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This will be an honest sale to reduce the stock which must be sold at once on account of dissolution of partnership. A quarter off on all goods. Some one-half off.

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# DISSOLUTION SALE

1/4 off

316-318 Lackawanna Ave.

### COMPENSATIONS OF A CHEERLESS SEASON

#### FINE ARE THE STAR FIELDS OF FEBRUARY.

The Changing Skies Resulting from the Earth's Orbital Revolution. The Planets as Morning and Evening Stars—A Recent Outburst of Sun Spots Has Been So Pronounced in Character and Area as to Remind the Observer of the Vigorous Displays of a Sun-Spot Maximum.

Fine are the star fields of February! Illustrative of nature's curious compensatory customs, the skies that bend over the bleak, snow-capped hills are all glorious with the shining array of the host of heaven. In fact, the acme of astral magnificence is attained in the last of the winter months. The professional astronomer, undergoing his protracted vigil in a draughty observatory, from which all artificial heat must be excluded—since it would be fatal to definition—peers through the narrow aperture of the dome at an isolated celestial object; but the amateur, less fortunate in instrumental equipment, may, if he—or she—be brave enough to encounter the crisp atmosphere of a February night, feast upon troping constellations that adorned "The Winter's Tale" in Roman palaces and villas and Grecian halls of learning and art, when our era was in its infancy.

#### LION IS RISING.

In the east the Lion is rising. Leo is truly a waymark in the sky, since its "sickle" is so easily identified. This constellation from which so much was expected last November, because it innocently furnishes a background to the "radiant" of the meteor that usually fall about the middle of that month. They who gaze upon its present placidity will be reminded of their experiences in the fall as they watched its uneventful procession across the sky after midnight. The bright star in the handle of the sickle is Regulus—a station along the lunar track often used by navigators. The triangle of stars following the sickle is necessary for the completion of the leonine figure, which is one of the most striking resemblances among all the celestial configurations.

is on the meridian many degrees of starry folds still remain below the horizon. Only when the Crater occupies the meridian can the entire sweep of Hydra be discerned. A line from Gamma in the sickle (the brightest star in the blade) to Regulus, extended two or three times as far, will point out Cor Hydra.

#### GUARDIANS OF THE ECLIPTIC.

Along the ecliptic, above Leo, is Cancer, whose chief charm is the cluster Procyon. The Twins (Gemini)—the upper of which is Castor and the lower Pollux—are midway to the meridian where Taurus rules. Both the Pleiades and the Hyades are in their most brilliant aspect; and in the latter the fiery Aldebaran in the Bull's eye flares meteorologically.

Beyond Arcturus is Pleiades, of little interest even to celestial fishermen. Close by the horizon lies Aquarius (the Waterman). His birthright in the zodiacal apex gives him prominence, the fancy of the extended sickle that wards off the attack of the Bull; it is thrilling to conceive the giant's nervous, forceful grasp of his uplifted weapon.

ORION GAINS. Nevertheless, Orion gains rather than loses by his environment. His very enemy helps to invest him with stardust. And Canis Minor, with its fine leader, Procyon, and Canis Major, with its star of stars, Sirius, render him superb service. Many a person, unfamiliar with the heavens and happening to see the latter brilliant star, inquires its name, which he does that of Venus when it dazzles the eye.

The Hare and the Dove, both below Orion, are worthy of view, where the horizon presents no obstruction. The Whale (Cetus) ranges through all the southwest, yet it has at present little to offer the star-gazer. Its famous star, Mira, the "Wonderful," has relapsed into its invisible minimum.

Coming now to the north of the ecliptic, we notice that Perseus is on the meridian. The gallant knight that won such fame by his rescue of a forested princess is so well situated in the heavens that his variable Alcedo may be conveniently studied. The princess herself, the beautiful Andromeda, is to the west of Perseus, while to the eastward is Auriga, its well known leader, Capella, blazing like a beacon. In the far northwest the Great Square of Pegasus is fast descending towards the horizon. The conspicuous objects in the western sky early in the evening at the beginning of the month are Venus and the crescent moon. The former will be in close conjunction with the star Phi Aurigae on the afternoon of the

1st, and with the moon on the 2d. The radiant planet is still at a gibbous phase, growing illuminated surface, yet waxing noticeably brighter as it approaches the earth.

