POST OFFICE CURIOS.

Odd Things That Come to Light in the Postal Service.

A Carrier Who Gets \$55,000 a Year-Mailing a Silver Dellar-New Employee Keep Track of Addresses, Etc.

A little item which appeared, hidden away in a mass of other Washington news, a day or two ago, unimpertant in itself, gave an interesting glimpse at the ramifications of the most gigantic of modern public utilities, the United States post office department. The item was the announcement of the establishment of the newest post office in the country-in Alesha-and the appropriation of \$25,000 for the annual salary of the letter carrier who covers the route from Dawson, says the Detroit News-Tribune.

The new service is at present & smouthly one, and the letter carrier provides his own sledge and dogs. Large as his salary is, it appears that he carne it all, for already the men has been carried away by avalanches, made a prisoner by anowdrifts, fallen siown mountain precipiess, and had other adventures exciting if not pleas-

Just how big an institution the post office is, probably few people realise. Even figures convey no very clear impression since they begin to mount up into the hundred millions. Still, m few figures of the post office are not without their interest.

To begin with, there are over 77,000 post offices in operation throughout the country, and about 470,000,000 miles of mail service performed. This is on the authority of a pamphlet just issued satitled: "Postal Statistics of the "United States," which the third assistant postmaster general has prepared. From the same source it is learned that during the single year of 1901 there were 4,329,273,696 stamps used by the people of the United States, 772,839,-#000 stamped envelopes and 659,614,800 postal cards.

The number of pieces of matter of all kinds mailed during the year was 7,424,390,329. There were 20,814,800 registered letters, and the amount issued in money orders was \$274,846,067.

Parenthetically it may be interesting to mention that, according to Bradsatreet's, two-thirds of all the letters which pass through the post offices of the world are written and cent to people who speak English. Of this two-thirds considerably more than half pase through the post offices of the United States.

Every now and then people who are accustomed to receive much correspondence find themselves surprised by the accuracy with which the officials of the postal service have sucseeded in tracing out, through sucmessions of changed addresses, many of them altogether inadequate if not absolutely erroneous, the proper owners of the letters and delivering them. at their destination in safety. This is accomplished through a system which, in its way, is as perfectly organized and as efficient as the best equipped detective or police bureau in the world.

- At the general post office in every large city is kept a special directory in which all the names which appear in the regular city directory, and thousands of others, are kept. Between each of the printed leaves of this directory are bound four blank pages. These pages are for the inscription of changed addresses. A person who changes his address so informs either his carrier or the post office, and the change is noted in the directory.

If mail comes improperly addressed, or without any address excepting the person's name, reference is made to the directory. If the name is not found the five names most like it are writ-Men upon the envelope with their addresses appended, and these five addresses are tried. Of the letters which thus "go through the directory," the commers of about half are found.

A recent test of the safety of the mails and the honesty of the portal welerks was made by a man in Detroit. .He pasted on one side of a silver dollar a bit of paper on which he wrote his daughter's address. On the other side he put a one-cent stamp, sending the redicitar at merchandise rates.

The experiment was the result of a dispute with a foreigner, who doubted the safety of the United States mails and warned the American that that was the last he would hear of his money. Two days later the patriotic Detroiter seceived a letter from his daughter acknowledging the receipt of the coin.

pervices of the Worm. Ever since Darwin showed how the common garden worm helped the ground by keeping constantly at work Boosening it and making it fine, sciengists have been studying these lowly ereatures with renewed interest. Inte-By a Swiss naturalist, Prof. Dussere. has been investigating the chemical value of the worms' work, and he finds that, after a worm has finished with mmy particular part of earth, it is far richer in phosphorus and lime than it was before. Thus the worm does constantly, as a regular process of nature, what the farmer strives to do artificial. Iv with chemical compounds. The worm fertilizes the ground and enriches the ground just as the farmer does .- Na-

His Mistake, "Is this a commission house?" asked

"Yes, sir," said the commission merechant. "What can we do for you?" "Well, if you sell commissions, I'd. dike to buy one, if they're not too dear, for my son. I want a lieutenant's commission in the army, for my son wants so be a soldier and he's too lary to go de West Point."-Baltimore Herald.

othe tall man.

PUMCENT PARAGRAPHS.

