by 6 ft. 8 in.

Mouldings, 50c per hundred feet. Porch Columns, only 60c.

Hinges, 14 cents a pair. Window spring bolts, only 1c each. Send for price lists. Write your name and address plainly and we will forward copies by return mail, free post paid, without charge. A Thousand Bargains. Write today.

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