#### NEPTUNE INVISIBLE.

The invisible Neptune is in Taurus, and will be in conjunction with the moon on the 9th. The many "Ledge" readers who are astir long before "The dapple dawn doth rise" may be gratified with a view of Jupiter and Saturn, the former of which is journeying close by the boundary of Scorpio, and the latter slowly making its way through Sagittarius. Mercury and Mars, also morning stars, will be in conjunction on the 2d. The former will be at superior conjunction with the sun on the 9th, and is, of course, invisible at present.

The moon will be in conjunction with Jupiter on the 22d, Uranus on the 23d and Saturn on the 24th. A recent outburst of sun spots has been so pronounced in character and area as to remind the observer of the vigorous displays of a sun spot maximum. The year 1899 was exceptionally favorable for solar observations, owing to the long continued excellent weather of the fall—Public Ledger.

#### DALTON.

Clarence Stone has been quite ill with an attack of the grip. Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Shoemaker, of Wyoming, southwest with the latter's sister, Mrs. Henry Ives. A union temperance service will be held in the Methodist church on next Sunday evening. Rev. J. C. Leacock, pastor of the church, will preach the sermon.

An entertainment will be given in the Baptist church on the evening of February 14. The following will participate in the rendering of the program: Recitations, B. P. Thomas, A. G. Snyder, J. T. Richards and Clinton club; Hallowell Reynolds, Luman Reynolds; Banjo club, Paul Rainey, Glenn Marsh, all of Keystone academy. Graphophone selections will be given by Harry Metzgar, of Glenburn, and George B. Morris, of the same place, will deliver an oration.

Mrs. Theodore Miller, who has been undergoing treatment in a Binghamton hospital, has returned home, very much improved in health. Mrs. E. S. Finn entertained her niece, Miss Gertrude Finn, of Keystone academy, on Sunday. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor of the Baptist church will hold a social at the parsonage on Friday evening, at which time the semi-annual election of officers will occur.

Mrs. W. J. Dershimer entertained friends at her home on Sunday. Charters Issue. Harrisburg, Feb. 5.—Charters were issued at the state department today as follows: The Miller Engineering company, Pittsburg, capital \$2,000; the Chronicle Publishing company, Pottsville, capital \$1,000; the Smith Manufacturing company, Waynesboro, capital \$5,000; the Standard Boiler Tube Cleaner company, Pittsburg, capital \$1,000; the Gillette-Curtis company, Pittsburg, capital \$2,000; the J. M. Hastings Lumber company, Pittsburg, capital \$1,000; the Schuykill Brewing company, Pottsville, capital \$1,000; the Hollidaysburg Iron and Steel company, Hollidaysburg, capital \$100,000; the Montandon Water company, Shamokin, capital \$20,000; the Lendimore Bridge company, Pittsburg, capital \$75,000.

### FREE DELIVERY FOR RURAL DISTRICTS

#### INSTRUCTIONS AS TO HOW IT MAY BE OBTAINED.

Circular Issued by the Postoffice Department Setting Forth How Suburbanites May Secure to Themselves the Convenience of Having Their Mail Delivered at Their Residences by Carriers—Scheme Is Feasible in Many Parts of Lackawanna County.

The following circular, with reference to rural free delivery, has been issued by the postoffice department at Washington:

In response to numerous inquiries the following circular letter of instructions and information is issued: HOW TO OBTAIN RURAL FREE DELIVERY.

Present a petition, addressed to the first assistant postmaster general, signed by those who desire the service. This petition should be signed only by head of families, and should mention the number in each family. It should set forth the nature of the country where the delivery is desired, whether densely or sparsely populated, the principal avocations of the people, the character of the roads, and the distance which, under existing conditions, each patron has to travel to receive his mail, and should be accompanied, wherever possible, by a rough map indicating the route or routes proposed.

This petition, when properly signed, should be sent to your representative in congress, or to one of your senators, with a request that he endorse thereon his recommendation of the service asked, and forward the petition to the department.

