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In 1902 the foreign commerce of Spain increased \$6,562,000 over 1901, and in 1903 it increased \$12,931,000.

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The Post Office Department.

A great transformation has taken place in the Post Office Department Saving nothing of the useful reforms he has made in various branchesthe railway mail service, dead-letter office, money-order offices and so on -the financial results accomplished are exceedingly satisfactory. In 1896 there was a deficit of nearly \$800,000. There had always been deficits; it was supposed they were inevitable. After Sir William had been in office two years, the balance on the wrong side was cut down to less than \$50,trying the experiment of lowering the postage rates. In 1898, mainly through his efforts, the rate on letters between Canada and the United Kingdom was reduced from five to two cents per half-ounce. The year after the domestic rate on letters in Canada was reduced from three to two cents, as also the rate between Canada and the United States.

Naturally, the revenue fell in consequence, but it recovered by 1902 when there was a small surplus on the year's operations. In 1903 the surplus had risen to \$300,000, although in addition to the reduction of rates he had all along been paying for the Yukon service, which was not in existence when he entered office. The post office, for the first time in its history, is now a self-sustaining department and something better.

It is contended by the Tories, who do not like to admit what is now manifest even to the blind, namely, that by comparison they made a poor fist of Post Office affairs, that the reduction in the rates of postage is not a gain to the farmer and mechanic but only to corporations and merchants who purchase large quantities of stamps in the course of their business. As a matter of fact, the cost of the Post Office Department is now paid for by those who make use there were deficits ranging from \$650,000 to \$800,000, as happened under the Tories, these had to be made good by extra taxes on the whole people. Under the present order of things, however, we have, first, lower postage rates, and, secondly, a surplus that goes to reduce the taxes on the whole people. It is obvious, then, that everybody is profiting by Sir William's capable management and that of his highly competent deputy, Dr Coulter.

Can't Afford to Marry.

We frequently hear a man crying out that he can't afford to marry. Sometimes he says it to a friend in defence of his bachelor existence; sometimes he repeats it monotonously to the woman he has asked to be

Every sensible person knows that it is foolish to marry in haste, or without due regard to the future. You cannot marry on nothing, because the chances are strongly against your happiness. But just how much you can marry on is another matter.

As a rule the people who cry out about their poverty are not so badly off as one would imagine. There is something else behind this hesitation. They are either not in love, or are afraid; or else one is confident but fears for the other.

never stands in the way of an engaged couple, who are honestly satisfied with each other. The passion for each other's society strengthens mind and will, and such obstacles as lack of means and misty prospects instantly vanish. The man has but to think of the woman he loves in order to be confident of accomplishing any purpose he may set his mind to. The woman is ready and willing to suffer anything for the sake of being in her hero's company.

What are a top back room, a supper of bread and cheese, a shabby suit, and a light purse if one is supremely happy? They can be borne with laughter, relished and accepted day after day.

It is only, however, with the woman who means to be the spur to her husband's ambition that a man can accept a top back-room and bread not be happy without a villa and into a back-room, even if she is will-

ing to go. The right sort of girl will go anyshe'll push him on to fortune, as homely philosophy of Mr Dooley, "It's th' business iv men to fight, an' 000, whereupon he felt justified in th' business 'iv their wives f'r to make thim fight."

PRIMITIVE LETTER POST.

No postal service has been traced earlier than that which was in operation during the reign of Khammurabi the Amraphel of Genesis, who was king of Babylonia about 2300 B. C. A number of the missives, each inclosed in its clay envelope, which passed through this earliest post office are preserved in the Babylonian room of the British museum, and their contents indicate that even at that period letters were freely circulated throughout the empire by a public postal service under governmental control.

Sir Brian Tuke was appointed post master in England at the beginning of the sixteenth century, and in 1556 the lords of the council ordered "that the postes betweene this and Northe should eche of them keeps a booke and make entrye of every lettre that he shall receive, the tyme of the deliverie thereof unto his hands, with the parties' names that shall bring it unto him.

CURED OF HIS CLUB.

'Why don't you try the suspicion cure?' said her intimate friend. 'What is the suspicion cure?' asked

'Well, my husband once got into the habit of spending his evenings at his club, and I worried myself ill. Then I changed my tactics. Instead of asking him to remain at home I urged him to go to the club. The way he raised his eyebrows the first time I suggested it showed that I was on the right track.

