

NEW ORDER HITS THE EXPRESS BUSINESS

Washington.—The United States treasury department has announced that plans have been perfected by which, after August 16, all government money and securities will be transported by registered mail. The express companies have handled this business for 25 years, and their revenue from that source amounted to approximately \$500,000 annually. Despite claims first made by postoffice officials that the parcel post system was only intended to be a competitor of the express companies, it is now agreed that the companies have been injured and the end is not in sight. One company—the United States Express—has already gone out of business. This concern had the contract to transport money for the government.

The charge was 20 cents a thousand dollars from Washington to Philadelphia and other nearby places, and ranged up to \$1 a thousand to San Francisco. In the earlier days of the contract the company was paid \$1.50 a thousand to carry money to the Pacific Coast. This contract alone netted \$375,000 in three years, of which \$245,000 was reimbursable by the national banks.

NEW VOTING SYSTEM IS DECLARED ILLEGAL

St. Paul, Minn.—The State supreme court has declared unconstitutional the system of preferential voting prescribed by the Duluth city charter. Several Minnesota cities that are considering adopting this system will be forced to change their plans because of the court's ruling.

Supreme Court Judge Hallam dissented from the majority opinion.

The Duluth Labor World has this to say of the decision:

"It is not a question of whether the preferential system of voting is a good thing. It is a question of whether or not a community of 90,000 people shall have its judgment overthrown by any four men after it has solemnly decided by a vote of the only people affected by the preferential ballot that such a system is what they want.

"We hope the effect of the decision will be to overthrow a system under which such a decision is made possible. Home rule will be a joke so long as any four men in St. Paul can overrule 90,000 people in Duluth. The people will not be free until they can determine questions of public policy finally for themselves, unvexed by the possibility of judicial vetoes, judicial legislation or absentee court guardianship."

AIR AND SUNSHINE BEST DISINFECTANTS

The statement given out recently that boards of health are giving up disinfection after contagious diseases has caused some astonishment among the old-fashioned persons. But a knowledge of how such diseases are transmitted from one person to another makes the utility of such disinfecting processes as fumigation evident. The Scientific American give a succinct and accurate description of the way in which diseases are "caught."

"Yellow fever is contracted only through the bite of the Stegomyia mosquito, malaria only through that of the Anopheles, typhus fever only through that of the body louse. Cholera and typhoid fever are not contracted through miasms; but solely by swallowing the essential germs of those diseases in food and drink thus contaminated. Diphtheria is probably not communicable through the air; but by direct contact with the sick, as in kissing; or by contact of one's nasal passages or throat with the diphtheria germs as contained in the handkerchiefs, dishes and the like used by patients.

"The safest place in the world as to diphtheria is the properly conducted, well-aired ward of a diphtheria hospital. Hospital doctors, nurses and others, careful in their ablutions, are in constant attendance the year round on diphtheria, scarlet fever and measles patients, without contracting those diseases or being in any fear of them. The surest place not to contract consumption is a well-managed tuberculosis sanatorium.

"Nor are scarlet fever and measles transmitted through the 'peeling' or the skin eruptions in those diseases. And measles is infectious anyway only during the first several days of the disease, generally before it is recognized, and from the germ-laden discharges from the nose and throats of sufferers."

Disinfection certainly destroys the germs of these diseases, when it reaches them, but the germs perish almost as soon as they leave the patient's body. The best disinfectants ever invented are pure air and sunshine. A sick room well ventilated after the close of a case; the bedding, carpets, rugs, and so on exposed to the blessed sunshine; plenty of soap and water for scrubbing up. These factors will, for most infectious diseases, be all the disinfection necessary."

NEED NOT TAKE RISK.

Tenton, N. J.—Justice Kalisch of the State Supreme Court has ruled that a human being is not compelled to take a risk of death, however slight, in order that the money obligations created by law in a workman's favor may be minimized.

This decision was made in the case of a worker who was injured while in the employ of a railroad. A serious case of hernia developed and in the suit for damages the worker was only allowed partial compensation by the lower court, which sustained the company in its claim that an operation would cure the worker in six months.

The case was appealed to the Supreme Court and the railroad attorneys again quoted medical reports to show that out of 23,000 operations for hernia only 48 have proved fatal. Justice Kalisch dissented from the views of the lower court and rejected the company's position. The court ruled that even though the peril to life seems slight, the worker is not required to submit to an operation to minimize the liability of the company under the employers' liability law.

