

RURAL MAIL BOXES WILL BE NUMBERED

The postoffice department sent out orders to all postoffices from which there are rural routes ordering that the mail boxes on these routes all be numbered consecutively, beginning with the box first on the route and continuing throughout the route.

While this system of numbering the boxes might work very well for convenience in an unsettled community, it will be of little use here, where changes of residences ownership of farms is an every day occurrence.

Postmasters: For public convenience and to facilitate a more accurate check by rural free delivery carriers, it has been decided that each rural mail box in use on the rural route which, under the regulations of the department, is entitled to service, shall be designated by number in the manner and by the method hereinafter set forth:

1. Postmasters at the respective distributing offices are hereby directed to instruct the carriers of all rural free delivery routes which have been operated sixty days or more, to review the rural mail boxes in use on their routes in the interval between the receipt of this order and September 30, 1905, and report a list of them conforming to the regulations and thus entitled to designate numbers.

2. The following, when found to be safe, weatherproof, and fit receptacles for mail, are entitled to numbers: (a) Boxes "up, round" under designations No. 739; (b) Non-approved boxes erected prior to October 1, 1902.

3. No non-weather-proof or otherwise unfit receptacles for mail shall be numbered. All such must be replaced with regulation "approved" boxes by the owners or no numbers will be assigned.

No rural mail box erected within the limits of an incorporated city or town within one-half mile of a post office at an unincorporated town or village shall be numbered unless such box was erected prior to October 3, 1903, or is being served by specific order of the department.

Service must be withdrawn, however, from any box now being served, until such withdrawal is expressly ordered by this office.

4. The numbers assigned to boxes on each route will commence with "No. 1," which will pertain to the first regulation box reached by the carrier after leaving the starting point of his route, traveling in accordance with official description; box thereafter to be counted and given the proper number in regular sequence in order of service ("No. 1" to and including all those boxes entitled to service on the route).

5. Each number thus arrived at should be recorded in the carrier's roster book opposite the name of the owner of the box so designated, and also opposite the name of every other person entitled to receive mail in said box. Numbers thus applied to boxes and registered must be properly reported to and recorded by the postmaster of the distributing office to which they belong and must not be changed thereafter except by specific authority of such postmaster.

land Tidings stated that the most satisfactory crop of the season in that district was the loganberry. Growers of this berry, that journal says, secured good profits. It adds: "It is claimed that there is more money to be made in growing loganberries at 75 cents a crate than strawberries at \$1.50 per crate, and the experience of the leading berry growers seem to prove it."

The Country Weekly. Irrigator Irrigator. The country weekly as we see it today came into existence about 40 years ago, when the "patents" were first placed at the disposal of the publishers, and during these four decades the rural newspapers, as a rule, have deteriorated rather than progressed.

On the second day of the present month out of about 70 country weeklies which came to the irrigator office, 27 had patent insides or outside, and the articles in these patents bore date lines principally of August 23, 21 and 25, with now and then a so-called "special" dated August 23.

We find then that the so-called news was from seven to ten days old, which would have been a fair record for the days of the civil war, or for an earlier date when it took a letter two days to reach New York to Philadelphia, five days to Boston and six months to San Francisco.

In the meantime our postal and telegraph facilities have been so expedited that these days between New York and Boston and Philadelphia have been cut down to hours, and the months between New York and "Frisco" have been reduced to less than days.

And during these 40 years the rural population has grown to be an eager army of readers—of intelligent readers who want the news, and they have learned to rely upon their home-town papers for local news only, and to go to the city dailies, semi-weeklies and weeklies for the general news of the world.

The country publishers have tried to give their readers, regardless of the quality of the matter it contained; and the publishers or furnishers of the patents have met this demand at low figures by filling a large portion of their spaces with noxious and pernicious advertisements, notably of the "patent medicine and get-rich-quick ads."

So today we find the intelligence of the average country publisher based on the intelligence of his readers, for they send forth each week a great mass of stuff which has been read days before by their subscribers, and the result is that only that portion of their columns devoted to home or local news is of any interest to them.

There is a place for the little country weekly, just as there is a niche for the big city daily; there is a work—a useful work—for the village publisher as well as for the city publisher. The work of such is to give the news of his field, and the field of the one is his little local, or at most county community, and the field of the other, who is in touch with the cable and overland telegraph, is the world.

So we say that for a country publisher to send out this "patent" stuff week after week is an insult to the intelligence of his subscribers, and the sooner this is learned and acknowledged the better it will be for the rural newspaper fraternity of the country.

In this state we have a few notable exceptions. Three of these we notice on our exchange table, and there are probably others. Their fearless publishers are content to fill the place allotted them and leave the broader field to be covered by the press of Portland, Seattle and Spokane.

