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POSTAL TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

Postal telegraphy is a subject which has been much mooted in this country, during the past year or two, and efforts have been made in Congress to induce the government to follow the example of the British, and some of the governments of continental Europe, to purchase and place under its own control, the electric telegraphs of the country, from the private companies by which they are now owned and controlled.

According to statistics the postal telegraph system has been successful on the continent of Europe, and it was expected that similar results would follow in Great Britain; but according to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the expectations of the British government will fall short of realization, for the scheme, financially, is said to be anything but a success. The above journal shows in a recent article that the business of telegraphing has declined since the Postal Department has assumed its management, and so far from realizing the profit of \$600,000 from the service, predicted by Mr. Lowe, the government will be fortunate if the receipts pay the expenses, and hence it is concluded that the postal telegraph system is a failure in Britain.

This statement of the *Gazette* it is expected will strengthen the opposition to the inauguration of the postal telegraph scheme in this country. Such a conclusion is somewhat premature, for, while the bungling, mismanagement, delay, and inconvenience to the mercantile and general business interests of England for several months after the transfer of the British telegraphs to the Government in January last, it is no wonder that the business fell off largely, and that the returns thus far are unsatisfactory; it may be expected, however, that as the new state of things gets into good working order, and dispatches of all kinds are sent with promptness and care, and there is nothing to hinder it being so when under government, more than when under the control of private companies, that the business will revive, and that if the returns are not quite so large, the institution may become one of greater general convenience, and be as completely successful in England as on the Continent.

In this country, however, where the lines are of such enormous length, often passing through extensive districts of country sparsely settled, there is far greater probability of neglect, if under the control and management of Government officers and employees, than on the smaller lines and in the smaller countries of Europe. And with the disposition now being generally manifested by telegraph companies to accede to the demands of the public, in the reduction of their tariffs, there is smaller chance for the adoption and success of the postal telegraph system here than on the other side of the Atlantic.

WITHIN the memory of many now living the payment of postage on a letter was quite a serious item in the expenses of life, at least among the laboring or poor classes. The postal reform system, instituted by the late Mr. Rowland Hill, of Birmingham, England, has wrought great changes and improvements, and has been adopted by most if not all civilized countries on each hemisphere. The work still continues in England, and by a legal enactment, which went into operation on the first ult., the benefits of cheap postage have been still further extended to the people of that country. The new law is the actual inauguration of halfpenny postage, and provides that post cards, furnished by the government, with a halfpenny stamp affixed, may be used for the sending of written or printed information by post within the United

Kingdom, such cards to have on the front or stamped side the address only of the person to whom they are sent, and on the other side the sender may write or print any communication he wishes to send, and is not averse to the postman reading if he is of an investigating turn of mind.

Books may now be sent between any two points within the United Kingdom at the rate of a halfpenny for every two ounces; and any newspapers, weighing not more than six ounces, can be similarly sent by affixing a halfpenny stamp, or enclosing in a stamped wrapper of the same value.

We expect to see, before the expiration of another decade, the rate of postage in this country considerably reduced. It is already felt to be a public necessity, but the enormous distance which mail matter has to be transported and the yet comparatively sparse settlement of the vast regions of the West, render such reduction impracticable at present.

The further development of and increase of population in the West, will largely increase postal communication between all points east and west of the Missouri river, and will ultimately produce the desired reduction and reform.

MR. ALF. BURNETT, the famous caricaturist, who appeared before and created a very favorable impression upon the public of Salt Lake City a few months since, is creating a sensation in the East, by his imitation of Miss Olive Logan, a lecturer of the strong minded community. A writer in the *Woman's Journal*, thus describes the gentleman's performance:

To imitate "Our Olive," perfectly, Mr. Burnett pitched his voice to E and his gestures were vehement as a termagant's; his face was forbidding; he emphasized with his right foot, and glided from fierce denunciation to tearful appeal, with all the naturalness and ease of "capricious woman." His logic was weak and unconnected, "like hers," you know; his assertions were extravagant and contradictory, for "women run wild when talking," he rushed from Congress to the Garden of Eden, and back again to the colored people, freed before woman; then, with one fearful leap, cleared the centuries, and sat down beside St. Paul, and the dialogue between the two was a marvel of pertinence and power. Then, as if tired of playing a role nature never designed "lovely woman" to play, he settled down into her normal state, and talked of "him" who was "so sweet," and who wore such a "dear moustache" and "darling neck-tie"—"who had asked mamma to let him put on her third finger a 'perfect love of a diamond.'" This last retrospective, like rheumatism, drew his head on one side, and caused him to limp off the stage, as you can imagine vain sixteen might do, tripped out for the first time in the paraphernalia of a young lady. The applause of the audience was almost deafening; he had offered nothing before so satisfying and delightful, and one bit of "pink and white tyranny" assured her devoted, that it "almost kill'd her, it was so natural!"