LOSSES IN TIMES OF PEACE.

San Francisco.—"While we stand appalled at the enormous loss of life and treasure which has been going on in Europe in the past twelve months, we should not forget the victims of the deadly conflict constantly going on in our own peaceful land," declared President Willet to the National Association of Life Underwriters, in convention in this city. "Statistics tell us that 650,000 lives are annually destroyed in the United States by diseases of the preventable class. The annual economic loss from this source is estimated at \$1,500,000,000, or six times the amount of our fire loss."

JUDGING A LABOR DISPUTE.

San Francisco.—Under the above caption the Bulletin of this city makes the following point that can well be remembered by those who sit in judgment on labor disputes:

"In general, it is obvious that workmen whose hours and conditions of labor are what they should be, and who have been treated by their employers with fairness and respect will not, in a moment, go mad with resentment and rush upon the revolvers of policemen or the bayonets of militia. A corporation which is hated by its employes cannot be guiltless."

SECURE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Pittsburgh.—Pittsburgh trade unionists have won an important victory in their long fight with the Ohio and Pittsburgh Milk Company, which has agreed to place its plant on an eight-hour basis. Every engineer, fireman and helper is to become a member of their respective unions. Many of these workers were formerly employed twelve hours a day.

A Queer Marriage Custom.

In the Loochoo islands there are some curious marriage customs. One consists in the bridegroom going around to all his friends' houses and permitting them to dress him up in any ridiculous style that they fancy. Sometimes the happy man is arrayed in a gaily painted kimono, the sleeves of which are tied up with a string laden with bells, toys and trumpets. A mask is then put on and a red hat, the "rigout" being completed by an empty kerosene tin, which rattles noisily along as he walks.

Fish Eating Ponies.

"The Shetland peasants, as soon as the cold comes on, turn their ponies out to shift for themselves," said a horse dealer. "On those high, rocky, barren islands, amid the powerful and cold winds of winter, the ponies live on heather and seaweed, and it is indubitable that in their hunger they even scour the wild coast for dead fish. It is this life of exposure that gives the Shetland pony his shaggy coat. What gives him his kind and gentle disposition is that fact that he is brought up with the dogs and children.

Mistakes.

Life, like war, is a series of mistakes, and he is not the best Christian nor the best general who makes the fewest false steps. He is the best who wins the most splendid victories by the retrieval of mistakes. Organize victory out of mistakes.—F. W. Robertson.

Sodium Compounds.

Two common household essentials, salt and baking powder, are very closely related, the latter depending upon the former for its existence. In other words, without salt, or sodium chloride, as it is technically termed, we could not manufacture baking powder, sodium bicarbonate, and would be sans biscuits, bread, cakes, etc. There are many and diverse uses, however, for sodium compounds other than the common use in baking, some of them being soda water, soap and soap powder, quinine, oxalic acid, starch, paper, paint, glass, alum and in silk bleaching, cleaning and treating skins and wool, in dynamite and textiles, as well as in many chemical compounds.

HOLDS COMPENSATION IS CONSTITUTIONAL

Sacramento, Cal.—The State Supreme Court has upheld the workmen's compensation act.

The industrial accident board held a private indemnity company liable for damages to a railroad worker and the company appealed on the ground that the law deprived the employer of liberty without due process of law and an equal protection of the law as guaranteed by the United States constitution, and that the act is invalid because it exempts agricultural and domestic workers.

Justice Sloss wrote the majority opinion, which holds that the law is not a violation of the federal constitution, and that the enactment substitutes a new system of rights and obligations for the common law rules governing the liability of employers for injuries to their workmen. Justice Sloss declared this was perfectly legal, even though "the change thus made is radical, not to say revolutionary."

Justice Shaw and two colleagues accepted the law only because of the insurance provision of the act. If this were not included, they intimated they might hold different views.

Justice Henshaw was aloof in his opposition to the act.

Up to Him.

Coyle the blushing girl approached her father as he sat at ease after dinner. "Daddy," she said coaxingly, "is it true that two can live as cheaply as one?"

"That's an old saying, dearie." "But do you believe it?" she persisted, fondling the bald patch on the top of his head.

