

DEPARTMENTAL ANNUALS.

The Reports of Secretaries Noble and Elkins.

The Year's Work in the Department of the Interior.

The annual report of Secretary Noble, of the Interior Department, is an interesting document and covers fully and in detail the operations of the department. The volume of work accomplished during the present Administration is shown to greatly exceed that of any preceding period. This view is supported by a condensed summary preliminary to a description of the work of the several bureaus under the direction of the Secretary for the last fiscal year.

The General Land Office worked off the vast accumulation of former years and is now on current business, greatly to the advantage of Western settlers; the Indian Bureau has made great progress in elevating the various Indian tribes, in the work of allotment of land in severalty to individual Indians, the consequent disintegration of their tribal relation, and the development of schools. Great reform has been accomplished in the purchase of Indian supplies. The Pension Office has disposed of an immense volume of work and has exceeded all former records in the number of final adjudications, both original and upon appeals, executing the beneficial laws for the soldiers of the Union. The Census Office has finished nearly all of its immense and highly scientific work, and what remains is rapidly nearing completion.

The Geological Survey has progressed greatly in its topographical survey of the States and Territories; in locating reservoirs for the irrigation of the arid lands, and in its other useful divisions. The Railroad Bureau has kept constant supervision of the condition of the road beds and appliances and given careful consideration to the question of the maturing details of the subsidized railroads and the future conditions which should govern them. The Patent Office has kept up with current work, and has introduced several important reforms. The Bureau of Education has greatly extended its operations in Europe and our own country, and the distribution of the funds for agricultural colleges, a difficult problem, has been satisfactorily and efficiently handled.

Educational work among the Indians has been greatly increased and improved in efficiency. There has been an increase of over thirteen per cent. in attendance of children in the schools, the total for 1892 being 19,793 scholars. The recreation system is being rapidly broken up, and the allotments of land in sufficient quantity to enable each Indian to have a farm, has developed a sense of individual importance and appreciation of personal power that is rapidly disintegrating the tribal relations.

Whenever it is possible the employment of Indians in preference to whites, at the agencies and in schools is being practiced, and many important positions are now filled acceptably by educated Indians. The Patent Office is preparing an exhibit for the World's Fair which it is represented will be a very satisfactory one to the Government. The total number of applications for patents during the year was 43,945.

The volume of business handled and disposed of by the Pension Office during the past year was enormous. There were on June 30, 1892, 876,068 pensioners borne upon the rolls, being 164,998 more than were on the rolls at the close of the last fiscal year. The total amount expended for pensions during the year was \$129,035,012.63, and it is estimated that the appropriation for 1893 of \$144,956,000 will leave a deficiency. Some idea of the magnitude of the work can be formed from the fact that during the year 3,373,123 pieces of mail were received, and 4,816,616 pieces sent out.

The Secretary presents a bill framed to give Alaska a better government, and is very earnest in his recommendation that the condition of the Territory receive the attention of Congress.

The report also contains an account of the work up to date on the Nicaragua Canal. The Secretary expresses the opinion that this enterprise is of the utmost importance to the welfare of the country in either time of war, and should have the favorable recognition of Congress.

Secretary Elkins's Report.

The annual report of the Secretary of War has been made public. Secretary Elkins expresses gratification in being able to say that the Army has maintained throughout the year a high standard of discipline and efficiency. Since the present organization of our infantry was adopted many changes have taken place in the art of war, resulting among other things, in a material modification of the form of infantry regiments. Our stationary condition in this respect has left us with an obsolete organization, the defects of which render immediate action in organizing the three-battalion formations for infantry regiments. The Secretary recommends the revival of the rank of Lieutenant-General as a permanent grade.

Enlistments during the year have been of an improved class of men, the standard of qualification having been raised. The Secretary thinks the Army, under favorable conditions, should be one of the most desirable trades of youth. It is recommended that the pay of all non-commissioned grades be increased, making provision therefor the object of legitimate ambition, thereby inducing the enlistment of the very best material to compete for promotion to those grades.

