

BILLIONS OF STAMPS.

UNCLE SAM PRINTS AN ENORMOUS NUMBER EACH YEAR.

All kinds and colors. From the pink two-center to the lordly one hundred-dollar stamp—how they are turned out by the Washington Bureau.

Uncle Sam makes and issues in the course of a year postage and other stamps to the number of more than four billions. The exact number for the last year of which record is obtainable, says the New York World, was 4,243,289,261. It is hard for the human mind to realize the magnitude of a sum as great as four billions. A better idea, probably, can be obtained of the size of the stamp output for a year by the statement that if they were pasted together, end for end, the strip thus obtained would encircle the earth seven times around at the equator.

There were all sorts and conditions of stamps in this aggregate of four billions. There were postage stamps, from the humble little one-center and the familiar pink two-center that every one sees to the lordly one hundred-dollar stamp that lives an exclusive life and never shows itself to the vulgar herd. The latter is called a periodical stamp. It is sold to the publishers of periodicals, who present it to the postmaster with so many pounds of mail matter, and the stamp is then cancelled and kept in a book. Over ten thousand of these were pointed last year.

There were about one hundred million of the long green beer stamps used in the internal revenue service, that you see the barkeeper remove from the bung-hole when he tops a fresh keg. There were about four hundred million of the little green stamps that seal the end of a cigarette box. There were more than half a billion of tobacco strip stamps, with countless millions of other kinds.

The everyday two-cent stamp, with its cheerful pink color and mucilaginous back, was printed to the number of a little more than two billions. If the magnitude of this number is difficult to grasp, it is easy enough to measure a two-cent stamp and figure for one's self how many thousand miles those

accounted for and locked in a vault. Until the last plate is in no employ of the division is allowed to leave the building.

The plate now being finished, it is



PRESSING THE STAMP SHEETS.

sent to the pressroom. Some of the stamps are printed upon hand presses and others upon revolving steam presses. The day I visited the Bureau the hand pressmen were working upon these stamps. There were twenty of these upon a sheet, and the printer and his assistant were enabled to turn out from 700 to 800 sheets a day. The pressman's assistant is always a young girl, as a woman's deft touch is required to handle the thin sheets of paper and place them accurately under the press.

The paper upon which the stamps are printed is made especially for this purpose, and every sheet of it is counted. In fact, from the time the paper enters the press until it emerges a sheet of stamps in the storage rooms it passes through fourteen divisions, every one of which registers the sheet, and these must tally as to totals at the close of the day before an employe is permitted to leave the building.

Every time the pressman runs a plate through his machine he removes it and reinks it. Upon this largely depends the perfection of the impression. After inking the plate he rubs the surplus ink from the surface with a brush. Then he passes his hands

patched on again, so as to present a whole sheet to the next checker.

One of the most interesting places in the building is the room where the stamps are examined and counted. This is an immense apartment, filled with long tables, at which several scores of young women are working. Piled upon the tables in front of them are stacks of ten dollar, fifty dollar or one hundred dollar bills, government bonds and sheets of stamps. A rustling sound like the whisper of the wind through a thousand trees fills the room, as the counters rapidly turn the bills and sheets, keeping a mental tab upon the number, while their eyes, trained to the utmost vigilance, seek out imperfections in the printing.

I saw one young woman at work counting and examining the stamps whose record was from ten thousand to twelve thousand sheets a day. Her fingers seemed to fairly fly as she lifted the sheets, and although it was but a fraction of a second during which the stamps passed under her gaze, her quick eye would detect the least imperfection, passing over two hundred stamps in that time. For this skillful and exacting work these young women are paid from \$1.50 to \$2 per day.

When the perfect sheets are thus assorted and counted, they pass to the storage vault, a fireproof and airtight structure. The Bureau keeps a stock of about six hundred million stamps on hand constantly. They are furnished to the Postoffice Department at the rate of about twelve millions a day, upon requisition by the Third Assistant Postmaster General. A steel wagon, with padlocked doors and accompanied by a guard of armed men, conveys the stamps to the Postoffice Department. This wagon is also used to transport currency and bank notes to the Treasury Department, and goes trundling along the street with millions of money inside of it.

