

SOME NEWS OF POSTOFFICES

Variations of Spelling in Official Records.

Reasons Assigned for the Differences—Work of the Board on Geographic Names—Tendencies and Examples.

Washington, May 27. It is a remarkable circumstance that the names of postoffices, as published in the "Postal Guide," do not in all instances conform to the names used in the official records of the department. In the bonding division, the name of a small postoffice will often be spelled in one way, and in the "Postal Guide" in another. This is because the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General names the fourth-class offices as they are established, and it is in this class that nearly all the differences occur, while the "Postal Guide" in which these names are published is edited in the office of the chief clerk of the department. Between the editor of the "Guide" and the clerks of the Fourth Assistant's division there is little harmony, and hence we have in so many instances two sets of postoffice names. In 1891, President Harrison established a Board on Geographic Names, as it was called, for the purpose of the spelling of geographic names in the publications of the government. This board is still in existence, and doing excellent work. If its decisions were respected there would be no such confusion in the Postoffice Department as that already alluded to. The other departments are generally adhering to the findings of the board, and publishing their maps and charts accordingly, but the Postoffice Department, in one part of it at least, has seen fit to "hoe its own row." The most notable case of late is that of Puerto Rico. Eight years ago, before there was any thought of annexing the island, the Board on Geographic Names decided without controversy upon this spelling. The Postoffice Department, without consulting the board is now spelling it Porto Rico. Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristol, when asked today how this happened, replied: "We spell here in the common-sense English way—P-o-r-t-o—P-o-r-t-o, and do not put in any u-e-r. What nonsense that is! We take the accepted spellings. I suppose our clerks look in Webster's dictionary whenever they want to find the spelling of a word which it is desired to use as the name of a postoffice. We have no connection with the Board on Geographical Names." The "common-sense English way" of which the Fourth Assistant speaks with such assurance is, unfortunately, something much in doubt, and it was to secure uniformity as well as simplicity in the interpretation of a half-dozen different "common-sense English ways" often proposed that the Board Geographic Names was established. Its work has been misunderstood, and in consequence has fallen into considerable disfavor by reason of a too mechanical interpretation of the principles which it has laid down. For example, the board decided as the seventh of its principles—not rules—that, wherever possible, names consisting of more than one word should be combined into one word, provided no serious offence to public taste was involved. This tendency toward simplification in this way has long been marked. "La Fayette" is now almost universally written "Lafayette" as is "El Dorado," and hundreds of other words are similarly treated. Applied in moderation the principle is clearly a good one. But some clerks in the "Postal Guide" office carried it to such an extreme a few years ago as to discredit the principle and to throw ridicule upon the board. Of all the individual cases criticised in the newspapers at the time, it said that not one was a decision of the board itself, and they had made thousands of decisions, but all were applications of the principle by the department. The board did recommend, to be sure, such consolidations as "Tenpound Island," in place of "Ten Pound Island," or "Ten-pound Island," as it has been variously spelled. They called a certain postoffice in Missouri "Tenmile." But all absurdities of consolidation have been charged to the board. Several years ago there was a demand for a new postoffice a short distance from Palm Beach, Fla. People in the neighborhood wanted it named "West Palm Beach." The department objected to a three-word name, and so made it "Westpalm beach." This aroused so much reasonable objection that the latest editions of the "Guide" have spelled it West Palmbeach.

THE MYSTERY OF BALLOON

What Became of the Aeronaut's Passenger?

Story of Wash Donaldson, Circus Aeronaut Recalled by One Who Barely Escaped His Last Ascension, 1875—Was His Companion Thrown Out the Balloon?

