LONG TRAVEL FOR MAIL

Where Letters Are Carried 290 Miles in Order to Get Across a 10-Foot Hall.

POSTOFFICE ON THE BORDER.

Beebe Plain, Vt., and Beebe Plain, Que., Joint Owners of a Peculiar Institution.

The queerest postoffice in North America is probably located here, where a simple wooden building shelters the offices of two countries, a Beebe Plain (Vt.) correspondent says. The structure is cut diagonally by the Canada line, being almost equally divided by the imaginary boundary. The northern half contains the postoffice of Beebe Plain, Que., and the southern half the office of Beebe Plain, Vt. They are separated only by a ten-foot corridor, using this passageway and the same door in common. George H. House, postmaster, looks after the mail of the two offices. As a result of red tape in the postal regulations regarding the transfer of mails, a letter mailed at the Vermont office for the Canadian office across the hall travels 290 miles before delivery.

Previous to 1899 the United States postoffice was located in a dwelling house and the Canadian office in a store. In neither case was the service wholly satisfactory, but it seemed to be the best arrangement that could be made. However, in 1899 the idea was conceived of utilizing the old stone store, located right on the line, for both offices, and finally the present arrangement was perfected so that a most satisfactory service has been provided.

Patrons of the double postoffice can do their postoffice business by making one call. Two doors, one on each side of the line, open into the lobby. The distance between the postoffice boxes of the two countries is ten feet, the international boundary line running through the space between the two sets of boxes. If a letter is by mistake dropped into the wrong letter box, it is passed to the right office and sent on its way.

A letter posted at Beebe Plain, Vt., for Beebe Plain, Canada, will go south on the Boston & Maine railroad from Beebe Junction, Vt., to White River junction, 111 miles on the same route, and then continues on its way to Sherbrooke, P. Q., 34 miles farther. There it is again transferred and returns to Beebe Plain, P. Q.

That is, after having a ride of 24 hours and going 290 miles, it arrives at its destination, ten feet from where it started.

Or, perhaps, it goes on another train south on the Boston & Maine to Wells River, Vt., 80 miles. There it is transferred and goes back via Beebe Junction to Sherbrooke, P. Q., 114 miles, to be transferred again and returns to the building it started from 32 hours before. It has traveled 228 miles.

The village has a population of about 100 on the Vermont side and about 600 on the Canadian side. All of the places of business are on the Canada side, so most of the patrons of the office are Canadians, but they are very willing to avail themselves of the unique arrangement and use either office that will give the best results.

The "line" itself is quite narrow here—in fact, it is so narrow that it cannot be seen except where the iron posts appear. Some persons have stood in one country and written their postcards or letters in the other.

WEAVERS OF NEW YORK.

Ancient Aubusson Looms Making Tapestry in Manhattan Island.

The looms we visited are new in the city of Gotham. They are tapestry looms of a pattern unchanged after centuries of use. And the art of the weaver of these fabrics, we are told, is far too ancient for record.

The art we beheld is almost absolutely unaltered. The looms are installed in a studio place that was once a palatial stable, says Philip Verrill Mighels in Harper's. They are copies of what are known to the craft as the Aubusson looms of France. The men engaged in making tapestries upon this old device are foreign craftsmen, trained to their guild and wondrously skilled in the art.

It provided a singular sensation to leave the busy, noisy thoroughfare of modernity and ascend to that conclave of looms so allied to the past. There were two great apartments devoted to this enginery of beauty. Enginery seems the only adequate word. The looms we saw are combinations of huge wooden frameworks, beam-like levers, twining ropes and tightening devices, the whole resembling those monstrous stone-heaving catapults inseparable from ancient war.