"He's quite a star as an after-dinner openker, inn't be?" "Star? He's a reghar moon. He becomes brighter the Julier he gets."-Philadelphia Press.

Uncle Jack-"The professor has a mummy quite 2,000 years old." Elale-"Oh, mummy, will you be 2,000 years old when me and Cyril are grown up like him?"-Punch.

Cynic-"One of the greatest nulsances on earth is this custom of shaking hands with everyone you meet." Friend-"That's right, old man, shake." -Detroit Free Press.

Bertie-"Are we any kin to chickone?" Gertie-"Of course not; we're people." Bertie-Well, Uncle Harry says papa was a mighty bad egg when he was young."-Town and Country.

The Reason .- "I wonder why Sunie is carrying her umbrella. The weather prediction says to-day will be clear and fair." "Didn't you know that Susie's father is the weather man?"-Indian-Apolia News.

The Autocrat Satisfied .- "Well, I've got the plans for my new house all finished." "Got them fixed to suit you, eh?" "Oh, no; but the architect says he is satisfied with them."-Philadelphia Record.

"Dr. Fakely is making a lot of money out of his new practice." "What is it?" "He's working for a patent medicine firm-giving up his patients as incurable, so they can come along and make them well with their great compound." -Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

A Devoted Couple. - Mrs. Hartt-"Yes, I have no doubt there are unhappy marriages, but really I cannot understand how they are possible. Now, there's George and I, we are so devoted. He says he could not exist without me, and I'm sure I live only for him." Mrs. Greene-"You really are to be congratulated, both of you. By the way, how long have you been married?" Mrs. Hartt--"Just a week day after to-morrow."-Boston Tran-

-DEATH FIAT TO ALASKANS.

Game Laws Recently Passed by Goverament Will Mean Starvation to the Natives.

Recent advices received from Nome. Alaska, say that in passing the recent game law for Alaska Uncle Sam has issued a flat of death against many of the native Alaskans, some of his best and most generous subjects. Unless something is done promptly, hundreds of them will die of famine before the close of the long, bitter winter, says a Seattle dispatch to the Chicago Inter Ocean.

The natives of northwestern Alaska live by fishing and hunting. They know absolutely nothing of agriculture, and beyond a few berries, the bleak, barren tundra yeilds nothing to aid to support life. But they are industrious and enterprising. In summer they fish, dry their salmon and tomcods for the winter, and preserve their seal and whale oils in skins. Since the white men came, with their big cannery scines and wholesale methods of killing game and fish, the Alaskan has found it hard to live.

But he has never complained, never resented the advent of the white man. The history of the peninsula does not record a case where an Eskimo has refused to help a white man in distress or has let him go hungry when he has had a bite of fish or a drop of oil to share with him.

The fishing season is now on for the Alaskan. He is getting his primitive traps in the rivers, and later in the fall he will fish for seale and whales in his big skin boats. News comes from Valdez and the cannery sections that this year, in accordance with the new law, agents of the treasury department are destroying all the native fish traps on the rivers.

When the district attorney's office at Nome was interviewed on the subject it was stated here, too, the new law must be complied with—the Eakimo must be made to comply. This means that he will get few, if any, fish, and that this winter he must starve.

Last winter Maj. Booth, commander of the post at Nome, issued over 1,000 rations to the starving Port Safety Eskimos. The bill was not allowed by the war department, and the kindhearted major had to pay it out of his own pocket. This year there is a new commander, and if the natives are starving he will probably remember how costly charity proved to his predecessor.

In a few weeks winter will close down and extreme northwestern Alaska will be isolated by miles of frozen ses, and then assistance will be too late. The natives need help and need it now, and the prayer of all whites is this: For God's sake exempt them from the jurisdiction of the game law and instruct commanders to give them rations when they are indeed in direct

A Woman Beheaded.

Nineteen-year-old Veronica Kadziersks, who had killed her three children, was beheaded with the sword at Hanover, the kaiser having refused to pardon her. If she had committed murder by duel she would have been sentenced. to three months and released after two weeks .- N. Y. Sun.

Very Still. "Sketch you?" echoed the rambling artist. "What kind of a subject would

you make?" "Oh. I'd do as still life," grinned the tramp! who had not changed his position in the hays lack for 24 hours .- Chicago Daily News.

fomewhat Different.

