

THE AURORA BOREALIS

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ROAD EXPERIMENT.

Dirt Containing Asphalt to Be Used With Sand at Cape Cod.

The Massachusetts highway commission is to conduct an interesting experiment in road building on Cape Cod, where there is no stone to speak of.

The surface will then be cut up with a disk harrow so as to mix the sand and oil to a depth of four inches. After this has been done the road will be rolled and the surface sprinkled with a thin layer of sand to absorb the surface oil.

Importance of Good Roads.

The Gaffney (S. C.) Ledger gives the following fact and comment, which affords a practical argument on the subject of highway improvement in a nutshell:

Some Cherokee county land sold the other day at public outcry and brought from \$16 to \$37.50 per acre. This land was twelve miles from the county seat at that. If we had macadam roads this same land would have brought \$50 to \$100 per acre.

Good Roads Movement Progressing.

Postoffice department officials are enthusiastic over the movement in some of the larger states of the Union for the improvement of the highways, and it is claimed that the liberal appropriations for the rural free delivery service have stimulated this movement.

Will Lay Three Grades of Gravel Roads.

In order to get the greatest possible benefits at the least possible expense gravel roads in Grand Rapids, Mich., will hereafter be divided into three classes—those designed to carry the heaviest traffic for which gravel roads are considered as suitable, those of medium traffic and the little used roads of the outlying districts.

How Oil Saved the Rock Roads.

"I am busy day and night repairing washouts in the rock roads because of the heavy rains," Oscar Koehler, county surveyor, said the other morning at Kansas City. "There is no doubt in my mind that the oiling of the rock roads is a great economy. There has not been a single washout in the roads that were oiled. The oil serves to pack the gravel so that it resists the erosion of the flood waters."

OLD VILLAGE LOCKUP.

Quaint Structures For Confinement of Rogues and Vagabonds.

Several villages in the midlands possess in more or less ruined state their old parish lockups, commonly known as roundhouses.

Bredon, a Leicestershire village, close to the South Derbyshire border, possesses its "lockup," a quaint stone building eighteen feet high and eight feet six inches diameter inside. The walls are fifteen inches thick. The door is of stout oak, studded with many large iron nails.

The lock is very strong, and the key-hole is covered with an iron plate, which itself has to be unlocked by a spanner before the door key can be inserted. Ventilation is afforded by small holes punched in an iron plate, six inches by seven, fixed in the center of the door. There is no window.

At Worthington, the next village to Bredon, the old lockup is a seven sided brick building, badly in need of restoration, an opportunity for archaeologists which it is hoped will not be missed. Both at Bredon and Worthington these dilapidated disused prisons are on the roadside adjacent to the pound, or pincfold, so that the constable had conveniently side by side the strayed cattle and any human rogues or vagabonds he had charge of. There are similar old lockups at Sleaford and Ticknall, two villages close to Leicestershire.—Sheffield (England) Telegraph.

WORLD-WIDE PENNY POSTAGE

Made Possible by Recent Robust, Constructive Republican Policy.

Convention Between America and England in Effect Oct. 1—Its Blessings to Foreign Born Citizens.

ORDER NO. 1667.

The Postal Administration of Great Britain having concurred therein:

It is hereby ordered, That, commencing on the 1st day of October, 1908, the postage rate applicable to letters mailed in United States, addressed for delivery at any place in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall be two (2) cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce.

Letters unpaid or short paid shall be dispatched to destination, but double the deficient postage, calculated at said rate, shall be collectible of the addressee upon the delivery of the unpaid or short paid letters.

G. V. E. MEYER, Postmaster General.

Behind this simple statement is a vast amount of Republican constructive legislation which resulted in the significant accomplishment, set forth by the Postmaster General. It is eloquently prophetic of a world-wide penny postage, for which the credit will be due to a Republican administration.

Sixth Universal Postal Congress.

