

How to Use the United States Mails

By F. E. COYNE, Postmaster at Chicago.

Every day the postal system of this country forwards thousands of letters so inadequately addressed that most of them cannot be delivered to their destination and many of them are delivered only by dint of extraordinary effort.



F. E. Coyne.

Most of those delivered would never be placed in the hands for which they are intended were it not for the fact that THIS GOVERNMENT PUTS BRAINS ABOVE RED TAPE.

Addressing a letter would seem to be so simple a matter that no person not positively illiterate need err therein.

CARELESSNESS RATHER THAN IGNORANCE is accountable for the great volume of faulty superscriptions on the face of mailed envelopes. Failure to do a little PLAIN THINKING is generally at the bot-

tom of these unfortunate errors. And the result? Anxiety, loss, and annoyance to the parties to this badly-addressed correspondence and a constant expense to the government.

In every large post office in the country a special force of clerks is employed in doing the thinking that should have been done by those persons addressing the miscarried letters. Moreover this thinking has to be done at arm's length and in the dark, so to speak. The only basis on which clerks engaged on this peculiar task can act is the lame superscriptions of the missives.

Too often the rushing business man of to-day addressing a letter to a person in his own town writes the word "City" in place of that city's name. He thinks he has saved time, for "City" has but four letters and most proper names have more. But brevity is not safety in this instance. Thousands of letters go astray for this reason—and through no fault of the postal service either.

Let me illustrate this by a case in the reverse—an instance in which the man did think to do the right thing. A prominent Chicagoan mailed an important letter under special delivery stamp to the home address of a fellow citizen. Its speedy delivery was a matter of great importance. Unlike very many correspondents he wrote "Chicago" instead of "City" and dropped the missive into a mail box. It fell into the gaping mouth of an unsealed "circular" envelope which stood on edge on the bottom of the box. This envelope went to its destination, Omaha. The man who received it found the letter which had by accident fallen into it. At once he remailed the letter and it went back to Chicago. Had its sender written the word "City" in place of Chicago it would have been sent to the dead letter office in Washington—Unless the Omaha post office officials had, by an intelligent study of the Chicago directory hit upon this city as the one probably intended by the addressee. There are thousands of such instances. Consequently the only safe rule is NEVER TO USE THE WORD "CITY" ON AN ENVELOPE.

No person should mail a letter which does not bear on its corner or its flap a "return card" giving the address of the sender.

There is a word in the English dictionary which applies to every department of life. It is "Taste." That person who possesses it will make the fewest mistakes. He is regulated in it by all matters. It is as necessary in business as in social life; in speech as in dress.

TASTE

By JESSIE LLEWELLYN, Daughter of Ex-Governor Llewellyn, of Kansas.

looks the detail of knives and forks at dinner will miss the fine points of a business transaction. Such a man lacks taste, but such a woman was born without it. He may cultivate it after arduous study—men do sometimes—BUT SHE NEVER WILL.

A woman born without taste is like the much abused flower of which the poets talk, without perfume. There is no help for her. Should she possess wealth, her street costume will resemble a parlor chair, all upholstery and gimp braid. The instinct of taste is strange to her. Her toilets will suggest a well-bred alter cloth or an architectural study. Her coiffure will be like unto a tower on a trades building, with a finishing bow to recall the American eagle. Velvet trimming in Gothic arches will disfigure her otherwise pretty figure and iridescent fineries on the rose window order will startle the innocent public.

THE MAN OF TASTE IS INVARIABLY IN HIGH STATION. He talks to the egoist of the egoist. To a pretty woman he remarks that she has brains, and he tells the plain woman that the lines of her face are remarkable, not jeopardizing his veracity, perhaps.

The man or woman of taste seldom lies. He has small occasion, for he never relates his own experiences, while his audience is holding its breath to do likewise.

Taste, tact, greatness; they are synonymous terms.

It is well sometimes to let your troubles be your secrets. The man or woman who deals tales of woe out to his or her friends will soon find themselves without friends to whom they may deal them.

DON'T TELL YOUR TROUBLES

By MAX OWEN.

IN THE LONG RUN IT SELDOM PAYS TO RELIEVE YOURSELF OF BURDENS BY ADDING TO THE WEIGHT CARRIED BY OTHERS. The world is willing to laugh with you, but it seldom wishes to be asked to cry with you, and there are none who can make themselves so unpopular as those who go about with a long face and a tale of woe that is told to each chance acquaintance. If the little knotty problems of life come to you, remember they come to others also, and do not ask another to unravel a double portion of the snarls. If things do not go just as you would like them, remember that others are afflicted in the same way and be just a little more ready to help yourself than you are to ask another to help you.