Digge-1 set a trap for my wife the other evening.

Biggs- Nut jealous, I hope. "Oh, no. She wanted to catch a mouse in the pantry."- Detroit Free

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

It is said that Texas alone markets \$50,000,000 worth of cattle annually. American exports to South Africa this year will reach a total of \$33,000,-000, or double that of 1897.

The last five years of the nineteenth century produced more gold than the entire output of the seventeenth cen-

For 30 years the United States commission of fish and fisheries has been making a study of Uncle Sam's salt-water farm, its products and the men who work it.

The loftiest steamboat routs in the world is doubtless that just opened between Puno and Chilaya, Peru, on Lake Titacaca, 1,300 feet high, or twice the altitude of Mount Washington.

In the New England menhaden fishery the record seine haul produced 1,300,600 fish. - A single seine of the largest size costs more than \$5,000, and more than 1,000 men have been employed in the seining business of Albemarle sound alone during one sea-

Not even does the shrewd instinct of animals always prevent them from eating food which is injurious. In Montana from 50,000 to 100,000 cattle per annum are poisoned each year and die as the result of eating two poisonous weeds-wild larkspur and poison camass—while great losses are sustained each year in the southwest country from stock eating the loco weed.

For 25 years the indefatigable Catholic priest, Father Delattre, has been engaged in archaeological researches on the site of ancient Carthage, and now reports what he declares the best find made during this period. It is a white marble sarcophagus, 2.09 meters in length, partially covered with designs, that on the lid being a relief portrait of a woman of rare artistic beauty. The sarcophagus belongs to the Punic period and is the work of a Greek artist. It is now regarded as the piece de resistance in the wellstocked museum of the Peres Blancs in Carthage. The find was made in the necropolis near Ste. Monique.

MAXIMILIAN'S HAT.

The Bistorie Beadpiece New in the Possession of an Engineer Who Prises It Very Highly.

"By the way, I ran across a rather interesting relic a few days ago," said a gentleman at one of the hotels, relates the New. Orleans Times-Democrat, "and it was nothing less than a hat which had belonged to Maximilian, the sad-fated emperor of Mexico. It is a plug hat and is now the property of Alexander Mouton, who is a large sugar planter at Ruth in the parish of St. Mary. Mr. Mouton is an engineer who has achieved considerable distinction, and is a limb of the distinguished Mouton family of Louisiana. He came into possession of the hat under rather interesting circumstances in 1882. After the United States mint at New Orleans eled under his supervision, he was a successful competitor for the construction of a mint in the City of Mexico in which it was proposed to coin about 190,000,000 silver pieces of the smaller denominations.

"The work was successfully carried to completion and the authorities of the government were highly pleased with what the Louisians engineer had accomplished. In addition to the compensation which he had contracted to receive, and did receive, he was presented with a number of relics which had been stored in the royal palace. Among these was the plug hat which had belonged to, and which had been worn by, Emperor Maximilian. None of the relics presented to Mr. Mouton is prized so highly as the old plug hat. He is a strong admirer of Ferdinand Maximilian Joseph, archduke of Austria, and who later filled, faithfully enough, the position of emperor of Mexico, and he is fond of recounting some of his exploits, his brave defense of Queretaro with 10,000 men and the manner in which he died when shot along with the two generals Meraman and Mejia in July, 1867. Mr. Mouton, because of the admiration he has for the character of Maximilian, and because of the peculiar circumstances under which he came into possession of the hat, places an extremely high value on it, and has often told his friends that it was the richest return he received for constructing the mint in the City of Mexico. It goes to show how strong sentiment is in the nature of some men.

Gambling a Necessity.

Some years ago gambling was prohibited in a part of Siam, and the government did everything it could to suppress the vice.

It turns out, however, that this landable action has seriously deranged. the labor market. The Chinese immigrants who labor in the mines rank gambling among the necessities of life, and the prohibition kept them away. Now the government has hadaccordingly to modify its policy. It now enacts that where there is a sufficiently large Chinese population gambling houses will be allowed. The gambling is to be restricted to Chi-

Good Morning Exercise, A girl who wishes to expand her chest can do so if each morning after her bath she will stand erect, feet together and shoulders back, arms straight down, and take 25 full deep breaths. It is perhaps best to begin with 15 for the first week, and gradually increase to 25; if one desires to go on to fuller perfection increase until 50 full breaths can be taken.-Detroit

CARDS WITH LOVERS

Chicago Working Girls Who Will Acsept None But Union Men.

