

THE RURAL DELIVERY

Features of Assistant Postmaster General Heath's Report.

SUCCESS OF THE HEDRICK ROUTE.

Many Applications for Postal Wagon Service—Opposition Found to Have Originated in Country Stores—Farmers Enthusiastic.

Washington, Nov. 10.—Among the interesting features of the first assistant postmaster general's annual report is a statement that one Missouri farmer calculates that in the last fifteen years he has walked or driven 25,000 miles, going to and from his postoffice to get his mails, all of which travel is now saved him by rural free delivery.

At one point on rural route No. 1, twelve miles northwest of Lafayette, Ind., there are eight boxes grouped together.

At Crawfordsville, Ind., the rural carriers also wear the regulation uniform, and on each of the five routes a delivery wagon, provided by the carrier himself, similar in construction to those at Lafayette, are used.

At Hedrick, Ia., where the service has only been started about three months, the mail carrier has had a handsome delivery wagon, specially built, with side doors, pigeon holes and other appliances.

In speaking of the objections to rural delivery from some quarters, Mr. Heath says: "In the objections they urge the argument is seldom advanced, or if advanced is never sustained, that the new service is inferior to the old, or that it is not desired by the people who had petitioned for it. The complaints almost invariably run in one group, asserting that rural free delivery is a petronage from the postmaster-merchant, and that it deprives the postmaster of postal receipts which he would be entitled under the law to retain, as his personal compensation, those receipts, under the rural free delivery system, now going into the treasury of the United States to the credit of the general postal revenues."

"Occasionally petitions are presented of persons alleged to be aggrieved, asking the re-establishment of postoffices which have been discontinued because of rural service, but when these petitions have been investigated it has almost invariably been found that the signatures were either obtained under a misapprehension or they were appended as an act of neighborly courtesy, without any idea that they would be effective. One petition was carefully scrutinized, name by name, and it was found that all the signatures except three were those of persons living outside the delivery, and that the three that remained were those of lands belonging to a village band, of which the village postmaster was the leader."

"In another case, where a most formidable looking petition was presented from an Indiana town categorical inquiries were addressed to all the petitioners asking: 'Do you want the postoffice re-established, or do you want rural free delivery yourselves?' The replies were almost unanimous that they wanted rural free delivery themselves. Thus, in reality, the alleged protest was not a protest, but a petition for an extension of rural free delivery so as to take in the residences of the remonstrants."

Touching on the conflict with star route contractors, Mr. Heath recommends that section 485 of the postal laws and regulation (edition of 1893), which forbids mail contractors and their drivers access to any mail matter in postoffices or to any mail locks or keys, be modified so as to permit star route messengers, under special appointment and oath, to perform rural free delivery service. Then it will be possible for a provision to be inserted in star mail transportation contracts whereby the department may require rural free delivery service to be rendered when it does not conflict with the regular transportation, the service to be performed with or without extra compensation.

"The Farm Beats the Mortgage." There is a story from Buffalo county going the rounds that illustrates the resources of a Nebraska farm: A farmer up there from Missouri got discouraged because he didn't get rich the first year, and as there was a mortgage of \$700 on his farm, was about ready to jump the whole business, but determined to make one more effort and worked eight acres in wheat. It happened to be a poor year for wheat and the stand was not very good. Concluding it wasn't worth harvesting he pulled up his stakes and moved back to Missouri, leaving the farm to fight the mortgage all by itself. The farm was equal to the occasion.

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GOLD IS ABUNDANT.

C. A. Walsh in Receipt of a Letter From Cape Nome.

RICH SANDS ON THE SEA BEACH

Former Associate of Mr. Walsh in Alaska Writes of the Stamped to Cape Prince of Wales—Provisions Scarce.

Charles A. Walsh, secretary of the democratic national committee, is in receipt of a personal letter from John K. Sewell, of Nome, Alaska. Mr. Sewell is a friend of Mr. Walsh, and was associated with him at Dawson City and is vouched for by Mr. Walsh as being perfectly reliable. The letter, while not as enthusiastic in tone as some which are written by Alaska boomers for public consumption, corroborates much that has been written of the gold output of the Cape Nome country and its future. Cape Nome is now the destination of more gold seekers than any other part of the world.

A copy of a paper published at Lake Bennett, on the road from Skagway to Dawson City, dated Sept. 3, has been received in Des Moines. It states that a tremendous rush to Nome is expected in the spring. Fear is expressed, however, for those in the Nome country, as food is scarce and likely to be high. According to the Lake Bennett paper, however, the greatest suffering is likely to result this winter from lack of fuel. Timber is very scarce and the coal supply short and high-priced. The town of Nome, formerly Anvil City, is on the west coast of Alaska, south of Cape Prince of Wales. Most of the mining done on the ocean beach, the sands of the beach being washed in rockers. According to Mr. Sweeney, one man has operated a short sluice, and according to the Lake Bennett paper, several sluices were to be put in operation next spring. Claims have also been staked along the creeks flowing into the ocean near Cape Nome, and rich returns have been had, although but little work has been done.