KLONDIKE PALACE CARS.

First Effort to Put Reindeer to Use in America.

The rush to the Klondike has been the means of establishing a novel transportation line at Circle City, Alaska. Twenty sturdy bucks have been selected from the United States Government reindeer herd at Teller's Station and are now on their way to the mining districts. This is the first effort to press the reindeer into the



ALL ABOARD FOR THE KLONDIKE.

practical commercial service of the civilized American; heretofore the Eskimo dog has been used in all expeditions through the Klondike country. That the reindeer possesses tremendous advantages over the Eskimo dog is illustrated in the matter of their respective food. That of the dog must be carried, while the reindeer paws the snow from the roots on which he subsists.—New York World.

Houses Without Chimneys.

It is curious, though true, that of all the houses, dwellings, stores, hotels and other buildings that dot the island of Key West, Fla., from one shore to the other, not one of them has a chimney or anything that will answer the purpose of a chimney. Handsome residences and lowly hovels are alike in this respect, and from an eminence gazing out over acres of roofs on all sides one is struck with the want of something to complete the symmetry of the picture. Wood and coal or fuel of any kind are unknown quantities, as the tropical atmosphere furnishes all the heat required, and for cooking purposes sticks of carbon are used, which are sold by peddlers, who hawk their wares about the streets.—Atlanta Constitution.

PRINCE OF PIGEONS.

He Few 1000 Miles in Seventy-five Hours and Holds the World's Record.

Pedro, the great homing pigeon which broke the world's record for 1000 miles in his swift journey in the air from New Orleans to Mishawaka, Ind., is the pride of the Mishawaka Homing Club. Pedro's superb race was made in seventy-five hours total, or less than fifty hours of actual flying. Carrier pigeons never work after



PEDRO, PRINCE OF CARRIERS.

dark. Pedro is a pretty red pigeon, is three years old, and is owned by Secretary Tallens, of the club. Pedro is a brother of Lulu, the winner of the 500-mile race in Mississippi. Both are imported birds. When Pedro arrived at Mishawaka he flew straight to his loft, seeking none the worse for the journey.

During the year 1896 dead dogs to the number of 10,002 were taken out of Chicago.

NEW AND SEASONABLE.

SOME OF THE LATEST STYLES IN FEMINE GARMENTS.

Small Basque of Tobacco-Brown Ladies' Cloth, With Soutache Braid For Decoration—Ladies' and Misses' Russian Blouse Waist in the New Shade of Tan.

Tobacco-brown ladies' cloth, according to May Mantou, was the material selected for this smart basque, with soutache braid employed as a decoration.



A BASQUE WITH VEST FRONT.

The adjustment is accomplished by single bust-darts, under-arm and side-back gorges and a curving centre-back seam, all of which are carried beyond the waistline in pointed outline,

blouse effect. The right-front overlaps the left and closes invisibly on the left side, which flushes with a full ruffle of butter-colored lace. The back is seamless, with a scant fullness at the waist laid in close overlapping plaits.

The model shows an added basque that is gored at the waist to the blouse proper. These basques, or peplums, promise to be exceedingly popular during the coming season, being exhibited in the latest of Parisian importations. At the neck is a plain collar covered with a stock of ribbon edged with a divided frill of lace. The sleeves are narrow and fit the arm closely from the wrist to the elbow, above which the effect is slightly wrinkled or mousquetaire. They are finished at the top with puffs of the same that are caught on the shoulders in graceful and stylish effect.

