

THE IDAHO RECORDER

N. J. FROST, Editor and Proprietor.

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DAILY MAIL SERVICE.

The people of Salmon are of but one opinion on the question of a daily mail service. It is not probable that there is another community in the United States of equal population or central to as great business activities that is without this convenience. Every post office inspector—having to do with the routing of the U. S. mails—who has visited Salmon in the past few years has become impressed with this same belief, and, we believe, has so represented to the post office department at Washington.

The one question about which there may be a difference of opinion is concerning the means to be used in obtaining the service. Shall we represent our grievances to the railroad commission of Montana, the public utilities commission of Idaho, and the inter-state commerce commission of the United States, insisting on the undoubted rights of the public of this vicinity, however disastrous the order granting relief may be to the railroad company? Or, shall the matter be taken up with the railroad officials directly, and in a spirit of co-operation, to the end that the needed convenience be obtained with least possible injury, if not benefit, to the common carrier corporation? Under the conditions existing, it seems that the latter is the course the more in accordance with justice and reason, as well as being the one more calculated to produce the result desired. It should be remembered that it is but a few months since the G. & P. Ry. was taken over as a part of the N. P. system, and that it is now a portion of the property of that company, even though not actually operated in connection with the general system. It is very evident that any and all business, whether originating or terminating on the G. & P., is of profit only to the connecting railroad, the O. S. L. That the officials of the N. P. appreciate and wish to change this condition goes without saying; and that they contemplate building the connection between Armstead and Twin Bridges—in order to keep the benefit of Lemhi county freight and passenger business—we have the assurance of Mr. Haunford himself, the president of the latter company. This connection between Armstead and Twin Bridges, which seems to be compelled by the force of existing conditions, will itself be a solution of the mail service in Salmon.

There is yet another phase of the question, equally inviting to co-operation between the people of Lemhi county and the railroad company, the matter of cost. While it might be proper to urge the granting of a daily service, even at a slight loss to the railroad company, since it could be urged that the natural stimulus to general business would result in indirectly making the loss good to the railroad, that cannot be said in the present case since, as said above—the profit of G. & P. traffic is reaped by the Oregon Short Line company.

There is, however, a method by which the convenience may be obtained, without undue injury to the railroad, that calls for co-operation and mutual assistance. That is by petition, or other representation at Washington, asking a substantial increase in the amount paid by the government for this mail service.

If the mails to this county cannot be carried without a considerable loss to the railroad company, under the existing contract, it should be possible to get an increased price allowed, to the end that this county get the needed convenience of a daily mail service and the railroad company be saved a financial loss, if not actually a profit thereby.

At the least it should be kept in mind that the railroad itself is an actual part of our county, and that, in a general sense, whatever injures the company is adverse to our own interests, while whatever results in the upbuilding of the railroad redounds to the profit and advantage of the Lemhi people. Our interests are one and not several, dependant all the time the one on the other. In this spirit it will not be necessary to present the matter elsewhere than to the N. P. officials at St. Paul, nor will it be necessary to recede in the slightest from our demands for the convenience of a daily service. It is a question largely of expediency. We want and are entitled to the service. If the cost to the railroad company of granting the convenience would be too great, what can we do and how can we co-operate with the railroad company in finding a solution of that objection?

It would be time enough to appeal this matter to the public commissions concerned, should the co-operative efforts fail to give the needed service, or such assurances as to the future as are satisfactory to the business interests of this county.

MUNICIPAL RINK.

The light fall of snow which covered the ground Wednesday reminds us that winter is upon us. To many this will bring additional work and worry, but to the boys and girls of the town it brings joy and gladness.

During the past two winters private individuals have endeavored to furnish a place where these young people could have innocent pleasure as well as healthful exercise each day. But so far as can be learned it has not been proven a financial success; those undertaking it.

Dillon and several other enterprising cities have arranged to have a municipal skating rink where the children can skate free of charge, as there are always many who are not financially able to allow their children the money which it would require to attend a private rink. The grounds used for the past two winters should be secured and the city could well afford to donate the water which would be required. If necessary the city council should donate a sum sufficient to put the rink in shape and then there should be no question about raising enough to keep it in shape. If necessary the older ones could pay for their pleasures enough to give the children their enjoyment free.

