The Transcontinental Pony Express

25

Two and Four Dollars Pony Stamps

June 26, 1861



San Francisco, June 26 - Pony Express - USPO St. Joseph, Mo., July 8 - New York This triple rate cover is the only one known to bear a four dollars green "Pony" stamp.

The six issued "Pony Express" stamps on cover:

This is the first time that they have ever been in the same collection.

The three known covers with multiple stamps are displayed in this exhibit.

PONY EXPRESS NOTICE,

For the Service Commencing July 1 61.

Placerville to St. Joseph.

Placerville to St. Joseph.

Placerville to St. Joseph.

THE OVERLAND MAIL COMPANYS

"PONY EXPRESS" will be dispatched, Regularly,
FROM THE OFFICE OF THEIR AGENCY, AT PLACSRVILLE,
ON TUESDAY,
THURSDAY,
and SATURDAY,
OF RACH WEEK,

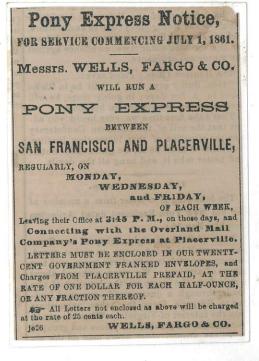
Commencing on Monday, July 1st.

All LETTERS must be enclosed in Ten Cent Government Stamped Enveloces, and Propaid, at the rate of One
boliar for each half-ounce, or any fraction thereof.

MESSES. WELLS, FARGO & CO. HAVE
BEEN APPOINTED AGENTS, and Letters will be received and delivered at their Offices.

WM. BUCKLEY,
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June 26, 1861 advertisements of new service between San Francisco and Placervile by rail, and then by "Pony" between Placerville and St. Joseph.



aGatherin'

1861 PONY EXPRESS: notice cut from Daily Alta California, San Francisco, Wed, June 26. The lines of Fort Leavenworth are down and therefore the news is not fresh. WITH a separate ad, undated, for the Pony Service commencing 1 July Placerville to St. Joseph. Also for Wells, Fargo Pony Express to Washoe; Overland Letter Express daily by overland mail; California Stage Co's daily line of Concord Coaches from Marysville to Virginia and Carson Cities.

32 Job Printing of every descripdon executed at this Office.

No News,

The Pony arrived last evening, but brings neither our general nor special dispatch. The last Pony brought us dates from St. Louis by telegraph only to the 11th, when they should have reached to the morning of the 13th. The explanation of the failure was that the lines of Fort Leavenworth were down. Our correspondents on the other side are vigilant and active, and if there was a possibility of sending news we would have been in receipt of our dispatches. We therefore conclude, that at the time of the departure of the Pony from Fort Kearny the Missouri lines were not in working order, and if so, political troubles rather than natural causes is the explanation. It is impossible under ordinary circumstances that the wires could be out of repair from the 11th to the 17th, the date which we should have received by this Pony. A dispatch was received by the Merchants' Exchange, but it contains in reality no news. In addition there is an evident mistake in relation to dates.

Intrigues of the Rebels in England.

That we have been on the eve of pretty serious trouble with Great Britain is established beyond question by our last advices from the Atlantic side. A dispatch by the last Pony informs us, under date of June 10th, that "semi-official letters received in Washington give assurances that the British Government is gradually changing from its partiality for the rebel States. The Government is yet anything but friendly to the Union, but is decidedly not so open in its hostility as it was before the arrival of Mr. Adams. These letters," continues the writer, "leave no room to doubt that the ministry had once determined upon recognizing the Southern Confederacy, and endeavoring to precipitate such action before the arrival of our new Minister. In the interview which Mr. Adams had with Lord John Russell, the former very distinctly expressed the belief that the British Government intended such a course, and charged the British ministry with a want of common diplomatic courtesy in thus attempting to decide upon so vital a question before offering an opportunity to the Administration of explaining the position in which the Government of this

Government, adopting the same policy pursued towards other States, has given to California all the "swamp and overflowed" lands within her borders, supposing that such land might possibly be best reclaimed with the assistance and under the direction of the local authorities. But the boundaries of the land thus donated have never been fixed, nor is the des_ cription in the act of donation sufficiently precise to give an unmistakable meaning to the extent of the grant. A pretty serious question has arisen about the question, "What is swamp and overflowed land?" The stage of the water is not the same at all seasons of the year, nor in all years, as compared with one another. Two hundred square miles, or thereabouts, of tule land along the banks of the Sacramento River are always swampy, never dry; and that land, as everybody admits, is part of the donation from the Federal to the State Government. In addition to these 200 square miles of indubitable swamp, there may be 100 square miles of tule land which is covered with water in the winter and early spring-swampy in the early summer, and quite dry in the fall.

In this latter season, while the tule is perfectly dry, it is almost invariably burned off, presenting a smooth and level surface, uninterrupted by bushes or hills, to the Surveyor, who soon appears with directions from the Federal Government to survey into sections all land not swamp and overflowed. He is paid according to distance, and as the burned-off tule is among his easiest and most profitable work, it is to his interest to decide all that to be not "swamp and overflowed:" besides, he naturally labors in the interest of his employer; and he presumes that all the land not given away in unmistakable terms by the Federal Government still belongs to it. And as he makes surveys in the fall, when the country has "dried up," it is literally true that this ground is neither swamp nor overflowed.

But the County Surveyors look at the matter with other eyes. They are the servants of the State. They are elected by the people, who desire that the State may possess as much property as possible, so that taxes may be light. As these County Surveyors are anxious to please their constituents, whose votes they may often solicit, it is their policy to claim as much for the State as possible. Of course, they claim the 100 square miles which are overflowed in the winter and spring and swampy in the early summer. They are wet during the greater part of the year, and the fact that they are perfectly dry during three or four months is not considered sufficient to take them out of the influence of the law.

We have no precise information of the rules adopted by the County Surveyors, but, since they estimate the amount of swamp and over-

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