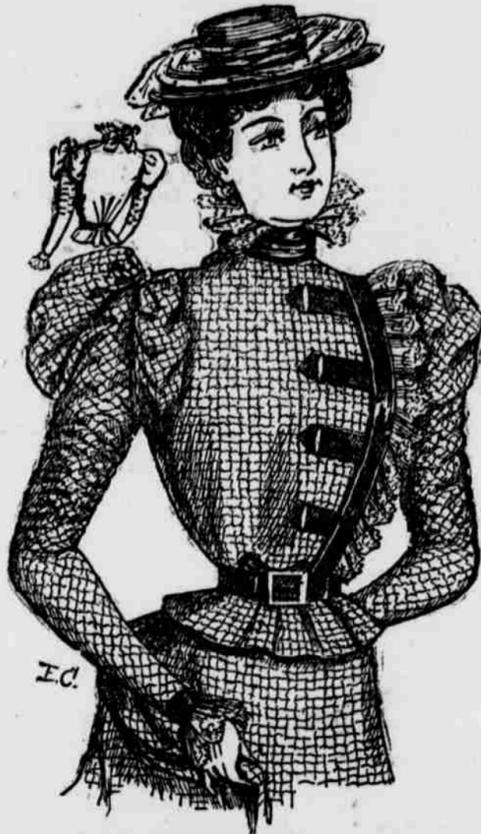
Waists of this description can be made of novelties, plain, checked, striped or plaid woollens or light-weight cloths, and may be trimmed with either ribbon, braid, passementerie or velvet. Silk, velvet and corduroy are also applicable to the mode.

To make this waist for a lady in the medium size will require two and three-fourths yards of forty-four-inch material.

Child's Apron.

Figured dimity, embroidered edging and insertion were the materials used in making this neat and simple apron, but dotted Swiss, cross-barred muslin, striped and plain cambric, percale and gingham are equally suitable. The upper portion consists of a short fitted body having a straight lower edge, the neck being cut in low rounded outline.

The skirt portion is simply gathered at the upper edge and joined to the body, a band of needlework concealing the seam. A belt of insertion encircles the waist and is carried forward



LADIES' AND MISSES' RUSSIAN BLOUSE WAIST.

a shaping that is universally becoming. The fronts open upon a vest of white satin-faced cloth, and are trimmed with parallel rows of braid. The vest is included in the shoulder and under-arm seams, and closes through the centre-front with button holes and small buttons. The neck is cut in V shape, displaying linen chemisette and white satin tie. An attractive feature is the neat coat collar, of the regulation tailor cut, the free edge of which are trimmed with braid. The sleeves, presenting a decided change from last season's models, are two-seamed, finishing with a slight puff at the shoulder. Cloth, serge, chevot, novelty and other similar fabrics are all suitable, with braid or machine stitching as a finish. The model is admirably adapted to early autumn wear, and, in conjunction with a well-cut skirt, will complete that most practical and economical of costumes, a tailor-made gown.

To make this basque for a woman of medium size will require two and one-half yards of forty-four-inch material.

Russian Blouse For Ladies and Misses.

The stylish basque exhibited in the large illustration, and described by Mary Mantou, is made of silk and wool novelty in the new shade of tan known as beige. The trimming is black ribbon velvet that is applied to the edge of the right-front in a single band that holds to position straps of the same width velvet having mitred points. The sleeves are decorated at the wrists with a band of velvet and deep frill of lace, and a fancy belt encircles the waist. The hat accompanying is brown straw of sailor shape, the severity of which is somewhat relieved by a veiling of spotted chiffon.

The blouse bodice is arranged over a glove-fitting lining that reaches to the waist line and closes in the centre-front. The fronts of the material are smooth-fitting across the shoulders and bust, with the fullness at the waist arranged in gathers and drooping over the narrow belt in slight

to the centre, closing with button and button-hole. The skirt is hemmed deeply at the bottom; narrow hems finishing the back edges where the closing is effected. An attractive feature is the fanciful bertha, cut in two sections, that is included in the neck, falling deeply over the sleeves and forming an epaulette that adds to the breadth of shoulders and is universally becoming. Both it and the neck



NEAT AND SIMPLE CHILD'S APRON.

are finished with frills of embroidery headed by bands of insertion.

To make this apron for a child of eight years will require three yards of thirty-six-inch material.