The Sixth Universal Postal Congress convened in the city of Rome, Italy, April 7 and continued until May 20, 1906. Sixty-five countries, including the United States, were represented. The assembly was for the purpose of discussing the postal systems of all nations and, if possible, agreeing upon measures for the improvement in all practical ways, of the regulations governing international intercourse through the mails.

The United States Postoffice Department was represented in this World Postal Congress by two delegates—the Superintendent of Division of Foreign Mails, as in previous postal congresses, and the Hon. Edward Rosewater of the Omaha Bee, who had also served in the preceding postal congress.

Move for Universal Penny Postage.

At this Universal Postal Congress representatives of the United States proposed a universal two-cent postage to all nations. The Hon. J. Henniker Heaton, M. P., who is the father of the two-cent idea in England, speaking of America's action at the Rome congress, is standing out for a universal two-cent postal rate, said:

"The British members stood coldly by. They did not recognize that this was a great historic occasion, a worthy parallel of that solemn scene on July 4, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was adopted; for if the Americans are willing to adopt a penny postage to all parts of the world, it follows that they are willing to establish it to the British Empire and form with us a Restrictive Postal Union."

The Hon. Whitelaw Reid, America's Republican minister to the Court of St. James, praised the work of the American delegation and solicited the friendly co-operation of the British government at a Fourth of July banquet speech in London in 1906. Mr. Reid said:

"The American people hoped for closer and cheaper communications with all other nations as the best means of promoting better acquaintance and perpetuating friendship. They were gratified to find that the British apostle of penny postage (Mr. Heaton) at this moment focusing his efforts on what ought to be the easy task of persuading the authorities on both sides of the Atlantic, that it was as cheap to carry a letter from London to New York as from London to Calcutta; or from New York to Manila—and quite as useful."

American Republicans Lead the Way.

So it has come to pass that the United States, under its Republican administration, has finally succeeded in entering into a convention with Great Britain whereby after the 1st of October this year, a two-cent postage rate will obtain between this country and England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. We already have such an arrangement with Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Panama and our colonial possessions. This great accomplishment is universally recognized as the proper beginning which is to result in a universal two-cent postage rate around the world.

Important Things Accomplished.

Two other important things that the Republican administration accomplished at the Rome Universal Postal Congress through its representatives, must not be lost sight of. One was the adoption of a universal return coupon stamp, in exchange for which, upon its presentation at a postoffice in another country, the person presenting it shall receive a postage stamp of the value of 5 cents, good in any country of the world, thus enabling people here to prepay postage at regular rates upon reply letters.

The other significant concession was that in all World Postal Congresses to be held in the future, the United States is to be granted an additional vote, in view of its island possessions; so that at all future congresses our country will be entitled to two votes, as against one vote each cast by every other nation in the world.

view of its island possessions; so that at all future congresses our country will be entitled to two votes, as against one vote each cast by every other nation in the world.

Practical Benefits to the People.

No doubt the Democrats may inquire as to what all this has to do with the welfare of American citizens. For their enlightenment and information it may be stated that, according to the United States census of 1900, the foreign born population in the United States at that time was 10,460,085. The population, born of foreign parentage (one or both parents having been born in foreign countries) was 26,198,939, or a total foreign population of 36,659,024. The report of the Immigration Commissioner by years since then shows that 6,055,556 have since come to America, thus making out the total foreign population at the present time to 46,327,080. This does not take any note of increase since 1900 in American-born children, one or both of whose parents are of foreign blood. Estimating that only one-half of this number—21,063,540—write one letter to foreign countries every two weeks, or 26 weeks each year, we have 120,983,040 letters written annually, which, at the present rate of 5 cents postage each, amounts to an expenditure of \$6,400,152 annually. Under the present postal law foreign correspondents may send letters to the United States "collect," but when they reach their destination the recipient must pay double postage. Figuring the double postage on the same basis, the foreign population of the United States pays during each year, for postage under the present system, \$19,497,450.

