

Downers Grove Reporter

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THE MAILS AND THE RAILROADS

"The suburban suffereth long and is kind." That isn't a quotation from Shakespeare or any other author, modern or ancient, but from last week's Hinsdale "Doings." The Doings tells of the "service" we along the "Q" are not getting from the government owned railroads and the post office department. If the audience is favorable we would like to add our bit. Thank you.

First the post office. Never before in our memory have so many kicks been registered with us about the mail service. This applies not only to local conditions but to all service. There is hardly a day goes by but some one isn't calling 188-J with another instance of efficiency as she is practiced now.

Here is a specific instance of the system as now used to route mail for the suburban towns along the Q. We used to have a local mail car which would pick up mail from here to Chicago distributing it to the various stations as they came to them. Now this mail is all sent to the already congested Chicago terminal where it is sorted then sent back over the route. The Reporter is mailed Friday mornings, papers for the Hinsdale rural routes go to Chicago where they lay around goodness knows how long. They arrive in Hinsdale sometimes Saturday afternoon and sometimes not until Monday. The rural subscribers receive them either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday morning.

Our Lisle subscribers suffer about the same way. Their papers go to Chicago, 21 miles away. Then they go back to Lisle, 24 miles, making a journey of 45 miles to cover a distance of only three. The Hinsdale Doings is mailed at that office every Saturday morning. It reaches our office every Wednesday morning just as regular as clockwork.

Understand it is not only second class mail that travels in this way but first class as well. Letters mailed at Hinsdale for Western Springs, two miles away, go to Chicago and then out, a distance of 32 miles.

In the words of Mr. Bump. "How do they do it?"

As for the railroads operating under the Government, the less said the better. Freight, express or any other way goods are shipped they are delayed in transit, somewhere. The service, to put it mild, is punk.

What a relief it is to get that off our chest.

WE SEE BY THE PAPERS THAT

Hinsdale was lucky enough to get five cars of coal and the street lights have again been turned on.

The Hotel LaSalle in Chicago has made a reduction of prices on the food served in their restaurants and on the prices charged for their rooms. In explanation the management said they had had several fat seasons and could afford to run at nearly cost for a while. If every business in the United States would act on this principle how nice it would be.

The coal situation is—well swear words look pretty mad in cold type so we will endeavor to hold our temper. But how the, there we almost said it again. Anyway, people who have coal in their basements should reserve the supply for real cold weather, the atmosphere at present is pleasantly warm compared to what is coming.

The Republican convention in North Dakota nominated Gen. Wood for the presidency, Gov. Lowden running second. The real fight will be staged on the floor of the National convention and it is our opinion that Governor Lowden, who has made a record equaled by no presidential possibility, will be the G. O. P. nominee.

A British subject was captured by Mexican "bandits" and held for ransom. The British consular agent notified Carranza to have the man released "quickly" and it was done in spite of the fact that Carranza is in similar straits when the U. S. Gov-

ernment asked for release of Americans held for ransom, said he had no control over the bandits. When the British lion growled a little it was time to sit up and take notice and the "president" of the Mexican "republic" knew it. Strange isn't it that an Englishman, no matter where he goes is under the protection of his government, while an American takes chances, he may be, or he may not be. The Mexican muddle is too deep for the average person to grasp, and we being but average persons cannot assimilate all the intricacies of the puzzle. But this we know show those Greasers that the United States Government stands back of her citizens and the murderings, plunderings, jailings and holding for ransoms, would soon cease. Intervention in Mexico, cleaning up the count, and establishing a real government is the job of the United States. If we do not do it, won't do it, or can't do it, for goodness sake let's turn the job over to the League of Nations or some world power that can and will. It would benefit Mexico, and all the rest of the world.

The newest and most economical farming machinery will be shown at the Dicke Theatre on next Tuesday, December 9th. Adv.

ZERO WEATHER BRINGS VISIONS OF O. F. WINTER

Are we going to experience an O. F. (Old Fashioned) winter again this year? The early cold wave, snow and zero weather which started last Saturday evening would seem to indicate that such it will be.

The old timers have been telling us all about the old fashioned winters they used to have. How they would drive across country over the fences as if there were none, and if the truth were known there weren't many.

However the winter we experienced here two years ago when traffic on every railroad running out of Chicago was at a standstill, kinda put a crimp in those stories. That was a real winter and from the way this one is starting out it will be another.

Zero Sunday morning, lower than that Wednesday morning and not very much moderation is giving us a slight taste of what we have coming.

Dorothy Phillips, the star who was featured in "The Right to Happiness," will be at the Dicke Theatre in "Destiny" on Saturday, December 13. Ad.

FOODS NO LONGER IN USE

Vegetables and Meats, Familiar in the Middle Ages, Have Disappeared From Modern Menu.

If the art of cooking has declined, it is in part due to the changing fashions in food. For instance, in Germany in the middle ages many vegetables were eaten which have long since disappeared from the table, such as violet leaves, mixed with young netles and green wheat, and boiled hemp seed. Salads were made of mallow leaves, celery roots, and purslane, mixed with salt and pepper, for oil was almost unknown. Olive oil was considered to smack of effeminacy and Italian luxury. Horseradish sauce was used instead.

The origin of sauerkraut is lost in antiquity. But it was certainly made by the German hausfrau long before cauliflower or artichokes or potatoes were known. The potato revolutionized the fare of the poor, who had formerly to rely on the roots of wild plants. The variety of meats was larger, including beavers, and in Berne bears were kept for food. Spices and aromatics were much sought after and far more used for cooking. Ginger and nutmegs were used to flavor many dishes that have now vanished from our tables.

Lion's Head in Fountains.

