transportation of packages by mail, but I do not urge it until greater and more needed improvements in the service are made. One cent postage, too, is not immediately to be undertaken, but it can be made possible by the 1st of January, 1893, if desirable, before the service is further perfected. It will come easier if we let the reduction of the foreign rate wait a while; if we simplify our inland postage rates, so that all postages may be rightly collected; if we consolidate the third and fourth class matter, and if we secure credit for government mails and other losing business, which the department under the present law is obliged to do."

FREE TRANSPORT OF NEWSPAPERS.

The postmaster-general further shows how newspapers may be transported free from July, 1893, saying in part: "If books alleged to be periodicals were properly classified, and sample copies of newspapers, correct to a reasonable number, were classified as any other merchandise, the increased revenue would more than equal the total amount now collected from publishers for the postage of newspapers. In other words, the department would suffer no loss by carrying newspapers to actual subscribers free if it received just pay for the periodicals and sample copies."

Mr. Wanamaker devotes much space to the complaints of fourth-class postmasters, and refers to the agitation amongst them as due to the "thrifty interest of an attorney or an editor of a postal journal." Until the importance of the fourth-class postmaster is raised and additional work or direction or responsibility entitles him on business principles to larger pay, any "movement" to relieve him can only fail. Mr. Wanamaker says that the fourth-class postmaster is deserving of better consideration than he receives, and the department is striving to help him. The postmaster-general would give him a chance for increased compensation by extending to him the management of the rural free delivery, and more generally the extension of the telegraph and telephone service into the country and the transfer of postal deposits.

Rain and Snow.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 3.—Heavy rains with some snow are reported from all over the Northwest. Devils Lake, N. D., reports a blizzard, with drifts fifteen feet high and the thermometer at zero. Heavy snow is reported from other parts of North Dakota, but there has been no delay to trains. In Minnesota hard and general rains are reported, although nine and one-half inches of snow fell at Hallock, and a heavy snowfall is reported elsewhere. At Winnipeg a heavy snowstorm has greatly crippled the train service.

Another Train Robbery.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 3.—An express train on the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia road was stopped last night near Rome by the waving of a lantern. Two masked men got on, entered the express car and robbed the safe. It is said that their booty will not exceed $1000.

A Rock Salt Combination.

CHICAGO, Dec. 3.—Representatives of five rock salt mining concerns, with mines in Kansas, have formed a combination to control the market. The daily output of the mines is 7000 tons. The combine will have a stock of one million dollars, and will have headquarters in this city. It is asserted that for the past six months the business has been done at a loss, due to the depreciation in prices caused by competition.

Explosion on an Underground Railway.

GLASGOW, Dec. 3.—There was an explosion of gas in the new underground railway beneath Anderson Cross in this city today. The force of the explosion was so great that the street was blown up, compelling a suspension of traffic. Six persons were injured.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The United States steamer "Boston" arrived at Montevideo yesterday.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The postoffice at Oakdale, California, has been raised to the presidential class, January 1, 1892.

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 3.—Hon. Wiley P. Harris, one of the most distinguished citizens of Mississippi, died tonight, aged 70. He was a member of Congress in the fifties.

Columbus, Dec. 3.—Governor Campbell, who returned from Chicago yesterday suffering from a severe attack of grippe, is still under the care of a physician but is reported slightly improved today.

Kansas City, Dec. 3.—General Manager Easling of the Milwaukee road said today that it had been decided in Chicago to declare the Alton boycott off, and that the announcement would be made publicly today or tomorrow.

Houston, Tex., Dec. 3.—No agreement has yet been reached between the Southern Pacific and its transcon, but Chief Conductor Clark says that the prospect is good for an amicable adjustment.

Lamar, Mo., Dec. 3.—The private bank of W. N. Wells has assigned for the benefit of its creditors. The liabilities are placed at $50,000; the assets, consisting chiefly of real estate, being placed at $60,000.

London, Dec. 3.—The Agricultural colliery, near Merthyr, became filled with choke damp today. The men, becoming aware of the presence of the deadly gas, made a rush for the entrance, but six were overpowered, four being suffocated to death, and two are lying in a critical condition.

Rome, Dec. 3.—The French embassador here has made overtures to Premier Rudini for Italian intervention in China. The Premier declines to act until he receives an official report from the Italian minister at Pekin.

Berlin, Dec. 3.—Five workmen were killed and a number injured, six it is thought fatally, by the explosion of eight kilos in a briquette factory near Halle today.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 3.—A census of the vessels comprising the Russian navy shows that the naval fleet of the Czar consist of 192 vessels of all kinds.

London, Dec. 3.—A dispatch from Sunderland states that fire in a drinking-shop there today burned three women to death.

Vienna, Dec. 3.—A formal announcement will be made tomorrow of the removal of the prohibition from American pork.

Rome, Dec. 3.—Signor Codorna, president of the senate, is dead.

For generations the Cherokees have occupied their lands in common in the Indian Territory, each family taking possession of and retaining for its own use as much ground as was needed for stock, tillage or business. This is the ideal state of the second of economists headed by Henry George, and it is interesting to know that under this system the Cherokees have become the wealthiest individuals per head in North America. Many attempts have been made to induce them to divide their lands in severalty and become actual owners of the land individually, like the white farmer. Such attempts have always been unsuccessful, but now members of Cherokees have filed a petition in equity asking that 14,000,000 acres of their lands be divided into separate farms and assigned to individual ownership. Undoubtedly their petition will be granted. There will then in the next few years be opportunity to see which system is best for Cherokee Indians, at any rate.

The ammonia motor has not achieved great progress, though experiments are still making. The inventor produces what he calls a "motive vapor" by adding fifteen parts ammonia to eighty-six parts water. The volatile nature of the ammonia causes a vapor to be formed so readily that the process of converting the solution into steam is rapid and easy, and the inventor claims that only half as much fuel is required to make steam from this mixture as to make it from water alone. The claim is also made that the ammonia mixture is nonexplosive and leaves no deposit on boilers. It is to be hoped by all means that all this may prove true, for the invention would be valuable for ocean steamers. Not only would they require less storage room for fuel, but they could run at their highest speed at much less expense, and the four day ship would soon be with us with lower passenger rates than at present.

Hunting the Hunters.

Sport in Algeria is of an exciting nature, because there is a possibility that a lion may walk out of a thicket and make for you, and in that case a shotgun loaded with quail shot is not the best possible weapon. Failing this the inhabitants may scour out against you with sticks and stones, and endeavor to take away your gun to put in the village armory. An experience of this sort happened to three young men near Oran.

They were out shooting when they were surrounded by thirty Arabs, who asked them to give up their arms and ammunition. They refused, and the Arabs thereupon began to pelt them with stones, wounding one of them badly. The sportsmen thereupon fired a volley, killing one man and wounding several others, and on seeing their comrades fall the other Arabs took to flight.—Indigenous Messenger.

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