Unlike the tapestry looms at the Gobelin workshops in Paris, these are made to stretch the warp horizontally, about waist high to a man. At the rear of each loom, on a slanted bench, sit the weavers who work the design. Beneath the warp, and readily visible through its many tight-stretched strands, the pattern lies close under hand. It is drawn on a monster sheet of paper and colored with painstaking skill. Above it bend the weavers of the cloth, each softly supported with pillows. One pillow to sit on and one on which to lean, each workman adjusts to his needs. His colors (the woofs) are wound on spools, and resemble a heap of large-sized, brightly colored and differently hued caterpillars, ready to spin out their substance. There are frequently as many as twenty or thirty of these shuttles beneath one workman's hands.

It is wonderful and utterly bewildering to see these craftsmen weave. Their hands out-machine a machine as they grasp at the warp, to lift two, four, five or any number of strands, shoot a bobbin in and out, and make a singular tie, to drop that particular caterpillar, clutch up another, tie in its thread, and pounce upon a third or fourth, and return, perhaps, to number one. They keep those red, green, gold and purple caterpillars in a constant state of agitation. They grasp at the warp and play in a strand and finger new strings, as if the cords were the wires of some silent harp on which they play a ceaseless composition that expresses itself in color. Yet fast as their fingers seem to play upon this soundless instrument, it is slow, hard toil with eyes and hands to stitch in those units of the scheme.

POPULAR SCIENCE

An electric elevator has been installed in the stairway which leads to the cupola of St. Peter's cathedral in Rome. The elevator has a capacity for carrying ten persons. It bears an appropriate Latin inscription.

Peter the Great, Russia's famous czar, when he was staying in England, had a particular liking for the companionship of Halley, after whom the comet is named. After carousing with him at Deptford one evening Peter wheeled the astronomer in a barrow through a yew hedge and did such damage that he had to pay handsome compensation to John Evelyn, the owner.

Ingenious Germans have experimented successfully with the fiber of the kapok or "silk cotton" tree of tropical Africa and Asia, and believe they have a useful substitute for cotton. If that is the case, they will have furnished additional proof that no substance, however valuable, is absolutely indispensable to man. Cotton long seemed to be almost so, and there are few things without which we should get on so badly, if there were nothing else to which to turn.

It is proposed to establish a wireless telegraph station at the meteorological observatory on Mount Mirador in the Philippines, to give warning of typhoons to vessels in the China sea, and points along the China coast. A similar station will probably be established later at Santo Domingo de Basco on the island of Batan, for communicating information of the presence of typhoons in that vicinity to the headquarters of the Philippine weather bureau at Manila.

Dr. G. F. Becker, discussing the possibility that petroleum may be derived from carbids of iron or other metals, points out that Bauer's map of magnetic declination in the United States "proves that petroleum is intimately associated with magnetic disturbances similar to those arising from the neighborhood of minerals possessing sensible magnetic attraction," and he adds that henceforth no geological theory of petroleum will be acceptable which does not explain this association. A writer in Nature remarks that if these conclusions are confirmed, a new and important sphere of usefulness for magnetic surveys will be opened.

Modern chemistry enables man to make over some of the most useful metals very much at his will, and greatly to his profit. Dr. W. Rosenhain, in England, recently made a report on the properties of new alloys of copper, aluminum and manganese, which show remarkable peculiarities. An alloy of 88 per cent copper, 9.99 per cent aluminum and 2.01 per cent manganese showed enormous tensile strength, a cold-drawn bar having a yield of 40.88 tons per square inch, and an ultimate stress of 52.08 tons per square inch. Another alloy is so hard that it can take a cutting edge sharp enough to sharpen a leadpencil. The British Admiralty is experimenting with these alloys to determine their resistance to corrosion in seawater.

Herbert Spencer and Billiards.

Herbert Spencer was an enthusiastic billiard player. He says that he found it "a very desirable way of passing the time," because it prevented thinking and excluded the temptation to read. "It suffices for me," he frankly adds, "that I like billiards, and the attainment of the pleasure given I regard as a sufficient motive. I have for a long time deliberately set my face against that asceticism which makes it an offense to do a thing for the pleasure of doing it. The opposite view is nothing else than a remote sequence of the old devil worship of the barbarian, who sought to please his god by inflicting pains on himself and believed his god would be angry if he made himself happy."