Under the new and cheaper postal charges advocated by the Republican party, should the 2-cent rate become universal, the foreign population in the United States, for their direct correspondents, would only pay \$3,249,576 annually for direct postage and \$9,748,728, for letters sent to them from foreign countries "collect." In other words, this Republican measure will save the highly esteemed adopted citizens of our country, and those born here of foreign parentage \$13,908,254 annually, in the necessary correspondence with their loved ones abroad. But perhaps the Democrats do not think this is worth while.

Some Glaring Inconsistencies.

At present an American can send a letter 5,000 miles by land—say from Mexico to Alaska—for 2 cents, but must pay 5 cents for a letter of half the weight sent 3,100 miles to England. An Englishman pays 5 cents on a letter crossing the Atlantic, 3,100 miles, and 2 cents on one crossing the Indian and South Pacific Oceans, 16,000 miles, to New Zealand. All this is to be remedied on October the first next, thanks to an enlightened Republican administration.

World Is Ready for Reduction.

It will probably be but a short time after the convention between this country and England goes into effect, until the dream of a universal 2-cent letter postage, championed by the Republican party, will be realized. Australia, New Zealand and Egypt have already called for the 2-cent rate. The Emperor of Germany has said that if England establishes a 2-cent postage rate with the United States, he will have Germany do the same. France, Italy, South Africa, Japan, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Sweden would need little more than an invitation to follow suit.

A 2-cent postal rate would bind all the South American republics and the United States still more closely together into a peaceful, reciprocal, progressive, civilization, which would mean a more rapid development of both American continents and a new application of the Monroe doctrine. With these countries agreed, on the object desired, the continent of Europe alone would then be wholly outside this comprehensive postal union, and then the continental powers would not long stand aloof from it.

It has remained for the United States to take the initiative in a move to reap the great glory of being the pioneers of a world wide 2-cent postage. Millions of our citizens will feel almost as grateful for this beneficent act as millions of slaves did, when the Republican party broke the shackles that bound them to perpetual physical servitude.

BRYAN'S POLICIES DESTRUCTIVE.

Mr. Taft Compares Republican and Democratic Platforms.

The chief difference between the Republican and the Democratic platforms is the difference which has heretofore been seen between the policies of Mr. Roosevelt and those which have been advocated by the Democratic candidate, Mr. Bryan. Mr. Roosevelt's policies have been progressive and regulative; Mr. Bryan's destructive. Mr. Roosevelt has favored regulation of the business in which evils have grown up so as to stamp out the evils and permit the business to continue. The tendency of Mr. Bryan's proposals has generally been destructive of the business with respect to which he is demanding reform. Mr. Roosevelt would compel the trusts to conduct their business in a lawful manner and secure the benefits of their operation and the maintenance of the prosperity of the country of which they are an important part; while Mr. Bryan would extirpate and destroy the entire business in order to stamp out the evils which they have practiced.

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MARKS PRAIRIE

Indian summer is here at last.

The heavy frost of last week did a lot of damage here, the corn crop is a total loss and our silo bins will be empty this winter.

Jack Kerr will move to the place he has rented one mile east of Woodburn this week.

After a long fought battle the Oglesby Road is open for travel. One part of the county is in favor of progress if some of the old mossbacks are not.

Geo. Oglesby was very sick a couple of days last week but is about allright at present.

Our supervisor has been hauling the "cow guano" out of the new road for several days

Almost all of our people will attend the County Fair this week at Canby.

Percy Ritter is getting some better and is on the road to recovery.

Jim Gribble killed a fine deer on our prairie one day last week, it was in Sam Gribble's pasture.

Geo. Oglesby and sons were callers at Ben Wolfer's Sunday.

Miss Viola Gribble will teach the school at Whiskey Hill this winter.

The hunting season is about here. There are very few birds on our prairie and there will be very poor hunting here.

Several parties of this vicinity are over to the coast after salmon for the winter.

Our prairie can beat the band for "family goes" as we have heard of three so far this week.

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