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AMERICAN SILK GOWNS.

THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE HAS INTERESTED HERSELF IN FOSTERING SILK WORM CULTURE.

Secretary Wilson Believes that Many Portions of the Country Well Adapted to the Industry. Department Will Furnish the Eggs and Mulberry Trees Free.

The Japanese have a class of laborers who work for their board and keep alone. All they want is a place to live and plenty of food in the shape of leaves from a particular kind of tree, and they are willing to turn millions of dollars into the pockets of their employers. In fact, Japan sent to the United States over \$2,000,000 worth of their products during the last year, and they never received one cent of this vast sum. France, Italy, China, and various other countries, too, have laborers of this kind, but in the

her for the samples she recently sent him.

Life History of a Silk Worm.

The various stages in the life of a silk worm are interesting. First, we have the tiny eggs which hatch into the caterpillar or larva. This larva, when hatched, upon coming into contact with the air, increased in volume quickly begins to gnaw the under surface of the mulberry leaf. It eats day and night at all hours, except when asleep, and in about thirty days grows 14,000 times larger than it was at birth. As it grows it molts its skin probably four or five times. The most interesting period in its career is when the worm reaches an age of 20 or 21 days, when its appetite almost ceases, its size diminishes, and its general appearance is sickly. Very soon, however, it begins to move about, lifts up its head, and turns in every direction, seeking a place in which to spin a net to hold the cocoon which is to be spun. For sometime, through the veil which very soon is to surround it, the diligent larva, with its back turned outward, may be seen



MRS. THEODORE ROOSEVELT in Gown Made of American Grown Silk.

United States, where the pay for labor is the highest in the world, the possibilities for employment of this class of help are just as great as in the countries where it flourishes. The question arises at once, what sort of an industry is this which employs the time and services of its help and then pays them nothing?

Mrs. Roosevelt's Helping Hand.

These "willing workers" are nothing more than the lowly silk worm, living on the leaf of the mulberry, and then diligently spinning the glistening strands of silver into an egg-shaped form that the keeper may reap the reward, and the president's wife has made a compact with Secretary of Agriculture Wilson to foster their growth in the United States. Mrs. Roosevelt takes a deep interest in the question of American silk growing, and believes that there is in the industry much hope for the farmers' wives and other women who need an income from work at home. Our first lady of the land, by the way, has the rare attribute of much modesty, combined with great generosity, and except to her close circle of friends has nothing to say about her many philanthropies—mostly directed toward the advancement of women's interests.

As to silk growing, Mrs. Roosevelt became interested in it something over a year ago, securing Secretary Wilson's powerful support; she stands sponsor for what promises to become a very considerable American industry. At the last Inauguration she wore a magnificent silk gown, made of American silk and woven on American looms.

Money in Raising Cocoons.

The silk worm thrives most any place where mulberry trees will grow. The raising of them, according to Fanny Brigham, requires only 65 days a year. Forty thousand worms hatch from a single ounce of eggs, and their cocoons when dried weigh about 80 pounds, worth on an average a dollar a pound.

It is Mrs. Roosevelt's idea that silk worm culture in the United States will be conducted principally by the farmers' wives and daughters, as it is in Europe. Secretary Wilson is convinced that there is a good profit in the industry, and he will send to anybody, free of charge, all the mulberry cuttings or seedlings required to start silk worm growing. It takes about three years, with good care, to get the mulberry trees ready for cropping, when the Department will send the beginner all the eggs which the grove will feed. The silk raiser is, therefore, really under no money expense for starting the project, his share being only a little patience and industry. A shining example noted is Miss Ethel Pritchett, of Albany, Indiana, who is sixteen years old, and who has produced silk cocoons from Italian eggs finer than anything shown by Italy. Secretary Wilson highly praised

completing its task. It is calculated that with its head alone the silk worm makes 60 movements every minute, describing arcs of circles, crossed in the form of the figure 8. Meanwhile the web grows closer and the veil thickens, and in about seventy-two

The Poor Worm Must Die.

However, in the silk worm culture, where the cocoons are gathered for their silk alone, it is necessary to kill the worm before it breaks the tiny threads. This is done quickly, however, by either the use of hot, moist air or steam, or the modern painless method of destructive gases. The methods of reeling the silk from the cocoons vary according to the country where the industry thrives.

The history of silk culture in the United States dates far back to the days of the early colonists of Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia, while it was introduced in New England about the year 1660. In 1901, Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, after a visit to the South Investigating agricultural conditions and possibilities, came to the conclusion that something should be done to ameliorate the condition of the extremely poor people of that section, and particularly the colored race. Silk culture was among the ideas which suggested themselves to him, and his interest in that line led to an appropriation by Congress of \$10,000 to continue the investigations of the subject. Congress during its session of 1902-1903 repeated the appropriation, and additional appropriations have been since made.

