

THE NEW TELEGRAPH PRESIDENT.

Harvey Prentice Dwight was born in Belleville, Jefferson Co., N. Y., in 1827. He received his early education at a country school-house in the district. At the age of fourteen he left home to seek his fortune, with no visible capital beyond fifty cents in money and the clothes on his back. He walked ten miles to a neighboring village, where he obtained employment in a general store. Here he remained for three years. About this period—1844 or 1845—telegraphy was in its infancy, but promised a great future and offered inducements to young men. Young Dwight left his employment in the country store to seek a position in the telegraph office at Oswego. He set to work to learn the art of telegraphic signalling, and after he had mastered it resolved to go to Canada, which at that time offered good prospects in connection with the new business.

The Montreal Telegraph Company, with headquarters in Montreal, was just then laying the foundation of the system which has become so minute a network over Central Canada. Young Dwight applied for a position in its service and was engaged. His first station was (appropriately enough) at Belleville, Ontario, where the first telegraph office in what was then called "Upper Canada" was opened in August, 1847. Here he remained for some weeks, and then was transferred to the head office of the company in Montreal.

After a residence of between two and three years in Montreal, having reached the age of two and twenty, Mr. Dwight was sent to Toronto and placed in charge of the business at that important western point. This was before the days of railway communication with the West; and the travel and mercantile commerce between Montreal and the Upper Province was pursued on land by means of stage-coaches and on the canals and water stretches of the St. Lawrence, the Ottawa and Lake Ontario by boat. At this time, 1849, the Montreal Telegraph Company had but a single wire line between Quebec and Toronto, and in all the distance of say 500 miles there were but twelve or fifteen offices.

It was not long before the Toronto manager perceived the present importance and the possible future magnitude of the telegraph business in Western Canada. The advent of railways and the need of telegraphs in connection with them was evident and pressing. As settlement advanced northward and westward in what is now Ontario, extensions of the electric wires were made to the most likely points. Mr. Dwight urged the building of lines in various directions and the authorities of the company sanctioned the construction of these under his direction, making him, about 1852, its western superintendent. Well did he justify the appointment, for he covered the territory with thousands of miles of wire, extending from the Ottawa to the Detroit Rivers and from the Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario.

In 1871 the Dominion Telegraph Company was formed in Toronto, and in a few years it had established some 500 offices, reaching from Western Ontario to the maritime provinces. Not content with the low rate of 25 cents per message of ten words between Quebec and Windsor, the new competitor put into force a 20 cent rate. The result was disastrous to both companies. They could not earn dividends, and something had to be done to save the property from destruction. In 1881, therefore, a consolidation of telegraph interests took place under the charter of the Great North-Western Telegraph Company, a Manitoba organization, through the instrumentality of Mr. Erastus Wiman. That gentleman became president of the new company, and Mr. Dwight was appointed its general manager. With infinite labor and pains he welded the three systems into one, and in an incredibly short time consolidated the whole into one organization, touching in the east the Atlantic Ocean, in the west the shores of Lake Winnipeg.

The Great North-Western Telegraph Company is the most extensive and far-reaching telegraph enterprise in the Dominion, controlling about 40,000 miles of wires, and possessing nearly 2,000 offices. Its ramifications extend throughout the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Manitoba, and parts of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. The completeness of the system is due in great measure to the foresight, judgment and broad executive ability of Mr. Dwight. Canada may be congratulated on

possessing a system of telegraphs, in the Great North-Western Company, second to no country in the world for cheapness of rate and efficiency of working. It has over 900 offices in the Province of Ontario, 610 in Quebec, 244 in Manitoba, the Maritime Provinces, and the States above-named, and in Detroit, Michigan.

MERCHANDISE TRANSPORTED IN BOND.

The instructions to American customs officers concerning the transportation through the United States of merchandise in cars secured by Canadian customs seals, have been modified to read as follows:

"When cars from Canada arrive at a frontier port of the United States, duly secured with Canadian seals, manifests or invoices, in triplicate, showing the character of merchandise in said cars, and its quantity or weight, shall be filed with the Collector of Customs, who will, if there is no reason to doubt that the manifests contain true statements of the contents of the cars, affix to such cars the seals prescribed by the Customs regulations and allow the same to go forward. One copy of each manifest or invoice will be retained for file in the collector's office, one copy will be sent by mail to the Collector at the port of exit, and one copy will be delivered to the conductor of the train."

HOW TO NATURALIZE.

A Canadian reader of the *American Wool Reporter* writes to that journal as follows: "I am desirous of obtaining employment in the States at a date not far distant. I am aware that certain laws debar me, while living outside of the States, from lawfully obtaining a position.

"Can I not cross the line, naturalize, return, and then lawfully engage; if so, what is the process and cost, or how else can I arrange matters?"

