

Mexico Opens Campaign to Stop Poppy Growing.

The State of Sonora has launched a campaign to suppress the growth of the opium poppy, which has become widespread. This is one of the few States in which there is a large Chinese colonization. Investigation proved that every little colony, most

of them in remote agricultural section, had a poppy patch.

Not only was opium produced for domestic consumption, but in such quantities as to be sold all over the republic and smuggled into the States. Mexicans are co-operating and destroying every field located.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

UNCLE SAM AS WOMAN'S BOSS

Not Recognized Before Civil War as Government Employees.

Washington.—A woman was recently elected mayor of Seattle. Another announced her intention of accepting the candidacy to succeed her husband as governor. The mandate committee of the League of Nations included a woman delegate. In Washington, D. C., a woman is in general charge of applying the law to bootleggers.

Yet only little more than 50 years ago a woman, to procure employment from the government, had to conceal her sex. She had to apply for her work, the copying of land warrants for the general land office, in the name of a male relative. It was done at home and she received \$1,200 a year, the salary received by men for that service.

In 1862 a woman was allowed a clerk's desk in the Treasury department—to substitute for a man. She was accorded the privilege of replacing her husband, who had fallen ill, in order that the family might be supported. She did her husband's work and received his salary—not because she was as competent as he, but because she registered as a man.

To the Treasury department also belongs the distinction of first employing women in their own right. Gen. Francis Ellias Spinner, appointed United States treasurer by President Lincoln, conceived the idea as a means of saving the government money in those expensive war times.

"A woman can use scissors better than a man," he told Salmon P. Chase, secretary of the treasury, "and she will do it cheaper. I want to employ women to cut the treasury notes."

Women Flocked In.

Following the consent of the treasury chief, scores of needy women, whom the war had left bereft of supporters, flocked to General Spinner's little room in the nation's bank. Here he slept, to be within call in case of trouble. Here every woman was sure of a hearing.

She did not receive an official appointment nor had she any official existence. She was merely handed a pair of scissors and paid \$600 a year out of the fund provided by congress for temporary clerks. Cutting treasury notes into quarters was considered "light work," but, as each note trimmer discovered, a few hours of it wearied the shoulders and blistered the fingers.

Appreciating this opportunity to support themselves, however, more and more women beset the general for jobs. Believing that the nimbleness of their fingers and their patience would be assets in the manipulation of fractional currency, he opened this field to them and also the detection of counterfeiters.

"The results pleased him. Speaking of women as counterfeit detectors, he said: "A man will examine a note systematically and deduce logically from the imperfect engraving, blurred vignette or indistinct signature that it is counterfeit—and be wrong four cases out of ten. A woman picks up a note, looks at it in a desultory fashion of her own and says, 'That's counterfeit.' 'Why?' 'Because it is,' she answers promptly—and is right eleven cases out of twelve."

Many Criticisms Heard.

Notwithstanding the satisfaction of the employer, criticisms were received from indignant persons all over the country, individuals shocked by the radical action of the treasurer. Even at home he encountered opposition. Hugh McCulloch, successor to Secretary Chase, scorned the presence of a tea pot on each window ledge. "There are too many tea pots in the treasury of the nation," he complained—after which remark the innocent kettle became the universal emblem of woman's unfitness for government service.

"Nobody ever heard that the costly cigars and tobacco which filled the man clerk's 'nooning,' to the exhilaration of body and soul, was a like sign of his inability to perform prolonged service without the aid of stimulants," said Mary Clemmer Ames in her book, "Ten Years in Washington," "but the tea pots were ridiculed out and ceased to distill the gentle beverage for the woman worker at her noonday lunch."

Congressmen, necessarily concerned with increasing their constituency, vented their eloquence in the depreciation of women workers, so that the males might be favored. Arguing that a woman was not a clerk but an employee, they decreed she could never, regardless of her services, earn more than \$900 a year. On the other hand, no man, were he only a messenger executing the instructions of a woman, could receive less than \$1,200.

Defenseless, women dared not complain. As one worthy official told them, they "were only here by sufferance and could all be turned out tomorrow."

A few appealed to the secretary of the treasury, but his retort that "\$400 is enough for any woman to receive for her work" soon silenced them. In the Department of the Interior the secretary constantly demoted women workers to make place for the men.

Ball Continued to Roll.

Even the women's friend in congress, Representative H. L. Dawes of Massachusetts, opposed all projects to raise their pay because, by making their humble positions desirable to men, they would be compelled to leave the government service altogether.

Despite antagonism, their first friend, General Spinner, remained their ally.

"The experiment of employing females as clerks," he wrote in his report of 1868, "has been, so far as this office is concerned, a complete success. The truth is that many of the female clerks now do as much work, if not more, and do it as well, if not better, for \$900 per annum, than some of the male clerks are able to do who receive a yearly salary of twice that amount."

"The female clerks, with but few exceptions, are subject to greater risks of loss by reason of miscounts or by passing counterfeiters, for which each one is peculiarly liable and responsible, than nine-tenths of the male clerks, whose principal occupations are books and accounts. Right and fair dealing, therefore, demand that their pay should be assimilated more nearly than it now is to that of the other sex for like services and responsibilities."

A generation later, when the woman's movement was progressing, General Spinner wrote: "The fact that I was instrumental in introducing women to employment in the offices of the government gives me more real satisfaction than all the other deeds of my life."

General Spinner had started a fertile movement indeed. Today there are 7,993 women in the storehouse of the nation's billions, 500 more than the male number. From the harsh employer of a handful of unrecognized women, Uncle Sam has developed, in little more than half a century, into the bountiful boss of 79,575 women, and the chief of a woman's public service that includes two governors, three congresswomen, an assistant attorney general, a state Supreme court judge, many minor judges, three state secretaries, about 150 state legislators, two diplomats and two state superintendents of public instruction.—New York Times.

Washington Calls Him Youngest Major in Army



This snappy salute is being given by "Maj." James Henry Adams, Jr. Fully equipped as a major in the air service, from the proper glint on his wings to the proper shine on his long boots, he is known in Washington as "the youngest major in the army." He is the son of Maj. Henry Adams, United States air service.

Sail to Hunt Pygmy Tribes With Airplane

Batavia, Java.—The expedition headed by Prof. Matthew W. Stirling of Berkeley, Cal., sailed recently on the government steamer Fomalhaut for Sourabaya to explore the unknown interior of Dutch New Guinea.

"All the members of the expedition are in good health and ready for hardships," said Professor Stirling just before the steamer cast off. "I have the utmost confidence in our plane's motor to fly and keep flying over the jungles and mountains."

"If pygmy tribes are in New Guinea we will find them," declared Stanley A. Hedberg, historian of the expedition. "Pilot Hoyt, Mechanic Hamer and Reserve Pilot and Photographer Peck are sure our plane will not fall us and will do all we expect."

The Dutch members of the party, Dr. Van Lemmen, biologist, and Leroux, cartographer, also expressed confidence. They were most enthusiastic and declared that the expedition would not come back before it found pygmies.

Thickest Bed of Coal From 60 to 100 Feet

Washington.—The thickest bed of coal in the United States, according to the United States geological survey, is a bed of sub-bituminous coal near Gillette, Wyo., which ranges in thickness from 60 to 100 feet of solid coal. Such phenomenally thick beds of coal are generally of limited areal extent, so that other even thicker beds, if it is stated, may lie concealed in areas not yet prospected.

Tip to Flappers

Edham, England.—Miss Selma Furdal, who is one hundred years old, attributes the lack of wrinkles in her face to abstention from cosmetics. She looks like her mother, "the belle of Bath," one of the famous beauties of her time.

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