CHAPTER X.

At one o'clock in the afternoon the King. train stopped at Mery station, over five hundred miles from Unan Adn. We have company with Major Noltitz I "do" the On our return to the station Popof runs up to me, saying:

'I know the name." "And it is?"

"Yen Lou, the great mandarin Yen Lou of Pekin." "Thank you, Popof." I rush to the telegraph office, and from

there I send a telegram to the Twentieth Century.
"Merv, 16th May, 7 p. in. "Train, Grand Transasiatic, just leaving Merv. Took from Douchak the body

of the great mandarin Yen Lou coming from Persia to Pekin. It cost a good deal, did this telegram, but you will admit it was well worth its price. The name of Yen Lou was immediately communicated to our fellow trav-

Faruskiar smiled when he heard it. We left the station at eight o'clock precisely. Forty minutes afterward we passed near old Merv, and the night be-

elers, and it seemed to me that my lord

ing dark. I could see nothing of it. Our train is running northeast. The stations are twenty or thirty miles apart. We cross the desert, the real desert, without a thread of water, where artesian wells have to be sunk to supply the reservoirs along the line. Gradually my companions go to sleep, and our carriage is transformed into a sleeping car.

The train enters Tchardjoui Station to the minute. Our stop here ought to last a quarter of an hour. A few travelers alight, for they have booked to this town. which contains about thirty thousand inhabitants. Others get in to proceed to Bokhara and Samarkand, but these are only second-class passengers. This produces a certain amount of bustle on the train started off again at 8 o'clock. platform.

I also get out and take a walk up and down by the side of the front van. and I notice the door silently open and shut. A man creeps out on to the platform and slips away through the station. which is dimly lighted by a few petrofeum lamps.

It is my Roumanian. It can be no one else. He has not been seen, and there he is, lost among the other travelers. Why this escape? Is it to renew his provisions at the refreshment bar? case. On the contrary, is it not his intention, as I am afraid it is, to get away from

Shall I stop him? I will make myself known to him; promise to help him. Behold me then following him without ap-

gate to escape me? an imprisonment which has lasted since less asleep. I will give two little knocks on the panel; I will awake him, and we hours-he has earned ten minutes of freedom.

He is a man of middle height, lithe in case. He wears an old vest, his trous- of the stations without my seeing him? ers are held up by a belt and his cap is a fur one-all of dark color.

I am at ease regarding his intentions. He returns toward the van, mounts the hind him. As soon as the train is on the move I will knock at the panel, and this

More of the unexpected. Instead of waiting at Tchardjoul one quarter of an hour, we have to wait three. A slight injury to one of the brakes of the engine has had to be repaired, and, notwithstanding the German baron's remonstrances, we do not leave the station before half past three, as the day is beginning to dawn.

At 5 o'clock in the morning the train stops at the capital of the Khanate of Bokhara, 1,107 miles from Ubun Ada. Bokhara, the capital of Khanate, is the Rome of Islam, the Noble City, the City of Temples, the revered center of the Mohammedan religion.

Major Noltitz advised me to visit the town in which he had lived several times. He could not accompany me, hav-We were to ing several visits to pay. start again at 11 o'clock in the morning. Five hours only to walt, and the town some distance from the rallway station. In four hours I have seen most of the notable things in Bokhara, and at 10:30 I alighted at the railway station. I see at a glance that all my numbers are on the platform, including my German baron. In the rear of the train the Persians are keeping faithful guard around the mandarin Yen Lou. It seems that three of our traveling companions are observing them with persistent currosity; these are the suspicious looking Mongols we picked up at Douchak. As I pass near them I fancy that Faruskiar makes a signal to them, which I do not understand. Does he know them? Anyhow, this circumstance rather puzzles

The train is no sooner off than the passengers go to the dining car. The places next to mine and the major's, which had been occupied since the start, are now vacant, and the young Chinaman, followed by Dr. Tio-King, take advantage of it to come near us. Pan-Chao knows I am on the staff of the Twentieth Century, and he is apparently as desirous of talking to me as I am of talking to him.

I am not mistaken. He is a true Parisian of the Boulevard, in the clothes of a Celestial. He has spent three years in the world where people amuse themselves, and also in the world where they learn. The only son of a rich merchant in Pekin, he has traveled under the wing of this Tio-King, a doctor of some sort, who is really the most stupid of baboons, and of whom his pupil makes a good deal of fun.