Florida, of all the States, has the most water within its boundaries, 4440 square miles.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

The following Pennsylvania pensions have been granted: Ebenezer Haugh, Prescottville; Albert S. Palmer, Hays; Henry Zimmerman, Mines; John Leasure, Alverton; Edward Conroy, Johnstown; Eli P. Tate, Fillmore; John R. McCurdy, Altoona; John Patterson, Allegheny; William Mahon, Bellefonte; Judson J. Parsons, Marienville; George W. Stuller, Brinsbin; Fredericka Rieger, Denny; minors of David M. Howe, Pittsburg; Sabina Riggin, Bradock; Mary K. Gray, Pittsburg; minors of Thomas Mahon, Strongstown and Ebensburg; Daniel Nickens, Pittsburg; Samuel Wiley, Allegheny; Edward V. Slye, Corry; William Sutter, Lindsey; Samuel A. Alms, Long Run; Jacob Bush, Erie; John M. Cochran, Bruin; Michael Farrell, Chest Haven; George W. Urmon, Clarke; Lewis Stephens, Ashville; William H. Gill, Julian; Emma Deer, Pittsburg; Eliza J. Johns, Steubenville; Mary J. Kock, Sharon; Hannah Miller, Parkers Landing; Sidney Ann Cree, Glen Hope; Samuel Snook, Clearfield; William Flack, Bellefonte; Hibbard Brown, Figart; James A. Myers, Ridgway; Daniel H. Alden, Erie; Alexander Watkins, Goshwa Mills; Alexander Dyser, Erie; Alfred D. Finer, Granville Center; Aaron Goughour, Conemaugh; Peter Gage, Washington; Henry Pletsch, Champion; Adrazina French, Sheshequin; Benjamin Davis, North East; Green M. Fletcher, Canton; William Brander, Meadville; Samuel H. Griffith; Axeman; Richard M. Rockwell, Troy; Russell S. Thurston, Powell; Charlotte Watt, Chester Springs; minor child of Joseph L. Parks, Conantown; Barbara E. Rode, Indiana; Rebecca Judy, Jennerstown; Sarah A. Patterson, Mercer; Isaiah Klingensmith, Glade Mills; Arnold Verpo, Culmerville; Charles H. Veil, Wellsboro; Samuel Greenman, Pittsburg; Robert Watson, Larimer; John Kopp, Allegheny; Samuel G. Cook, Echo; Charles S. Smith, Untonville; William Markin, Ebensburg; James S. Hasson, Utica; Simon V. Case, Troy; Alfred Dasherart, Westfield; Anna Weaver, Caldwell; Anna Mary Canon, Tyrone.

William and Charles Williams, both under 10 years of age, were in court at Uniontown recently charged by John Gauton with stealing potatoes from his garden. Witnesses testified that the family was on the verge of starvation, that the father had told the boys they could get some potatoes and they were ignorant that they were stealing. The lads were acquitted, and the costs put on Gauton, who in default of payment was sent to jail. Judge Mestrezat saying Gauton should have given them something to eat.

As a result of the Taxpayer's association investigation, warrants have been sworn out at Pottsville against Commissioners Rentz and Martin and ex-Commissioner Allen, County Controller Severn and ex-Commissioner's Clerk Connell, charging them with being parties to the misappropriation of \$10,000 of county funds, which it is said, never reached the treasury after county notes had been discounted at one of the local banks. The commissioners gave bail in the sum of \$3,000.

John E. DuBois, the millionaire lumberman, and the wealthiest man in Du Bois, was married the other day to Miss Willie Gamble of Roanoke, Va. Mr. DuBois is about 35 years of age. For the past twelve years he has successfully managed the great lumber interests and numerous other enterprises, to which he fell heir at the death of his bachelor uncle, the late John DuBois. The latter built his mammoth saw-mills here and founded this city in this pine wilderness in the seventies.

Edward Gillice, an 8-year-old Arnold boy, met with an experience which may cost him his life. He climbed a tall chestnut tree to secure nuts. The boy is subject to epilepsy, and while in the tree, fully 30 feet from the ground, he was attacked with a fit. In falling he became caught in a crotch of the tree, and, wedged in there, he continued his epileptic struggles until rescued by men who had been summoned by his companions.

Henry M. Myers, an Erie conductor, in charge of an eastbound freight, was making the trip from Kent to Meadville when the fourth car back from the engine lost a whole set of trucks. The accident was not discovered until the end of the trip was reached, the strong coupling having held the car up. One of the wheels remained under the car in the center of the track, where it had been running from the time the accident happened.

Eletta Rodgers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Rodgers, of Cool Spring township, was united in marriage to Lansing Davis, of Boston, Mass., in the Mercer Cottage Hospital, a few days ago. Miss Rodgers was out riding recently with her betrothed husband when they were thrown from the buggy. Miss Rodgers sustained a broken leg, and rather than have the wedding day deferred the ceremony took place in the hospital.