A VERY singular fish, or denizen of the watery element, not exactly a fish, was recently caught in Denver. A late number of the *Kansas State Record*, giving a description of it says:

"Mr. J. F. Newell, who is at present stopping with Judge Holmes, brought with him from Denver a fish which an Irishman would call a 'rare bird.' It is about six inches long, and has a wide head like a cat-fish, but the body is more like that of a lizard. It has fins and a tail like a fish, and in addition short legs and claws. When taken out of the water it can crawl along on the ground. It was taken from a fountain in Denver, but how it got there is a mystery, as the pipes leading into the fountain are not large enough to admit it. It is probably a fish constructed expressly for 'droughty' countries and so constituted, that when 'leaf by leaf the roses fall, and drop by drop the springs run dry,' it can fold up its fins, curl its tail over its back, a la yellow-dog, and wait for a 'rise' in the river."

The following circumstance, printed by the *Cross Gazette*, published in Berlin, illustrates the terror with which the French country people regard the German soldiery:

"The village of Chezy, near Chateau Thierry, was almost depopulated, but one of the remaining inhabitants appeared so extremely polite, while protesting that his house contained nothing to eat or drink, that a search was ordered. On a newly erected partition wall being pulled down, frightful shrieks were heard, and the proprietor, trembling with fear, begged the officer for mercy, not for himself, but for his 'pauvres filles,' (poor daughters.) He had walled up his two pretty daughters, together with plentiful stores of wine, hams, sausages and preserved fruit. The soldiers burst into a hearty laugh, while the officer bowed, and begged permission to lead the young ladies out of the cell into the daylight. 'Take everything,'

stammered the old man, 'only spare my daughters.' The Lieutenant, with some difficulty, assuaged the father's fears and the daughters' apprehensions. The requisition of meat and drink was carried out in a more respectful manner than it might otherwise have been, of which the father was so sensible that he voluntarily brought twelve bottles of champagne from a hiding-place."

STOCK, BEES, &c.

AN interesting meeting of the Deseret Parent Society for the cultivation and improvement of stock, bees, fish, &c., was held last evening at the Historian's Office. The Committee, appointed at the previous meeting to draft a Constitution and By-Laws for the Society, made a report, and, after a few emendations, the Preamble and By-Laws they had prepared were accepted. Six committees, each composed of five members, were selected to take under their supervision the various Branches for the fostering and promotion of which the Society had been organized. The names of the gentlemen elected to act on these committees are as follows:

HORSES.

H. J. Faust, Peter Nebeker, Heber P. Kimball, Joseph A. Young and Wm. Thorne.

HORNED CATTLE.

Briant Stringam, Wm. C. Rydall, John Pack, sen., Wm. Jennings and Lorenzo D. Young.

SHEEP.

Chas. Crismon, sen., Christopher Layton, Joseph Harker, J. H. Picknell and Thos. King.

BEES.

S. H. Putnam, Moses Taurston, Phileas H. Young, B. H. Young and Wm. D. Roberts.

FISH.

A. Milton Musser, A. P. Rockwood, Robert T. Burton, Brower Pettit and Reuben Miller.

SWINE AND FOWLS.

Paul A. Schettler, Geo. Naylor, Chas. R. Savage, G. Hoggan and Wm. D. Roberts.

Several of the gentlemen whose names are above were not present at the meeting last evening, and it may be that one or two of them have not, as yet, become members of the Society. But they were selected because of their known familiarity with the business which has been assigned to the committees of which they are chosen members, and with the design of making the committees as influential as possible by the weight of their names. Should they not wish to serve in this capacity, or are precluded by circumstances from bestowing the attention which is required to the business, they will oblige the Society by informing the Secretary, A. M. Musser, or the President, Wilford Woodruff, to that effect. It was suggested last evening that the chairman of each committee be requested through the columns of the newspapers, to see each member of his committee and learn from him whether he would serve or not. This, it was thought, would be the quickest method of bringing the committees into working condition, and of learning whether there were any who did not wish to act in connection with them.