There should be an arrangement between parents and teachers requiring the children to be at home at 8 o'clock so it would not interfere with their studies. This would give the

older people the use of the rink after that time in the evening.

It is the duty of every one to assist in this movement in every way possible and secure this pleasure for the young people of the city during the winter months.

WHITE RUSSIAN PUREST SLAV

His Racial Habitation is the Most Backward Region of the Empire of the Czar.

A sketch of white Russia, the first part of old Russian soil to feel the power of the invader, is given in a statement issued by the National Geographic society.

"White Russia comprises four Russian governments, Vitebsk, Smolensk, Moghilef and Minsk. It is said that the name is derived from the predominant color of the peasant dress. This division of Russia is bounded by the Pripet river basin on the south and by the Duna, or southern Dvina, on the north. It supports a population of about seven and one-half million, two-thirds of which is white Russian and the rest Lithuanian, Jewish and Polish. Here, likely, is to be found the purest Slav type, almost unblended. This region, blanketed by swamps and marshes, and smothered in forests, is one of the poorest, most backward regions in European Russia.

"Finns dwelt here before history began for Europe. They were expelled by Lithuanians, who in turn gave way before migrating Slavonic tribes. The country finally passed back to the Lithuanians, then to Poland, and was won piecemeal by Great Russia. Polish oppression and religious persecution worked a wholesale desolation here, and thousands of peasants fled into Russia, while those who remained intrigued for Russia's coming. The whole of the region was not annexed by the Great Russians until the end of the eighteenth century. Starvation has swept this land again and again with as terrible effects as those experienced by India in the grip of famine.

The White Russian is not of so sturdy a build as the Great Russian, nor so comely as the Little Russian. He is less aggressive than his northern neighbor, and more heavy than his southern neighbor. His hair and eyes are light, and his face is generally drawn. The garment peculiar to him is his white overcoat which he wears on all special occasions as proudly in sweltering July as in the winter. His villages are small, isolated and badly kept. His homes are primitive. His fight for existence is a bitter one. From his ranks are recruited the workmen for the hardest, least-paying tasks of the empire."

Pacific Kelp.

In a recent article in the Journal of Agricultural Research, Mr. Guy R. Stewart of the University of California agricultural experiment station discusses the kelps of the Pacific coast as a source of nitrogen. As a result of extensive experiments, the author finds that the readiness with which the nitrogen in dried and ground kelp used as fertilizer is changed to ammonia and nitrates in fresh field soil varies with the species and with the way it is prepared. *Narocystis luteo-keana* gives up its nitrogen with relative quickness, but it is of minor commercial importance. *Macrocystis purifera* changes slowly in the soil, but the availability of its nitrogen is increased if it is used fresh, or at least only partly dried. Unfortunately, *macrocytis* must be dried until crisp in order to grind readily. The drying should not be continued longer than is necessary, and the kelp should not be scorched or overheated. In the same journal another California chemist, Mr. D. R. Hoagland, gives a detailed account of the "Organic Constituents of Pacific Coast Kelps." Incidentally, he deals with certain interesting economic questions in regard to kelp; namely, the possible feeding value of kelp for man or animals, the utilization of its organic by-products, and the destructive distillation of it for commercial uses. For all three purposes its usefulness appears to be slight.

All for Fifteen Shillings.

Recently there appeared in a London newspaper an advertisement for an experienced insurance clerk, wages 15 shillings a week. The advertiser got a lot of sarcastic letters, like the following, and he deserved them:

"Dear Sir—I would respectfully apply for the position you offer. I am an expert in insurance in all its branches. In addition, I converse fluently in Gum Arabic, Gorgonzola, Zola and Billingsgate. I write shorthand, long hand, left hand and right hand. I can supply my own typewriter, if necessary, and I may mention that I typewrite half an hour in ten minutes—the record for Great Britain. I would be willing also to let you have the services, gratis, of my large family of boys, and, if agreeable to you, my wife would be pleased to clean your office regularly without extra charge. The cost of postage for your answer to this application can be deducted from my salary. Please note that if you have a back yard I would make bricks in my spare time."

