

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

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A BAD YEAR FOR UNCLE SAM.

The Deficit in the National Treasury is Third Greatest Since the Civil War.

Only twice since the Civil War has the United States treasury had a greater deficit than the one which it faced at the close of the present fiscal year.

The total receipts for the year have been about \$599,000,000, or \$64,000,000 less than for the fiscal year 1907.

Make Use of Your Leisure Time.

If you have an hour to spend each day don't idle it away, for time is valuable. It will pay you to write to the Circulation Department of The Philadelphia Press.

Just About Now.

About this time the pesky mosquito puts in an appearance—a naty appearance, we may add.

About this time the amateur fisherman takes to hook and lyin'.

About now the young college graduate begins to see \$500 jobs looming up ahead—in his mind's eye.

About now last year's bathing suit is looked over to see if it can be worn any longer—or any shorter.

About now the matrimonial angling season begins. As with other kinds of angling, there will be more nibbles than catches.

Just about now.—Boston Transcript.

Two Wilkes-Barre men, Thomas Wilson and George Gotthold are developing a formula for making brick and wall plaster which, it is believed will revolutionize that business.

Market for Old Horse Shoes.

Old horse shoes find a ready market in China. One steamer alone brought 300 tons of this iron from Yamburg.

Every father of seven or more children is practically exempt from taxation in France.

Germany's colonies are five times as big as herself, those of France, 18 times, and Britain 97 times bigger than herself.

Hannibal during his campaign in Italy and Spain plundered 400 towns and destroyed 300,000 men.

New York city is now spending on education \$120,873 each school day.

There are 160 schools for lace-making and embroidery on tulle in the city of which three-fourths are taught by girls of the Roman Empire.

CASORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the signature of Chat. H. Fletcher.

THE LONG ALASKA TRAIL.

In Summer a Lonely, Flowery Way—Mighty Different in Winter.

Our trail still leads to the north along the great Government road from Whitehorse to Dawson, a gold seeker writes in Hunter-Trapper.

Forest fires ten years ago drove most of the game and fur to other parts, yet we see fresh signs of bear and fox in the dusty road every day for miles and miles.

This is the middle of May—the grass is four inches high, blue and white flowers along the roadside, some strawberry blossoms, and yet a pane of glass frozen in our camp kettles each morning.

This Government road is a solitude in summer, not a person for a hundred miles, but in winter when the ice tops travel on the mighty Yukon River, then this road is a wide awake, thriving, bustling, bustling, get there runway for the traders and miners.

Change horses every twenty-two miles at hotels called roadhouses. The charges at these roadhouses are \$1.50 for each meal, \$1 for bed, \$1 for handout lunch; beer, etc., 25 cents per drink, hay and oats 5 to 10 cents per pound.

We were overtaken on this road by four droves of beef cattle of 125 head in each drove. They were shipped from Calgary, Canada and Seattle, Wash. 500 miles by rail, 1,000 miles on foot, then by boat 250 miles to Dawson, 1,200 miles to Fairbanks.

The first cost of cattle is about \$70 per head. They are stall fed until three years old and weigh from 1,600 to 2,200 each, the best in the land.

They sell in Fairbanks for \$350 to \$400 each. The man who works the pick and shovel pays for all. Chuck steak, 65 cents; T bone steak, 90 cents; best cuts, \$1 per pound.

One herd lost five head through the ice; the next day the next herd lost nine head at the same place. They went under the ice in twelve feet of water. The miner must pay for this loss also.

IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP.

The Best, Cheapest and Most Efficacious Medicine.

Sleep is the best and cheapest medicine, and it is within the reach of everybody. We require as much sleep as we can procure. We may work at high pressure if we sleep enough, but if we overwork and under-sleep, irritability, insomnia and neurasthenia are almost certainly in store.

Insufficient sleep, in the first instance, is a common cause of insomnia. Rest and sleep are the only rational cures for brain fag and nervous exhaustion. It is the highly developed mind that it liable to worry, the alert, highly strung individual who is prone to suffer from sleeplessness.

