

TREASURY WORK.

HOW MONEY IS DISBURSED BY THE UNITED STATES.

The Method of Making Payments Out of Uncle Sam's Big Cash Box Described—Interest and Postal Monies.

When Congress has authorized a payment for any purpose the Secretary promptly advises the Register thereof, and directs him to make an entry of the amount on his books under a proper heading, that it may be drawn against as needed. This done, the Treasury is ready to pay any claimant the sum due him out of this appropriation, and if the Comptroller has received from the Auditor, approved and in proper form, a claim made thereon, he will, if he sees no objection to paying it, ask the Secretary to issue his warrant upon the Treasurer in favor of the claimant for the amount stated. A warrant will consequently issue, but it will first go to the Comptroller, that he may minute it on the account, then to the Register, who will charge the amount to the claimant and to the proper appropriation, enter it in the general account of expenditure under the proper classification, then send it to the Treasurer, who will pay the claimant as directed, obtaining his receipt therefor on the warrant, or on a check issued in his favor, and then send warrant and receipt to the Auditor as a credit voucher for moneys paid out. Thus this pay warrant, like the covering warrant, becomes the authority for the needed entries of the amount, and ends its course, as did the covering warrant, by becoming a credit voucher in an account of moneys paid.

The number of warrants issued annually is about 45,000, and to prepare, sign, and properly examine and enter them involves no little clerical labor. But to pay every public creditor in this way would require millions of warrants instead of thousands, and to avoid such labor and consequent delay moneys are drawn in bulk upon a warrant in favor of some disbursing officer, and placed in his hands to distribute among the claimants upon their receipt therefor. As a guarantee, however, the disbursing officer is required to give a bond, with sureties, to the Comptroller, for the proper disposition of the money. Although in this way the claimant gets his money without delay, the Treasury relaxes no vigilance in its scrutiny of the payment, and if a voucher rendered is found insufficient in any way, its amount is disallowed, and the officer, or his bondsmen, must make good any loss the Government has sustained through the unfortunate transaction.

Of what payments the officers can properly make, the Auditor is advised by law, regulations or by other sources independent of the disbursing officer, and there is no escape from his vigilance. If payments have been made to the army, the Auditor has been furnished with the muster-rolls; if to pensioners, with a list of pension certificates issued; if to a contractor for constructing a building or a war vessel, with a copy of all contracts and agreements pertaining to the matter; and if the disbursing officer does not keep himself equally as well informed as to the law and regulations governing the disbursement as does the Auditor, he will quite likely some day pay dearly for his ignorance. Every year 6,000,000 of these vouchers are received at the Treasury, and in case of pay-rolls, hundreds of names are sometimes upon one voucher. Every item is, however, subjected to a searching inquiry as to its correctness in every respect, and to avoid possible chances of wrong, the Comptroller as well as the Auditor examines the vouchers, thus duplicating the work; yet every item is passed on, the circulations necessary are verified, and the work completed in due time by a section of the clerks pertaining to the Treasury.

Then four times every year the fifty thousand holders of the public debt want the interest due them. The Register has a record of these bondholders, where they live and how much each one holds. He therefore, by the direction of the Secretary, sends a schedule of them, near the close of each quarter, to the Treasurer, who, by same direction, draws a check in favor of each holder for the amount due, payable at the New York or other Sub-Treasury office. Then puts the fifty-thousand checks into the same number of envelopes and sends them by mail to their respective owners. When paid, these checks are returned to the Treasurer, canceled, and he wants credit for their amount. So he sends them properly listed for that purpose to the Auditor, to whom the Register has already furnished a duplicate schedule of their issue, and with this schedule every check must be verified before the credit asked is given. Many of the checks, perhaps ten thousand, are paid upon powers of attorney to persons not named in the schedule or checks, but the Auditor has every such power on file, and he carefully examines it to see that no amount has been wrongfully paid. One quarter's work is hardly done before another comes, and the ceaseless routine is repeated.

Then there are 55,000 Postmasters, each one of whom collects and disburses more or less revenue, and 8000 of them issue and pay money and postal orders. The Postoffice revenues are collected by the sale of stamps. The Postoffice Department issues these stamps to the several Postmasters, notifying the Auditor of the Treasury of the amount sent to every office, and this office must see that of every stamp sold the Government gets the proceeds. The moneys received are not turned into the Treasury like other moneys, but are immediately paid out for the salaries and other expenses of the postal service. Every quarter the Postmasters, clerks, route agents, mail carriers and contractors must be paid whatever is due them, and proper receipts obtained and sent to the Auditor of the Treasury. The Auditor carefully examines every item, and allows only what is due under the law, or by the authority of the Postoffice Department, of which he has been duly advised, and if there is not money enough to go round, Congress has provided for the deficiency out of the general revenues.