Did you ever notice that the person who is given to trouble telling is more than likely to be a bearer of gossip? The two fit together like two halves to a whole, and THE GOSSIP BEARER HAS EVER A NEW TROUBLE TO TELL.

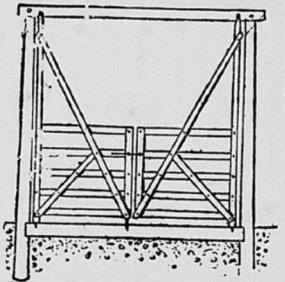
AGRICULTURAL HINTS

GATE THAT CANNOT SAG.

Invented by a New York State Farmer Who Considers It a Device of Rare Merit.

A subscriber living in Westfield, Chautauqua county, N. Y., who prefers that his name should not be used in print, sends to the New York Tribune a description of a gate which he constructed several years ago on a farm where he then lived. Its great merit is that it never sags. For gateposts he used eight by eight timbers, set fully 12 feet apart. With the idea of letting a load of hay through, the cap piece ought to be fully 12 feet above the ground, and may be advantageously cut out of six by eight stuff. The posts should be set in stone or cement, so as to be proof against the action of the frost. A sill or threshold is also provided. This should measure six by eight or eight by eight and consist of oak or chestnut. The better the timber for the rest of this frame the longer it will last.

The full length upright of each gate is made by four by four hardwood scantling. The upper ends are rounded, and inserted in holes bored



DURABLE FARM GATE.

in the lower side of (but not entirely through) the cap piece. The pins of the lower ends should be of metal. Pieces of sawmill plate, in which holes have been punched, should be fastened to the sill for these pins to play in. Thus the pins will be kept from wearing the wood. A similar plate should be placed where the gates meet, to accommodate the vertical bolt on one of them. The other gate should have a latch.

The slats and braces may be made from stuff 1 1/4 inches thick and four inches wide. They are attached to each other and to the uprights with bolts. The short braces are on the opposite side of the slats from the long ones, so that the same bolt may go through both where they overlap. When finished, the frame and gates should be well painted.

It will be seen that these gates can be used singly or together, and that they swing in either direction. It is always a convenience to have a gate swing away from you, no matter from which side you approach.

THE AGE OF TOOLS.

Farmers Must Keep Pace with Modern Progress or They Will Inevitably Fall Behind.

The tools and machinery of America are capturing the world. The machine, with its unerring accuracy, has taken the place of human hands in every department of industry, and has immensely increased the productive capacity of the artisan. On the farm, too, the same rule controls. The modern binders have superseded the old, slow methods of the harvest, and made the great grain fields a possibility. To the effective use of machinery on the farm is due the great exporting capacity of the country, and in every avocation in life it is the man behind the machine that is moving civilization forward.

Brain power is taking the place of human muscle, and the result is an elevation of the farmer to a higher plane, requiring the application of business methods to agriculture. The inevitable tendency of the increased use of machinery on the farm is the increase in acreage in the hands of one man, since the machines make intensive culture possible over larger areas. The more effective the machines are made the wider scope they will need, and great farms, conducted on wise business methods, will become more and more common as men realize the possibilities of such culture. The great accumulations of capital will not always be kept out of the farm, for the capitalists will come to see what money will do in businesslike farming. It is the age of tools and machinery, and the farm must keep up with the procession.—Practical Farmer.

Preparing Soil for Potatoes.

Preparation of the land is an essential too often neglected. It has been asserted that not infrequently one-half of the potato crop is lost by means of insufficient preparation of the soil. Of one of the noted potato growers of Wisconsin it used to be said: "He works the ground so much that the potatoes do not know in which direction to grow to find the surface. So they fill the soil full." Sometimes the best of potato growers slight the preparation of their soil because of a rush of other farm work at the time their potato land is being prepared. No after cultivation can atone for the neglect of thorough preparation; for in no case can the soil under the hills be affected by the cultivation given in the rows.—Farmers' Review.

ONE ACRE OF CORN.

Michigan Farmer Submits Figures Which Prove Conclusively That the Crop is Profitable.

I send you herewith an account of an experimental test of the cost of growing an acre of corn. I was induced to make the test after reading statements at different times that were conflicting as to cost of production. That it pays to raise corn if you raise the right kind and grow it the right way, it seems to me is shown by the figures herewith given.