Her Fate.

Mrs. de Work—I have trained my eldest daughter into a thorough housekeeper. There is nothing she does not know.

Miss de Flight—What a nice, handy maiden aunt she will make for your other daughters' children.—New York Weekly.

If you can fool half the people half the time that's enough. Don't be a hog, even if pork is high.

Even a truthful man is occasionally guilty of exaggeration

A PRACTICAL APPLICATION.

Mr. Holden was in one of those cheerful, mildly philosophical moods, when he likes to think aloud and impart a portion of his wisdom to his wife. "Did you ever stop to think, my dear," he said, "that the greatest effect civilization has had upon life is in conferring leisure?" He went on to devote his thesis:

"We talk about how hard we have to work to 'make a living,' as we put it, that is, to get enough to eat and wear and a place to sleep. But just take the case of the lower animals. They don't have to bother about clothes or to think much about shelter; but, on the other hand, all their waking hours are given to procuring their food. Watch the cows in the pasture. They're eating all the time, except when they lie down for a little while in the heat of the day; and the fact that they have to travel for their food gives them the exercise that keeps them in good health.

"It is the same way with the birds and with all wild animals. The very effort necessary to get their food is what keeps them well.

"So it was with primeval man. It took about all of his time to hunt and fish. It was the work of his hands, his whole body, as well as his brain, that supplied his table; therefore he kept in good physical condition and relished his food. Did you ever hear an Indian complain that he had 'no appetite'? No, ma'am!

"I believe the time will come when man—civilized man—will learn the lesson and return to the old order of things; when all of us, no matter what our occupation, will do some work with out hands, in order to procure our food. And we shall be the better for it, too.

"That is really the secret of the charm that hunting and fishing and camp life have for men. They restore the old fundamental conditions of eating one's bread in the sweat of one's brow. I tell you, when you have tramped five miles for a mess of trout, there's some taste to them. Getting back to nature—getting the feeling of the primeval man—is what restores."

"But I thought savages cultivated the soil, too—raised little patches of corn and other things sometimes, didn't they?" suggested Mrs. Holden, mildly.

"Certainly they did, my dear, certainly! But don't you see how my theory holds good there, too? They could get the product of the soil for food only by working with their hands, and—"

"That is just what I was thinking," interrupted Mrs. Holden. "I was wondering if you couldn't get something of the feeling of the primeval man by hoeing the garden to-night. You've really no idea how high the weeds are."

As Holden stopped a few moments to rest his back that evening, he remarked, somewhat irrelevantly, to Simpson, across the fence: "It's funny how unfitted women are for pure, speculative philosophy. It never seems to interest them unless they can tack it onto some confounded practical thing or other."—Youth's Companion.

WHAT EVERY WOMAN KNOWS.

She Only Had One Glance, But She Did Not Overlook Anything.

"Will you please tell us how the lady was dressed?" said the attorney for the defense to a woman who was testifying in a police court proceeding, according to Puck.

"Well, of course I didn't see her for longer than a minute, as she got up and walked out of the stret car we were both riding in, but she had on a wide gray fur hat turned up at one side and fastened with a rhinestone buckle, and she had a long white feather and a gray bird's wing on the hat and a narrow band of gold galloon around it, and two large scarlet-red velvet roses, and she had the hat fastened on with three hatpins, one of them with a red-glass stone set around with California briliants, and another was in the shape of a four-leafed clover, and the third was a big gilt ball, and the hat drooped away over on the right side, and she had a black veil with white dots on it, and it was fastened with a gold arrow run through a rhinestone buckle at the back of the hat. Then she had on a tailored suit of mauve cloth with the jacket and front width of the dress all braided in silk braid, the same shade of the dress, and the other widths of the dress had three bias folds laid on, one right above the other, and the six buttons covered with goods like the dress, and the jacket had a bias fold all around it and fourteen buttons down the front and three on the pockets, and it had a wide rolling collar lined with satin a shade or two lighter than the dress, and there was a narrow silk cord of white silk edging the collar and coming all down the front of the jacket, which was a little more than half-fitting, and it sagged just a trifle on the left side, and—"

"You say you saw the lady but a moment?"