The breakfast continued pleasantly. Conversation turned on the work of the Russians in Asia. Pan Chao seemed to me well posted up in their progress.

I need not say that during this talk the Baron Weissschnitzerdorfer was fully the extreme amazement of Doctor Tio-

For the same reason, I suppose, neither Faruskiar nor Changir took part in seven hours to stop at Merv, and in it, for they only exchanged a few words in Chinese.

But I noticed rather a strange circumstance which did not escape the major. We were talking about the safety of the Grand Transasiatic across Central Asia, and Pan Chao had said that the road was not so safe as it might be beyond the Turkestan frontier, as, in fact, Major, Noltitz had told me. I was then led to ask if he had ever heard of the famous Ki-Tsang before his departure from Europe.

"Often," he said, "for Ki-Tsang was then in the Yunnan provinces. I hope we shall not meet him on our road." When he uttered the name of Ki-Tsang Faruskiar knit his brows and his eyes flashed. Then, with a look at his sompanion, he resumed his habitual indifference to all that was being said around him.

CHAPTER XI.

The train is running at high speed. In the ordinary service, when it stops at the eleven stations between Bokhara and Samarkand, it takes a whole day over the distance. This time it took but three hours to cover the two hundred kilometers which separate the two towns, and at 2 o'clock in the afternoon it entered the illustrious city of Tamerlane. Samarkand is situated in the rich oasis

watered by the Zarafchane in the valley of Sogd. A small pamphlet I bought at the railway station informs me that this great city is one of the four sites in which geographers "agree" to place the terrestrial paradise. I leave this discussion to the exegetists of the profession. After a stop of six hours our

During dinner I noticed that Major Noltitz continued to keep his eye on his lordship Faruskair. Had he begun to suspect him? Was it of any importance in his opinion that this Mongol seemed to know, without appearing to do so, the three second-class travelers, who were also Mongols? Was his imagination working with the same activity as mine? And was he taking seriously what was only a joke on my part?

As for me, I had soon forgotten all about the Mongol for the man in the If I get a chance to visit him to-night I will.

It was about half past eleven when I decided to open the door of the van, which I shut behind me.

I knew that the young Roumanian was not always shut up in his box, and the pearing to do so. Amid all this hurrying fancy might just have taken him to to and fro he is in little danger of being stretch his limbs by walking from one noticed. Neither Popof nor any of the end to the other of the van. The darkcompany's servants would suspect him to ness is complete. No jet of light filters be a swindler. Is he going toward the through the holes of the case. That seems all the better for me. It is as well that No! He only wants to stretch his legs my No. 11 should not be surprised by better than he can do in the van. After too sudden an apparition. He is doubt-

will explain matters before he can move. I feel as I go. My hand touches the case; I place my ear against the panel his movements, and with a gliding kind and I listen. There is 1 st a stir, not a of walk. He could roll himself up like breath! Is my man no, here? Has he a cat and find quite room enough in his got away? Has he s'pped out at one

I am just going to knock, when the locomotive's whistle emits its strident crow as we pass through a station. But the train is not going to stop, I know, platform and shuts the door gently be- and I wait until the whistling has ceased.

I then give a gentle knock on the panel. There is no reply. I knock more loudly. This time it is followed by an invol-

untary movement of surprise and fright. "Open, open!" I say in Russian. "It is a friend who speaks. You have nothing to fear!"

If the panel is not lowered as I had gar.' hoped, there is the crack of a match being lighted and a feeble light appears in the case.

I look at the prisoner through the holes in the side. There is a look of alarm on his face; his eyes are haggard. He does not know whether he is asieep or awake. "Open, my friend, I say; open and

have confidence. I have discovered your secret. I shall say nothing about it. On the other hand, I may be of use to you. You are a Roumanian, I think, and I am a Frenchman,

"Frenchman? You are a Frenchman?" And this reply was given in my own language, with a foreign accent. One more bond between us. The panel slips along its groove, and by the light of a little lamp I can examine my No. 11. "No one can see us nor hear us?" he

asked in a half-stifled voice.

"No one." "The guard?"

"Asleep." My new friend takes my hands; he clasps them. I feel that he seeks a support. He understands he can depend on me, and he murmurs: "Do not betray me-do not betray

me. "Betray you, my boy? Can you be

pleve that I, a Journalist-"You are a journalist?" "Claudius Bombarnac, special correspondent of the Twentleth Century.'