William D. Roberts was chosen delegate of the society to represent it at the approaching Bee Convention, which is to be held at Indianapolis, Ia.

A. Milton Musser was appointed to organize Fish Committees in the various counties.

The names of those wishing to send for stands of bees were taken. It is desirable that subscribers for one hundred should be obtained, as the Agent, Wm. D. Roberts, can deliver that number at \$20 per hive; but a smaller number would cost \$25 each. The superiority of the Italian over the common Bee was dwelt upon, and it was judged best to send for the Italian variety only. We have but comparatively few hives of bees of any kind in the Territory at present, and now is the time, if we wish to have Italians only, to effect the change. If the Italian is as good as reported, it would be a most desirable consummation to have no other kind within our borders. Once have them introduced, and there would be but little trouble in keeping the stock pure. Every bee-master will soon find it to his interest, if Italian bees become common, to change his Black Bees into that variety; for they are great workers, and do not scruple to rob other hives to enrich their own. They can do so with impunity, as they appear to go in and out of the hives of the Black Bees without the least interruption.

This Parent Society has a large and important field of labor before it—a field, too, that is constantly widening. That such an organization is necessary no friend of progress will question. Though other cares and labors may be pressing and numerous, it should not fall into neglect. If those who are connected with the Society and who have been selected to act upon its various committees, will only give the business a little but constant attention, an immense amount of good will be done to the people at large, and the Territory be enriched to a wonderful extent.

Preamble and By-laws of the Deseret Parent Society, for the introduction and improvement of Stock, Bees, Fish, &c.

Whereas, the interests of the community require the fostering care of its members in the importation and development of stock, the culture of bees, fish, &c., which are important adjuncts to an agricultural people who are desirous of becoming self-sustaining,

Therefore, be it resolved, that to accomplish so desirable an object, we unite in forming an association, to be known as the "Deseret Parent Society, for the introduction and improvement of Stock, Bees, Fish, &c."

1. The officers of the society shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, and such other officers as it may be requisite to elect or appoint.

2. The President shall have power to call meetings, from time to time, as the interests of the society may demand; and in the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside, and perform all other duties of the President.

3. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Society, and attend to its correspondence.

4. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all money and property belonging to the Society and make reports of his proceedings to the Society, whenever required.

5. The general management of the Society shall be under the direction of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall constitute the Board of Directors.

6. The officers shall hold office for the term of one year, and until their successors are elected and assume the duty of their respective offices.

7. In case of any vacancy, occasioned by death, sickness, absence or otherwise, the Board shall have power to fill said vacancies subject to the action of the first subsequent meeting of the Society.

8. Whenever it shall be deemed necessary to send Delegates to represent the society abroad, or agents to transact business, and it is not convenient to call a meeting for that purpose, then the Board shall have the authority to empower such Delegates or agents, and to give them the necessary instructions.

9. Any person may be admitted as a member of the Society, by paying one dollar as initiation fee.

10. At the suggestion of the Board, the foregoing by-laws may be altered, amended or repealed at any meeting of the Society, by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

WIRE FENCES. — The following will doubtless prove valuable to many of our subscribers:

Editor *Deseret News*:—I beg to hand you the following process of making wire fence, taken from an Eastern paper:

"Red cedar posts were set 8 feet apart. Holes were bored through the posts 6, 8, and 12 inches apart. The lower wire one foot from the ground, the next two feet six inches apart, another eight inches above and one twelve inches above that. The ends of the posts were large and firmly set. One end of each wire was put through the hole in the post at one end, wound around the post once and twisted to fasten it. Then the wire was passed through each post to the other end post, where it was wound twice or thrice around a horizontal capstan, consisting of a round block of hard wood three inches in diameter, through each end of which was inserted a short lever with which to turn it. This capstan was laid against the side of the end post under the wire which is wound two or three times about it to get purchase.

One man takes hold of the wire and another of the lever of the capstan, and the entire line is thus tightened till perfectly taut. Pine or Cedar half inch plugs, soaked in oil, were then driven into the holes beside and above the wire on each side of each post, thus dividing the strain among the posts, and protecting the wires from water. After these plugs were driven, the wire was taken from the capstan, and wound about and fastened to the end post. The wires were then painted and were warranted to last 20 years without repair. No. 9 wire was used.

Respectfully,

A. MILTON MUSSER.

Why is a played out man like an umbrella? Because he's used up.