"Yes, just for a moment as she was leaving the car, but I noticed that she had on a gray squirrel skin muff and tippet and—"

"That will do, madam. Next witness please come forward."

At the Playwrights' Club.

Member (to friend whom he has not seen in some time)—And when was the last appearance of your piece?

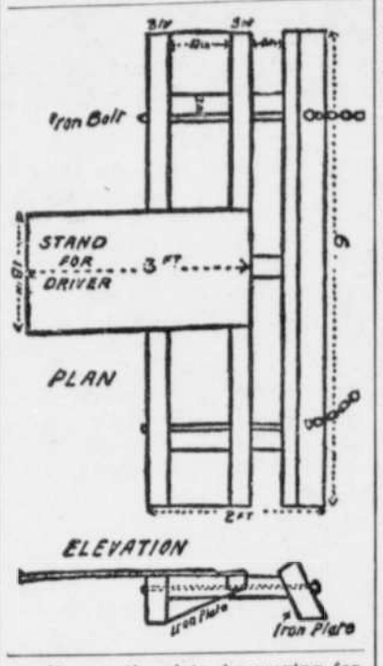
"On the first night."—Fliegende Blatter.

Every old and broken down politician is a Boss Buster.

FARM AND GARDEN

A Ground Leveller.

A cheap and effective contrivance for levelling uneven land is shown in the accompanying illustration. The leveller may be made of any convenient length up to 12 feet; the steel smoothing plate is very light, but will last a long time. It is brought from the middle 3x2 in. beam to the underneath of the back 6x3 in. beam, and holes are cut in it for the ties and the bolts. It is a flat steel sheet with ends turned 1 in. and secured with 1 in. screws. The cutter is shod with 2½x ¼ in. steel plate, with bevelled edge, secured with 2 in. screws. The stand for the driver is of pine, 2 ft. 9 in. by 6 in. by 1½ in. In use the driver



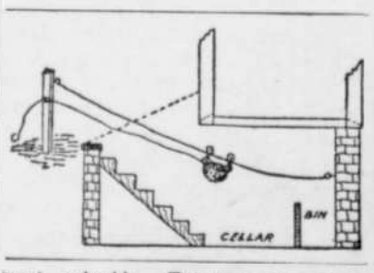
standing on the plate, by moving forward causes the front beam with its cutting edge to enter the ground, and carry forward any soil cut off. By moving backward he raises the cutting edge, allowing the accumulated earth to pass under in as great or as little quantity as he pleases; while the sloping steel sheet smoothes it out, crushes the lumps and spreads it into any depressions.

Biggest Farm in World.

The announcement that the republic of Mexico is about to make some effort to curb the princely aspirations of Don Luis Terrazas of the State of Chihuahua promises to bring into the public eye one of the most remarkable and at the same time one of the least known of the world's unusual men. Four years ago a German prince traveled 5,000 miles to visit a "farmer," and this farmer was Don Luis, whose "farm," Mexicans are now beginning to believe, is getting too large for the public health. In short, it is the biggest farm in the world. In area it ranks with the largest of European kingdoms and empires, and would make one of the big States of the Union. It measures 150 miles from north to south and 200 miles from east to west, or 8,000,000 acres in all. It embraces whole ranges of mountains, entire water systems, volcanoes, mineral lands and thousands of lakes. Over it roam 1,000,000 head of cattle, 700,000 sheep and 300,000 horses. The "farmhouse" is the most magnificent in the world—a palace costing $1,600,000 in gold, superbly furnished, with rooms to accommodate 500 guests.—The Bookkeeper.

A Labor Saver.