'And you are going to Pekin?" "Through to Pekin." "Ah! Monsieur Bombarnac, Providence

has sent you on to my road." "Anything I can do for you I will. What is your name?" "Kinko."

You are a Roumanian, are you not?" "Roumanian, of Bucharest." "But you have lived in France?" "Four years in Paris, where I was

apprentice to an upholsterer in the Fauourg Saint Antoine." "And you went back to Bucharest?" "Yes, to work at my trade there until the day came when it was impossible

for me to resist the desire to leave-"To leave? Why?" "To marry!" "To marry Mademoiselle Zinca Klork.

Avenue Chn-Coua, Pekin, China." "You know?" "Certainly. The address is on the box.'

"She is a young Roumanian. I knew occupied in clearing dish after dish, to her in Paris, where she was learning the trade of a milliner. Oh! charm-

"I am sure of it. You need not dwell on that.'

"She also returned to Bucharest, until she was invited to take the management of a dressmaker's at I'ekin. We loved, monsiour; she went-and we were separated for a year. Three weeks ago she wrote to me. She was getting on over there. If I could go out to her I would do well. We should get married without delays She had seved something. 1 would soon earn as much as she had. And here I am on the road, in my turn for China.

"In this box?" "What would you have, Monsieur Bombarnac?" asked Kinko, reddening. 'I had only money enough to buy a packing case, a few provisions, and get myself sent off by an obliging friend. It costs a thousand francs to go from Tiflis to Pekin. But as soon as I have rights should be 2-luch by 4-luch plue, gained them, the company will be repaid. I assure you.

"You may rest assured I will neglect nothing which will enable you to arrive dry and in one piece at Mademoiselle Zinca Klork's-in short, in a perfect state of preservation." "I thank you," said Kinko, pressing his hands. "Believe me, you will not

find me ungrateful" "Ah, friend Kinko, I shall be paid, and more than paid."

"And how?" Think now-what a heading for a col-

"A LOVER IN A BOX! ZINCA AND KINKO!! LEAGUES THROUGH CEN-TRAL ASIA IN A LUG-GAGE VAN::"

The young Roumanian could not help

Then I went to the door of the van to see that we were in no danger of a surprise, and then the conversation was resumed. Naturally, Kinko asked me how I had discovered his secret. I told him all that had passed on the stenmer during his voyage across the Caspian.

"But," said he to me, lowering his roice, "two nights ago I thought all was The van was closed. I had just lighted my little lamp, and had begun my supper, when a knock came against the panel-

"I did that, Kinko, I did that. And that night we should have become acquainted if the train had not run into a dromedary."

"It was you! I breathe again!" said in Breeder's Gazette: Kinko. "In what dreams I have lived! It was known that some one was hidden handed over to the police, taken to prison at Merv or Bokhara, and my little Zinca waiting for me in vain; and never should I see her again, unless I rewould have resumed-yes. I would."

improved now we have made friends."

I then asked Kinko to show me how ed cows. few provisions, and table utensils, reduced to a simple pocket knife and metal mug; an overcoat and a rug hung from a nail, and the little lamp he used at polled crosses are not as sure dehornwalls.

if the case had been placed among other known by his works. packages, if the porcers had not deposited it with the precautions due to its fragility, he would not have been able to end of the journey. Fortunately, there is a special Providence for lovers. He told me that every night be had taken stopped.

"I do not believe I am in danger of being discovered," he said, "unless at turn up the roots of weeds to the sun. the Chinese frontier-or rather at Kach-

"And why?" "The custom house is very keen on goods going into China. I am afraid they will come round the packages."

"I shall be there, and I will do all I can to prevent anything unpleasant bappening.

"Ah, Monsieur Bombarnac!" exclaimed Kinko, in a burst of gratitude, "how can I repay you?" "Ask me to your marriage with the

ovely Zinca." "I will. And Zinca will embrace you." "She will be only doing her duty, friend Kinko, and I shall be only doing

mine in returning two kisses for one. We exchanged a last grip of the hand; and, really. I think there were tears in the good fellow's eyes when I left him. He put out his lamp, he pushed back the panel, then through the case I the cream. In such cases the first heard one more "thanks" and an "au thing to do is to thoroughly disinfect revoir."

loor, assured myself that Popof was walls and ceiling. Then turn attenstill asleep. In a few minutes, after a breath or two of the night air, I go in to my place near Major Noltitz.