Coming home, coming to Irrigon, we have noticed lately that many of our good friends have said in their columns that the Irrigator is "different." They say we are conducting our paper along new and peculiar lines, and that we are making it win along those lines.

It's a Dandy.

Twenty acres of early strawberry, apple, cherry and vegetable land with a fine southern slope. Only one-half mile from town of White Salmon. It commands a magnificent view of Mount Hood and city of Hood River. The soil is rich, deep and moist. Only a few acres cleared and ready to plant to orchard, balance only light brush, easy to clear, some timber for fuel. It is all under fence, and a fine well of cool soft water. There is no better soil and location for an orchard or a finer site for a home west of the Cascades. And now that we are sore of the Northern Pacific building down the north bank of the Columbia river it is dirt cheap at \$100 per acre. It will be worth three times as much in three years. Terms, \$1500 cash, balance in three years. Don't let this slip if you are looking for a home.

White Salmon Land Co.

White Salmon, Wash.

easy to take, pleasant and never failing in results are DeWitt's Little Early Risers. These famous little pills are a certain guarantee against headache, dizziness, torpid liver and all of the ills resulting from constipation. They tone and strengthen the liver. Cure Jaundice. Sold by G. E. Williams.

Skill in Fruit Culture.

In the September issue of the Horticulturist of Tacoma appears an illustration of A. P. Bateham's display at the Hood River fruit fair last year, which is accompanied by the article of Mr. Roger Shepard's, which the illustration is reprinted last week. Commenting on the skill of fruit packing in Hood River, the Horticulturist says: "The front page illustration indicates the careful method adopted by the Hood River fruit growers. It will be noted that in some of the boxes the tiers are broken, where the fruit is a little too large or too small to fill package in full rows, and these are known as 3 or 4 tier, as the case may be; but when again in too many favored fruit sections a large acreage is devoted to promiscuous varieties of the lower grades such as will not stand a freight tariff to any distant market, and realize a profit. There are many others like him for whom benefit we have Manager Shepard's statement in another column and the illustration indicated. The difference in the up-to-date methods here presented and the average fruit grower represents a variation in net profits of from 50 cents to \$1.00 per box. In the Pacific Northwest we have many favored fruit sections, and attaining the highest measure of success doesn't depend upon locality half so much as on how the work is done."

A Splendid Idea. A new idea in a Cough Syrup is advanced in Kennedy's Laxative Honey and Tar. Besides containing Pine Tar, Honey and other valuable remedies, it is rendered laxative, so that its use insures a prompt and efficient evacuation of the bowels. It relaxes the nervous system, and cures all coughs, colds, croup, whooping cough, etc. A red cross emblem on the wrapper is on every bottle of the Original Laxative Cough Syrup—Kennedy's Laxative Honey and Tar. An ideal remedy for children. Mothers praise it. It is best of all. Sold by G. E. Williams.

We feel that the Irrigator has a work to do, and that work is to educate our people along the lines of intensive farming on small tracts of irrigated land, and, incidentally to build up our town and community. To that end we fill our two outside pages with choice excerpts along the lines of actual irrigation and high class fruit and garden culture, to do which we take nearly every good farm paper in the United States, and glean from those thousands of columns of matter which we think is the best to show our readers what can and has been done along the lines they are treading.

And then we have what many—we will say most—country weeklies do not have—an editorial page, one in which we print from week to week articles written in our own office. And, by the way, in one of our exchanges, published in this state, we noticed in the last issue an article of nearly two columns about the Russo-Jap war, under the editorial heading and not a line of original matter on that page, not a line of editorial in the whole sheet.

Then comes our local page, which enumerates such news as those who are absent would like to learn of our home doings—and a little "stuff" to fill up and make people talk about us and our town.

The day of patents is past. The day when you can buy a box of boiler plate in January to do the balance of the year—that day is also past. The difficulty is the "toys" are not wise to the fact, although their readers all are and have been for to these many years.

Dr. J. J. Currel. Mr. W. Fischer of Hightower, Ala., relates an experience he had while serving on a jury in a murder case at Edwardsville, Mo., the seat of Cleburne county, Mo., in 1890. He says: "While there I was in the first heat and some time and it was a cholera morbus in every sense of the word. I never was more sick in my life and sent to the drug store for a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which I had heard of. I had never used it before but I would rather try it than die. I took it and was better in five minutes. The second dose cured me entirely. Two fellow jurors were afflicted in the same manner and one small bottle cured the three of us. For sale by Williams' Pharmacy."

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AGENCY TROY LAUNDRY R. E. WITHROW Has accepted the Hood River agency for the Troy Laundry Co. of Portland, with an office in the O. K. Barber Shop. He will call for laundry Wednesday and Thursday, delivering Tuesday. These dates will hold for a few weeks, owing to the rush of work in Portland. Dates will be changed later and notice given. Wagon will collect and deliver goods. Phone Main 1143.

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