The little picture tells it all. This little device may be worked through any cellar door or window. It will save many steps when your time is



most valuable. Try it once and be convinced.

The Lighten Woman's Work.

Women are coming into their own every day on the farm. Time was when labor-saving devices were thought of only in connection with farm work. But that is changing. Woman's work at the best is hard, but is rendered much easier by the employment of handy devices which cost but little.

The telephone and the rural mail delivery have wrought great improvement in the lives of the farmer's wife and daughters of the farm and have done more to cultivate the spirit of true neighborliness than anything else.

A New Pear Disease.

A new disease among pears has been noted in Belgium. The diseased fruit shows round brown spots, which increase in size until the greater part of the fruit is affected, after which it falls. In one instance the loss due to this fungus was great, fully one-half of the fruit being destroyed. Where the pears have been bagged they did not suffer from the fungus. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture, it is believed, will prevent the disease.

Need of Exercise.

Keep the chicks busy and hustling for all they get to eat; never feed them on a bare surface where they can eat without scratching. This is the easiest and surest way to insure strong, rugged chicks that will not be failing ill with "leg weakness" and similar ailments. Scatter all feed in a litter, making the chicks hunt and dig for it. This litter should be about 2 inches deep for chicks less than a month old, and composed of cut straw or hay, or chaff from the hay mow or floor. Sawdust is not very good for this purpose, because the chicks usually will eat more or less of it, and sometimes with bad results.—Agricultural Epitomist.

For Seed Potatoes.

Experiment shows that the most economic potato seed is made by cutting a medium-sized tuber into quarters. It also shows that larger pieces of seed potatoes will produce a very much heavier yield, as the young plant has more nourishment to begin with; under field conditions, however, the medium-sized tuber cut in quarters is the best and most economical. If this can not be done, spread the seed out in a thin layer in a cool, dark place, and they may be used at any time within ten days after cutting without appreciable loss. Never sack or barrel the cut seed, nor expose it to the hot sun.

A Co-Operative Market.

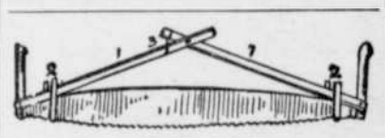
The price of living has become such a bugbear that something will have to be done beside boycotting the butchers to make things cheaper. Some of the farmers and gardeners in and about Denver are organizing for the purpose of supplying consumers with products at one-half the rate of the retailers. They propose to sell independently and have a co-operative market store, where all the farmers belonging to the association will sell their goods. This has not been done in Denver before because the wholesalers and jobbers have control of the transportation facilities.—Field and Farm.

Poisoned by Eggs.

That many people are poisoned by eggs, and not by spoiled eggs only, but often by those that are freshly laid and apparently good, is asserted by a French chemist. Numerous cases of poisoning due to eclairs, or cream cakes, have occurred recently in Paris, and it was in the course of an investigation of these that the conclusion was reached that the toxic action was always the fault of the eggs in the custard, never of mineral poisons introduced accidentally or of the other ingredients of the cream. French eggs, it is said, become infected before they are laid.

Cross-Cut Saw Support.

Two pieces of lath or other light strip of wood bored together as shown at 3 in the accompanying illustration, will stiffen a cross-cut saw so that



A ONE-MAN SAW.

one man will be able to saw with it without difficulty. The strips of wood tend to control the wabble of the free end. A piece of stove wire twisted around the saw and a strip at 2 will aid in keeping it in place. A wire twisted about the laths at 3 will help to maintain the strength.

The Milker.

Many times the milker goes to his task after brushing horses or doing other dirty work, with his hands soiled and his clothing thickly covered with dust. Both soiled hands and dusty clothing are loaded with germs that injure milk. Before commencing to milk the milker should cleanse his hands and slip on a clean suit and cap, which are used for no other purpose, and which may be easily washed. He should always milk with dry hands and never allow his hands to come in contact with the milk.—Missouri Dairyman.

The Queen Bee.