The original reason for the choice of a lion's head in public fountains where the water comes out of a lion's mouth was, remarks an exchange, that among the ancient Egyptians the rising of the waters of the Nile, which was the most important event of the year, meaning life and prosperity to the whole nation, always took place when the sun was in the constellation of Leo. The lion's head on fountains is a symbol of the life giving waters of the Nile.

HIGH SCHOOL BOY TELLS VALUE OF LIBRARY

Other Library Notes.

(By Ralph Huston, a Junior in the Kewanee High School, Kewanee, Ill.) To the Kewanee Public Library I owe the opportunity to develop an interest in astronomy that has become an unending source of pleasure and profit. For some strange reason I had always avoided a certain shelf of books in our Public Library devoted to the science of astronomy. Even a glance at the titles of some of the more ponderous volumes such as "The Outer Universe," "Evolution of Worlds," or "Stellar Spectra" suggested topics far too impractical and theoretical to compete with those in the newer volumes on the wireless and submarine.

But it happened that one Sunday afternoon in the Reading Room, my attention was attracted by the astronomy department of the Chicago Sunday Tribune. It contained a vivid description of the red star Aldebaran, together with a map showing its position in the heavens. My interest was aroused. In response to my inquiries the Librarian went to the neglected shelf of books and proceeded to pick out some of the most absorbing volumes I have read.

Particularly interesting was Martha E. Martin's "Friendly Stars," an elementary introduction to naked-eye astronomy. In time I found that many others such as Garrett P. Serviss' "Astronomy with the Naked Eye" were intensely interesting. Among these I might mention Todd's "New Astronomy," and Professor Newcomb's "Popular Astronomy."

At last my chum, who had also become fascinated by this new hobby, suggested that we make telescopes. At this point we found Jacoby's "Astronomy" and "Half Hours with a Telescope" by Proctor of assistance and they explained clearly and completely the laws governing the reflection of light rays and showed how lenses of all kinds change the apparent size of objects viewed through them. After reading these carefully we learned that the structure of a telescope must do two things, intensify light, and magnify. As all that was needed for the simplest telescope was two lenses with foci of different length, we began to look about for some material. The ten-cent store furnished a great variety. By combining these cheap spectacle lenses in various ways we at last succeeded in getting a combination that would magnify about ten times. The mounting was merely a cardboard tube.

When we became more familiar with the practical working of amateur instruments, I procured from an oculist a special lens and a microscope eyepiece. By putting a small casing on the end of a seven foot board and making a groove in the other end for the eyepiece, I managed to rig up my very crude instrument. I thought that perhaps with it I might be able to see one of Jupiter's satellites. But imagine my delight that evening when upon turning the new instrument up on Jupiter, it revealed—not one satellite, but four. It also showed the rings which encircle Saturn and the moon was a glorious sight.

Aided again by the Librarian, I was enabled to secure from the United States Government, its yearly publication, "The American Nautical Almanac and Ephemeris." Using this as a basis we have been able to perform many calculations which were quite new to us and of a very instructive nature. I also wrote to the Director of the Melbourne Royal Observatory whose name and address were given in the "Ephemeris," and now I have a correspondent on the other side of the world to tell me how the starry heavens look from that side of the globe.

Slightly more than a year of study and observation have thoroughly convinced me that in no other field of knowledge can be found a more fascinating as well as cultural hobby.

"The Witness" has been added to our magazine list by the courtesy of Mr. Hugh M. MacWhorter.

Beginning the last Sunday in Nov-

ember, the Library will be opened from 2:30 to 4:00 o'clock.

The story hour at the Library every Tuesday afternoon, conducted by the Kindergarten Association, is proving as popular and as well attended as in previous years.

The circulation of books and magazines for the month of November exceeded all previous records, 2207 is the total number of adult and juvenile literature circulated. Of this number 175 were magazines.

If you miss seeing the latest thing in farm machinery at the Dicke Theatre on Tuesday, December 9th, you miss dollars. Adv.

HONOR HELD BY QUAKER CITY

First American Edition of the Hebrew Scriptures Was Put in Type in Philadelphia.

The first American edition of the Hebrew Scriptures was put in type at Philadelphia by William Fry.

The first translation of the Scriptures into English by a Jewish scholar in America was that of Isaac Leeser of Philadelphia in 1853, and the first English version prepared by a group of Jewish scholars is that of the Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, 1917.

One of the most important and widely used revisions of the Rheims-Doan version was that of Archbishop Kendrick of Philadelphia, 1851-62.

Ben Franklin didn't think the language of the King James version sufficiently up to date to suit the literati of his time, and he tried his improving hand on the Book of Job with this result:

"And it being levee day in heaven, ah! God's nobility came to court to present themselves before him; and Satan also appeared in the circle, as one of the ministry. And God said to Satan: You have been a long time absent; where were you? And Satan answered: I have been at my country seat, and in different places visiting my friends."

King of Poor Penmen.

The palm for illegibility is generally awarded to the late Horace Greeley, but in our own land probably Lecky was king of impossible penmen.

There are veteran compositors alive who remember setting up his "History of Morals." Those who could decipher the manuscript were more poked than their rivals who took Arabic and Hindustani in their stride.

To master Lecky the men were allowed to take some dubious fotton and ponder them in privacy. They say that the author was, in printing circles, the best cursed man of the century.—London Chronicle.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The second term of dancing lessons opens Saturday, December 6th, in Zindt's Hall.

Following is the schedule: First

Class for Children from four to ten years old, 1:30 to 2:30 p. m.

Second Class for Children, ten to sixteen years old, 2:45 to 3:45 p. m.

Ball Room Class for Adults, 4:00 to 5:00 p. m.

Miss Florence Kiefer. adv.

S. Andrew's Church

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