

RAILS A NECESSITY.

The Dispatch Explorers Compelled to Rob the Fences of Many Farmers

TO GET OVER SOFT PLACES.

An Astonishing Mathematical Calculation Made

BY A MEMBER OF THE EXPEDITION.

Armstrong and Jefferson Counties Still Covered With Mud.

THOUGH LIMESTONE IS ABUNDANT

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT. THE PITTSBURG DISPATCH COUNTY ROAD EXPEDITION, KITTANNING, MAY 5.

Only one thing has disturbed our conscience on this expedition. A few fence rails have been borrowed and not returned.

The Butler county farmer who saw us appropriate rails from his fence and who passed on, depending upon our honesty to replace it, may find the rail lying on the left hand side of the road, just beyond the speckled school house, in Slippery Rock township, Lawrence county.

Another rail which a month ago grew and blossomed upon a fence in Hanover township, Washington county, now rides the waves of Chesapeake bay in Virginia.

At least we threw it overboard as THE DISPATCH wagon forded the Sinnemahoning creek in northern Pennsylvania, and we saw it float off toward the west branch of the Susquehanna river.

Rails Were Indispensable.

It was necessary, for the sake of safety, to keep a fence-rail fastened to the bed of the wagon. We never left a rail in the same county we got it.

Honesty is the best policy, and until Saturday our dreams told us that it would have been more dignified had we stopped and paid each farmer for his rail as we borrowed it, or, at least, to have given him the address where he might reach it by mail or telegraph in the next county.

By Way of Apology. This is a joint apology to the farmers of Western Pennsylvania. We couldn't help it. The roads were bad, and we had to get out of the mud.

"Look here," he continued. "I think we may rest easy now. Oh, you know what I mean! If I am not mistaken, it was you who stole the last fence rail. But, all the same, there is no need of you telling the farmers where they may find their missing timber. See here, I can prove to you it can be easily traced."

A Mathematical Calculation. "Up to this moment THE DISPATCH wagon has covered 336 miles of country roads in Western Pennsylvania. A rail fence is built on either side of a road; so multiply 336 by 2, and you have 1,072 long rails which we have seen. You don't know how monotonous this sort of scenery has been. Write a letter on that, and say nothing about it, and we'll be connected with the law, and we'll be a fence seven rails high, but those we can't see will average six rails high. In every road, therefore, there is 12 rails, making 3,840 rails in every mile of road.

"Leaving out 72 miles of what we have seen on board and wire fences, I have taken the even 1,000 miles and multiplied it by 3,840, and I swear to you we have looked upon 3,840,000 separate and distinct fence rails since your exploring wagon left Archibald's lively stable in Pittsburg. I hope now you will feel easy about our forced loan of 30 or 40 rails. Who will write me in any way, when are they worth? Why they cost \$30 per 1,000 rails, or \$12,000 for all that we have seen. I'll settle with your conscience for you at 5 cents apiece.

A Bit of Calculation. "Now, tell me, these rails in 17 counties of Western Pennsylvania being 12 feet long each and the 3,840,000 of them, therefore having an aggregate length of 46,080,000 feet, how far would they stretch around the world if laid in a straight line by Chief Higginbotham?"

Bucchall's demanded a tightening of reins at this point, and we all had to take a hand lest he should lay us out in a straight line, less downward.

We took dinner yesterday at "Punx's." This name does not appear on the map of Pennsylvania, but there is a "Punx" and the Ohio Railroad crosses it all the same. Punxutawney, as it is sometimes called by strangers and mapmakers, is one of the most progressive towns between the Juniata and the Ohio. Railroad centers are always prosperous towns. Punx's is a center—not of railroads, but of hard, scrubby and treacherous county roads. All roads from Jefferson, Clearfield, Armstrong and Indiana

counties lead to Punx's. Every one just now is in a horrible condition.

Beneficial Landlord. The Hotel Pantall does an enormous business. Every drummer who drives to Punx's is thoroughly exhausted by his drive that it requires a week's rest at the Pantall to get ready to drive out of the town. That is the reason THE DISPATCH has such a large circulation at the Pantall. The proprietor, ex-Sheriff J. S. Barr, will bear out these statements.

The rain in giving us daily repetitions of our Washington and Greene county mud struggles, so it was utterly impossible to make the trip from Punx's to Kittanning without a night's stop-over at Sunkhoring. It was a terrible day to reach Kittanning at all. The mud was deep, the clay was thick and the sink holes numerous.

A Limestone Region. There is plenty of limestone in Armstrong county. The veins are from 25 to 35 feet thick, and the places the outcroppings are on the surface, making it easy to get at. Here and there all through Armstrong county ordinary sandstone has been what we call in Armstrong county east of Kittanning, either.