"Well, perhaps it can be done," said father doubtfully.

"Then if George and I get married, do you think you can manage to support both of us on as much as you spend on me every year?"—New York Journal.

A Forgetful Poet.

Arthur Coleridge related that the poet Coleridge once journeyed from Highgate to Holburn to visit a nephew, Sir William H. Coleridge. It was very cold weather, and the poet had on a double breasted waistcoat which met just below his neck. It was discovered that he had got no shirt. His nephew remonstrated with him, to which the poet replied, "I'm very sorry, William, very sorry, but I've forgotten my shirt." Upon this Sir William kindly lent his uncle a shirt, "and," said the speaker, "I regret to say that very necessary garment was never returned to its original owner."—London Saturday Review.

When You Can't Sleep.

There is an odd theory, which many people believe and which is certainly harmless, that sleeplessness may often be cured in the following odd way: Move your bed out into the room so that no part of bed or covers will touch the wall. Then place under each corner of the bed a piece of rubber or a rubber overshoe or set the caster in a thick glass dish. Then go to bed, making sure the covers do not touch the wall. Thus the bed and yourself will be cut off from all electric contact with floor or wall. Such absence of electric contact, it is claimed, will make you sleep better. It is said to have cured stubborn cases of insomnia.

Mild Result.

The courtroom was crowded. A wife was seeking divorce on the grounds of extreme cruelty and brutally abusive treatment.

The husband was on the stand undergoing a grueling cross examination.

The examining attorney said: "You have testified that your wife on one occasion threw cayenne pepper in your face. Now, sir, kindly tell us what you did on that occasion."

The witness hesitated and looked confused. Every one expected that he was about to confess to some shocking act of cruelty. But their hopes were shattered when he finally blurted out: "I sneezed!"—Everybody's.

The Eager Adviser.

When first a stranger hits the town He is profoundly moved, And tells with many a solemn frown How it could be improved. He speaks in generous tones yet grim, And really seems to think The town, if it were not for him, Would be on ruin's brink.

But when a while he has remained He sees how well and long Its men have struggled and attained. 'Mid difficulties strong, How oft the man who lost his sleep That he might have his say, Concludes he'll simply try to keep From getting in the way!

—Washington Star.

Bitter Fight Waged in Name of Prohibition Charged as Scheme To Save Illicit Distillers

Has the long and bitter fight waged against the liquor interests in North Carolina and other Southern States been based on the high moral grounds contained in the arguments of politically ambitious orators, or for the real purpose of protecting the illicit distillers?

Among those in a position to know, it is the protection of the illicit distillers that is responsible for both the "dry" agitation and legislation in North Carolina.

This fact is borne out in the following interview with a native North Carolinian who had spent a long and active life in the "Old North State":

"In the more than forty years I have lived in North Carolina, I have never known of a bill in Congress seeking to protect the revenue and incidentally the legitimate distiller that has not been fought and bitterly opposed by the representatives of North Carolina.

"The latest incident, the defeat of the Outage Bill, by the Senator from North Carolina, further bears out this statement.

Protection for Illicit Distiller.

"The history of North Carolina Senators and Representatives in Congress on this and similar questions speaks for itself.

"I have never had a doubt that a very large proportion of the prohibition sentiment in my State has been induced and furthered as a method to protect the illicit distiller.

"I think that the same is true, to a certain extent, in Tennessee, and perhaps to a slightly lesser degree in Georgia.

"At one time North Carolina had a larger number of registered distilleries than any other State in the Union, and goodness knows how many they had that were not registered.

"The government was lucky if the registered distilleries split 50-50 on the tax and the overplus was the desideratum of the man that operated the distillery."

Evidently the Washington (D. C.) Herald has made a careful study of North Carolina's history in its relation to the prohibition question.

An Old Proposal Revived.

The following editorial under the caption "An Old Proposal Revived" is from the Washington Herald:

A large committee representing a number of temperance organizations, met behind closed doors in Washington to perfect the Hobson resolution defeated in the House last December, with the hope of making it more acceptable to the Senators and Representatives.

One objection to the Hobson resolution was that it only prohibited the manufacture and importation of alcoholic liquors for sale.

A good many prohibitionists do not like that exemption, which only prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages.