Organisations Adopt That Principle and Members Are More Sought After Than Before by Elle gible Young Men.

Love with a union label is the only brand of heart affair that is now recognized in wage-earning circles in this city. More than 100 girls have, within the past few days, joined the "No card, no girl" movement organized recently, and applications are piling up in the hands of the three young women who organized the crusade against nonunion sweethearts, says the New York World.

When the purposes of the order were first announced, Nellie Mahoney, Mamie Dillon and Kittle Halle, the promoters, and the few others who had the courage to unite with them, were laughed at and even jeered. The idea of mixing up love and unionism seemed too funny; in fact, the whole matter was treated as a joke by the working girls of Chicago:

Now it is apparent that the three young women builded better than they knew, for there are no three girls in the country who have as many offers of marriage from substantial working-

The trio speak of the stacks of love letters and photographs they have received as "silly," which treatment of the situation serves to make more scute the envy of the girls who thought the movement a joke.

The loyalty of Miss Mahoney and her associates to the cause of union labor, by which they announced, some weeks ago, that thereafter they would have nothing to do with young men who did not carry union cards in their pockets, has had its reward, and they are the leaders of a cult that bids fair to grow to permanency and great pro-

From the time that the announcement of the girls' intentions was made until to-day, they have been besieged with offers of marriage. Pink, blue and green enveloped letters, every one a palpable sign of delicate attention, have accumulated at the headquarters of the "Union League club," No. 155 Washington street. They are from men willing and eager to comply with the conditions the girls announced that they would impose upon all suitors.

"You are the girls for us," the letters say, and they praise the girls for the remarkable impetus their resolve is certain to give to organized labor.

Some of the writers assert that when young women are thoroughly organized against nonunionism, there will be no artisan or laborer to be found outside the pale of unionism.

The letters come from all parts of the country-from Maine to the Pacific coast-and the remarkable thing of it is that nearly all of the writers assert that they will not marry a girl who is not a member or does not join the Mahoney-Dillon-Halle order of union sweethearts.

There is at this time a tremendous demand for membership in the "Union League Club." A small army of girls was initiated at the first meeting of the wlub last week, and twice as many have applied to come into the fold this

All the applicants declare that the offers of matrimony which have poured in upon the pioneers in the "No card. no girl" movement has nothing to do with their desire to become members of the organization. There are those who whisper that they are not entirely uninfluenced by the effect of the

original announcement, however. The three original union labelsweethearts are ready to share their advantage with their tardy sisters.

"We did not know that we were going to receive those silly letters," said one of them the other day, "and we wish the men would stop writing to us. We have enough letters to burn during the winter in place of non-union coal, and enough photographs to cover the walls of our rooms."

The girls are anxious to impress upon all they meet that the pledge which all members must take not to associate with non-union men is only incidental to the work of their new organization. They expect to accomplish great things by it and are already discussing one plan for making their organization pop-

It is their intention to establish their headquarters in a furnished flat, which. of course, must have been built by union men and contain nothing but union-made furniture. In this flat members of the organization who are out of work or sick will be cared for by other members. At the same time the flat will be utilized as the meeting place of the club and the place where all business of the organization will be transacted.

Other plans of a similar nature are being considered, and before long the girls expect to have a majority of the young women who belong to unions, such as those of the rubber workers, the glove makers and others in which the feminine element predominates, in their organization.

Depends on Circumstances. She-Do you regard marriage as a necessity or a luxury?

He-Well, when a man marries a cross-eyed girl who says silly things, whose nose turns up at the end and whose father is worth about \$2,000,-000, I should say it was a necessity .---Chicago Record-Herald.

Feminine Charity, He-I understand Miss Thirtyodd in

writing a historical novel. She-Well, she's certainly capable. She's getting somewhat historical herself.-Chicago Tribune.

WHY WOMEN SHOULD SING.

It is a Babit Which Makes Them Cheerful and Meine to Make Them Robust.