Good Outlook for New Industry.

It is believed that there are many portions of the United States well adapted to silk raising, many places which might well become silk centers, where labor can be employed practically at rates comparable to those of Southern Europe. The establishment of a silk mill in such a location is believed feasible by the Department officials, and can be made to pay. Foreign capital is becoming interested in the subject, the proprietor of a large estate in Italy especially giving the matter careful consideration. What the success of silk culture would mean in the United States might well be indicated when it is learned that nearly \$100,000,000 was sent out of this country to be expended in the purchase of both raw silk and the manufactured article.

Carnegie Did Not Say It.

"I never said," declares Andrew Carnegie, in an interview, "that to die rich is to die disgraced." George Washington did not live to repudiate the little hatchet. William Tell passed to his rest with no opportunity to turn from the mythical apple the arrow that was to go on saving Switzerland for ages. Jefferson did not ride on horseback to the Capitol to take the inaugural oath. Mr. Carnegie, living and able, meets common report before it has hardened into tradition and declares that the facts are otherwise. Yet his advantage over the

ECHOES OF PERRY'S FIGHT.

SHIPS SUNK BY AMERICAN FORCES RECENTLY DISCOVERED.

They Will Be Raised from Beds of Mud and Preserved as Records of War of 1812.

Following Commodore Perry's thrashing of the British fleet in his great Lake Erie fight, three of the British war boats were sunk in the Thames River, near Lake St. Clair. The question has arisen to whom do these vessels belong? After lying forgotten, covered with mud and water, for nearly a century, they have been discovered, and it is proposed to raise them. Over this, and their removal to Detroit, an international controversy is threatened.

These ships were a part of the fleet which resisted Commodore Perry at Put-in-Bay. At that time the whole northwestern country, including Detroit, had fallen into British hands. After Perry's crushing defeat, the battered remnant of the British fleet slipped away to Detroit, taking the British General Proctor aboard, and with arms, ammunition, government papers and other plunder from Detroit, made speed to Lake St. Clair. The little fleet of four took refuge on the Thames, and in the famous land and naval battle which followed, the ships were all sunk. Tecumseh, the Indian chief, who was allied with the British, was killed, and General Proctor later committed suicide.

Gunboats Recently Discovered.

These vessels have remained forgotten until recently, when unusually low water in the Thames revealed one of them. A plan was originated to recover them and present them to Detroit as memorials. Divers and experts have been at work, and have located three of the vessels at points one, two and six miles up stream from Chatham. The ships are nearly covered with sand and earth.

In the one most exposed the hull was found to contain boxes and barrels of cannon balls and other war stores. Further search is expected to bring to light chests of silver and other valuables which the records show were taken on to the boats. Canadian newspapers are vigorously protesting against the American seizure of these ancient relics, but it is stated that as the vessels are now private property, the explorers will be able to effect a bargain whereby they can obtain undisputed possession.

A MAN WITHOUT A PULL.

Rapid Rise of Frank H. Hitchcock—Now First Assistant Postmaster General.

Several accounts have appeared in the papers and magazines descriptive of the rapid rise of First Assistant Postmaster General Frank H. Hitchcock. Starting with a subordinate clerkship in the Department of Agriculture some 15 years ago where his duties consisted mainly in labeling and storing away the skins and skulls of mice, rats, and other mammals collected by the animal and bird division of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Hitchcock has been advanced rapidly to the head and directing force of first one and then another separate branch of the government, the last appointment being to the Post Office Department and later in January to membership in the keep investigating committee to which was referred the important duty of investi-



FRANK H. HITCHCOCK, FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

gating the Government Printing Office and which will further look into the question of duplication of work by the various bureaus and branches of the government at Washington. While these advances have been gratifying to Mr. Hitchcock's friends and doubtless to himself, they have entailed severe extra work. When he left the department of Agriculture to become chief clerk of the Department of Commerce and Labor he still had several uncompleted publications of the former Department which occupied all his spare evenings for months. Upon Secretary Cortelyou's resignation from the Department of Commerce and Labor to engage in the work of electing Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Hitchcock went with him as his principal assistant, his uncompleted duties, however, still following him as they had previously and were not even completed upon his appointment to the Post Office Department. It is doubtful if he has yet caught up with important lines of statistical work which he undertook to do prior to accepting his present appointment.