(To be continued.)

Jersey Fossil. muter, "I dug up in my garden. It's give. If these remedies abate the trouall of four feet long. Remarkable, ble, as they probably will, then reisn't it?"

prehistoric mosquito."-Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Appropriate. Rodrick-Now they are thinking about bringing out the life of Ralsult. Van Albert-Well, it would be rather expensive.

Rodrick-How so? Van Albert-It would have to be bound in Morocco.

Sorry He Spoke,

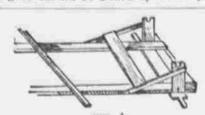
Reggy-Bah Jove, there are a lot of people who sing songs these days and don't even mean what they sing. Miss Rose-You are right, Reggy. Last night you sung "Good-by, My Lady Love" at 10 o'clock, and didn't

Simmons.

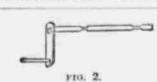
leave until 12. Industrious wisdom often prevents what lazy folly thinks inevitable .-



For Taking Up Barb Wire. Take a pair of cultivator wheels, make an axle to fit, out of 2x4 oak, 30 inches long. Side pieces should be 11/2 inches by 2 inches, 4 feet long, of hard wood. Bolt to axle securely. The up-



Fra. 1 securely bolted to side pieces, and high enough to reach above wheels. The "By relating, as soon as I can do so cross tar may be 142 inches square, without danger to you, the particulars ends round for handles. The whole of your journey from Tillis to Pekin. (see Fig. 1) should be well braced, as it (see Fig. 1) should be well braced, as it must be strong. For windlass axie (Fig. 2), take oak, 11g inches square, 26 inches long, fit crank on one end; for reel, take barb-wire reel, cut hole through it square to fit axle. To take up wire, fasten end to reel, take cross bar in left hand, turn crank with right.



The cart is propelled by winding wire on reel; when one reel is full, slip off and put on another.-Sylvanus Scott.

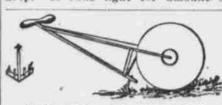
Breeding Polled Caives. Answering the query, "Are double standard Polled Durham bulls as sure to get polled calves from horned cows as are Angus bulls?" F. S. Hines says

Without knowledge as to the percentage of polled calves got by Angus in this box. I saw myself discovered, bulls used on horned cows it would naturally seem that the Angus bulls would be the surer dehorners, as they have been bred hornless for many gensumed the journey on foot. Well, I erations, while Polled Durhams are not many removes from horns. How-"Brave Kinko!" I answered. "I am ever, there are many Polled Durham awfully sorry to have caused you such bulls that have made excellent records apprehensions. Now you are at ease as dehorners, some having as high as again, and I fancy your chances have 90 per cent of polled calves from horn-

he managed in his box. Nothing could If your correspondent wishes to be simpler or better arranged. At the breed polled calves his best course bottom was a seat on which he sat, with would be to buy an aged Polled Durthe necessary space for him to stretch ham bull with a good record as a dehis legs when he placed them obliquely; horner. There is a great deal of the under the seat, shut in by a lid, were a lottery about this "breeding off the night time was hooked on to one of the ers as those with only one cross of polled blood. Therefore I should ad-The sliding panel allowed the prisoner vise your correspondent not to try a to leave his prison occasionally. But young bull, but to get one that is

Hand Cultivator.

Take a board 20 inches wide and work the panel, and would have had long, and cut a wheel out of it. Then to make a friend somehow before the make a frame of 11/2-inch-square lumber, and two small brace strips near wheel, of light lumber. Get a blacka walk, either in the van or else on the smith to make the scufflehoe out of station platform where the train had steel, as shown in figure 2, with four small short rods, riveted back of blade, These little rods are curved up, and You can take this device off and put on a shovel if you want to cultivate deep. It runs light for amount of



WEED KILLER AND CULTIVATOR. work done, and is superior to any \$5 wheel hoe I ever saw .- J. Holmes Wilson.

Ropy Milk After Setting. Bacteria in one form is probably responsible for the ropy milk that we hear about coming after setting for the stables by the use of carbolic acid I came out of the van, I shut the and then a thorough whitewashing of tion to the utensils used-the milk pails and the other vessels. The chances are they at the bottom of the trouble and need scalding repeatedly with hot water, and then more "This tusk," said the Jersey com- cleansing, such as only the sun will member that this scalding with hot "Yes. It's very probably the bill of water should be done daily with every vessel used in the dairy. Hot water and sun are death to bacteria.