The announcement is made that our Indian wars are nearly ended, and the necessity for massive troops no longer exists. Seventy per cent. is now located on the Mississippi River. New military posts are recommended in Montana, Arkansas and New Mexico. The presence of regular troops in these States would familiarize the people with the Army, lead them to a better understanding of its operations, and, it is believed, foster a kinder interest in it.

The West Point Academy shows marked advancement. Its capacity is not overtaxed. Vacancies in the list of cadets constantly exist, which it is important should be kept full. It is recommended that the President be given authority to appoint ten cadets-at-large each year.

The artillery, infantry, engineer and cavalry schools have proved successful experiments. The only serious obstacle to the rapid development of the schools to their full limits of usefulness arises from a want of funds to conduct the exclusively scholastic work.

The importance of maintaining and improving the military of the several States is generally admitted. The National Guard is the reserve force of the Army. Attention is invited to the necessary appropriations for arming and equipping this reserve force. In 1891 the appropriation for the militia of the States was \$20,000. The highly improved arms and equipments of the present day cost more than twice what they did eighty-four years ago. An appropriation of at least one million dollars for this purpose is recommended.

The Indian soldiers are doing excellent service, showing remarkable aptitude for military duty. He estimates that the total expenditures of his Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, will be \$35,573,772, against \$31,318,970.59 in 1891 and \$26,582,922.34 for the present year.

BOOKERS are already assembling on the southern border of Kansas in anticipation of the opening of settlement of 6,000,000 acres of land in the Cherokee strip, though the date for the opening is not fixed. Congressional action is first necessary in this matter.

POSTOFFICE AFFAIRS.

Postmaster-General Wanamaker Files His Annual Report.

Postmaster-General Wanamaker summarizes the results achieved by his department as follows:

Five million dollars added to the gross revenue, the deficit reduced nearly a million, money order offices increased two-thirds, or from 10,070 to 16,680, eighty-two cities supplied with free delivery; 279 new offices established, 293 offices advanced to the Presidential grade, 10,770,000 miles of additional service, 1500 new mail routes established, embracing 8500 miles of new service; coast mail service extended, and pneumatic tube service introduced.

In the last four years 5051 new mail routes have been established, traversing 24,699 miles; the number of Postoffices has grown by over 8000; the number of money order offices over 8300, and the number of free delivery offices has almost doubled. The new foreign mails service contracted for applies to eleven lines, comprising, when completed, forty-one ships, necessary to make the service contracted for frequent enough and quick enough to comply with the terms agreed upon.

Of his proposition to divide the country into postal districts. Mr. Wanamaker says its adoption can only be a question of time. Each district would be put in charge of a postal supervisor or director, and the regular inspectors of the department should assist these supervisors, as they might be needed. Then all detail matters relating to the establishment and discontinuance of Postoffices, the establishment of stations, appointments and removals, the best utilization of and changes in routes, the putting on and the taking off of service, the right interpretation of the regulations, irregularities, and in general, the whole business conduct of the service, would be superintended personally by the district supervisors, with the assistance of the regular inspectors of all the postmasters in the district, who would feel, as never before, that their efforts on behalf of adequate facilities and economical and enterprising management would find appreciation.

The district supervisors could act under rules without reference to the department at Washington, and without useless delay. They would be the counselors of the department, the general means of communication with it; and the First Assistant Postmaster-General should be constituted the Comptroller or Actuary, to whom the supervisors should report.

New buildings and a pneumatic or an electrical service of some kind is strenuously advocated for New York and Chicago and other large cities, and it is pointed out that there can be no adequate relief without the application of these methods. The postal telegraph and postal telephones are, of course, strenuously advocated as formerly.

On the one-cent postage question Mr. Wanamaker says: The present letter rate pays actually double the cost, and by this overpay serves as a protective rate to the department to cover the underpay from doing an express business for periods, and books and carrying advertising sheets at one cent per pound, that in point of fact are nothing more than business circulars that load the mails enormously. All such mail is not only carried at a loss of six cents a pound, but it interferes materially with the business of the express and railroad companies, which are properly carriers of heavy packages and freight.

