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NO. 8.

STATUS OF RURAL DELIVERY.

Letter From Fourth Assistant Postmaster General to Congressman Pou.

Congressman Pou, who has ever been alert in the matter of the rural delivery service in his district, recently called on the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General regarding the service. Through Mr. Pou we are enabled to publish this important letter this week. The letter bears date of April 19, and is as follows:

HON. EDWARD W. POU,
House of Representatives.
SIR:

Referring to your recent call at the Department, at which time you asked for a statement outlining the status of rural delivery service in North Carolina, I have to say that up to date there have been filed 2292 petitions for rural delivery service in that State. Of this number the proposed routes in 2189 cases have been examined and reported on. There are now in operation 1137 routes, and orders have been issued for the establishment of 8 additional routes effective May 15, 1906, and 5 additional routes effective June 1, 1906. Twenty-nine cases are pending in the Department awaiting examination and approval, or, having been approved, are awaiting certificate of the postmaster that three-fourths of the families who are accessible to service on the routes will pledge themselves to provide approved boxes.

Of the petitions filed 1010 have been adversely reported. The conditions precedent to the establishment of rural delivery are roads in good condition, unobstructed by gates, with no unbridged creeks or streams not fordable at all ordinary seasons of the year; and a possible patronage of 100 families on all routes of 24 or more miles in length, and proportionate number of families on routes of less length. Adverse reports on petitions for rural delivery are usually based on some one of these requirements, such as lack of public roads, roads in bad condition or obstructed by gates, or unbridged streams; or it may be found that better service can be given the petitioners by rural delivery from another point, or that they are already served by rural delivery from other post offices, or by existing star route service; or lack of patronage. One hundred and three petitions have not yet been reported on.

The reports of the amount of mail of all classes handled on the routes in North Carolina for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1905, (975 in number) disclosed that there was an apparent lack of patronage on about one-third of the routes then in operation, and an inspection of these routes has been ordered with a view to bringing all such routes to a proper standard of efficiency. On discovering that there is a lack of patronage on a given route, consideration is given first to the possibility of increasing the interest in the service on the route; second, to the possibility of rearranging the route so as to increase the patronage; third, to the possibility of readjusting other routes in the locality so as to serve the existing patronage; fourth, to the advisability of establishing every-other-day service in lieu of daily service, and last to its discontinuance where the conditions are such that the expenditure involved is unwarranted.

It is not anticipated that any considerable number of routes will be discontinued, and it will be possible in the large majority of instances where it becomes necessary to discontinue a route, to rearrange other routes so that the patronage of the discontinued route will not be deprived of the service. Up to this time but one route has been discontinued in North Carolina, and such action in that case was because of the patrons being indifferent to the service, there being but 14 boxes erected on the route

and a very small amount of mail handled. Tri-weekly service has been substituted for daily service on five routes because of lack of patronage and the small amount of mail handled, and it is hoped that the patrons on these routes will eventually so appreciate the service that the patronage will be increased sufficiently to warrant the Department in re-establishing daily delivery.

In the Fourth Congressional District of North Carolina 210 petitions for rural delivery service have been filed. Of this number 98 have been adversely reported, 107 have been favorably reported and 5 are pending. Of the 107 routes favorably reported, 105 are now in operation, and the remaining 2 have been ordered established effective May 15 and June 1, 1906.

Very respectfully,
P. V. DEGRAW,
Fourth Assistant
Postmaster-General.

The Reunion at New Orleans.

New Orleans, La., April 25th.—To-day in the heart of a city which has borne the brunt of battle and worn the weeds of mourning for its sake, the Confederacy was revived again by those who cherish it for everything that it was intended to be, and who will love it until they die, for what it means to them and the South. The talk of the heroism, the sacrifice, the agony and the glory of the great days were told again to those who never weary of the story, and who cheered and wept by turns, as the bright or somber side of the picture was turned to view. No reunion was ever held under fairer auspices and none ever showed greater promise of success. The weather was perfect, the arrangements of the temporary building erected for the reunion were unsurpassed and the details of the vast work of handling the great throng of visitors were carried out with precision and care.

The first session of the day saw the reunion formally launched upon its career. General Stephen D. Lee, the commander-in-chief; Adjutant General Mickle, and other officers of the organization presented their reports, and General Lee delivered his formal address. There were other speeches, almost without number. The veterans were welcomed by Governor Blanchard for the State, and former Mayor Bierman for the city.