Mr. Hitchcock is very properly described in a current number of "The World To-day," as "the man without a pull," as his remarkable rise in the service of the government has been the result of ability unaided by political influence. His qualifications are perhaps most correctly summed up in the words of Secretary Wilson, who, in expressing regrets at his loss to the Department of Agriculture, said: "He has industry, application and intelligence. He is a born organizer; can pick good men, tell them what to do and how to do it, and get the best work out of them. He is of a class—not a big crowd—that make themselves indispensable. The government can't get along without men like Mr. Hitchcock."

Zebras.

"What is algebra?" asked the teacher. "It's a white mule covered with black stripes. I saw one at the circus."

ANTI-PASS SENTIMENT.

IT IS GROWING IN CONGRESS AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

Many Legislators Have Already Set Their Faces Against the Acceptance of Railroad and Telegraphic Favors.

When Congress convened last fall it met in extra session upon the call of the President, and this session continued over into the regular session, which met December 5th. There was no interval between the two sessions. It was thus apparent that there could have been no traveling back and forth, no returning of the Members of Congress to their homes following the special session and coming on to Congress again for the regular session; yet the House of Representatives by a large majority passed a resolution voting themselves extra mileage for this extra session, amounting to nearly \$200,000—a mileage grab for imaginary travel.

Fortunately for the honor of Congress, the Senate refused to even consider the question. But the incident brought out the fact that the majority of the Members of Congress, including some of our most renowned legislators, and including nearly all the Representatives who voted for this indefensible grab at graft, habitually travel on free railroad passes. Many of them not only secure train passes from the railroads but Pullman passes as well and also free meal privileges on dining cars.

Anti-Pass Cranks Will Soon Be Common.

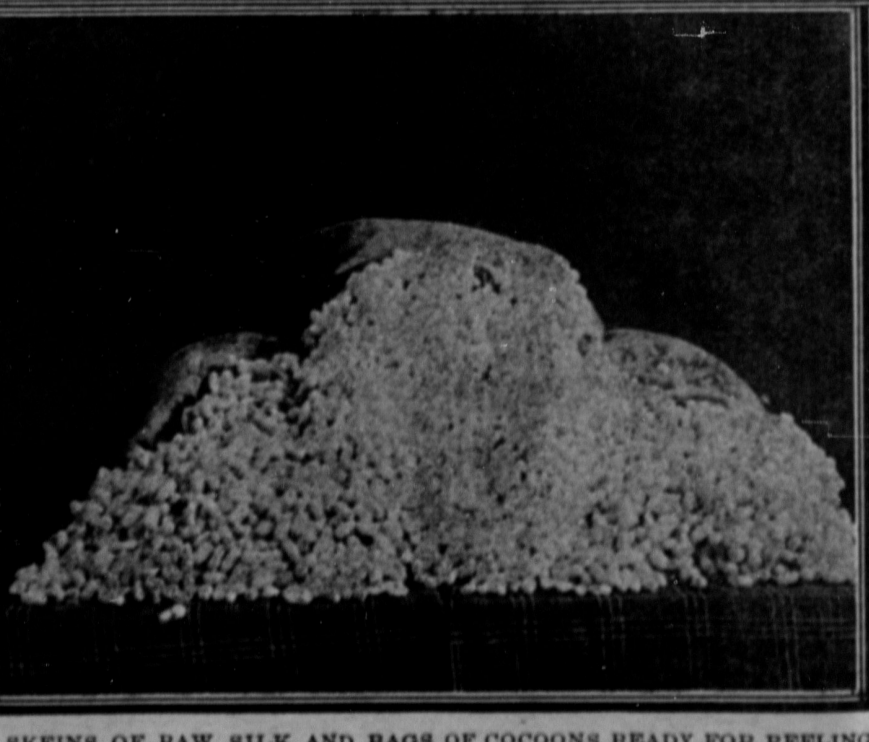
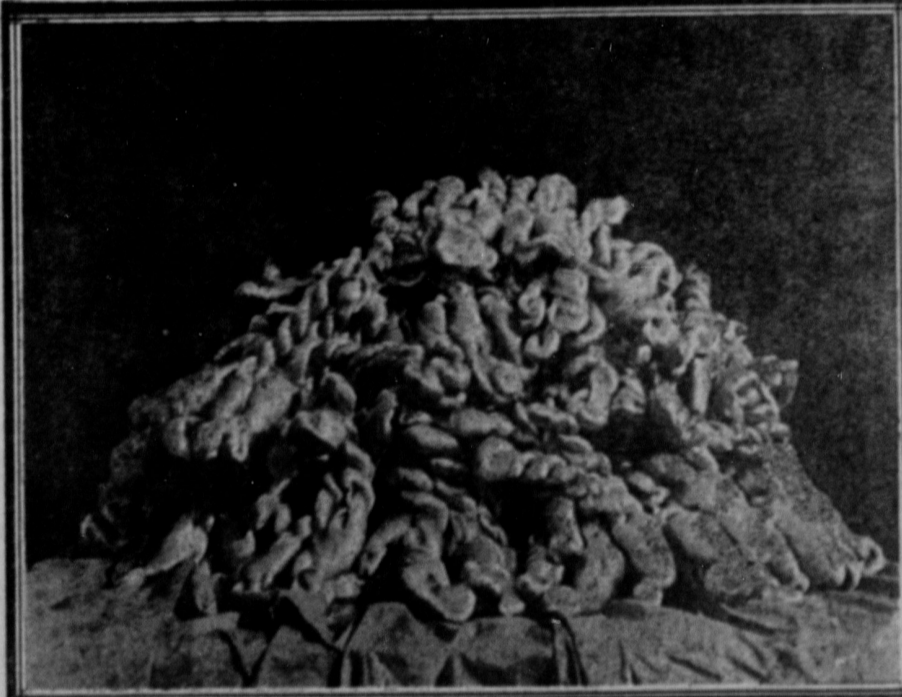
There have been several men in Congress during recent years who have, sometimes perhaps with too much ostentation, refused railroad passes, and they have been generally looked upon as cranks and denominated anti-pass freaks. A contemporary remarks, however, in connection with the coming to Congress of Governor La Follette, of Wisconsin, and one or two others who have "reform" ideas, that it is recorded in charming verse anent an old-fashioned preacher of the gospel in an English village that "those who came to scoff remained to pray," and among the numberless political possibilities of the not far off future is looming up a change of heart in many Congressmen who have hitherto laughed to scorn attempts to prohibit them from asking or accepting such railroad favors—amounting in fact to nothing more nor less than so much cash.

