

WEIGHING THE MAILS.

Done Every Four Years as a Basis for Railroad Contracts.

The railroads are paid for carrying the mails on the basis of a contract running four years. Once during this period additional men are put on the mail cars, whose duty is to weigh all mail received and delivered at each station.

The figures thus received are assumed to represent an average of the amount of mail carried on that route, and become the basis of the contract. Four years later a new period of weighing is begun, and the contract is revised in accordance with the new figures.

The United States is divided into four contract districts, says System, and the weighing is carried on simultaneously in all parts of a district. The following year some other district is weighed, and thus the circuit of the country is covered in the four year period.

Each district contains several weighing divisions. For example in the district which comprises the North Central States, weighing will be conducted simultaneously in the divisions centering at Chicago, Cleveland and Cincinnati.

It is in the tabulation and compilation of the reports sent in by these official weighers that the system devised by Carle C. Hungerford of the railway mail service is employed.

"The weighing of the mails for the purpose of awarding the contract is not a new departure," said Mr. Hungerford. "That was part of the old system. The mail weighers have cards on which they record the weight of mail taken on at each station on the route, and also the weight put off. Another card records the weight on the return trip between the same points.

"This process of weighing is kept up for ninety days, and the totals must be footed at the end of each week and the end of the whole period. Formerly each day's report was entered by the clerks on a large tabulating sheet three feet long and two feet wide, and figures had to be totalled vertically and horizontally.

"The size of the job can be seen when I tell you that the report of just two trains on a long run for the period of ninety days took up thirteen of these large sheets.

"The work kept twenty-five men busy in the Chicago headquarters during the time of the weighing, and for three months afterward. Then there was liability of error in the footings.

"So we developed the plan of going away with the tabulating sheet altogether. We used the adding machine and made its record strip the permanent record of the weights. Instead of first entering the figures on the large sheet and then transferring them to the machine, one man reads the amounts from the weighing report and another operates the machine.

"The figures for a week are kept together, and totals taken for each town. At the end the totals are taken for the whole route.

"The cipher in the middle of the column marks the dividing line between the columns for mail put off the train and mail taken on. At the end of the weighing period the totals for the various weeks are footed on the machine.

"We can do the work with half the clerks that were formerly needed. It takes three months to finish the reports after weighing closes. Heretofore we had to keep twenty-five men at work tabulating and adding; now half the number can do the work."

OWNERS OF LIBERTY BELL.

It Is Not Public Property but Belongs to Four Sisters.

Contrary to general belief the old Liberty Bell is not the property of the nation or of the city of Philadelphia, but of four sisters who are heirs of John Wilbank, the man who made the new bell shortly after the old one was cracked, and who took the old bell as part payment. According to the Home Magazine, three of the sisters, Mrs. James B. McClosky, Mrs. G. D. Emerson and Mrs. S. B. Coward, live in Philadelphia. The fourth, Mrs. S. W. B. Diehl, lives in Washington, D. C.

By an order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania the Liberty Bell was cast by an English founder in 1751. Soon after arriving in this country the bell broke, but was recast from the same metal in the same form and with the original inscription, "Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land."

The ownership passed from Provincial authorities to the State, but in 1818 it was purchased by the city of Philadelphia, together with the old State House and grounds. During the celebration over the arrival of Lafayette in 1824 the bell was rung so vigorously it became cracked, and a few months later was ordered replaced by a new bell cast by John Wilbank. The later bell is hanging in the steeple of German Town Hall.

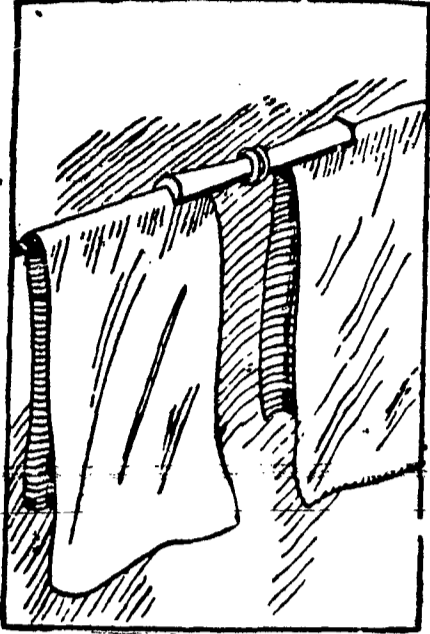
Footpaths of Paestum.

The excavations at Paestum have brought to light a roadway 35 feet wide, flanked by footpaths. The pavement of large stone blocks shows deep rutted wheels. A beautiful Doric temple in Paestum has been discovered by a chance of 1892.

IMPROVED CLOTHESPIN.

Contrivance for Supporting Articles on Clothesline.

Among recent inventions is a device designed to supersede the popular clothes-pin. There is little likelihood that it will ever do so, as the common wooden clothes-pin has proved its usefulness for so long that it defies competition. Nevertheless this device for securing clothes to the line is interesting. It comprises a wooden strip having a longitudinal groove equal in diameter to



GRIPS ARTICLES.

the clothes-line. The center of the strip is slightly narrower than the ends and carries a movable ring. As shown in the illustration the ends of the strip are placed over the ends of the articles to be suspended for drying. The ring is then forced to either end, which causes the groove to tightly grip the line and thus hold the garments in place.

HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS.

To cover the pan in which fish is cooking will make the flesh soft.

Never mix a French dressing until ready to use. The vinegar and oil will separate.

To prevent pastry from burning set a pan of water in the oven when it is baking.

Petroleum ointment stains are very obstinate and the best thing for them is to soak in kerosene.