CONDITIONS OF THE SERVICE. It must be borne in mind that the intention of congress in authorizing the free delivery of mails in rural districts was not to grant a suburban delivery to cities included in the free delivery service, nor to establish a village free delivery. The purpose of the rural free delivery system is to give postal facilities to those who have none; to carry the mails to remote rural communities the residents of which would otherwise have to travel from two to twelve miles to receive their letters and newspapers.

The roads must be good. This is an essential prerequisite to any investigation. No route can be established that is less than 20 to 25 miles in length, or which serves less than 100 families. The route should be so arranged that the carrier will not be required to travel over the same ground twice on the same day.

Those desiring the delivery must be prepared to put up, at their own expense, at some convenient location, which can be reached by the carrier without dismounting from his buggy, appropriate and secure boxes for the reception of the mail. Rural carriers are not required to deliver mail to houses standing back from the main road. The service is one of mutual accommodation, and the patrons are expected to meet the department half way in affording facilities for its establishment.

South Whitley, Whitley County, Ind., May 12, 1899. First Assistant Postmaster General, Washington, D. C.

The undersigned, petitioners would show that they are residents of Whitley county, Indiana, south of the town of South Whitley, in said county, in a thickly settled farming community; that farming is the leading avocation of residents of said community; that the roads are traveled and in good condition over the proposed route, and they ask for the establishment of Rural Free Delivery of mails for said community over the route described as follows: Starting at the postoffice of South Whitley; thence southwest to Webster's corners, a distance of 2 miles; thence west 1/2 miles to Kinzie's corners; thence south 1/2 mile; thence west 2 1/2 miles; thence south 1 mile; thence west 1/2 mile; thence south 1/2 mile; thence east 1/2 mile; thence east 2 1/2 miles to Lee's corners; thence northwest along the Goshen road 3 miles to South Whitley; thence east 1/2 mile to (2) miles. A map of said route is attached hereto.

SIGNATURES. SIGNATURES. (Endorsed.)

To the Superintendent Free Delivery, Washington, D. C.: I herein inclose, with my recommendation, a petition for Rural Free Delivery in the vicinity of South Whitley, Whitley county, Indiana. I am thoroughly familiar with the facts stated, the location, density of population, and the occupation of the inhabitants interested, and can state that the prayer of the petitioners can with propriety be granted and the route be established.

Charles W. Fairbanks, United States Senator, Washington, D. C. I am pleased to recommend favorable consideration of the petition for the establishment of a rural free delivery route at South Whitley, Whitley county, Indiana. I am advised that the route is a feasible one, and am glad to recommend its establishment.

Method of Procedure. Upon receipt of a petition, forwarded and endorsed after the above model, a special agent is detailed by the department to visit the location indicated, to map out a route or routes, and to select rural carriers, to be appointed by the department. In all such cases the advice of the representative in congress, and also of the postmaster from whose office it is proposed that the Rural Free Delivery should start, is sought and obtained.

Rural carriers give bond in the sum of \$500 with two sureties. Each bond requires a recent revenue stamp to be affixed thereto. Carriers are paid by warrants, directly issued by the treasury department upon certificates forwarded by the postmaster. Their rate of pay is fixed by the department, and includes horse hire, but not necessary tolls or ferrage, for which a separate account must be rendered.

FORM OF PETITION. As an indication of the form of application which meets the requirements of the department the following petition, upon which rural free delivery service was established, from South Whitley, Whitley county, Indiana, on October 2, 1899, is cited:

addressed envelopes confided to their charge. Instructions are in preparation and will shortly be issued, authorizing them to register letters, giving receipts for the same.

#### IMPROVEMENTS AT STEELTON

One Million Dollars to Be Expended in Large Extensions. Harrisburg, Feb. 5.—The Pennsylvania Steel company has purchased 100 acres of additional land in the vicinity of its Steelton plant on which a number of furnaces may be erected. Important changes will also be made in the bridge construction departments and the frog, switch and signal department. A wire mill and cast steel plant may also be built. Over \$1,000,000 will be spent in making these improvements.