The balloon scene in a play running in New York prompted a man who witnessed it to tell the following experience: "I came very near being thrown out of a balloon once myself. Did you ever hear of Wash Donaldson? He was the balloonist for the Barnum and Bailey show more than twenty years ago. Donaldson was an athlete. He was of perfect physique and had a face which made women crazy. He was a man of travel and a captivating talker. He was the hero of more than a hundred trips to the skies. The ascensions took place just before the afternoon performance. He opened the season in the summer of '75 on the lake front in Chicago. I was invited to go up with him. There were three others. The basket party consisted of four persons. Donaldson took his place on the bar between the basket and the neck of the balloon. The day was hot. Donaldson was in his shirt sleeves. Part of the time he was bareheaded. The day was perfect. As we took our flight and sailed out over the lake, reaching an altitude of nearly a mile, the intrepid pilot, looking down upon his passengers, chatted about his travels and experiences while the airship above turned slowly and at times seemed to stand still. "This, my first ascension, was accidental. The arrangement for my trip was for the second day. But two other persons, also invited to go up on the second day, appeared on the first day and asked to make the ascension then. This occasioned a parley. It was settled by the toss of a coin. By this I won. The two who lost then threw for the ascension next day, for Donaldson had said that after the first ascension he would take only one person. "This first ascension was without incident, save for the novelty of it to those who had never before been up in the air. The ship landed about where the Auditorium Hotel now stands. After we had left the basket I went with Donaldson to his hotel and dined with him. A woman at the table, one of the profession, was Donaldson's affianced bride. She had become infatuated with Donaldson, and became a circus woman. They were to have been married at the close of that season. He had promised her to make no more ascensions after their marriage. "I asked him what he would do if, in an ascension with only one person, it became necessary in order to escape in safety to unload the basket. He said, in a matter-of-fact way, that the law of self-preservation was the same in mankind as it was on the earth. "Would you throw a man out of the basket of your balloon?" asked the woman, to whom the possibility of such a thing had occurred, apparently, for the first time. Donaldson replied that he would be justified in such an act, where his own life was involved, and he told me afterward that he had consulted a well-known criminal lawyer in New York on that very question, and that the information was in accordance with what he had said in reply to the woman. "The next day I went to the grounds to see Donaldson make his second ascension of that engagement. The sky was threatening. The lake was a sea of whitecaps. A storm came up out of the southwest. The two men who had tossed with me the day before were at the side of the basket. The younger, who had won the toss for the second day's ascension, was a mere lad from an interior town of Illinois. His name was Greenwood. The other was a Scotchman. He wanted the young man to toss over again, but the young man replied by quoting the old adage about a bird in hand. Donaldson said to me, in an aside: "I hate to take that boy today, for this balloon, which is not the one we had yesterday, is patched, and not as safe as the other, and, besides, it looks dark overhead. How would you like to take his place? "I do not know what my answer might have been. There was no occasion to reply, for the young man evidently afraid he might lose his place, had jumped into the basket before I could speak. Knowing Donaldson as I did, with faith in his courage and admiring his intrepidity, I think I should have gone with him in his second flight. "Donaldson followed Greenwood and called to cut the rope. The balloon went up in the midst of lightning and thunder. Not a cheer followed its stormy flight. The spectators looked upward from under their umbrellas in silent awe. The balloon crossed the lake in a northerly direction and was soon lost from sight by intervening clouds. The afternoon was stormy and the fury of the gale increased during the night. No tidings were received of the voyagers on the following morning. That afternoon the first balloon was inflated on the circus grounds and an ascension was announced. None took place. Donaldson had not returned. Messages were sent out to towns in the northwest, the circus management offering to pay liberally for such information. No answers were received. The next day while the circus remained the balloon was inflated, but the ropes were never cut. There were no more ascensions. "For weeks after the circus had gone conflicting stories were received of a balloon seen in various places, sometimes in the air, with a dead man hanging head downward, tangled in

THE MYSTERY OF BALLOON

What Became of the Aeronaut's Passenger?

Story of Wash Donaldson, Circus Aeronaut Recalled by One Who Barely Escaped His Last Ascension, 1875—Was His Companion Thrown Out the Balloon?