I planted World's Fair Yellow Dent corn, which yielded 112 bushels (in the ear), 15 of which were soft and 97 suitable to crib. It was planted between the 10th and 17th of June, 1901, sowed one way three feet, a kernel every nine inches the other way. Use of land and seed is not taken into account. Yield was the increase from 90 kernels planted in 1900, and only one-half of what the 90 kernels produced was used in planting the acre. The accounting as given below brings cost of raising one bushel ears of corn in this experiment to 113-56 cents. The figures of cost in detail are as follows:

Plowing	.....	\$2 50
Preparing ground for planting (twice over at intervals)	.....	1 00
Planting and cultivating	.....	3 40
Cutting	.....	1 00
Husking	.....	4 48
Total	.....	\$12 37

And to the credit side of the ledger as follows:

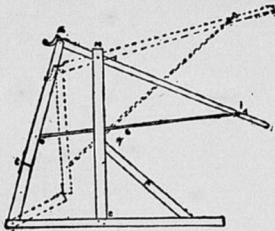
87 bu. sound corn at 30c per bu.	.....	\$29 10
15 bu. soft corn at 20c per bu.	.....	3 00
584 bundles stalks at 2c each	.....	7 60
Total	.....	\$39 70
Less cost of production	.....	12 28
Net profit	.....	\$27 42

This corn was cut and shocked in squares of 18 feet. To bind the shock required the whole length of a seven-foot step-ladder, and a shock compressor with ten feet of rope attached to encircle top of shock. Taking into consideration the lateness of planting, it is quite a fair yield. The corn was cut before any frost.—E. D. Bussey, in Rural Voice.

STRONG WAGON JACK.

As It Is Not Patented, Anyone Can Easily and Cheaply Make One at Home.

The wagon jack shown in the accompanying illustration is not patented. Anyone can make it easily. The construction is seen at a glance. A d consists of two strong pieces of wood, and are connected with a strap hinge at c. This is bolted to the lever at a and to the base at d. On the end of the lever a strong iron hook is secured. When the axle is to be raised, disengage the iron rod at 1 and let the jack assume the position as shown by the dotted lines.



THE JACK IN OUTLINE.

By depressing the lever the axle is easily raised and is kept in position. With this device the weight is over the center of the base and the wagon or buggy will not run backward or forward as it often does with other jacks. The base of the jack may be as long as necessary. The hinge at c should be somewhat below the center of a d. I always use bolts instead of nails for constructing this jack.—Orange Judd Farmer.

GENERAL FARM NOTES.

Farmers "out west" wonder when the price of land is going to stop ascending.

Keep grade cattle if you can't keep thoroughbreds, but don't keep the "down grade" sort.

The average May pig with average care does better by fall, usually, than those farrowed in March.

A farm without modern conveniences and improvements is the one the boys are going to leave.

Haul out the manure now; do not wait until the time for planting arrives. On winter wheat spread it as you draw it.

Some one has said that some cows give milk and others give trouble. True. The one that gives trouble gives little milk, usually.

Heredity is all right, but there is something in feed, care and general management of the calf and heifer for making good milk cows.

Flax is a crop that will grow in almost every climate, but there is little money in it. Use good, bright seed, if any.—N. Y. Tribune-Farmer.

The Porosity of Soils.

The amount of water necessary to saturate a soil depends on several factors, the most important of which is the "porosity," or amount of space between the soil particles. The porosity of a soil depends upon the size of the soil particles (or texture) and the way in which these particles are grouped together, and upon the space between the particles or groups of particles. If a soil be cemented together into a homogeneous mass, its porosity sinks to a minimum; if it be composed, however, of numerous fine particles, each preserving its own physical condition, the porosity of the soil will rise to a maximum. The porosity of a soil may be judged very closely by the percentage of fine particles it yields on mechanical analysis. A finely-divided soil has a high capacity for absorbing moisture and holding it.

Dramatized Version of a Gentleman of France

How Mr. Kyrle Bellew, Once a "Pretty Man," Appears as a Swashbuckler.

MR. KYRLE BELLEW, who used to be such a conspicuous and admired figure on the New York promenades, deserted us some years ago and, so far as we have been able to learn, during his absence from his American appreciators, shed his sweetness on the desert air; in Australia, or some such howling wilderness.

It is well to speak of sweetness in connection with Mr. Bellew, he might almost be said to merit the gushing phrase, "sweetly pretty," so femininely gentle do we remember him when he walked with mincing tread the pavements of Broadway, so neat and dainty, with always a posy about his person. He was the conventional matinee idol of the girls, the glass of fashion and mould of form for the boys. But during the desolate decade we have had to get along without him, it seems he has undergone some subtle sea change and has come back to us a very different gentleman from the one we thought we knew so well. The Mr. Kyrle Bellew of to-day is no drawing-room dandy, no boulevardier, no esthetic poseur, but shows himself to us as none other than the doughty "Gentleman of France" we became acquainted with in 1893, when Mr. Stan-

Robson portrays Mlle. de la Vire. The role of the brave, much-hesit young noblewoman is one particularly suited to Miss Robson, whose spirit, beauty and youth show to good advantage in the various adventures through which Mlle. de la Vire passes. Left as guardian of the honor and possessions of the old chateau, called upon to conceal and protect the loved man of the family, who has made himself obnoxious to the powers that be, the young mademoiselle is required early in life to realize she must play a man's part in the world; must forget she is a woman, forget all womanly softness and dependence.