Modern sanatoria teach us much about rest that is worth knowing. Disease is combated by putting the patient in such a condition as to enable him to cure himself, as it were, by letting nature do her beneficent work unhindered. One of the unbreakable rules of a sanitarium day is rest—absolute rest—for an hour before and for a short time after meals, says McCall's Magazine.

Neglect of sleep is, perhaps, the most fatal error made nowadays by busy people. Sleep is the only natural cure of, as it is the natural safeguard against, brain-fag and nervous exhaustion. It is always the highly developed, energetic individual who is the first to suffer from worry and sleeplessness.

RIGHT HAND OR BOTH HANDS.

Four-Fifths of the Babies Said to Be Ambidextrous.

Many reasons have been advanced for the prevalence of right-handedness. It is by some said to be the result of nursing and infantile treatment, to be due to early practice in writing and drawing, to be the outcome of warfare, education and heredity.

It is a curious instance of human contrariness that should one eye, one ear or one leg of a child show signs of diminished vigor the parents would instantly seek the cause of, and if possible, the remedy for that lamentable condition; yet for some inexplicable reason or prejudice the left hand of the average child is ruthlessly and deliberately neglected, until in mature years it is an undeveloped, useless and almost unnecessary appendage.

Careful observations have shown that out of every hundred persons born into this world eighty are congenitally ambidextrous—that is to say, they will instinctively reach for an object with either hand and only require proper instruction and training to develop both hands and arms to an equal degree of strength and skill.

Of the remaining 20, 17 will be righthanded, while the other three will show a natural bias toward the left hand. The cultivation of ambidexterity, therefore, offers no insuperable difficulties, and the economical, physiological and psychological advantages are enormous.

It is said that the Japanese soldiers can use their weapons with equal skill in either hand, for they are trained to be ambidextrous from childhood. At school they are taught to write and draw with both hands.

The German educational authorities, too, are at present giving considerable attention to left-hand work, especially in their technical and mechanical schools. The students are taught to saw, plane and hammer as well with the left hand as with the right, and the economical and industrial importance of ambidexterity is firmly impressed upon the minds of young men and women.

WATCH REPAIRING SEASONS.

April to July the Busiest Time in This Business.

"Are there seasons in the watch repairing business? Oh, yes," said the jeweller, "there are seasons in this just as there may be in any other business, and the busy season in watch repairing lasts from April to July.

"We are busy, to be sure, at all times through the year; there are always watches to be repaired, but our busiest season is one comprising the latter part of spring and the earlier part of summer, when people are preparing to go or are going away.

"At this season they want to be sure that their watches are in order and to be relied on while they are gone, and so they bring them in. One might have to depend more upon his watch when away than he would at home, and so he wants to feel sure of it.

"In winter, if a woman's watch, for instance, should stop she would probably simply put it away and not bother about having it repaired then; she might perhaps have other watches that she could use, and in any event she would have clocks at hand by which she could tell the time; but if she were going away she would be very likely to bring in the watch she was to carry and have it looked over; and the same would be true of many people, both men and women, who thus come to have their watch repairing done at this time of year.

"You say you thought that more main-springs break in winter than in summer? I dare say that is the common impression; but it is my observation that more main-springs break in summer than in winter, and such mishaps may add to the number of watches that come in at this season, but the common reason that brings them to us in greater numbers at this time is the desire to have them in order.

"We always have some watches sent in to us from the country in summer for repair. Naturally they get rougher usage or are more liable to mishap there than they would be in their ordinary use in the city. Sometimes we get watches that have been dropped overboard, and water is about as bad for a watch as fire. However perfectly constructed a watch case may be water will work into it around the stem if it is long enough submerged.

"So, while there are always watches to be repaired, the months from April to July constitute what you might call the busy season in watch repairing, and on some days in this season we may receive for repair twice as many watches as come to us in a day in the course of regular business at other seasons of the months running round the year."

LOVE OF THE JEW'S HARP.