There is little or no doubt that the woman who is even only tolerably good looking, but who can sing well enough to appear in public, finds more ardeat admirers among the opposite sex than the merely pretty woman who has no similar ability. Even men who are not at all musical feel attracted toward a girl who has a good voice and is not too nervous to use it, says

a household writer.

Women who sing are generally robust and cheerful. This is absolutely true, sweeping as it may appear to be at first glance. A woman who would sing well must learn the art of filling her lungs with air in one deep breath; she is bound to do this or she won't be able to sing. When she has learned how to do this she has learned one of the profoundest secrets of physical fitness, and a cheerful disposition follows perfect health as night follows days. A woman who would sing well must learn the art of putting her mind wholly out of touch with worrying details of everyday life for at least a given time every 24 hours; she can't possibly think of matters of a domestic nature while engaged in her daily practice. Should she do so she is but wasting her efforts and will never become a singer in the true sense of the word.

These two points are all important; they in themselves will be enough to secure attention. from discerning young wife-seekers, yet when in addition to these points there is a good voice as well, how can anyone have ground for asking why women who sing succeed in getting husbands quicker than the women who don't? Women who sing go to twice as many house parties and picnics as their sisters who do not sing. This being so, it is but natural that they should meet twice as many eligible young men. Again, the songstress who is at a party or picnic is singled out and begged to add an item to the entertainment programme. She accedes to the wish and for a time she rivets the attention of all present.

Her good qualities are bound to be seen, for the simple reason that she is criticised, as she could not be were it not for the fact that she stands alone for a space and is the goal of all eyes. Her own nonsinging sister. may be just as pretty and lovable a girl, but her most attractive qualities are not discovered half so quickly because she is dumped down among the crowd of visitors and is not invited to stand up for notice-an inspection. The girl who sings doesn't know what indigestion is; she is making her blood purer and richer as she sings, every note being a blow at the torpid condition from which indigestion is known to spring. As she is free from this common ailment among girls she is, as a result, free from the despondency and gloom that follow in its train. Her happy face and laughing eyes do not fail to arouse first the interest and then the admiration of some nice young man who is earning a good salary and who is beginning to think that it is about time he took unto himself

The girl who sings, having learned how to put away life's little worries during the practice hour, learns also how to put them away at other times. This enables her to keep an eye open for the pleasanter side issues of life. She sees the beauty of the sunset and the charm of a noble action. These things put a light into her life that is reflected in all her words and deeds. She is elevated for no other reason than that she is put in possession of dreams that are unknown to the woman who does not sing. Added to her gift of voice is the benefit that has come to her through strictly training it-for no one will argue that only a voice is necessary to a singer. Art is needed almost as much as voice, if singing worth the name is to be had. The girl who sings is asked to become a member of a choral society or perhaps a choir. Any mere man knows that directly a girl joins a choir she may become an engaged young lady as if by magic. Girls who become members of choirs are never old maids unless they are determined to be so.

Something in a Name.

The experience of Leon Skizicoinianmolowsky while endeavoring to escape from the clutches of a Long Island city court official, was not a pleasant one. The deputy sheriff, who had a warrant for him, asked Leon if his name was Skizie-but by that time Leon was around the corner. When the deputy sheriff caught up with him he managed to ask if his name was Leon Skizieoini—and Leon was gone again. The third time the deputy made a heroic attempt by slurring over the middle syllables and coming in strong with the "owsky," he felt that he had done all that the law required. But Leon was again on the run. The deputy pursued him hotly, however, and was happily aided by the fact that the hunted man got his feet entangled in a few loops of his name and fell heavily, the officer tumbling over him. Him case and especially his name, will be called during the present term of court, in time, it is hoped, to begin the trial at the next term .- Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Queen's Work.

The queen of Italy is caring for 50 children, all boys, whom she is educating, and will have them taught a trade. An enterprise of a somewhat similar character is being backed by the dowager empress of China, who intends to establish a girls' school in the palace at Pekin. Ten daughters of princes will be the students. A female teacher will instruct them in English, that they may become interpreters when the empress entertains the wives of foreign ministers .- Baltimore News.

GOLD FROM THE SAND

Machine to Run Over the Desert and Gather Up the Metal.

Will Operate Much Like a Fanning. Machine, Separating the Procious Dust from the Sand as It is Sifted.