There were songs by young women and reverent prayers by ministers of the gospel.

The afternoon was given over to the memory of the Confederate dead and addresses extolling their valor, patriotism and memory cheered again and again.

Big Gold Vein Has Been Cut.

Salisbury, N. C., April 23.—President Walter George Newman is making colossal claims for his Gold Hill Copper Mining Company, though this is a gold yield that he is enthusing over so much. He says a vein was cut Saturday morning, and at the 200 foot line was 4 feet wide, at the 400 it was 8 and at the 800 it has reached the enormous thickness of 12 feet. This he feels sure will enhance the value of his mine \$20,000,000.

It is remembered that in times past the Gold Hill has yielded an immense wealth of gold, a mint having been established at Charlotte on Gold Hill's account alone. This mine has produced \$7,000,000, and Mr. Newman is satisfied that this is but a drop in the bucket. It is the deepest shaft in the south. Mr. Newman is backing his faith with his own money.

Wilmington, N. C., April 25.—It was officially announced today that the Atlantic Coast Line will spend \$175,000 in the improvement of its terminal facilities at Wilmington. These improvements will consist of an extension of the freight, yard limits and enlargement of trackage facilities through the wholesale and manufacturing districts.

STIRS WITH NEW LIFE.

San Francisco Takes Up the Work Of Restoration—Property Loss Estimated at \$300,000,000

San Francisco, April 24.—This was the seventh day since the earthquake jarred the city so severely and started the fires that laid it in ashes, and as on the preceding days, Tuesday took up the accumulated impetus of Monday and added much volume of force of its own, so that Wednesday will dawn on a situation that is a long way toward the normal.

Such marts of trade as remain unburned were opening for the transaction of ordinary business, temporary structures were being run up for the accommodation of others. Clearing of the devastated area was well under way. Artillerymen worked all day blowing up dangerous ruins.

The street car company is stretching trolley wires down Market street the main thoroughfare, and will have cars running in a day or two.

Gen. A. W. Greely, commanding the Department of the Pacific, has arrived, but Gen. Funston will retain active command of the army work. In a report to Washington, Gen. Greely places the number of dead at 227. This refers, doubtless to the number of bodies disposed of by the soldiers, for the coroner's office has reported that the loss of life is about a thousand, and perhaps more.

The local board of underwriters places the damage to property at \$300,000,000. They estimate the amount of insurance carried in the burned district at \$175,000,000 or more.

Gen. Funston and the mayor have decided to withdraw the militia. The citizens' patrol also will be abolished. Indignation over the shooting of H. C. Tilden had something to do with this. In his report to Washington Gen. Greely referred to the slayers of Tilden as "thugs."

The troops are maintaining good order and some of the regulations have been relaxed. Gen. Greely favors admitting persons having legitimate business in San Francisco.

The public health is excellent, according to the army surgeons, and the epidemic scare is dying out.

It is certain that no person is hungry in San Francisco to-night unless he is wilfully so. There is food for all, and the method of distribution has been so perfected that it is within reach of all.

Dismal Swamp Drying up.

Suffolk, Va., April 24.—As a further proof of supposed volcanic disturbances in the Dismal Swamp and along territory contiguous to Lake Drummond, word came here tonight that Jericho Canal, which has not been waterless for many years, is dry. Jericho Canal is a feeder for the lake, and if it carries no water the lake may disappear. The news of the canal's condition was brought here by Dr. E. R. Hart. Should this condition prevail all summer the historic lake may be converted into a baked and cracked land surface.

Police Chief Brinkley, Saturday night, reported an eruption of boiling mud in the swamp.

Is The Moon Inhabited.

Science has proven that the moon has an atmosphere which makes life in some form possible on that satellite; but not for human beings, who have a hard enough time on this earth of ours; especially those who don't know that Electric Bitters cure Headache, Biliousness, Malaria, Chills and Fever, Jaundice, Dyspepsia, Dizziness, Torpid Liver, Kidney complaints, General Debility and Female weaknesses. Unequaled as a general Tonic and Appetizer for weak persons and especially for the aged. It induces sound sleep. Fully guaranteed by Hood Bros., Druggists. Price only 50c.

