

MAILS OF THE WORLD.

Convention of the International Postal Union.

Big Men from Every Country to Attend the Meeting Which is Held Every Six Years. How Foreign Mails Are Handled.

Rates of postage for nearly the whole world were to be fixed at the meeting of the International Postal Union, held in Washington this month.

These conventions, which are held once in six years, are of great importance, and are attended by the leading postal authorities of every nation. At the last convention, held in Vienna six years ago, the 100 delegates included the postmasters general of 13 different countries. It is regarded, therefore, as a high compliment that the conference is to be held in this country, and in voting to meet here they rejected a most flattering invitation from Japan, whose delegation appealed strongly for the honor of entertaining the congress at Yokohama, and even offered to have a steamer meet the delegates from all the western nations at San Francisco and convey them from that point, free of charge, to their destination as guests of the government.

It is the union which has made it possible for a letter to be sent to almost any part of the world for five cents. Before that time it might cost anywhere from ten cents to a dollar. In those days the postage on a letter was determined by adding the postage in the countries through which it would pass, together with the "sea postage," which was more or less according to the route traveled by the ship. Those who wished to conduct international correspondence had to consult charts or go to the post office and figure out the amount. This haphazard arrangement is in marked contrast with the ease with which the transmission of foreign mails is effected to-day. And the change has been brought about within the memory of the present generation.

There are 53 governments now in the union, the Orange Free State, China and Corea being the only governments of importance which remain outside, and they will apply for admission at the present conference.

The United States brought about the reform, and the first international conference was held at Paris in 1863, but this was merely deliberative, and did not do away with the necessity of special treaties. Another convention was held at Berne in September, 1874, and after some opposition by France and England a postal union was formed on October 9 on a basis of universal five-cent postage, which went into effect in July, 1875. Other nations, not members at first, joined in rapid succession, and in 1878 another congress at Berne arranged definite treaties, embracing the principal countries of the world. A permanent organization is maintained at Berne, which acts as a clearing house for the international business, under the direction of Ernest Hahn, who will act as secretary of the present congress.

Many important matters are to be discussed, the most important of which will be the payment by one country for the transportation and delivery of its mails across another. At present all mail matter sent by one country to another is serenely paid for to its destination, the compensation being figured on a basis of statistics taken once in three years, covering a period of four weeks. Every country and the countries to which the letters are addressed weigh all mail received, in order to verify the returns.

The plan favored by the United States is for each country to transmit the mails of all other countries free of charge and keep the money it receives. The United States contends that this would be fair to all parties concerned, and will make fight for the reform at the present session of the union.

The conference will be in session for at least six weeks.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Eighteen Hundred Years After Death.

Whenever the pick used by one of the excavators at Pompeii gives forth a hollow sound upon striking the great bed of lava care is immediately taken to open the cavity that is known to be near. Into this liquid plaster of paris is poured. The cavity serves as a mold and the plaster soon hardens. When the lava has been removed the statue obtained usually proves to be that of a woman or man in the agonizing convulsions of death, the limbs contorted and the features drawn out of shape just as they were when he or she was overtaken by the flood of red-hot lava somewhere about 1,800 years ago.—Liverpool Mercury.

Flooded with Pearls.

A Bond street jeweler was telling some weeks ago of the new rage for pearls and the consequent rise in price. A tiny pearl which cost two shillings two years ago would now cost ten shillings. Since then the London market has become absolutely flooded with pearls. The poor, famished Indians have sold all they possess at famine prices and the Hatton garden merchants have profited by their distress.

Great, then, as is the demand for pearls, the supply is far greater—a hint to those who fondly desire a necklace of pearls in this year of grace 1897.—Gentlewoman.

A Mexican Governor.

Don Miguel Ahumada has proved himself a model governor of the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. During his first term of office, without increasing taxation, he paid off three-quarters of the public debt of the state amounting to \$300,000, while at the same time more than doubling the educational facilities for the young, securing the establishment of a large number of new commercial and manufacturing enterprises, erecting hospitals, and constructing waterworks which are unequalled in the Republic of Mexico.—Brooklyn Eagle.

AMERICAN CHILD AND PARENT.

Filial Piety Almost Unknown in This Country.

It was a pretty little letter that Li Hung Chang wrote to a little Brooklyn girl a few weeks ago in which he commended especially to her the religion of his country—reverence and respect for her parents—virtues which in this country are sadly neglected. The American child judges his parent with youthful severity, not unmixed with prejudice, inasmuch as he is directly affected by his father's or mother's shortcomings. To feel respect simply because a certain individual stands to him in loco parentis never enters his mind. If his parent is worthy to be loved, according to the child's standards, he loves him; if not, he dislikes him, and calmly discusses his faults as if he were a stranger. What is known as filial piety is almost unknown in America. A certain sense of duty is undoubtedly felt. An old and indigent parent would be cheerfully supported. For, without having any particular reverence, Americans are kind to old people, and even tolerant to the foibles and weaknesses of a grandparent, being only severe in their criticisms of their immediate progenitors.