When Lambs Need Dipping. If mature sheep are troubled with ticks and lambs run with the flock most of the ticks in two or three weeks after shearing will have left the old sheep to live upon the tender skin and amid the longer wool of the lambs. It is therefore evident that money will be saved by dipping the lambs. In badly infected cases a second dipping will prove advantageous unless the old sheep were dipped at the first application. Ticks multiply very rapidly, and even if a few escape death their progeny will cause the whole flock untold discomfort .- American Cultivator.

It is difficult to make a comparison the quality of either largely depends | these plants.

upon the curing. Bright green corn fodder, shredded or cut fine, is superior to improperly cured hay, while good hay is far superior to corn fodder that was not cut until the leaves turned

If fodder is tender and Juley the animals will prefer the stalks to the eaves, as the stalks are rich in sugar, but much depends upon the stage of growth at which the stalks were harvested.-Farm Visitor.

Sub-Solling for Orchards.

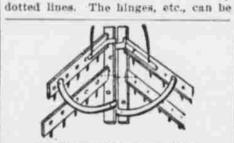
Fruit trees, and particularly apples, require a deep soll and, of course, one that is fairly rich. There are hundreds of acres of rich clay soils that would do splendidly for apples if properly prepared. Trials which have rewholly due to the fact that, the soil had not been opened deep enough to to penetrate it.

good amount of moisture, the tress policy. On the part of the United will then make a most desirable States there is a sincere wish that growth

Water for Swine.

as the slop is composed largely of ity awarded them. But China can nenine parts water, but if the slop is money as a windfall. They wish for nutritious, as it should be, and if corn China better times and national seis fed in addition, the swine need con- curity, a position in the world where it claim that swine carefully watered are spect of others. The relinquishment rarely diseased, and they have little of the \$22,000,000 will strike the peodifficulty in preventing them from mak- ple of the United States favorably. ing wallows. As a matter of fact, about half of the nastiness of the hog is due to the carelessness of its owner. Give the hog half a chance and he or she will be reasonably clean. Try the trough of cold, clean water at feeding Ippine Islands. Nearly eight thousand time and see for yourself what the people were employed in gathering the swine think of it.

Harrow for Stony Ground. Take six pieces of 352x254 inches. Illustration. Sink the wings into the center piece % inch. This saves mak- islands. In the first place, it was heads and bore holes as shown by



made of old wagon tire. Set teeth slanting, and attach chain. This harrow with twenty-four teeth is made to work a width of 6 feet, and is of light Manila, 21 in number, have an enroldraft. It can be made by any one handy with tools, and if well made, is

strong, lasting and effective. Poultry Pickings. Try feeding little chicks a dry ration of cracked grain, seeds, etc. It is betmashes.

Place a self-feeding box of grain in the coop so the chicks can eat what they want. There is little danger of over-feeding growing stock on free

they will produce more eggs.

not take long to contract them. Set turkey hens this month and if

you have plenty of eggs, fill the incubator. Arrange so the hens and incubator will hatch at the same time, then you can give all the polts to the turkey

Plant sunflowers outside the wire of the poultry yard and in and by waste for the United States Senate. About places. They will afford shade during 900 yards of material is required, and the summer and the hens will relish the seed. If planted inside the yard they \$2,000. Carpet concerns all over the must be protected until out of reach country had their agents in Washingof the hens.

Garden Hints. The suckers of gooseberries, currants and red raspberries should be rigidly

overlook garlic, chives, shallots, herbs, etc., as they are exceedingly desirable for flavoring purposes. This season's growth of raspberry canes should be pinched off and they

will throw out fruit laterals. This is

In making the home garden do not

important, for on it depends next season's crop of berries. Early varieties of dwarf peas can be grown between the rows of tomato plants. By the time the tomatoes are large enough to occupy the ground the peas will be out of the way. The pea vines may be removed or left as a

mulch for the tomatoes. In May the seeds of sweet corn and all the wrinkled varieties of peas should be sown and a little later cucumbers, melons, squashes, pumpkins and gourds may be put in the open ground. A fork full of well rotted mabetween corn fodder and hay, because | nure in the hill is the proper food for