For the information of those who may be contemplating a similar step we give the editor's reply:—

You will have to reside in the States at the time of your first application, and continue to reside here until the final application is granted, which will be two years after you have received your first papers. The fee of a clerk of court for receiving the first application, which must be filed 14 days before action thereon, is one dollar, and one dollar is charged for making out the papers, although an applicant may fill out a blank for himself.

The fee for receiving the second application, which must also be filed fourteen days before final action thereon, is two dollars.

YOUTHFUL IMMIGRANTS.

There lies before us a list, in cyclostyle copy, with the following heading, "Surprise New Year's Gift, 1892, to J. W. C. Fegan, Esquire, London, England, from his Old Boys now in Canada." The list contains the names of 134 lads who were orphans, castaways, or gutter children in London, but have been rescued by Mr. Fegan and his helpers, and are now living respectable, self-supporting lives in various parts of Ontario. These lads, desiring to convey to that excellent gentleman and those associated with him a testimonial of their gratitude, subscribed and paid sums of from \$1 to \$47 each, making \$1,035.40 in all, for transmission to Mr. Fegan in order that he might apply it to rescuing from destitution and crime and providing new homes for other boys whose circumstances may be like theirs. On another list we find the names of eighteen lads who have repaid to Mr. Fegan or to his Canadian committee the cost of their outfit and ocean fare to Canada, viz., £10 sterling. First we find the name of J. W. Meptead, who arrived in Canada April 10th, 1887, at the age of 15, and he had by the end of January, 1889, repaid his \$50. Charles Stallibrass, aged 12 on his arrival in April, 1887, repaid in two years the cost of bringing him out and giving him a chance in life. John Roberts, aged 18, who came out in 1890, had saved up enough by the end of 1891 to pay for his outfit and his passage. These and fifteen others now aged from sixteen to twenty years, are placed upon the Honor Roll of the Southwark Home. Another party of 100 boys

have just arrived in Canada, per steamship "Sarnia," from Mr. Fegan's Homes, and will doubtless find employment, as the rest have done, as farm hands, grooms or mechanics, in Ontario.

BOGUS MAPLE SUGAR.

The amount of maple sugar imported during the past season is placed at 2,000,000 pounds. The greater portion of the importations undergoes the process of re-melting and adulteration, and is then placed on the market as the genuine Vermont article. This foreign-made sugar has a stronger flavor and is darker in color than that produced from Vermont maple sap, making it better for purposes of adulteration. It is said that the proportion of maple sugar to other substances used in the re-melting and "refining" process is one to five, or in other words, that five pounds of "new" is made from one pound of old, the additional four pounds of weight consisting of glucose and cheap grade of cane sugar. Thus it is made possible by this practice to produce annually from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 pounds of bogus maple sugar and syrup from sugar purchased abroad.—*New York Price Current*.

DON'T MENTION IT.

In one of the large office buildings of this city toils a young professional man noted among his friends more for politeness than for piety.

One morning, busy at his desk, his attention was aroused by a gentle "Please, sir," at his elbow, and he looked up into the face of a black-robed Sister of Mercy.

He rose with respectful courtesy and said: "Good morning, sister, and how can I serve you?"

"The poor we have with us always. Is it your pleasure to help minister with a small contribution to the sick poor of our great city to-day?"

He placed his answer in her hands. With an expression of surprise and a thankful lighting up of her serene countenance, she raised her eyes toward Heaven and said with fervor: "God bless you, sir."

"Don't mention it," was the reply as he waved her away.—*New York Times*.

A MODEL HUSBAND.

Wife—"I saw the loveliest lace spreads to-day, only two dollars and a half, and I wanted them awfully, but I knew you wished to economize, and so I didn't get them."

Husband—"That's too bad, my dear, you should have got them. Anything which adds to your happiness and brings gladness to your eyes, anything which lightens your domestic cares and gilds the lowering clouds, anything which borders with sweet flowers the thorny paths of duty and appeals pleasantly to your æsthetic nature, making life more worth living, home a paradise, you are welcome, doubly welcome to, my angel, if it doesn't cost more than two dollars and a half."—*N. Y. Weekly*.

—For one thing I observe that "Easter eggs" are quite a feature of the festival. Now, when I was a boy, we had no such nonsense, says Robert J. Burdette in the *April Ladies' Home Journal*. We had "aigs" always, "Easteraigs," usually pronounced in one word. We used to color them with calico; fast colors. A week before Easter somebody would go to the store to buy the calico with which to print the "aigs." "Is this fast colors?" And the clerk would lift his hand to heaven and swear that the deluge couldn't fade one ray of the brightest tint in the figure. After securing his affidavit, we would tie the "aig" up in a bit of that print and boil it. The calico would come out of the ordeal pure, spotless, whiter than snow, and the "aig" would be a thing of beauty in dots and leaves and twigs.

—Fair visitor—"So you have really decided not to sell your house?" Fair host—"Yes. You see we placed the matter in the hands of a real estate agent. After reading his lovely advertisement of our property, neither John nor myself could think of parting with such a wonderful and perfect home."—*Pittsburg Bulletin*.