The chief trouble in this country is that there is no regular standard common to every household that all young people should conform to as a matter of course. Some families are strict, others are lax, but in one and all children rank with their elders. "Family rule is hydra-headed in America," says one of our many foreign critics with much reason, but how they do love to criticize us! No other country is so constantly dissected and pulled to pieces. Children, wives and servants, all but the legitimate head of the house, with an equal voice in the management, and each with a veto over his personal will and wants."

"It must not be supposed," this writer says in another part of his book, "from the social and domestic prominence of the women and children that American men are a supine lot; they are subordinate to their families, but are not to be bullied by other men. It is simply the habit of the country, as an Indian warrior of undoubted bravery, whose head is hung with scalps, may be beaten by his favorite squaw without loss of dignity."

But," continues our latest critic, who find our institutions atrocious, our society crude and vulgar, yet who evidently has kindly feelings for American men and women despite their shortcomings—"plus terrible of all, the enfant terrible, is the American effon"—in him he finds nothing to praise!—N. Y. Tribune.

BORING FOR STEAM.

Hope to Find It Two Miles Below the Earth's Surface.

The deepest well in the world will soon be completed near Pittsburgh, Pa. It is now more than one mile deep, and when it is finished it may reach two miles into the earth. It is being bored in the interest of science. The object in penetrating so deeply is to determine just what the interior of the human footstool is like. From a commercial point of view the well was a success long ago. A comparatively few feet below the surface both gas and oil were struck in paying quantities, but the company owning the plant determined to dedicate it to science, and invited Prof. William Hallcock, of Columbia college, to carry on a series of temperature investigations as the hole is carried deeper and deeper into the earth. The result of these investigations is very interesting, and it is the opinion of several well-known scientists that the ultimate result of the boring will prove to be widespread economic as well as of scientific value. Most significant of all the facts so far ascertained is that the well grows steadily hotter as its depth increases.

It is the intention of the company to continue the boring process until something entirely new and original is developed. This may seem a crude way of putting the statement, but it has long been a theory among well men that if it is possible to go deep enough some new geological condition or economic feature would be found to exist. At the very lead they claim natural steam would be encountered, or the well walls would finally become so hot that water could be pumped down cold and pumped up in the form of steam, and thus the natural power of the future be obtained.

At any rate there is material for much speculation, and the interest becomes greater in increased ratio as the drill descends and the startling event is expected to happen almost any day. One remarkable feature of the well is that the gas found near the surface is now used to operate the powerful engines which do the drilling. Thus the natural power already issuing from the well is utilized for the purpose of deepening it.—Washington Star.

The Indian's Pipe Quarry.

In southwestern Minnesota is a celebrated quarry where the Indians have for centuries obtained a soft red stone out of which they carve pipes. The quarry belongs to the Sioux, to whom it was ceded by the United States government 40 years ago. Mr. A. H. Gottschalk says this is the only place in America, and probably in the world, where this particular kind of stone is found. Many tribes of the red men formerly resorted to the quarry, and the pipestone seems to have been an article of commerce among them, for it has been found in Indian graves scattered all the way from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. It has also been found as far west as the Rocky mountains, and in British America.—Youth's Companion.

Precaution.

Languid Luke—I read dat greenbacks wuz apt ter be chock full of disease germs. Does yer believe it?

Easie Eddie—Sure, dat's why I won't work; I might git paid in greenbacks en git my system filled wit' microbes! Twinkles.

CHINA AWAKENED.

Signs of Educational and Commercial Progress.

Beneficial Results of the Recent War with Japan—Foreigners Flocking in, and Trade on the Increase.

Newspaper clipping.

Par ordre de la Cour.

PAUL O. GUERIN.

Graffier.

30 juil.—30 Sept. 1897.

STATUT DE LA LOUISIANE, PARIS 1^{er} DE L'Orléans, No. 49,581.—Court Civil de District.—John S. Tomp vs ses créanciers. Qu'une réunion des créanciers de l'Orléans a été organisée par H. G. Dey, notaire public en cette ville, commençant le 10 octobre 1897, à 11 heures A. M., dans le but de fixer les termes et conditions de la vente aux enchères de la maison de l'Orléans, à faire remise et propriété des créanciers de l'Orléans et de plaignant soit notifiés et informés de l'assemblée.

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