Some Distinguished Performers Up on the Instrument.

The Jewsharp has been a familiar instrument under that name in this island for some 400 years, and is itself of much greater antiquity. In a Scottish witch trial in 1591 it was affirmed, says the London Globe, that a girl named Duncan played "upon a small trumpe called a Jewstrump" before the unholy fraternity of witches on the occasion of their invading a church; whereupon his Scottish Majesty, before whom and his Council the trial took place, called upon the girl to play before him a dance upon her "trumpe," which she accordingly did.

Several writers of voyages and travels of the Elizabethan era mention Jewsharps, with hatchets, knives, beads and the like, as suitable wares to be taken for purposes of barter with the American Indians and other uncivilized peoples. Sir Walter Raleigh mentions that a Jewsharp would purchase two hens, which seems a fairly profitable rate of exchange.

The Jewsharp has had its Paderewski. The late Charles Godfrey Leland, best known to fame as Hans Breitmann, in his "Memoirs," recalling his student days in Germany, mentions a certain Dr. Kerner, who performed on the single and double Jewsharp. Dr. Kerner, says Leland, "from this most unpromising instrument drew airs of such exquisite beauty that one could not have been more astonished had he heard the sweet tones of Grief drawn from a cat by twisting its tail."

More extraordinary even than the performances of Leland's Dr. Kerner were those given some 80 years ago in London by a compatriot of his named Eulenstein. The late Professor Charles Tomlinson, writing in 1895, gave his own recollections of some of Eulenstein's feats. This performer, he wrote, "excited wonder and delight by combining as many as 16 Jewsharps, including two actives, in one frame, and he managed to shift them in his mouth so rapidly as to produce what was called fairy music. A performance at the Royal Institution led to his being invited to evening parties." One can hardly imagine a performance on the Jewsharp as one of the attractions at the present day Royal Institution.

ANTIQUITY OF AGRICULTURE.

Probably Originated in South and East of Europe.

"The origin of agriculture," says Professor Wiegand, of the University of Bonn, "is lost in the mists of antiquity. We know that in neolithic times in Europe eight kinds of cereals were cultivated, besides flax, peas, popples, apples, pears, plums, etc. At the same time, various animals were domesticated. Among these were horses, short-horned oxen, horned sheep, goats, two breeds of pigs, dogs.

"In all likelihood agriculture arose in the south and east of Europe, and spread gradually in the center, north and west. A hunting population is often very averse to even the slightest amount of work that agriculture requires in a tropical country. The same holds good, as a rule for pastoral communities. In all cases a powerful constraint is necessary to force these people into ungenial employment. Fate is stronger than will, and at various periods in different climates hunters and herders have been forced to till the soil.

"The desert," Professor Wiegand says in another part of his paper, "notwithstanding all difficulties of communication, offered more facilities than the sea to early man; it had, in fact, three manifest advantages over the Mediterranean: (1) The desert penetrates further into the interior of the country. It is several times larger than the Mediterranean, and can therefore, tap more countries; it reaches to precisely those richest countries that the Mediterranean does not touch. (2) The desert does not oblige the pastor to seriously modify his mode of life. In order to traverse the desert it is necessary to arrange the journey in stages; but these stages, once created, the pastor can live in his own way. (3) A numerous troop can cross the desert. They travel in caravans for greater safety and defense against possible attacks.

"Such are the reasons which caused early man to travel over the desert before voyaging over and utilizing the sea."

Air-Propellers.

Count Zeppelin, whose experiments with a gigantic airship over the Lake of Constance attracted world-wide attention some few years ago, has devised a novel form of propellers intended to drive light-draft boats and launches.

Instead of operating in the water Zeppelin's propellers, like those used to drive balloons, rotate in the atmosphere. They are specially intended for use in very shallow waters, and in tropical rivers which contain so many aquatic plants that the propeller of an ordinary boat becomes clogged with them. Boats having a very light draft can be skimmied along with such propellers at the rate of several miles an hour.

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