

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

POSTMASTER H. THEO. NELSON WRITES A VERY INTERESTING LETTER FROM SAN DIEGO, CAL., TO MR. E. F. HORN.

Postmaster Nelson has written a very interesting letter to Mr. Horn, part of which we are permitted to publish herewith. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are evidently enjoying their sojourn in that beautiful climate and their many friends here will be pleased to hear that they are both improved in health. An extract from the letter follows:

Christmas is now past and I must say it was a very pleasant one as far as we were concerned. Upon invitation from Mr. and Mrs. C. Wade, former Stutsman county people, Mr. Gaffney, Mrs. Nelson and I took Christmas dinner at their house, and a delightful time we had. Besides a splendid dinner, the table was a bower of roses, smilax, lillies, geraniums and holly, all except the holly, which grows wild on the hills, having been picked in their own garden on Christmas morning.

Still the thoughts of us all were nearly all of North Dakota, and the thought was general that it would have seemed more like Christmas, had there been a little snow on the ground and frost in the air. The temperature here at the present is generally around 60 degrees. This morning we had a good shower, the first in three weeks.

great benefit to both Mrs. Nelson and myself. She is so rugged and fleshy now that you would not think her to be the same person she was a year ago. I have gained fully ten pounds and have an appetite that would surprise even a man from North Dakota. I have not had use for an overcoat since our arrival in San Diego. As far as amusements, here are all kinds, and very cheap. I have had seats in the dress circle of the theatre here, which is fully as fine as the opera house at Jamestown, and seen such plays as, "Monte Christo," "California," "Carmen," "Niobe," etc., for 10 cents. Grand operas played by the Lambardi Grand Opera company rendered "Faust" and others at 50c to \$1.00 admission. The general charges are 10, 20 and 30 cents. For New Year's eve we are invited to attend a complimentary ball given by the National Guard and Naval Militia of California. It is to be a military affair and the officers of the Regular army stationed at Fort Rosencrantz, and the personnel of the fleet including the new battleship South Dakota now on the way from Santa Barbara to San Diego, are expected to be present. The ball is to be a dedication of the new armory which is just now being completed.

This is certainly a city of retired people. The retired millionaires are just as plentiful and just as common as retired farmers are in proportion to the rest of inhabitants of Jamestown. But



**H. Theo. Nelson**

Everything is growing rapidly and it seems more like June than Christmas time.

The people from North Dakota that are here at present, that we have met, are, Mrs. Hotchkiss, Wade, S. K. McGinnis, Harry Downs, Armstrong, Kneebone with families; also Enoch Russell and Gaffney, all of Jamestown, except Harry Downs and family. Mr. and Mrs. J. U. LaFollett of Chuta Vista, twelve miles from here were in San Diego on Saturday for the first time since we came here. We had a pleasant visit with them. One of the first questions they asked was about Mr. Horn's folks. They are very much interested in the affairs around Courtenay. Mr. LaFollett, who was an invalid at the time they left Dakota something over two years ago, is hale and hearty, and looks ten years younger than he did when he used to come to trade at Courtenay. He has now one of the best lemon and orange orchards in this vicinity, and is doing well, as he says, "far better than he expected."

On New Year's day all the people in San Diego from North and South Dakota and Minnesota, who are able to get out will hold their annual picnic at the pavilion at the end of the street car line just at the city limits and where is yet to be found land in its original wild state.

In enumerating the North Dakotan I omitted Mr. Sanford of Jamestown who is an invalid at the present. And Senator Gerlock of Ashley N. Dak. Mr. Gerlock was in the legislature at the same time Mr. Sanford was. His term as senator expires January 1st, 1907.

Our stay here, so far, has been of

the people are of very simple and quiet habits. I have not seen a carriage with liveried coachman more than once. Even U. S. Grant, Jr., who is several times a millionaire, and whose wife is a sister to Mrs. Potter Palmer of Chicago, are never seen about town in anything else grander than a team of Hambletonian horses, and an ordinary surrey, with a very common looking man driving. By the way, Mr. Grant is at the present time erecting the U. S. Grant hotel here at a cost of \$750,000.00; it is being built of re-inforced concrete. Another hotel at the cost of \$600,000.00 has been contracted for to be built in the spring.

San Diego is having a great boom this winter on account of the Tehantepec railway in Mexico just being completed, and owing to the fact that two, if not three, trans-continental railways will establish terminals here during the coming year.

The roads are: The San Diego and Arizona from San Diego to Yuma, Ariz., owned by John D. Spreckles, and already has the work under way. The Salt Lake Ry., owned by Senator Clark of Montana, and the Southern Pacific. The fact that San Diego is to be the first U. S. port from the Panama canal seems to have given it another chance for advancement and the outlook at present is that San Diego, 30 years dead, will be one of the greatest cities on this coast. As far as climate and harbor are concerned, it has them all beaten.

You will pardon this long epistle I am sure. I got started and did not know when to stop. With best regards to yourself and family and wishing you all a Happy New Year,

I am sincerely yours,  
H. Theo. Nelson.