Something to take the pace of fractional currency for the remittances of small sums, he says, is very desirable. He urges the issue of a money postal card of denominations of ten cents, twenty-five cents, fifty cents and one dollar, and of the form of the present small card and exactly similar to the ordinary postal card on the address side, and on the reverse side an order on the Postmaster of the city addressed for a fixed sum, payable on the signature of the payee named in the address.

AN ELECTION SURPRISE.

Remarkable Career of Miss Knowles, Montana's New Attorney-General.

One of the queer things in the late election was the choosing of Miss Ella F. Knowles, by a large majority, as Attorney-General of Montana.

Miss Knowles was born in Northwood, Rockingham County, N. H., and is the daughter of David Knowles and Louisa



MISS ELLA F. KNOWLES.

Knowles. Her mother died when she was fourteen years of age, and she graduated from the Northwood Seminary at the age of fifteen, and one year later from the New Hampshire State Normal School. Afterward she went to Bates College, Lewiston, Me., from which she graduated in the class of '84, receiving the degree of A. B. Four years later Bates College conferred on her the degree of A. M.

In 1885 Miss Knowles commenced the study of law in the office of Burnham & Brown, Manchester, N. H. She prosecuted her studies there about a year, when on account of ill health, she went West, and took the chair of elocution and Latin in Iowa College. Being advised by physicians to go among the mountains, she came to Helena in the fall of 1887. She taught one year in the central school here, and then resumed the study of law. There was considerable prejudice against allowing her to practice, so the little women went to work among the members of the last Territorial Legislature, that of 1888-90, and had a bill introduced and passed to admit women to practice law. She was admitted to the bar on December 1, 1890. Now she has a practice of which many men would be proud, and is peculiarly popular among them. The circumstance does not frighten her.

FAIR MUSICIANS.

Forty-five Women Players From Mexico Going to Chicago.

General Sorzano, Director General of the Mexican exhibit at the Columbian Exposition, has received a letter stating that Madam Diaz, wife of the Mexican President, is going to send next year to Chicago at her own expense, a woman's band of forty-five musicians. This band will be composed of the most expert artists to be found in Mexico and will be under the patronage of Madam Diaz. From Mexico will also come the Eighth Regiment Band of eighty pieces, considered the finest in the republic. Both these bands will remain at the fair from its opening to its close.

SABBATH SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON FOR DECEMBER 18.

Review of the Last Quarter—Golden Text: Roman x. 4—Commentary.

LESSON I.—Saul's Conversion (Acts ix. 1-20). Golden text (John iii. 3), "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Saul had an excellent character and standing in the eyes of his fellows and in his own estimation; but the sight of Jesus made him count it all as dross (Phil. iii. 4-11). Saul was chosen that he might bear the name of Jesus, manifest the life of Jesus and suffer great things for His sake.

Consider Cornelius and Dorcas (Acts ix. 22-48). Golden text (Acts ix. 30), "This woman was full of good works and alms deeds which she did." Saul being persecuted at Damascus came to Jerusalem and was received by the apostles, who were first afraid of him, through the commendation of Barnabas, after which he went to Tarsus, his birthplace. This lesson speaks of Peter at Lydda making Aeneas whole instantly after keeping his bed eight years, and at Joppa raising Dorcas from the dead. The result in each case would be put in charge of the Lord and believed in Him (verses 35, 42).

LESSON III.—Peter's Vision (Acts x. 1-20). Golden text (Acts x. 34), "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." The church thus far was gathered only from the Jews, but it was the sign of God to gather an elect company out of all nations. See Math. xxviii. 19; Mark xvi. 15. Acts i. 80. This lesson tells how by a special vision Peter was led to go to the Gentiles. Cornelius, a devout, prayerful, beneficent—and most of all, a God-fearing man—was moved on his behalf. An angel is sent to him, and a vision granted to Peter in connection with certain earthly matters, all to bring light to his dark and longing soul (Acts x. 1-20).