I always like to hear about courage in a woman, and perhaps that is one reason the memory of Mlle. de la Vire remains with me. We are wont to have heroes of surpassing bravery and dashing courage dished up for us in every volume we open, but not all authors have painted a woman of the possible fortitude that Mlle. de la Vire shows.

Miss Robson seems to have an assured career before her. She is still quite youthful, but has won merited praise for her work in the theatrical field. As "Bonita" in "Arizona" she first attracted notice, and afterwards added to the good things that were



MISS ELEANOR ROBSON. As Mlle. de la Vire in "A Gentleman of France."

ley Weyman's novel appeared and put up the model for the historical novels with which we have since been deluged.

It does look a little incongruous when Mr. Bellew, rather slight of frame and not gigantic of stature, alone, single-handed as the thrilling writers say, dispatches five lusty fellows, one after another. Indeed we almost grin openly when a touch of Mr. Bellew's dainty sword sends all the valor and life out of his five bravny antagonists, and we do wish, if only for the sake of appearances, the antagonists would take a little longer time in getting killed. But the dispatch that is used probably makes Mr. Bellew think the audience will consider him no end of a swashbuckler, a fit rival of Sothorn and the terrible Mr. Hackett, and will make the people forget he was once a "pretty man."

Mr. Weyman's novel is one of the best of its class, and seems to us the most meritorious book the author has produced; though if it had been the last instead of the first of these novels that have been the fashion for some years past, we doubt if it had ever won the reputation it has enjoyed. They are all made after the same recipe, concocted of the same materials, and we are grown weary of the dish, hunger for a change of diet.

There is always a hero of wonderful strength and valor, who thinks nothing of killing his man every morning before breakfast; a heroine of beauty great enough to go through fire and water for her sake; a whole bunch of deep-dyed villains, despoilers of widows and orphans, murderous fellows that differ from the hero, not in the number of men they have killed but in the manner of doing the fatal work.

But give Mr. Weyman his dues and acknowledge he led instead of followed. Mr. Weyman has long been a loving student of French history, and the stories he writes are peopled with characters that appear to have the manners of their day, the scenes have the right local color. It is some years since we read "A Gentleman of France," but when we heard there was to be a dramatized version at once there stood out quite boldly in our minds the principal scenes, events, and figures of the story; and we said to ourselves: "That will make a rattling good play."

Mr. Bellew, of course, plays the part of Gastor de Marsac, and Miss Eleanor

being said about her by her interpretation of "Constance" in the Browning play, "In the Balcony." Although "Unleavened Bread" was not a great success itself, Miss Robson's role in it was played by her with much skill, and gave the young actress not only experience, but also brought her an increase of appreciation.

Mr. Bellew is a good deal more of a man than the average dramatic critic, who sees but one side of him, would lead one to suppose. And we feel we shall have failed in justice if we show up Mr. Bellew only as a "pretty man"—and, lately, a would-be swashbuckler. Notwithstanding his unusual good looks and clothes, Mr. Bellew has merited distinction for many qualities and deeds.

He has certainly had a checkered career. His father, who was bishop of Calcutta, evidently intended his son should appeal from the pulpit rather than the stage, for young Bellew once was a divinity student at Oxford. He left this sheltered walk of life to seek change and adventure, shipping before the mast as a common sailor. Since that revolutionary move, he has tried divers occupations; to-day an officer in the English navy, to-morrow a miner digging for gold in Australia. Then for a season he attempted monastery life, seeking happiness far from the madding crowd.

There seems to be a bit of gypsy blood in him that will not let him rest. A few years of work on the stage, and then he packs away his actor clothes and starts for the other side of the world, to see what he can obtain in the way of satisfaction for his roving spirit. After an absence of six years in the Australian bush, we find him back again in the profession in which he has made a considerable reputation.

Mr. Bellew's travels have been of more than personal interest and profit. He is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of London, where he is seen sometimes as an interested hearer and again as an interesting speaker. He is also a fellow of the Royal Microscopic Society, of London. Mr. Bellew has tried his hand at inventions, has patented a process for gold extraction from mineralized ores, and a process for the manufacture of a new hydraulic cement. It is said he is owner of six gold mines in North Queensland, Australia. And we are ready to believe anything that may be related about Mr. Kyrle Bellew.

THE ASTROLOGER.