'One night he said he had a severe headache and would remain at home. I opposed the idea and insisted that an evening at his club would make him forget his headache. He gave me a hard look, but acted on the suggestion. I knew he would be back within an hour so I made an elaborate toilet. He returned, as I expected, with the plea that his head was worse. I ignored his question concerning my elaborate toilet. He hasn't been away for an evening since. It is almost like the old honeymoon, only he appears to have something on his mind.'

> July Number New Idea Woman's Magazine.

Two articles which appear in the July number will be of particular interest at this time to the readers of Fear of poverty and hardship the New Idea Woman's Magazine. These are 'The Home Life of Japanese Women,' by Louise Dew, and "Vladivostok, 'Master of the East,'" by Gerard Fowke. Both articles are photographically illustrated, and will help to a better understanding of the characteristics of the two peoples now fighting for supremacy in the East. 'The Out-of-door Livingroom' and 'Veranda Hospitality' are timely letters to the home-makers. Both papers are illustrated. 'A Military Euchre for Independence Day' and 'How a Bachelor Entertains' will make suggestive pages for the would-be host or hostess, and the fashion departments are crowded with authoritative matter and illus-

In a recent address at St John, N B. Mr Watson Griffin, an official of since Sir William Mulock took hold. and cheese. If he fears that she can- the Manufacturers' Association, stat. ed that last year "Americans bought rose trees it is not wise to take her from Canada 62 cents' worth of merchandise per head of population, whereas Canadians per head of population bought from the United States where with the man she loves and about \$21.46 worth." Further, "per accept any fare. For his own sake head of population the Americans bought only about ten cents' worth many of our most famous men have of Canadian farm products, while been pushed by their wives. In the Canadians bought from the United States about \$2.90 worth of the same kind of farm products per head of population." Mr Griffin seeks by this argument to show the necessity for increasing the Canadian tariff on imports from the States. The reader will at once note the fallacy involved in reducing imports and exports to a per capita basis when of the two countries interested one contains, about six, the other about eighty million people. But let us meet Mr Griffin on his own ground by reversing the process and dealing not with purchases but with sales.

Our exports (sales) of all kinds of goods to the United States in 1903, come to \$62,000,000. That is to say, if there are six million Canadians, each Canadian sold \$12 worth of stuff to our neighbors.

Their exports (sales) of all kinds of goods to Canada in 1903, amounted to \$138,000,000. In other words, if there are 80,000,000 Americans each American sold to Canada \$1.70 worth of merchandise.

Coming to agricultural products alone, including animals and their produce, our exports (sales) of those commodities to the United States last year were \$9,000,000 or \$1.50 per capita. Their exports (sales) of like commodities to us were valued at \$16,000,000 or 20 cents per head of their population.

Consequently each Canadian sells 'I would be very happy if my hus- seven times more agricultural proof it, who buy stamps, etc. But when band would not spend so many of his ducts to the United States than each evenings at the club,' said Mrs Bride, American sells to Canada, and the same result works out in the case of exports at large, that is to say, each Canadian sells seven times more to them than they sell per head to us. Mr Griffin's argument turns out, therefore, to be a kicking gun.

Of coure, the per capita basis is not a sound basis; it can be made to prove almost anything. It suited his purpose to employ it in the case of purchases, but it is obviously just as fair to employ it in the case of sales, whereupon he is at once driven up a

LUNAR SCENERY.

It is by indirect methods of observation that scientists learn of the absence of atmosphere in the moon. There are various arguments that can be adduced, but the most conclusive is that obtained on the occurrence of what is called the occultation of a star. It sometimes happens that the moon comes directly between the earth and a star, and the temporary extinction of the latter is an occultation. We can observe the movement when it takes place, and the suddenness of the extinction of the star is extremely remarkable. If the moon had a copious atmosphere, the gradual interposition of this would produce a gradual extinction of the star and not the sudden phenomenon usually observed

usually observed.

This absence of air and water from the moon explains the peculiar and weird ruggedness of the lunar scenery. We know that on the earth the action of the wind and of rain, of frost and of snow is constantly tending to wear down our mountains and reduce their hand outliness but and reduce their hard outlines, but no such agents are at work upon the

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LOUIS E. YOUNG,
Barrister. March 16, 1904.-12-tf

NOTICE TO **FARMERS**

We expect to resume our business of slaughtering Lambs this season as usual. We shall buy our lambs by the pound, weighing when taken away, which has proved very satisfactory.

We shall continue to pay one cent per pound more for ewes and wethers than we do for buck lambs. We advise weighing all lambs before selling by the head, and see if we are not offering more by the pound for good lambs than they will bring by the head.

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