GAPON REPORTED HANGED.

Hero of "Bloody Sunday" Trapped and Strung up.

Manchester, April 23.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg to the Guardian says that Father Gapon was hanged in secret on April 10. The correspondent adds, as is well known, that after the famous march to the Winter Palace on "Red Sunday," January 22, 1905, Gapon fled from Russia.

The leaders of the revolutionary movement, who live, for the most part, out of Russia, and whom he then came across for the first time, soon discovered him to be what he was, a mere charlatan, and refused to put any considerable trust in him.

He, on his side, very soon saw that he would not be allowed to pose as a modern Savonarola. He joined the police as a spy.

He was rash enough to approach a revolutionary friend with proposals that he, too, turn spy. Some of the leaders were for drawing his claws by kidnapping him and inducing him to sign a confession for publication.

Certain others determined upon his death. It was necessary first, however, to convince the laboring classes, many of whom still believed in him, of his real character.

He was invited by his former friend to a villa in the country, where a conversation that took place was overheard by four laborers who were members of the revolutionary party, and who were concealed in an adjoining room.

Then a door was flung open and the wretched man was confronted by four men, who, he realized, were not only witnesses, but judges and executioners as well. The men, infuriated to madness by what they had heard, made short work of the business, and soon the former Savonarola of Russia was dangling from the ceiling of the sitting room, where he probably remains to this moment.

Another Quake in San Francisco.

San Francisco, April 25th.—An earthquake shock this afternoon toppled over several tottering walls and cracked chimneys, left by the severe shock of last Wednesday and the fire that followed and killed one woman in her home. The shock was not severe but the partly wrecked condition of walls and chimneys resulted in the upsetting of some masonry. The shock was barely perceptible in Oakland and vicinity, and was not felt far from San Francisco according to reports received to-night.

To-day's quake caused slight excitement of short duration among many persons who have been wrought to a high state of excitement by the awful happenings of the last week but quiet and assurance was soon restored.

Awful Catastrophe a Warning.

Dr. Thomas N. Ivey, Editor of the Raleigh Christian Advocate, closes an editorial on the San Francisco disaster in the following words:

"San Francisco was one of the gayest, most wicked cities in the Union. There were many good people there, yet, as a rule, God occupied a very small place in the mind and heart of the city. We do not take the ground that the earthquake and fire were sent as a judgment on San Francisco, yet we feel that God is using the whole awful catastrophe as warning to his people. 'When thy judgments are in the earth the people will learn righteousness.' There is a God and the fact has been emphasized in a tragic way. May San Francisco and all other cities learn the lesson. The sufferers at the Golden Gate and in other places where the horror fell have the warm prayerful sympathies of the Christian people of the land who have already manifested their desire to help in a most practical way."

BLACKBURN NOT GUILTY.

Judge Goff Ordered a Verdict of Acquittal—A Demonstration in the Court Room.

The Blackburn case came to a halt this morning rather sooner than the average spectator and perhaps a good many attorneys thought. Judge Goff, after Judge Lewis had finished addressing the jury, started in to deliver what was supposed to be his charge, but he did not proceed very far before he took the case out of their hands and ordered a verdict of acquittal.

He was proceeding as if he had a lengthy charge to deliver, but in a moment got down to business and the next thing the reporter was able to hear was, addressing the jury:

"And so, should you return a verdict of guilty under these conditions, I would at once set it aside. It is therefore useless to have you go through the formality of considering the case or returning a verdict."

To the average layman this came as a thunderclap and in a second there was an outburst of applause which the court made no effort to check and numbers of ladies crowded up and shook hands with Judge Goff—in fact there was a regular demonstration—a glory-hallelujah kind of a time, his honor seeming not to mind it in the least.

It may be said that those who have kept track of the trial fully expected a verdict of acquittal, but not that the judge would take it out of the hands of the jury and order a verdict of not guilty.

The "hilarity" over, Judge Goff asked if there was any further charge against the defendant. The district attorney said no. "Then let him be discharged," was the order of the court, and the Blackburn case passed out of court—Greensboro Record, 20th.

The first Baptist church, colored, of Raleigh, last Sunday raised \$1,514.40 for the new church now being erected at the corner of Wilmington and Morgan streets.

Fairest and Most Deadly.