Billions of dollars' worth of the yellow metal waiting to be gathered up! The problem of separating it from the sands of the desert solved! There is a sort of a fairy tale sound to this, but nevertheless an enterprise that has this very thing for a foundation is being backed by Philadelphia capital in plenty, reports the Los Angeles Herald.

That the machine in question will sift gold particles out of sand, as a fanning machine separates grain from the chaff, is no matter of doubt, inasmuch as the writer has seen the thing accomplished with his own eyes. The only question is as to the amount of the yellow metal con-tained in the desert sands, and the cost of working the apparatus.

The former of these two points. seems to have been settled by thorough investigation. A series of 218 samples of sand taken across one stretch of desert 80 miles in width yielded varying quantities of gold, but the least amount obtained was It cents to the ton. Some of the samples rose as high as 18 cents a ten. Nery little, one might think, but, when it is explained that it costs only two cents a ton to separate the precious stuff from the sand, the enormous profit obtainable becomes apparent. This two cents covers all expenses involved in the getting of the gold in a pure state, including the running of the machine.

The machine, which is the invention of Dr. Elmer Gates, of Washington, weighs 3,000 tons. It is built torun over the desert on broad wheels and carries a powerful dynamo, together with a series of bucket comveyers operated by a chain. For electricity to run a separator handling 3,000 tons of sand per day the cost is only 16 cents per diem, the chief expense being for lifting the sand in the conveyers to a height of four feet and dropping it through

the hoppers. The sand, as it is taken aboard, is poured into the hoppers in continuous streams. Each stream is about eight inches wide and half an inchthick, and falls vertically through a magnetic field (a space within the influence of a powerful electro-magzet), thereby inducing a static charge in the gold particles, which consequently fly off and away from the sand, being attracted by a metalknob of opposite polarity.

This seems rather complicated, but in reality is simple enough. The particles of gold in passing through the magnetic field are electrified, and, as a matter of course, are attracted by a pole of opposite electrification. They fly in the direction of a metal knob, which is provided with a tube and air nuction, the latter drawing the particles through the tube into a bottle

beneath. The process seems actually magical. As shown to the writer, the gold particles could be seen to jump a distance of eight or more inches to the metal knob, flying through the air as though they were bits of iron attracted to a magnet. In this way, as the stream of sand fell through the magnetic field, every speck of gold was fanned out of it and carried down through the tube to add to the yellow accumulation in

the bottle below. Now, there are in the southwestern part of the United States hundreds of thousands of square miles of deserts which hitherto have been useless for lack of water. They are so much waste territory; literally there is nothing doing-a phrase more applicable to those regions than to any other areas known, unless on the surface of the moon. If they can be turned to profitable account by working their dry sands for gold it will be a great benefit

to mankind. Gold in two forms is found in these rands-flour gold and float gold. The former is a very fine powder of the yellow metal, while the latter might be compared to infinitesimal scraps of gold leaf. The float gold will actually float

It is a question of extracting forms of gold which hitherto have not been commercially recoverable. Every smallest particle of the precious metal is separated out of the sand, and thus, if the latter contains only 12 cents' worth of it per ton, the net profit (deducting two cents a ton for expenses) would be ten cents a ton. Handling 3.000 tons of sand per diem, the profit per day would be \$300 for each ma-

Peculiar Partridge.

A rather curious case has occurred on a shooting preserve in England. A fowl laid five eggs in some rough grass in an old pasture near one of the farmsteads and a partridge took to the need and laid in it. She hatched four of the fowl's eggs, but none of herown, seven being left in the nest. The foreman's wife carried the four chickens into the farmyard, but the partridge very soom fetched them back again into the field. and they subsequently remained with her, spurning the domesticity of their farmyard relatives; on their being approached their foster-mother would fly away to a respectful distance, and on the intruders retiring would return to hercharges.-- London Field.

A Permetual Shake.

Every few days a cable dispatch, says the Chicago Tribune, informs Unclo Sam that some portion of his farm has been shaken up by an earthquake.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS Bet très sérandas en Legislans et dans teus les Etats du 82 8a publicité offre donc au commerce des avantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'attunement, su l'auné Eastier, sont-tions 31200

Feitien bebemadet- \$3.00.