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with many farmers in Armstrong county since THE DISPATCH expedition started. The majority of them have told him that they had ample limestone available, but that cheap enough to macadamize all principal roads in Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. Beardsall says the Armstrong county farmers are mostly of the wealthier class, especially on the west side of Allegheny river. My next letter will touch on the agricultural question in the counties of Clarion, Jefferson, Armstrong and Indiana. In the meantime the wagon will continue its investigations of roads in Indiana, Cambria and Bedford counties.

L. E. SCROFIELD.

NEW THOROUGHS FOR THE CITY.

Committee on Survey Recommends the Opening of a Number of Streets.

The Committee on Surveys met yesterday afternoon. Chairman Caranah being confined to his home by illness, his place was filled by Mr. O'Donnell.

The following ordinances were affirmatively recommended to Council: Locating Hays street from Butler to Sheridan streets; Sixth street from Bailey to West Washington; Shakespeare street from Putnam street to Dennison avenue; Calliope street from Rose to Reed streets; relocating the north side line of Forbes street from Morris street 285 feet eastward; Establishing the grade of Rural street from Highland to

working the stone. The sandstone being soft and porous, has resulted largely in a mud road. It is necessary to use a road made by heavy hauling or making the road rough and uneven. Such a thing as using limestone and using it in a scientific way has apparently never been thought of by the supervisors.

Farmer Fleming, in Cowanshank township, says he doesn't think limestone is necessary for all roads. He believes sandstone will do, but admits that it is not rightly used now. He thinks it should be steadily filled in, year after year, until the roads are from one to two feet deep with it. One or two layers of the sandstone, he admits is useless because it will soon mix with the earth in every way but the proper way.

Farmer Joseph McCaughey, of the same township, says one of the great evils is in electing road supervisors who are fit for the position and who know little about the first principles of road building. In Armstrong county the custom, he says, is usually to elect one of the heaviest taxpayers. This is a mistake, he says, for the supervisor, receiving no more than a road worker, practically pays his own salary through the road taxes on his property. In the State a commission recommends an equitable financial plan.

Paying the Road Taxes. If the movement now set on foot by the Governor fails, then he thinks capable engineering should be employed. That sort of supervision, and that every farmer should be compelled to pay his taxes instead of working them out. Mr. Graff feels that the present system is a failure.

Ex-County Commissioner Thomas Montgomery makes a beautiful tract of land in Manor township a short distance east of Punx's. It is a tract of 100 acres, one of the smallest townships in this county, being only six miles long and two miles broad. It is within these narrow limits there are a number of roads which are more than all the farms in Manor township in this county. It is a tract of 100 acres, one of the smallest townships in this county, being only six miles long and two miles broad.

Chief Brown sending forth the necessity of a Court Officer to replace the late Mr. Trench. Mr. Trench thought \$1,200 a year would secure a good man, and made an amendment to that effect, which was adopted by a vote of 9 to 10. The ordinance was acted upon affirmatively, as were the others presented.

Chairman Lambie, in answer to questions, said he had received a communication from Chief Brown sending forth the necessity of a Court Officer to replace the late Mr. Trench. Mr. Trench thought \$1,200 a year would secure a good man, and made an amendment to that effect, which was adopted by a vote of 9 to 10. The ordinance was acted upon affirmatively, as were the others presented.

Police-Messrs. Rohrkast, Groetzinger, Lowry, Lambie, Frauchenstein, Larkin and Ketchum.

Fire-Messrs. Taggart, Brophy, Wilson, Metcalf, Hagaman, Volpert and Doyle, Chairman.

THE DEATH RATE FOR APRIL. Mortality Report for the Past Month, and What it Shows.

The mortality report for the month of April shows that the total number of deaths during the month was 437, equal to a death rate of 21.8 per 1,000 inhabitants annually. There were 100 deaths of infants under 1 year, and 85 of children between the ages of 1 and 6 years, making 42 per cent of the total of the decedents 132 were of foreign and 300 of native birth; of the latter 22 were colored. There were 63 deaths from and 120 cases of infectious diseases reported, about the same as the previous month. They were located as follows: Old city, 26 cases and 7 deaths; East End, 86 cases and 26 deaths; Southside, 47 cases and 12 deaths; and 8 deaths of cases of typhoid fever were reported in hospital from outside the city.

The diseases were as follows: Diphtheria, 60, 18 deaths; scarlet fever, 30, 2 deaths; typhoid fever, 69, 17 deaths; cerebro-spinal meningitis, 6, 6 deaths. In addition to the above there were 15 deaths from measles, 37 from consumption, 42 from diphtheria, 4 cases of typhoid fever were reported in hospital from outside the city.

A Veteran Becomes Inmate. (Abbeduto's Daughter, a veteran who was sent to the Erie Soldiers and Sailors Home from Pittsburg, six years ago, has become insane and will be returned to the poor authorities here for care.

Charged With Stealing a Watch. Emma Gibbons, of the Yellow Row, is charged with stealing a watch from Henry Wooley. Alderman McMasters will hear the evidence to-day.