Postmasters must also render an account to the Auditor every week of all moneys received by the issue of money or postal orders, and will at same time forward for credit the orders paid by them. The Auditor must see that all excess of money received at any office is at once shipped to some other office which will need funds to meet payments of this account. He must also compare every paid order received with the account of the issuing office, to see that the amount is properly charged therein. About fifteen millions of these orders, involving \$118,000,000, are issued every year, and to ship the excess of moneys received to where it will be needed for payment, and to examine properly the entries of these millions of orders, involves a stupendous amount of labor, which could hardly be accomplished at all without thoroughly systematized methods and incessant industry. But the feat is performed, and by another branch of the clerical force. —Harper's Weekly.

The Brass Buttons of Army Officers.

When people talk about the "flurry of brass buttons" they often do so in ignorance of the importance that attaches itself to these useful, if ornamental, articles. In the army, particularly, the button is as essential and distinguishing a part of the uniform as the shoulder-strap, the stripe or the embroidery on the coat sleeve. Not only is it true that each branch of the service has its peculiar button, but it is also true that the arrangement of these buttons indicates the rank of the wearer. Indeed, the army regulations are very exact on this head, and it is part of every man's duty to learn what such and such an arrangement means.

According to article 86 of the army regulations at present in force, the General must wear two rows of buttons on the breast of his frock coat, twelve in each row, placed by fours. More than this the distance between each row must be just so, that is five and one half inch at the top and three and one-half inches at the bottom. Coming down a grade the Lieutenant-General can only wear ten buttons in each row, the upper and the lower arranged by groups of three and the middle groups by fours. The Major-General only reaches the dignity of nine buttons in each row placed by threes. A Brigadier-General has but eight buttons in each row on his breast, these being set out in groups of twos. The Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel and Major wear nine buttons in each row, but they are placed at equal distances apart and are not grouped. The Captain, First and Second Lieutenants wear seven buttons in each row, sewed on at equal distances. The non-commissioned officers all wear a single row of seven buttons set at equal distances. —San Francisco Chronicle.

The Republic of Hayti.

Hayti has an area of about 28,000 square miles, and a population of about 800,000, nine-tenths of whom are pure negro, and the remaining tenth chiefly mulattoes. The language in use is French, and the State religion Roman Catholic. The legislative power is in the assembly, and the President is chosen for four years. The trouble between the United States and Hayti originated thus: First, Hayti had a revolution; then Legitime, temporarily on top, declared a blockade of the Haytian ports. Then the Haytian Republic, having on board arms and munitions of war, tried to run the blockade and was captured. A prize court decided that the capture was proper, but the United States refused to accept the decision, claiming that the court was improperly constituted, and the blockade announced. As Legitime refused to give the vessel up, we went down and got her. There was no trouble, however. —New York Dispatch.

In consequence of the success of the smokeless powder, the Italian Government has suspended the manufacture of all other kinds of gunpowder.

CURIOS FACTS.

Shakespeare began to write about 1590.

Poisoning is a very common crime in India.

The average age of twelve English bishops is seventy-six years.

The Turkish Empire was established in Asia, under Othman I., in 1299.

King Malietoa's salary before he was deposed amounted to \$20 a month.

It is said that Paris, when full, can accommodate nearly four millions of people.

The tennis ball now bounds in China, though dirt courts are more frequent than grass.

Two Hebrews own the site of ancient Babylon, where their ancestors were captives and slaves.

Fifteen of the twenty-five mayors who have governed Chicago have been natives of the State of New York.

Nebraska has no great man with a national reputation, but she has just come to the front with a four-legged chicken.

The return of land-grants made in Western Australia shows that one man owns and controls nearly 4,000,000 acres.

A woman and her husband are master and engineer respectively of a trading steamer on the Columbia River, Washington.

It is stated that over 16,000 horses are slaughtered for food every year in Paris, and of this quantity two-thirds are used for sausages.

It is said that sixty-three millionaires reside in the territory between Dobb's Ferry and Tarrytown, N. Y., a distance of only six miles.

The Japanese Government has coined \$30,000 worth of nickel five-cent pieces. The people like them much, and the coinage will be continued.

There are ruins near Gallup, Cal., the foundation walls of which can be traced for two miles, indicating the existence of a large town in the locality in bygone times.

The Shah of Persia asserts that the Kohinoor is an unlucky jewel. He points to the fact that Queen Victoria lost her husband soon after coming into possession of the famous stone.

At a marriage ceremony in Japan neither the bride nor the groom wears any clothing of a purple color lest their marriage should be soon dissolved, purple being a color most liable to fade.

A curious and interesting exhibition will be opened in Cologne on June 1, 1890, in which will be displayed a vast collection of arms, instruments, etc., serving to illustrate the art of warfare and bearing in any way on the condition of troops or armies.

Liverpool is probably the most densely populated city in the world—it is beyond doubt the most densely-populated in the United Kingdom. In the year 1887 its population was 593,000, or 113.8 per square acre; while Manchester stood next with 87.9, then Glasgow with 85.8, and London with 56.

Some time since two vessels collided off Bognor, Me., one vessel sinking, fifty-four persons perishing. A piano on board found its way into the sea, and after floating about for three weeks was washed ashore at Worthing. Though covered with barnacles and seaweed, the piano was found to be in playing order.