It is stated that in his next annual

message President Roosevelt will recommend that the balance of \$22,000,000 due this country from China as indemnity for the Boxer outrages be released from payment on condition that China devote the money to education. The claims for American missionary property destroyed, amounting to \$2, suited in failures have been almost 000,000, have been satisfied, and the cost of our expedition to Pekin was not over \$1,000,000. An award of \$25,permit the roots of the trees properly 000,000 indemnity to the United States was felt to be excessive, though not If such soils had been subsoiled, larger in proportion than the amount using the implement made for that agreed on for the other nations that purpose which does not throw back a marched to the relief of foreigners in wide furrow, the roots would have a Pekin. But the idea of taking the chance to get into the soil several amount awarded is distasteful to this inches deeper than otherwise, and country for several reasons. It is far after that would be strong enough to too much, under the circumstances, derce the soil below without its being and China's helplessness appeals to sened. Of course it must be remem- sympathy. The plight of the immense bered that if the soil below the dis- Chinese empire excites compassion. Its tance penetrated by the subsoller is territory is a battle ground for other wet and remains so, it is not suited nations, and the neutrality of its harto tree roots. On the other hand, if bors is violated by belligerents. Nonit is simply wet enough to retain a resistance is a terribly poor national China may be able to claim a place among nations in which it can not be wantonly imposed upon. «To hand the There are farmers who raise swine \$22,000,000 to China without conditions and never feel it necessary to give might be construed as a criticism on them water to drink. They argue that the countries that take all the indeminwater that is all that is necessary, cept our share as a gift to an object It probably is, in many cases, where which it holds in high esteem, that of the slop consists of one part solids and education. Americans do not want the siderable water. Men of experience can respect itself and command the re-

From the United States Census Bureau has recently come the report of the first complete census of the Philstatistics, and all but 125 of them were native Filipinos. This census, therefore, is the first in modern times which a tropical people have made of Plane them and set them as shown in themselves. Many interesting facts were disclosed by the canvass of the ing mortise. Get 1/2-inch bolts with found that the population numbered 7,600,000; that near 7,000,000 possessed some degree of civilization and professed the Christian religion. It was also discovered that almost the whole population live in villages, as there are nearly 14,000 villages with an average population of 500. Of the larger lowns, 25 have 5,000 p. four have 10,000; and Manila has 220,-000. The people own the houses, or "huts," in which they live-only 6 per cent of the houses are rentedand the farmers own their farms. About 4,000 children are enrolled in the schools, and they are said to be eager to learn. The night-schools in ment of more than 4,000 adults who are studying English.

The Cuban minister, Senor Gonzalo Quesada, says that in some respects ter than Johnny cake, corn dough or Havana can give Washington a few points on the management of schools. writes a correspondent from the capital. Some months ago the municipal authorities of Havana introduced a system which is gradually becoming popular in every part of the United States. It is called the "School City" If hens on free range are given a and the system means simply governsmall feed of fresh-cut bone once a ing the school as a township, electing day, or a box of beef scraps and granu- a Mayor, a Board of Councilmen, and lated bone is placed in the henhouse, every officer needed for general government, even to that personage who com-Keep the brooders and colony houses mands the respect and admiration of clean and look out for red mites and the small boy in every part of the lice on the chicks. Incubator chicks globe, the policeman. The poor urchins are hatched free from lice, but it does of the Cuban capital are enthusiastic over the plan, and the schools are filled to overflowing. Mr. Quesada is authority for the statement that nothing introduced since the Spanish departed has so aroused the pride and good qualities of the juveniles.

A new carpet has been purchased the cost of the carpet is a trifle over ton in the hope of landing the contract. Colonel Ransdell, sergeant-atarms, chose a green Wilton carpet made by a New England firm. The average life of Senate carpets is four

The Panama rallway board of directors has decided to double-track the road across the isthmus to accommodate the increased business due to the construction of the canal without interfering with the ordinary freight business. The chairman of the Canal Commission has been made president of the railway company.

Fourth Assistant Postmaster General DeGraw has made public a report on the rural free delivery service in the United States, showing a total of 30 .-982 routes in operation May 1, with 4,708 petitions for the service pending in the postoffice department. On April 1 last there were 29,996 routes in operation and 4.521 petitions pending. Of the 4.708 cases pending, 884 have been assigned for establishment either May 15 or June 1, leaving 3,824 petitions unacted on.