It is a promising sign that a number of national legislators of their own volition have effected this reform, wisely seeing that consistency demands it and likewise noting the popular feeling throughout the country against the practice.

It is a fair sized business in itself which provides the issuance of railroad and telegraphic "courtesies" to legislators. The practice is, of course, not confined to Congress, but occurs in every state legislature, to say nothing of other public officials.

LARGE CROPS AND CHEAPER RATES.

The farmers of the Northwest are jubilant not only over their large crops but the reduction of the transportation charges. The reduction of grain rates, according to a St. Paul dispatch, ranges from five cents a hundred pounds from the most distant points, to a half cent from points nearest St. Paul and the head of navigation on the Great Lakes. These rates are going into operation over two transcontinental railroads, and it is said they will be met by all other roads doing business in the same territory and tributary to it. With the large Northwestern wheat crop of two hundred or so million bushels, the aggregate of this in favor of the farmers' reduction is a large one. There can be no increase of rates made elsewhere, it is stated, to even the receipts up in the interests of the railroads. The reduction is looked upon as one of the evolutions in transportation.



SKAINS OF RAW SILK AND BAGS OF COCOONS READY FOR REELING, ALSO A FRENCH OPERATOR AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

hours the worm is completely shut up in its cocoon. If the worm in the cocoon is unmolested, it emerges in about four or five days with wings, becoming a member of the insect world.

heroes of history is a doubtful one. Protesting not too much, says the N. Y. World, the ironmaster protests probably too late. The public will believe his denial and cling, nevertheless, to the ear-tickling phrase.



To Cast the Largest Bell in the World.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Grand Army of the Republic a plan was presented by Col. Frank Hume, an officer who served with distinction in the army of the Confederacy, which, if carried out, will mean that the largest bell ever cast will be hung in the Arlington cemetery, the former home of Robert E. Lee, overlooking Washington and the wide sweep of the Potomac River, and where are also buried some of the Confederate dead. It is Col. Hume's idea that this bell should be tolled during the funeral rites of the military heroes of the country when they are buried within these historic grounds.

Mr. Hume unfolded his plan to the Grand Army veterans, his purpose being to have the bell cast from a large number of obsolete cannon now stored at the Government arsenal at Watervliet and other points. The president of one of the largest bell foundries in the country, who was communicated with, stated that the idea was a feasible one, but that the cost of the undertaking would be large. The belief is that the funds, however great they may be, will be raised, not only through contributions by the G. A. R. veterans, but by those who wore the gray.

Advertisement for 'The Missouriian' by Eugene P. Lyle, Jr. Published August 1st. 18TH THOUSAND ALREADY. All Bookstores, \$1.50. Includes a coupon to order the book from Doubleday, Page & Co., 133-137 East 16th St., New York.