the ropes, followed by birds; sometimes of the balloon in the waters of the lake; sometimes in the branches of a forest; sometimes in the camps of loggers in the pineries of that region. But none proved true. People quit talking about it, until one day it was recalled by a story, well written, to the effect that Donaldson had been seen alive in London. The circus people and Donaldson's friends denied this. A little later a similar story locating him in Africa was printed, and this was denied. To give these stories a shadings of truth, for a number were printed later on, they contained the statement, which was true, that the woman in this case had left the circus and had gone to meet her lover. She had left the circus. Finally the stories about Donaldson being alive, like the ones about J. Wilkes Booth being alive, ceased. A long time after, several months, I think, portions of a human body were found in the sands on the Wisconsin shore of Lake Michigan. There was nothing to identify the remains except a piece of jewelry which a young woman who knew Greenwood said he had given to him. With a few bits of material found near by, thought by some to be parts of the balloon canvas, led to the belief in some quarters that Greenwood was thrown from the basket by Donaldson. Every man of the two ascensions, except myself, is dead, and each one died in a peculiar way. The Scotchman who lost the toss on the second day went mad a few years ago and escaped from the asylum. His body was found some time after in a creek. "Donaldson's fate remains a mystery. Did he throw Greenwood out of the basket? Would he have thrown me out, I wonder?"

ONE OF PORTER'S BEST SPEECHES.

He Says So Himself, So It Must Be True.

Philadelphia Saturday Post.

One of the youngest-looking men of his years in public life is Gen. Horace Porter, our Ambassador to France. In spite of his incessant activity, General Porter, while the head in New York of the Pullman Palace Car Company, was among the most accessible of men. He always seemed to have plenty of leisure time. One day a reporter was sent to him to collect some after-dinner stories which had never before been printed, and never have been printed up to the present time. The General laid aside his correspondence and entered wholeheartedly into his caller's mission. "I don't know," said he, "that I can tell you any story of mine, but I will tell you what I regard as my best piece of repartee—at least, it was the most enthusiastically received. It was at a big banquet, the chairman of which was an orator. His introductions were labored, and most of them failed to score. When he introduced me, he said: "You all know General Porter. With him all you have to do is to drop a dinner in the slot and up comes a speech." "You all know the presiding officer," I retorted, "and judging from the sickly tone of his speeches, all you have to do is to drop one of them in the slot and up comes your dinner." "From that time on I had things my own way at the dinner."

HAND AND TRIPOD.....

Cameras.

All prices—from \$2.50 Up Photographic Supplies of All Kinds. We wish to announce the addition to our above line of goods and invite you to inspect and Patronage. H. MAHLER'S SONS, 212 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, N. C. Carries in stock a beautiful line of framed and unframed Pictures. Picture Frames in stock and made to order. Window Shades in stock and made to order. Orders have prompt attention.

WATSON'S PICTURE AND ART STORE,

212 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, N. C. Carries in stock a beautiful line of framed and unframed Pictures. Picture Frames in stock and made to order. Window Shades in stock and made to order. Orders have prompt attention.

ICE!

Our delivery wagons deliver ice each week-day, morning and evening, to all regular customers who will get tickets and give us their names and places half a day in advance. Wagon drivers will sell ice and tickets for cash at same old low prices. 60 cts. per 100 lbs. down. We should have all orders for special lots before wagons leave factory. Those who may want small lots quickly can send to cellar under our office, 107 Fayetteville street. Ice well packed for shipment by express 50c. per 100 lbs., f. o. b. here. Price very low by car load. Not less than 5 tons can be shipped unpacked.

Jones & Powell.

Raleigh, N. C., April 14, 1899. GUY L. BUNCH, Repair Man. 109 West Martin Street. Bell 'Phone No. 13.

Bobbitt-Wynne "Tar Heel Cholera Specific," Guaranteed to cure Chicken Cholera or money refunded. Drug Company. Prescription Druggists. 'Phone 109.

WANTED.

Ten first-class men to make agency contracts with the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, one of the best old-line companies. Liberal terms to energetic business producers. Age and stability, combined with new policies (life and accident) and modern methods, make this the opportunity of a life-time to the right parties. Address A. E. S. LINDSEY, State Agent, Box 264. Raleigh, N. C.

EASTER LILIES

ROSES, CARNATIONS AND OTHER CHOICE CUT FLOWERS. FLOWERS DESIGNERS TASTEFULLY ARRANGED AT SHORT NOTICE. WEDDING DECORATIONS Palms, Ferns and all other decorative plants for house culture. For ornamental gardening at lowest figure. All sorts of bedding plants: Roses, Geraniums, Heliotropes, Coleus, etc. Chrysanthemums in the best and latest varieties. Vines for lawns and verandas. Tomato plants once transplanted in best sorts. Cabbage, pepper and Pot-grown Egg Plants. Celery at proper season. All mail orders promptly attended to. H. STEINMETZ, FLORIST. Raleigh, N. C. 'Phone 115.