LESSON IV.—Peter at Caesarea (Acts x. 20-48). Golden text (Acts x. 43), "Through His name whoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." Peter having arrived at the house of Cornelius is told in the presence of all the story of the angel's visit, and is then informed that they are all waiting to hear what God has commanded him to say. He preaches to them Jesus—His life, death and resurrection; His anointing by the Spirit and the power of God manifest in Him, and that all who believe and receive in Him the forgiveness of sins. Those hearing believed and received the gift of the Holy Spirit, even although they had never been circumcised.

LESSON V.—Christians at Antioch (Acts xxi. 17-26). Golden text (Acts xxi. 21), "A great number believed and turned unto the Lord." The persecution about the time of Stephen's martyrdom resulted in a great scattering of the disciples, but not of the apostles (Acts viii. 1). Some of these went as far as Antioch, preaching the word carried out only to the Jews. Although the preachers were not apostles, God blessed their preaching, and many received Jesus. The news reached Jerusalem, and Barnabas was sent to encourage them. He brethren saw from Tarsus, and the good work went on. Mark the phrase, "Turned unto the Lord." "Added unto the Lord," "Cleave unto the Lord" (verses 21, 23, 24).

LESSON VI.—Peter delivered from prison (Acts xii. 1-17). Golden text (Acts xii. 7), "The angel of the Lord encircled Peter around about them that fear Him and delivereth them." We now return to Jerusalem to find James, the brother of John, gone to be with Jesus, and Peter in prison apparently about to follow him, when the church is given up to earnest prayer.

LESSON VII.—Sent by the Spirit (Acts xiii. 1-13). Golden text (Acts xiii. 47), "That repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all Nations." Barnabas and Saul had returned to Jerusalem the aims of the Antioch believers return to Antioch taking John Mark with them, and are now by the Holy Spirit separated into special work in far off portions of the world. In the lesson we follow them only through Cyprus, and find the old enemy of the garden of Eden already ahead of them, but our hearts rejoice to see one soul snatched from his cruel bondage.

LESSON VIII.—A missionary sermon (Acts xiii. 16-41). Golden text (Acts xiii. 26), "Ye are the seed of the blessing." Leaving Cyprus they cross to the mainland, whence John returns to Jerusalem. Paul and Barnabas are next found in the synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia, and being invited to speak Paul preached this sermon in which he rehearses the story from Egypt to David, and then enlarges upon the Son of David, whom he proves Jesus to have been. And from Psalms ii. and xvi. shows that David expected an immortal heir, one who should rise from the dead. He shows that Jesus crucified and risen is the promised Son and King, and that He offers forgiveness to all who will receive Him.

LESSON IX.—Blessing for the Gentiles (Acts xiii. 42-52). Golden text (Acts xiii. 47), "I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles." The work goes on encouragingly until the Jews begin openly to contradict and blaspheme; then the apostles turn to the Gentiles, and many believed and the word was published through the whole region. Driven from Antioch they come to Iconium, and continue preaching and also working signs and wonders, and a great multitude both of Jews and Greeks believed. Notice that everywhere they preached the Gospel, the full story of Jesus, and that was all.

LESSON X.—Paul stoned (Acts xv. 8-22). Golden text (Math. xii. 20), "In His name shall the Gentiles trust." One of the mighty works wrought by the risen Christ through these His servants was the healing of Elymas the sorcerer who had never walked, and part of Paul's wages for the same was a stoning unto death because he would not consent to be popular and let the people worship him. But Paul had his eyes fixed on the glory to be revealed, and longed to win men to the Lord of glory and not to himself.

LESSON XI.—The Apostolic Council (Acts xv. 12-29). Golden text (Acts xv. 11), "Through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved even as they." Satan hates to see people receiving the free gift of God, and sends out apparently as ministers of light those who teach that it is Jesus and not Jesus only—who saves. If he can make people believe that anything is necessary in addition to the finished work of Christ he has gained his point and hindered a soul. The only salvation of Scripture is that of grace because of the work of Christ, now to some Jews and Gentiles (whoever will), then to all the Jews at His coming in glory and then to the Gentiles (Eph. xxvii. 6; xl. 9; ix. 1-3).—Lesson Helper.