The most deadly lands were ever the fairest, the most opulent in nature's bloom and glory. The golden coast of America is the unstable coast. The greatest profusion of flowers and the richest groves and orchards flourish in an earthquake land. St. Pierre lay in a marvelous profusion of tropical vegetation looking out on a sea of sapphire, until Mount Pelee blasted all the life and beauty in a breath of flame. The Bay of Naples is world-famed for loveliness. Japan is a dream of exquisite blossoms, foaming waterfalls, noble trees and every alluring form of nature's beauty. It is also a country of many earthquakes and some most terrific storms. The glory of life and the doom of sudden death and destruction run riot together in the East and West Indies. Equatorial America is a marvel of gorgeous color and magnificence in form. Lisbon is famous for the beauty of its site and also for the awful work of the earthquake which laid it in ruins in 1755.—Cleveland Leader.

The First National of Tarboro will soon be organized with a capitol of \$50,000.

Human Blood Marks.

A tale of horror was told by marks of human blood in the home of J. W. Williams, a well known merchant of Bac, Ky. He writes: "Twenty years ago I had severe hemorrhages of the lungs, and was near death when I began taking Dr. King's New Discovery. It completely cured me and I have remained well ever since." It cures Hemorrhages, Chronic Coughs, Settled Colds and Bronchitis, and is the only known cure for Weak Lungs. Every bottle guaranteed by Hood Bros., Druggists. 50c. and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

Charleston Lost Eight Million Dollars in 1886.

Eleven white persons and twenty-eight negroes, a total of thirty-eight persons, lost their lives in the earthquake at Charleston, S. C., the night of August 31st, 1886.

Slight shocks had been felt at Summerville, S. C., a nearby summer resort, four days before the severe shock that damaged more than half the buildings in the city of Charleston.

The earthquake came just after 10 o'clock at night, and in a few moments the streets of Charleston were full of falling walls and the debris of homes and business houses. Railroads, telegraph lines and buildings were destroyed, and the city was cut off from communication with the outside world. Hundreds of persons were injured by flying debris and thousands were rendered homeless. The property damage was estimated at more than \$8,000,000.

The shock was felt from New Orleans to Mexico, and there were slight shocks in the eastern section of South Carolina for days afterward.

In some places near Charleston deep fissures were opened in the ground, and the entire formation of the earth's surface was changed.—Exchange.

GENERAL NEWS.

A Belgian training ship foundered near Dover, England, Monday and 34 men were drowned.

Four lives were lost and 30 families rendered homeless by a fire at Coney Island, N. Y., early Sunday morning.

Congress Monday appropriated \$1,500,000 for the Pacific coast earthquake and fire sufferers, making \$2,500,000 in all.

Richard Pearson Hobson has won in the primaries in the sixth Alabama Congressional District for the nomination against J. H. Bankhead, who has represented the district for 18 years. Hobson ran for the nomination two years ago but was defeated.

As the result of a dust explosion in a mine of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, 40 miles west of Trinidad, Col., Sunday, 22 miners are known to be dead and one other missing. There were 40 men in the mine at the time of the explosion. Seventeen miners, who were working 3,700 from the entrance, escaped.

Thought World at End.

Pueblo, Colo., April 23rd.—B. K. Coffman, a traveling salesman from Fort Worth, Texas, arrived in Pueblo from San Francisco last night. He says he had nothing to eat or drink from Tuesday evening until Thursday morning, and that when he looked out over the city and saw the falling buildings and flames shooting into the sky, he fell upon his hands and knees and buried his face in the sand, believing that the end of the world had come.

As a result of the strain to which he was subjected, Mr. Coffman's hair is now almost perfectly white.

Dr. Winston to Deliver Address.

The closing exercises of Wilson's Mills Graded School will take place Wednesday, May 9. The educational address will be delivered by Dr. George T. Winston, President of the A. & M. College at Raleigh, at 12 m.

The Commencement Day exercises will take place from 10 to 12, Wednesday, May 9. An entertainment will be given in the school building, Tuesday night, May 8, beginning at 8 o'clock. Public cordially invited to attend.

The Belhaven Lumber Company's lumber mills at Belhaven, N. C., together with an immense quantity of lumber, was totally destroyed by fire Friday night, entailing a loss of at least \$100,000, which, it is understood, to be largely covered by insurance.