If these beverages are poisonous and a danger to the people, and are to be prohibited, the prohibition ought to be like that in Russia, complete.

But it is said that the committee could not agree to any change in the plan of prohibition proposed by Captain Hobson, although it is admitted that it would

Between Two Fires.

She was desperately gone on them both, and she couldn't think which one to choose. It was rather perplexing, no doubt, for one she was bound to refuse. She gazed at them both in despair, quite puzzled to know what to do. As soon as she thought about one she cared for the other one too.

They still remained under her gaze, little recking the trouble they brought. It really was hard to decide. They were both so delightful, she thought.

She couldn't say which one she'd have; her efforts fell hopelessly flat. It's really exceedingly hard selecting a new hat.

The Forests on the Niger.

The insects of Africa are expert disease carriers, and they come in such numbers on the Niger that one hardly dares to use one's lamp or go too near a light of any sort at night. These forests on the Niger are deadly places for all their haunting attraction and take a big toll both of European and native life. Yet the first three days on the Niger, with all its mud and its smell and its mangrove flies and its frogs and its crickets, are enough to give the newcomer an inkling of the drawing power, the fascination, of what is probably the most unhealthy country in the world.—W. B. Thompson in Blackwood's.

POVERTY.

Poverty, my dear friend, is so great an evil and pregnant with so much temptation and so much misery that I can not but earnestly enjoin you to avoid it. Live on what you have; live if you can on less. Do not borrow either for vanity or pleasure. The vanity will end in shame and the pleasure in regret.—Samuel Johnson.

legalize the work of the moonshiners who have been the most picturesque lawbreakers of this country since the Civil War.

The moonshiner insists that he has an inalienable right to manufacture whisky, brandy, apple jack, or anything else he prefers from his corn, rye, apples and peaches, and that no government has the right to make him pay a tax on his products.

He has been going along in this way for more than half a century, and the great government of the United States, with a small army of special agents, has been unable to suppress moonshining.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue admits in his report that this illicit manufacture and traffic is growing with the passing of time and the increase of prohibition laws in the South.

Defending Illicit Distilling.

Something like the proposition of Captain Hobson was proposed 35 years ago, by a distinguished North Carolina Democrat, who was the father of the Democratic leader in the Sixty-fourth Congress.

His name was William Kitchin, and he proposed an amendment to the internal laws providing that 60 gallons in any one year, manufactured by each distiller, should be exempt from taxation.

Some of the Northern Representatives ridiculed Kitchin's amendment, but it was vigorously defended as a temperance measure by Southern men.

Kitchin said in debate that his amendment was to place all producers on an equal footing and added:

"I will take occasion to say that I believe it is radically wrong and unjust and in opposition to the fundamental principles upon which our government is based, to tax the necessities of life, to tax that which a man raises upon his farm for the support and benefit of those who are dependent upon him. Every man ought to have the right to use what he raises upon his farm for the benefit of his family. That is the intention of government. It will do injustice to no section of the country, and to no individual, and whatever revenue the government may fail to derive from this exemption can be made up by passing a law levying a tax upon incomes, upon the money and the capital of the country. Let us put a burden there and take it off the poor and needy."

Would Legalize Moonshining. Much of his speech, delivered in Congress by William Kitchin, April 29, 1880, has a familiar sound today.

Kitchin and those who supported him wanted to permit each family to have its own still and manufacture 60 gallons of whisky or brandy a year for family use, without paying a tax.

The Hobson resolution makes the exemption general, so that each man can manufacture for family use any amount of whisky or brandy he pleases and without paying a tax.

Hobson's followers also propose to make up the deficit in federal revenue by taxing the incomes of the rich.

The Captain and his friends have simply turned the barrel over and dug up the old Kitchin plan to legalize moonshining.—Trades Union News.

Gold in Ancient Rome.

William Jacob in his "History of the Precious Metals," estimates from the accounts given by the Roman writers that in the reign of Augustus, the first of the emperors, when Rome was at the height of its power, the amount of gold in the Roman empire was nearly \$2,000,000,000. This vast treasure had been gathered chiefly by conquest from various nations of Europe, Asia and Africa. There had been extensive mines in Spain and in the Atlas mountains of north Africa, but their yield in the wealth of kings and of cities in Asia and Egypt had been despoiled and carried away to enrich the conquerors.

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