The railway managers that hesitate to lower rates to the Fair are standing in their own light. They have but to study the results of fare cutting in England and on the continent to learn a simple and wholesome lesson. In Europe, where governments generally own and operate the roads, reduction of fares not only for occasions, but permanently, has enabled many roads to pay off heavy debts. The rich can have special cars. The people who have to work for money will not travel unless they can do so cheaply. A cut of one-half is the most convenient principle for adoption during the Fair. On that they will reap the largest profits known in the history of railroading.



THE MANAGEMENT OF PIGS.

You will find some information on this subject in another column. The most profit in the rearing of pigs is to lose the least time in bringing the pigs to maturity and market, and to get as many as possible from the sow in the least time. Next, to hurry the pigs along from birth, and while they are small, at which time the growth for a certain quantity of food is the most. The right breed is necessary to do this, and all things considered the Berkshire is the best for making early pork of the best quality.—New York Times.

THE FILE ON THE FARM.

The file is a more important farm tool than many farmers, who during all their lives have never filed the cutting edge of a hoe blade, are aware of. If such men have a practical demonstration of the difference between a dull and a sharp hoe, they are certain to purchase a small flat file for the workmen to carry in their pocket when engaged in work requiring the use of a sharp hoe. File the hoe upon both sides of the blade, and it will retain an edge longer and cut smoother than when the filing is all upon one side, although it should be filed most on the inside. Both a flat, a three-cornered and a round file should be kept on hand. Their use will often save a trip to the shop in a busy time, and they pay for themselves many times each year in sharper edged tools.—American Agriculturist.

FAT MUTTON NOT POPULAR.

Fat mutton once had a wider range of admirers in England than at present. The fatted animals were the best. A dish of potatoes was placed in the common oven, and over it the fat loin of a Leicester sheep. This made a great mass of gravy. The master of the house dined off the meat, while his family equally fared on the delicious and saturated potatoes. But at the present time luxury has almost banished the fat Leicester mutton from the tables of the manufacturing operative, and is more confined to those engaged in the mining districts. The Southdown and the Highland Scotch, the Cheviot, and the half bred (small in joint and full of flavor, with less fat) seem to be the kind of sheep which the spread of luxury and epicurism demands in the manufacturing districts of the country, and therefore the present tendencies of breeders must be somewhat checked, if not altogether reversed.—American Farmer.

HOW TO JUDGE CLOVER SEED.

Professor Menke once made a singular experiment to test clover seed. There were green seeds, yellow seeds, light brown, dark brown and black. The same number were sown under identical conditions and the results are given below. Very few of the green seeds reached the cotyledonous stage, and were very weak. Almost all the yellow germinated and produced a good stand of healthy plants. The light brown did very well, but not as well as the yellow. There was a slight decrease both in the number that germinated and the health of the plants. Taking the dark brown, it was evident that as the darkness increased the value of the seed decreased. With the black there was a confirmation of the last result. The results are of benefit to farmers in this regard, that in the selection of their seed they can notice regarding the relative proportions of color and endeavor to procure that which appears to be most largely composed of the yellow and light brown.—American Dairyman.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF SOILS.

The amount of water in a soil and its rate of circulation being among the most important factors in determining the growth of cultivated plants, it follows that the art of cultivating and manuring must be based on the possible control of the water supply in the soil. In a report on soil investigations, by Mr. Whitney, of the Maryland Station, it is shown that the continued use of lime, kankit and phosphoric acid makes the soil more loamy, looser in texture and less retentive of moisture.

Many of our agricultural lands need improvement in the other direction. They need to be made closer in texture and more retentive of moisture. In the investigations under consideration it was found that ammonia, the caustic alkalis, carbonate of soda, and probably many other substances tend to bring about the desired improvement.