A Clean Course.

"Say, Sam, do you endorse this project of making soap out of sewage?"
 "If you ask me, I wash my hands of the whole plan."

His Portion.

"Will you share my portion?" asked the poor young man.
 "I fear yours is only a half portion," said the girl gently. "You will need it all for yourself."

FRANCE MAY GIVE UP COLONY

St. Pierre and Miquelon Islands Constitute the Last of Her American Empire.

The possibility that the Miquelon archipelago, the last North American possession of France, may be annexed to Newfoundland at the close of the European war is receiving serious consideration in that colony.

The little islands of St. Pierre, Miquelon and Langlade, a short distance off the south coast of Newfoundland, have formed for two centuries the advance base for the French cod fishery on the Grand Rapids.

In recent years the prosperity of the tiny colony has steadily diminished and all possibility of industrial progress for some time to come was destroyed when the French government in February last summoned all the able bodied men in the island to the colors.

The town of St. Pierre, where most of the colonists live, is now inhabited only by aged men, women and children. It is considered probable that such of the conscripts as survive the war will be reluctant to return to a struggling existence in the colony and will seek wider opportunity in France.

Since bait fishing by the French has been largely supplanted by steam trawlers the usefulness of the fishery outpost has become slight. It is the opinion of many Newfoundlanders, therefore, that France will find it to her advantage to turn the islands over to Newfoundland, in return for fishing facilities in these waters.

SEX IN THE USE OF WORDS

Interesting Statistics That Have Recently Been Collected by Two University Professors.

Prof. W. A. Cook of the University of Colorado and M. V. O'Shea of the University of Wisconsin have been studying the spelling and vocabularies of large numbers of persons in every station of life. The results of their work are published in a book, "The Child and His Spelling."

Among the analyses made by these professors is that relating to sex in the use of words. In a list of 200,000 words used in private correspondence they find that the following classes of words are dominant in the letters of women:

Articles of food and terms relating to the consumption and preparation thereof; articles of wearing apparel, textiles and terms closely related thereto; parts of the body, care of the same, personal appearance; animals, esthetics, color, diseases and their treatment; parts of the house, furniture, measures, correspondence, domestic activities and relationships.

Words dominant in letters of men were terms of aggression, contest and domination, physical and mental; institutional life and social organization. Then there is a long list of words that could not be classified under either head.

World Will Not Starve.

In the eighteenth century Malthus foreboded that the world would starve to death for want because means of subsistence would soon be over-matched by population. Malthus did not reckon with scientific agriculture, with the unreported capacity of an acre of land to produce twice and thrice the ordinary. Notwithstanding the world's war, it looks as if next fall, wheat would be 33 per cent cheaper than it is today. By the use of electric tools on farms as well as in shops, production is cheapened, while in use of phosphates production is multiplied. Last year this country produced five times more farm crops than in 1879. We have several millions of idle acres capable of cultivation or less than 20 per cent of acre capacity is now under cultivation.

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No Cheap Diamonds.

Hundreds of thousands of women in Europe are sending their jewelry to the numerous relief funds for the war-ridden countries. Some give their trinkets because it is the only thing of value they own. Suffice it to say that trustees of these funds in every part of Europe report the receipt of lots of jewelry, some pieces of which are worth thousands of dollars.

When the great American jewelers read that this was going on they appointed agents to buy diamonds at what they thought would be low prices, but these commissions were never executed, for there were no cheap diamonds to buy. The DeBeers company, owners of the greatest diamond mines in the world, were in touch with the heads of the various relief funds and headed a syndicate to take all the diamonds off their hands.

Little Daughter's Fear.

Police Detective Charles R. Moffatt and his family were discussing the death and career of John Bunny, the actor, at the dinner table the other night. The young daughter of the household, aged five, was a deeply interested listener. Finally, she piped up, almost tearfully: "Ma, won't we get any more Easter eggs?"—Los Angeles Times

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