Mr. Sweeney's Letter. Mr. Sewell's letter to Mr. Walsh follows: "Nome, Sept. 30, 1899.—C. A. Walsh, Ottumwa, Iowa: I suppose you were somewhat surprised this summer to find I had left Dawson where I was doing so well. Well, come to think about it, I am surprised at myself, but as that is not the first and only time I have made a fool break, I am trying to overlook it and make amends as best I can. Just now I am practicing and doing fairly well; made about \$400 last month, and did not spend it all, either, but hope to do better this month."

"This city, Nome, is what was formerly Anvil City. The town has lately been incorporated and the city election has been held, electing mayor and councilmen. The usual amount of 'hoohoo' was partaken of, and the usual jolly time resulted; no deaths, however."

"This place is much more disorderly than Dawson and will be pretty wild next summer, as there must surely be a great immigration here then. The best you hear of the richness of the district is not exaggerated. I saw two nuggets down in the Eldora saloon which weighed over \$700. The territory so far prospected is very limited, but the indications are that the gold field is fully as extensive as the Klondike and Indian rivers. The gold is so far taken out is from the claims where the bedrock is shallow. The ground here is even more saturated with water than above. However rich these creeks are, they will not, I believe, ever make this town the Dawson City, for the simple reason too much ground is owned by a few individuals, who not only staked their own twenty-acre claims on each creek, and one also on each of its prongs, but are holding by power of attorney, innumerable claims staked for friends. There was any amount of litigation for a time, but things are somewhat quieter now. Rawson is United States land commissioner and seems to give pretty good satisfaction in his decisions."

"There are several law firms here and some of them have done remarkably well. The fees they get would make you dizzy. Dawson I don't think is in on that line. As the bench claims at Dawson were the salvation of the cheecharko, so the bench diggings here have been the means of putting a nice little sum into the pockets of 2,000 'busted' Klondikers. I am safe in saying that anyone can make \$5 per day on this beach with a rocker, and a great many have made \$100 per day and over. Is it not wonderful? I do not mean that any place you chance to put a shovel down you will get even a good \$5 dirt, but there is no difficulty in getting a place where you can make that. I have wished ever and ever so many times for Rosecrans and Stewart. The pay is in a black and ruby sand pay streak which lies from six inches to six feet below the surface and is from one-half to six inches thick. I have heard of pans going as high as \$31. All the work so far has been done with rockers, with the exception of two or three sluices, which have just lately been put in operation, the water being pumped from the sea with a centrifugal pump and then shovelled into the boxes. I do not know how well they have done, but do not think very well. Such plants are not portable enough. A steam shovel could be used to advantage, I should think, as there are no large stones to handle, simply an immense amount of sand, but this cannot be hauled from the sea on account of the surf, which is breaking here all the time and would pound anything like a barge to pieces in a short time."

"We had our first snow fall yesterday and it has been cold since. The weather is very disagreeable here. Too much moisture. Dawson is a paradise compared to this."

"The Lakus is expected to leave to-day, so I will add a few more lines and quit. I have made up my mind to stay in all winter. Business is good and I have been buying interests with my surplus and think I have one good one. It is up at Cape Prince of Wales, and by the way, there is, and has been for some time past, a great stampede to that place. I have had it from numberless sources that the gold is there. No one I have heard has contradicted it. I think there will be a great rush for there next spring."

"Typhoid fever is raging here just now. Three of the boys have had a slight attack, and Vail, of Marshalltown, shot his hand off, which turned out to be a very serious matter, as gangrene set in, making two amputations necessary. It was thought that gangrene had started after the second operation, and at one time he was not expected to live two hours, but careful nursing brought him through and, minus a wing, he is about recovered."

"There is going to be a shortage of fuel this winter in all probability. It would not surprise me to see Dawson prices of 1896 before spring."

"Jno. K. Sewell."

Glorious News

Come from Dr. D. B. Gargile, of Washita, I. T. He writes: "Four bottles of Electric Bitters has cured Mrs. Brewer of scrofula, which had caused her great suffering for years. Terrible sores would break out on her head and face, and the best doctors could give no help; but her cure is complete and her health is excellent." This shows what thousands have proved,—that Electric Bitters is the best blood purifier known. It's the supreme remedy for eczema, tetter, salt rheum, ulcers, boils and running sores. It stimulates liver, kidneys and bowels, expels poisons, helps digestion, builds up the strength. Only 50 cents. Sold by Clark & Mollison, druggists. Guaranteed.

Wm. G. Lyon, a well-known business man of Victor, has been adjudged insane and taken to Mt. Pleasant for treatment.

"Doing nothing is doing ill." Impure blood neglected will become a serious matter. Take Hooper's Sarsaparilla at once and avoid the ill.

ADMITTED HER GUILT.

Mrs. Durth Said to Have Made Damaging Confessions.

Burlington, Nov. 10.—Mrs. Robert Durth, in custody for the murder of Mrs. Leonard Pritschy is reported to have made damaging admissions in the presence of the county attorney yesterday, which practically fasten the guilt on her. She was brought from her home near Gladstone at noon yesterday and taken to what is known as the "sweat box" at the police station. With her were her 3-months-old baby and her husband and they remained at the station with her. During the day the woman was frequently put through the "sweating" process, and under the sharp fire of questions admitted facts which the police claim prove conclusively that she committed the murder.

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DRS. BONHAM & LAMBERT.

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