The queen bee lives from two to five years, according to the manner in which she is raised. When raised by the natural way, as by the swarming of the bees, and the mother queen is two or more years old, she often lives four or five years. The life of the workers varies from forty-five days in the honey-making season to five or sometimes six months during winter, taking the time of October to April. Drones very seldom live more than four or five weeks in hot weather.

Ensilage.

Corn ensilage possesses numerous advantages for early forage, as it is at hand many times when it would be difficult to get spring crops available for early feeding. An acre of corn will produce more succulent food in the form of ensilage than an acre of any other kind of forage. The feeding value of ensilage is so well known that it is useless to discuss its merits.

Corn from China.

The Department of Agriculture is experimenting with corn shipped from China. Plants raised last year averaged less than 16 inches in height, with an average of 12 green leaves at the time of tasseling. The ears averaged 5½ inches in length and 4½ in greatest circumference, with 16 to 18 rows of small grains.

Alfalfa Meal.

Many alfalfa mills are springing up in Kansas and other western states. One Kansas plant has a capacity of eight car loads per day, and pays $50,000 annually for its raw material. Alfalfa meal is now used extensively in the cattle field.

WOMEN IN QUE

New Fields Open... prise of the

The mere fact ... things" signifies ... their old occupation ... not be concealed ... bridge or the ... the Delineator says ...

The inventive fa... properly supposed ... most naturally ... advantage when ... man. A new me... woman's work has ... woman, is less su... was the fact that ... son of Washington ... to take out a pate... freezer, in 1843, se... $41,500; yet both ... pertain to woman's ... tions. The broom ... ed symbol of wom... all ages, but Mrs. ... successful busine... sweeping cobwebs ... with the purely ... sweeper.

The Business M... Orleans has give... Gordon a gold me... her services to th... the women's Dri... League. It was ... efforts of Miss Gor... of New Orleans g... as president of th... erage League, she ... more votes than ... the United States. ... so prefer, may vo... Gordon, it is decl... 100 of these proxy ...

The latest dev... new day by com... economic traditions ... are serving as gu... is a woman, wirele... H. Tucker, on a ... Sound; Captain ... pilot on the Ohio ... ers; the granddau... Cady Stanton and ... Harriot Stanton ... hydraulic engineer ... American Society ...

UNCLE HIRAM

Yes, it's lively in ... they've got th...
And the people ... from their ...
They've got shown ... 'em from ... there,
And they look all ... costly clo's ...
But I guess they ... just the sam...
And I reckon that ... worse'n ours ...

We've got wood pi... that'll last ...
And there's more ... from, and ... grow;
We ain't worried ... the cold wint...
We can carry in ... have a cent ...
While they're shiver... they're got ...
We can heat up ... the Lord sen...

There is always ... make city p...
If it ain't a sausag... hear the wa...
When the strikers ... then the mi...
And the people hu... clubbed alon...
And the fever epid... pox every ...
Keep the city peo... glad to live ...

Oh, it's quiet in the ... few uncomm...
And God's moon ... have to do f...
But with 'taters ... wood piled ...
When ther's hay ... mows for the ... fed;
They can have th... the sights ...
And the kind old ... good enough ...
—Chicago Record-...

Brains a...

"I dined with ... who has absolutel... she—"absolutely. ...
"Why do you ... man?" asked he.
"A man with ... quicker at orderi... burg," she explai... with."—New York ...

Why ...

Bill Elephant—...
Jack Ape—Zebra ...
Bill Elephant—... was going to be ...
Jack Ape—He ... didn't break the ... he was running ...
—Detroit Free P...

A Literary ...

"Hear about Pe...
"No. What?"
"The poor fello... vernacular, bump... word and split his ...

Gaze, for Instan...

The Ostrich—Do... work to pick up ... weather is like this ...
The Kangaroo—... the jump.—Chica...

Down to ...

"I'm very orderl... have one waste ... one for dunning ...
Blatter.

Don't use what ... unable to see the