THE ODD FACTS SOUGHT BY UNCLE SAM. If it were possible for the Superintendent of the Census to ascend in a balloon on the morning of June 2, at a point somewhere in the neighborhood of Cincinnati, where the center of population was located in 1880, to a height that would enable him, with extended vision, to survey this vast domain of ours, he could watch with interest the army of 40,000 enumerators, equipped with portfolios of schedules, march forth on the important errand to count the population of the United States.

"Surely, you have a big job," I hear you remark, "to undertake this vast task." The Census Porter, in the New York World, says, "It is a big job to take the census of a country with 65,000,000 of population, especially if it be taken on the scale required by the Congress of the United States. It takes lots of organization and a good deal of money. It must be done rapidly and everything has to be in readiness so that at the top of the drum on the morning set for counting the people every one is ready to do his share of the work."

It should be remembered that the census office is not a permanent bureau of the Government, but is organized by the Interior Department, organized under the direction of an officer called the Superintendent of Census for the express purpose of enjoying a reign of terror, and has lasted for the eleventh and subsequent censuses. On that day the Census Office consists of a superintendent, clerk, messenger, printer, two desks, a room for paper and a box of two of official envelopes, and sundry other stationery. To-day the Census Office employs 40 clerks, 1,000 special agents, and 175 supervisors. Next June the census force will consist of 40,000 enumerators, 1,000 clerks and probably 1,000 special agents. Then it will be necessary to employ 1,000 clerks and 1,000 special agents. Then it will be necessary to employ 1,000 clerks and 1,000 special agents.

Counting in Fifteen Days. The law requires that the population shall be all counted in 15 days in cities and in 30 days in country districts. Few who have a notion of the magnitude of the task have any idea of the labor necessary even to make a rough count, to say nothing of the classification of the population into all the different classes, and the preparation of the final report. The eleventh census will be counted by the aid of electricity. At first this seems rather a startling statement, but if any of my readers have not seen a machine for counting, they will be interested to know that such a machine is now being used in the census office.

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THE COMING CENSUS.

Superintendent Porter Throws Light On the Great Job in June.

ELECTRICITY IS NOW AN AGENT.

Wonderful Counting and Sorting Machines Ready for Duty.

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at this moment engaged on this branch of the census work alone.

THE MAIN OBJECT. In this short article it would be impossible to give even a cursory idea of the innumerable methods employed by the Census Office in gathering the varied facts of their numerous reports. The main thing, after such inquiries are taken out of the hands of the enumerators, is to prepare correct lists of all the establishments in cases of manufacturing, of all mines in that of mining, of all the fishing villages and fish ponds, in such inquiries relating to fish and fisheries.

Even the poor Indian must be investigated. What boy is not interested in the Indian, though, as a rule, boys are not so much interested in the social condition of the Indian as they are in the stories of his adventures and conflicts with the white man. The Census Office has not got into these facts, though no doubt the large body of special agents, whose duty it will be to visit all the reservations and sections of the country, will be able to tell some interesting and startling stories when they return.

The present census will probably cost in the aggregate \$10,000,000, and when it is completed it will mark another decade in the material progress of the country. Before another census year rolls around the Census Office will have gathered a vast amount of information, and the political and social welfare of the Republic, and, perhaps, more appreciative of the results which a census furnishes than they are this year.

MARVELOUS WATER. A Lake in the State of Washington Which Cures Diseases. Medical JOURNAL, WASH., May 5.—Twenty-five miles from Seattle, in the heart of the continent with a large flock of sheep. He lost great numbers while moving through the arid region, and when he arrived in Washington the sheep that still lived were covered with various skin diseases. One evening, as he was preparing for an encampment, he got a glimpse through the woods of a small lake, and he hastened forward to its shores. The sheep rushed into the water and began to drink copiously. He was still more astonished when he tasted the water and found it bitter and disagreeable, as well as diastolic to anything he had ever tasted. Fearing the sheep would be poisoned, he ordered them to get up, but in spite of his efforts they returned again.

The sheep were in such a condition from disease that he had small hope of their recovery, so he tried by allowing them to drink what he believed to be the poisonous waters as plentifully as they would. Next day he could not drive the sheep away from the lake, and he was obliged to leave them there. The sheep were restored to a wonderfully healthy condition. Thereupon the French-Canadian, who had been with him, and he fixed himself a homestead beside the shores of the lake, which is now called Medical Lake.

The waters contain salts of sodium, potassium, lithium, iron, carbon, magnesium, calcium, aluminum, silicon, sulphur and boron. They are either in combination with sulphur, or with oxygen. The solution of these various salts in the water of Medical Lake produce results which a dozen years ago would have been deemed miraculous. The waters cleanse and feel like water, and are not at all bitter, but in spite of his efforts they returned again.

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