A sponging with a solution of one part ammonia to ten parts of water is said to brighten the colors of a faded carpet.

The Bright Side.

Much of one's happiness in life depends upon the way one looks at things.

If you are looking for the gloomy things you will be pretty sure to find them.

But if you are looking for the bright things you will also be sure of finding them.

Try and see the best that is in people. Every one has some good qualities if you take the trouble to look for them.

There are some unfortunates who persist in turning their worst side toward the world, and very often the temptation is great to just leave them alone.

But we must not do that for in every one of us here rests a moral obligation to help our fellow beings all we can. In finding good qualities in them we are helping them to raise to a higher plane, both in their own and in the world's estimation. -- Home Chat.

Wedding Superstitions.

There are many superstitions regarding marriage and among the quaintest are the following:

The bride who dreams of fairies on the night before her wedding will be thrice blessed.

The bridegroom who carries a manure horseshoe in his pocket will always be lucky.

The finding of a spider on the wedding gown by a bride is considered a sure token of happiness to come.

Marriages on board ship are considered unlucky. If you can't be married on dry land, remain unwed.

Never give a telegram to a bride or bridegroom on the way to church. It is a sure omen of evil.

If a bride by any chance see a coffin as she starts off on her wedding tour she should order the driver of the carriage to turn back and start over again. She may miss a train by doing so, but if she neglect the precaution she will rue it, for bad luck is certain to follow her.

If during the marriage ceremony the wedding ring should fall down the bride's fate will not be an enviable one.

Does It Really Pay?

Does it pay to darn stockings repeatedly amid a multitude of other tasks in order to save money that it may be spent for a silk petticoat, an extra feather in one's hat, or an expensive dessert for dinner? Does it pay to stand at the ironing board and smooth out ruffles and laces for children to wear once perhaps, when it means a mother so tired out that she cannot repress impatient words later in the day? Does it pay to do without the occasional day's help in the kitchen? No; none of these things ever pays in anything but heartache and tired nerves, in temper and friction. The housewife's best friend is a "sense of proportion."

CANANDAIGUA.

Prayers last Sunday for William Parcell, of Rochester, Mrs. Patrick Toomey, of Farrington.

The latest subscription for the new rectory amounts to \$371.70.

The Sodality is preparing for a social at Atwater Hall, Wednesday evening, September 18.

The young defenders will receive Holy Communion, next Sunday.

St. Mary's school opened Monday with a registration of 326 pupils which beats the record for the opening day.

The seminary collectors this year are Sophia F. Widman, Anna McCormack, Mary Quigley, Mrs. Mary McCarthy, Nellie Buckley, Mrs. Agnes Egari, Katharine Caplice, M. B. Dwyer, Geo. D. McKenna, James Farrell and Elizabeth Mason.

High masses of requiem this week for Mrs. Peter De Ruyter, Tuesday, Mrs. P. M. McPhillips, Wednesday, Mrs. Ann Young, Saturday. The sixth anniversary of Rev. D. English will be observed this morning. Rev. J. H. O'Brien, of St. Augustine's, celebrant.

Samuel C. Johnson and Nora Long were married Monday.

Rev. Daniel Quigley returned to St. Bernard's Seminary, Monday for the final year of preparation for the priesthood. Frank Mason went back to St. Andrews on Monday bringing with him Charles Ward as another young aspirant. John O'Keefe left for Niagara University, Monday. William J. Donovan owing to his father's serious condition, was unable to return for this year's work.

Honeoye, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. John Logan formerly of Honeoye, have been visiting relatives in town.

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Sweeney entertained friends from Rochester on Sunday.

Mrs. James Kane of New Jersey, is a guest of her sister and father.

Joseph Erdle and Wm. Erdle of Rochester, attended mass at St. Mary's Church on Sunday.

Lewis Erdle has gone to Rochester to attend school at St. Bridget's.

Lawrence Kelley, who is very ill at the Hospital at Canandaigua, was prayed for on Sunday.

Mass will be offered for Patrick Costello on Thursday and Lawrence Kelley on Saturday.

There will be 9 o'clock mass at Honeoye next Sunday.

Timothy Sullivan and Mrs. Wm. Powers is still very ill.

Wm. Powers of East Bloomfield, visited his mother and brother on Sunday.

The High School will begin September 16 at Honeoye.

Lima, N. Y.

The annual Sunday School picnic was held on the church lawn Saturday, September 7.

School opened Monday with a large number in attendance.

Thomas Noonan and Wm. McCaskey returned from a trip to Toronto, Can.

George Cummings is seriously ill of typhoid fever.

AUBURN, N. Y.

The parochial schools of the city reopened for the fall term on Monday morning. The children assembled at the churches and attended mass after which the march to the schools was made. The schools were repaired and repaired and presents a fine appearance.

The funeral of George I. Browne was held from his late home in Holy Street on Tuesday morning.

The military honors of the G. A. R. were held and a firing squad from the Second Separate Company went to the cemetery where the salute was fired after taps were sounded. The funeral was held from the Holy Family Church and was largely attended by friends and relatives of the deceased. The floral tributes were many and of costly designs.

The Holy Name Society of St. Mary's Church attended Holy Communion in a body last Sunday.

The choir of the St. Aloysius Church has resumed its work for the winter months and has been reorganized by the choirmaster, Frank Brannick. This choir is one of the best in the city and it is due to Mr. Brannick's untiring efforts in this choir that the church is given such good music.

Auburn Council, Knights of Columbus, are preparing a large class for the first degree of the order. The second degree will be conferred shortly after the first and then the big third degree of the Council will be given. It is expected that over 100 members will take the third degree.

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