Electricity is now employed in India to prevent snakes from entering dwellings. Before all the doors and around the house two wires are laid, isolated from each other, and connected with an induction apparatus. When the snake attempts to enter the house he completes the circuit and is killed by the shock.

Lately there was terminated at Warsaw, Russia, a lawsuit which has lasted four centuries. The object of litigation was a piece of uncultivated ground of forty acres between the estates of Orlowo and Podlowo, which was claimed by the two proprietors of them. The suit was commenced in 1490, and was curiously enough, brought to an end by amicable arbitration.

Mr. Gladstone's Simple Life.

Mr. Gladstone's habits of life are very simple, although busy. He rises about 6:30 o'clock, breakfasts on bacon and eggs or a little fish and tea, and then goes to his library to skim over the newspapers. From 9 to 1 o'clock he receives visitors. A light lunch follows, and then he drives directly to Parliament. He usually dines quietly at home at 7:30 in the evening, the food being simple and the wines light, and then he returns to the House. Unless there is to be an important division, he is at home and in bed by 11 o'clock. Mr. Gladstone has a fondness for his old clothes, and when new ones are bought for him, his wife has to resort to diplomacy to make him wear them. When he speaks in the House he loosens his collar, turns up his wristbands and unbuttons his waistcoat, his gestures becoming exceeding vigorous as he warms up. —New York Graphic.

TWO MEN who were examining an old and long since abandoned coal bank near Bellview, Pa., last week, were thoroughly frightened at what they presumed to be robbers or ghosts. The prospectors were groping their way into the black depths of the old mine when suddenly there was a commotion within. Ghostly forms scurried past them and retreated into the darkness. Without waiting to investigate further they made a hasty retreat, thinking they had stirred up a nest of wild animals or robbers or phantoms. The owner of the mine explains the mystery in this way: He says his sheep are in the habit of going into the mine to seek a cool retreat from the hot weather and the flies, and that it was no doubt some of his Southdowns that frightened the miners.

Is but the stepping-stone to those divine institutions, the family and the home, which constitute the very foundation of civilization; and upon the health and strength of the wife, and mother, depends the sunshine and enjoyment of the home, and the prosperity of the family. Thousands of wives and thousands of single ladies, drag out a weary existence in consequence of perplexing "female disorders," in total ignorance of the fact, that Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a positive cure for the most complicated and obstinate cases of leucorrhoea, prolapsus, weak back, "female weakness," anteversion, retroversion, bearing-down sensations, chronic congestion, inflammation, ulceration and kindred ailments. Guaranteed to give satisfaction, or money refunded. All druggists.

Dr. Pierce's Pellets—cleanse and regulate the stomach, bowels and system generally. One a dose; purely vegetable.

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Lung Troubles and Wasting Diseases can be cured, if properly treated in time, as shown by the following statement from D. C. FRANKLIN, Sydney, "Having been a great sufferer from pulmonary attacks, and gradually wasting away for the past two years, it affords me pleasure to testify that SCOTT'S Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphite Soda has given me great relief, and I cheerfully recommend it to all suffering in a similar way to myself. In addition, I would say that it is very pleasant to take."

"The race is not to him who doth the swiftest run. Nor the battle to the man who shoots with the longest gun."

"All the same," a long gun does count, and "the tallest pole gets the most perrinsion." If you are not satisfied with your equipment for the race for financial success, or position in the battle of life, take our advice and write to B. F. Johnson & Co., Richmond, Va., and our word for it they will show you how to get a fresh start, with the best possible chance of winning some of the big prizes.

Oregon, the Paradise of Farmers. Mild, equable climate, certain and abundant crops. Best fruit, grain, grazing stock country in the world. Full information free. Address Oregon Immigrant Board, Portland, Ore.

If afflicted with sore eyes see Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye-water. Druggists sell at 25c per bottle.

Entire freedom from injurious drugs makes "Tansil's Lunell" the most popular.

And kidneys are organs which it is important should be kept in good condition, and yet they are overworked and abused by nearly everybody, until they become worn out, clogged up or diseased. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures all difficulties with these organs, restores them to healthy action, and tones the whole digestive organism.

"I have been using Hood's Sarsaparilla for indigestion and liver trouble. It has greatly benefited me, and I think it is fully as good a medicine as claimed."—E. S. CHEESEBURY, chief engineer fire dept. Stonington, Ct.

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The United States imported 438,503 pounds of coffee last year, at a cost of \$90,000,000.

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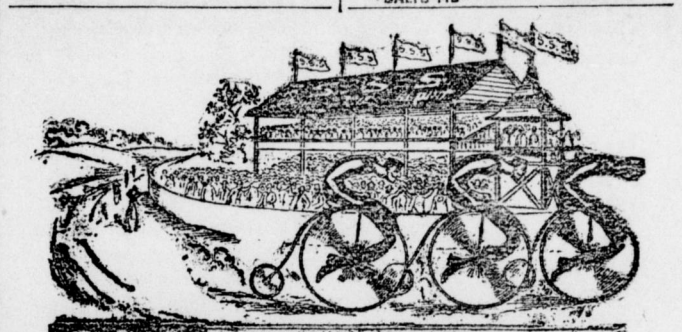
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