#### Solid Gold Watches and Genuine Diamonds with Tong Tina Tea at 127 Penn Avenue, Scranton, Pa.

The Boston Tea Party have leased the store, No. 127 Penn avenue, for the purpose of placing before the public their delicious Tea. Tong Tina Tea has come to stay and will soon be the people's choice. With each can the purchaser receives some article of jewelry, the value of which is regulated by the amount of tea purchased. The articles of jewelry consist of solid gold watches, genuine diamonds, rubies, opals, pearls and many other articles too numerous to mention. Following is a partial list of names of purchasers and what they received: Mrs. Jennings, Peckville, got with her 50 orders a lady's brooch, set with twelve genuine diamonds, and \$300 in cash; Mrs. E. C. Hills, 707 Deacon street, an open face watch, American movement; Miss Marie O'Donnell, 816 South Washington avenue, a gold open face watch; E. M. Hine, driver for Scranton Ice company, residence 424 North Ninth street, Frank Gress, employed by Scranton Racking company, residence 1944 Capouse avenue; H. D. Taylor, dancing master at Excelsior hall, Wyoming avenue, residence 729 Monroe avenue; August Miller, coal miner at Bellevue, residence 615 Prospect avenue, each received a gent's watch with their purchases.

Peter Ingolasky, Carbondale, a gent's hunting case watch; Miss Mary Hewston, 1209 Penn avenue, Green Ridge, received a two-stone opal ring, solid gold setting; Richard Woodard, works at Continental mines, residence 115 Fifteenth street, a gent's hunting case watch beautifully engraved; Dewitt C. Myers, carriage business, 418 and 450 Wright court, 902 Xerxes, Washington avenue, a gent's hunting case watch; Henry Dillon, shipping clerk at Williams & McNulty's, a gent's hunting case watch; Mrs. W. Thomas, 20 Spruce street, Peckville, a gent's watch elegantly engraved.

How can this be done? Simply by putting the expense of two years' advertising in ninety days, after which these choice teas will be sold same place, price and quantity, but without the prices.

Watch paper for new list of names every day. All mail orders, when accompanied by cash or draft, will be promptly attended to. Open evenings till 8:00 p. m.; Saturday, 10:00 p. m. Price, single can, \$1; 6 cans, \$5.00; 12 cans, \$10.00. Lady clerks in attendance.

BOSTON TEA PARTY, 127 Penn avenue.

### SUPPOSED TO BE FIGHTING

[Continued from Page 1.]

John Dillon said that the Nationalists, believing the war to be "an unjust and iniquitous war of aggression, entirely unprovoked," were unable to support an amendment declaring that the war should be prosecuted with vigor. He pressed for the publication of General Sir William Butler's dispatches.

The government has decided to make a free use of the closure, if necessary, to get the debate on the address entirely unprovoked, and to delay the votes of supplies for the war. Arrangements have been made to bring the Fitzmaurice amendment to a division tomorrow night and there will probably be a late sitting.

#### PROTEST AND DENIAL.

Kruger and Steyn Correspond Furtively with General Roberts. Cape Town, Feb. 5.—President Steyn and President Kruger have communicated with Field Marshal Lord Roberts, the British commander in chief, protesting against the destruction of farm houses and the devastation of property.

#### WEBSTER DAVIS THERE.

The Inventure of Ladyamith Must Now Be Deemed Complete. Lorenzo Marques, Delaware Bay, Feb. 5.—Webster Davis, the United States assistant secretary of the interior, accompanied by a party of friends, is at the head larder of the Boers at Ladyamith.

#### WAR BRIEFS.

Durban, Feb. 5.—The transport Purva, from India, has arrived and landed a battery of artillery. A more hopeful feeling prevails here. Durban, Feb. 5.—It is understood that the prize court has decided to return the 25,000 pounds of Transvaal gold seized last October on board the steamer Avondale Castle in Delagoa Bay. London, Feb. 5.—The war office announces that fifteen transports will be despatched beginning today with 1,000 troops including the Fourth cavalry brigade, militia battalions and 1,000 yeomanry with 250 horses and six guns. London, Feb. 5.—Sir Alfred Milner, in a letter written three weeks ago to the former lord mayor of Belfast, said the war would last three or four months longer. Sir Alfred Milner has sent hopeful and encouraging reports to the government regarding the prospects of the campaign and it is understood that his views are shared by Lord Roberts.