The judicious use of lime, kankit or acid phosphate, along with organic matter added to the soil, is said to give a value to the application which it would not otherwise have had. In this connection a value to stable manure is given out of all proportion to the amount of plant food which it contains. Lime, alone, either alone or when acting with organic matter, is named as having a distinct value for all classes of land.—New York World.

MANAGEMENT OF HORSES.

Let the horseman know that much of his worth to his master depends upon the manner in which he studies the comfort of his horses during their labor. If a horse's head is reined up too tightly, or his jaw is tied down to his chest, or if, as I have seen, both horses on a plow are so tied to each other that neither has freedom of motion, and consequently works fretfully all day, we have in such cases about as sure a method of working the flesh off an animal as can be devised, besides inflicting positive pecuniary injury upon the master.

A Dog as Postmaster's Assistant.

A little postoffice near Witmer's, on the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, enjoys the unique distinction of being the only office in the country wherein a dog officiates as assistant postmaster. Postman Muslemann's canine assistant is a little St. Charles spaniel called Beauty, upon whom has devolved for five years the task of bringing from Witmer's station, a half-mile distant, the bundle of morning papers from Philadelphia. Two bundles, a large one and a small one, are thrown off at the station. Regularly every morning Beauty trots over the fields to the station and patiently awaits the arrival of the train. When the two bundles are thrown off Beauty seizes the smaller one in her mouth and trots directly home. She never makes a mistake, always taking the smaller bundle; neither does she loiter along by the roadside, but covers the distance between Witmer's and the cross-roads postoffice at a speed that would do credit to Nancy Hanks herself. Beauty has been assistant postmaster almost since her birth, and could hardly be replaced.—Philadelphia Record.

An Old Lady's Way.

A happy and vigorous old lady in New Hampshire give these rules for the secret of success of eighty years' living on this planet, which brings so much care and worry to many of her sisters: "I never allow myself to fret over things I cannot help. I take a nap, and sometimes two, every day of my life. I never take my washing, ironing, or baking to bed with me, and I try to oil all the various wheels of a busy life with an implicit belief that there are a brain and a heart to this great universe, and that I can trust them both."—Chicago Tribune.



Mrs. Sarah Muir of Minneapolis.

"I was for a long time a sufferer from Female Weakness and tried many remedies and physicians, to no good purpose. One bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla made so great a difference in my condition that I took three bottles more and found myself perfectly well. I have also given Hood's Sarsaparilla to the children, and find that it keeps them in good health." Mrs. SARAH MUIR, 308 Sixteenth Avenue, South Minneapolis, Minn.

Hood's Pills cure all Liver Ills.

W. W. WOOD, Proprietor.

W. W. WOOD, Proprietor.

Advertisement for Scott's Emulsion, featuring a fisherman carrying a large cod fish on his back. The text describes it as a perfect food—palatable, easy of assimilation, and an appetizer; these are everything to those who are losing flesh and strength. The combination of pure cod-liver oil, the greatest of all fat producing foods, with Hypophosphites, provides a remarkable agent for Quick Flesh Building in all ailments that are associated with loss of flesh.

Advertisement for Swift's Specific, a tested remedy for all Blood and Skin Diseases. It is described as a reliable cure for Contagious Blood Poison, Inherited Scrofula and Skin Cancer. As a tonic for delicate women and children it has no equal. Being purely vegetable, it is harmless in its effects. A treatise on Blood and Skin Diseases mailed free on application. Druggists Sell It. SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., Drawer 3, Atlanta, Ga.

Advertisement for "August Flower," a remedy for various ailments. It is described as "One of my neighbors, Mr. John Gilbert, has been sick for a long time. All thought him past recovery. He was horribly emaciated from the inaction of his liver and kidneys. It is difficult to describe his appearance and the miserable state of his health at that time. Help from any source seemed impossible. He tried your August Flower and the effect upon him was magical. It restored him to perfect health to the great astonishment of his family and friends." John Quibell, Holt, Ont.