Acme Machine Works.

Expert Engineers and Machinists RALEIGH, N. C. We do all kinds of repair work in first-class manner and on short notice. Plans and estimates furnished on application. Valves, pipes and fittings always on hand.

Seed Irish Potatoes!

In great variety and quantity. The best stock only to select from. My new store is admirably adapted for the grocery business, and my patrons and the public can always find the best and choicest groceries. A cordial welcome awaits all. Prompt and efficient service.

Thos. Pescud

Phone 3. THE GROCER. Southern Railway THE STANDARD RAILWAY OF THE SOUTH. The Direct Line to All Points.

TEXAS, CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA, CUBA and PORTO RICO Travel by the Southern and You are assured a Safe, Comfortable and Expeditious Journey

Strictly FIRST-CLASS Equipment on all Through and Local Trains. Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars on all Night Trains. Unequaled dining car service on all through trains. Fast and Safe Schedules. Apply to ticket agents for time-tables, rates and general information, or address R. L. VERNON, TRAD C. STURGIS, T. P. A., Charlotte, N. C., Raleigh, N. C. NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. FRANK S. GANNON, J. M. CULP, Third V.-P. & Gen. Man. T. A. W. A. TURK, G. P. A., Washington, D. D.

JAPANESE IN HAWAII.

Immigration to the Island Has Increased Very Rapidly in Recent Years. Washington, May 26.—The rapid increase of Japanese immigration into Hawaii has attracted the serious attention of the authorities here of late. The reports received by the immigration authorities are in line with press despatches stating that the influx is steadily increasing. One official report from a United States inspector stationed at Honolulu states that 12,000 Japanese have arrived since the islands were annexed to the United States. He also reports that, in his opinion, the total population of the islands by the end of the present year will exceed the total population of all other nationalities. Another official report comes from an inspector stationed on the Pacific coast, who was sent on a special mission to investigate the causes of this influx. He visited Japan as well as Hawaii. His preliminary report bears out the previous reports as to the extent of this immigration and the menacing results which may arise from it. The inspector at Honolulu states that one of the effects of the heavy increase of Japanese is to bring on race conflicts between the Chinese and Japanese, the former being gradually outnumbered as the dominant Asiatic force in Hawaii. In a recent clash, it is stated by the report, several Chinese were killed and a number wounded. At the Japanese legation an official said: "Japanese labor is almost essential in operating the large plantations in Hawaii, and it is naturally in much demand. But this is a condition inherent to Hawaii, and the Japanese government and Japanese people cannot control it. Our government in no way assists or encourages immigration to Hawaii. There are immigration brokers and companies which carry on a flourishing business, but there have no government status. The only action of the government in the matter is to license the brokers, in order to insure the protection of the immigrants against imposition. Some of the Japanese have urged that the population of Japan was so dense that there ought to be some outlet. But the government has never taken up that idea, and there is no official system of deporting Japanese. "Since the islands were annexed to the United States, Hawaiian affairs affecting Japan come under the legation here. But we have had no recent reports showing an alarming increase in the immigration. An influx of Japanese can have no political significance whatever, and it would amount to nothing if the reports were true that they would outnumber other nationalities. They have no vote, so that their influence is not exerted in shaping the affairs of the islands."

PROVIDE T SAVINGS LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY. (INCORPORATED 1875.) 346 Broadway New York. EDWARD W. SCOTT, President. PROOF OF CONSTANT GROWTH. NO DECREASES. ALL INCREASES. Figures From Official Records Of the Insurance Department.

Table with 5 columns: Year ending Dec. 31, Income, Paid to Policy-holders, Assets, Assurance in force. Data points for years 1878, 1883, 1888, 1893, 1898.

Paid Policy-holders to date - \$15,246,645.41. Death Losses Due and Unpaid - None. Ratio of Assets to Liabilities - 132 1-2 per cent.