W. C. Glebner, head salesman for a clothing firm of Fredonia, went violently insane the other evening, and the probabilities are that his case is hopeless. He suffered a sunstroke about two years ago and has had trouble with his head at periodical times since. He is very violent and imagines he has a commission from the Lord to kill three men, and has attempted the life of one. He will be removed to Warren.

Frank Sinesky, a traveling pack peddler, made an attempt on the life of Miss Rose Cross at Scrubgrass, near Franklin a few days ago. Miss Cross was walking along the principal street of that place when Sinesky confronted her with a knife upraised. He would probably have killed her had he not been seized by bystanders. Sinesky imagined that Miss Cross had been following him. He appears demented.

Pittsburg capitalists are in a movement to erect a \$100,000 tin plate mill in Ebensburg. A new invention, whereby, it is claimed, tin plate can be manufactured at a cost of 50 per cent. less than at present, was recently patented by an Ebensburg man, and it is his desire that the plant be located there. Capitalists interested with him are now considering the details.

Captain Henry Donaldson, of Company K, Fifteenth Regiment, National Guard, Pennsylvania, the other day tendered his resignation as Captain of the company, the same to take effect at once. About 30 privates are also dismissed and the company will be recruited with new men and an effort made to bring up its rating.

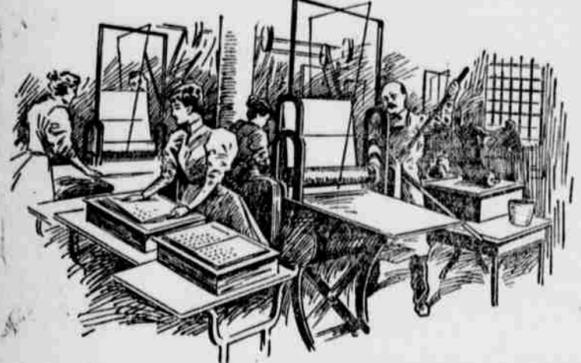
Mrs. Jacob Schick, a widow, aged 70, of Lycippus, died the other day from a dose of rat poison. Ill-health had caused her to be melancholy.

At Meadville a thief stole a horse and buggy from the barn of C. M. Brawley, a harness from Mrs. Achille Faux and horse from Dr. William Mott. The Brawley horse was turned loose, but the other property taken away.

Mrs. Alex. Maruski of Johnstown was fatally injured, her clothing catching fire at a stove a few days ago. Her husband, in attempting to aid her, was seriously burned.

Drought is causing a water famine in Fayette county. Reservoirs and wells are going dry and crops drying up. Independent Republicans at Ebensburg have nominated W. R. Thompson for State Treasurer.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company proposes a magnificent station at Pittsburg.



PRINTING INTERNAL REVENUE STAMPS.

two billions would stretch if pasted end to end.

All of the stamps used by the United States are printed at Washington in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the same institution that turns out the paper money of the Government. Formerly they were made by the bank note companies in New York, but in 1893 Uncle Sam concluded that as he was going into the printing business very extensively at his capital he might as well save the profits on the stamp making. The Bureau makes the plates from which the stamps are printed, does the press work and manufactures the mucilage. Only the paper and the ink are purchased in open market. This preparation of the mucilage is an art in itself, and is conducted upon purely hygienic principles, for the benefit of the several billions of people who annually lick postage stamps.



A STAMP ENGRAVER.

The operation of the manufacture of postage stamps through the several branches is an exceedingly interesting one to follow. A small army of men and young women, skilled artisans, are employed in the work, and the great red brick building on the banks of the Potomac under the shadow of the Washington monument is a busy hive for eight hours in the day.

The first step in the manufacture of postage and revenue stamps is the making of the plates from which they are to be printed. The plate for the ordinary two-cent stamp of everyday use is a sheet of steel twenty-one inches by about thirteen inches. The engraver uses a sheet of soft steel upon which he engraves the design of four hundred stamps.

The custody of these plates, together with others, is confided to one man. Every afternoon the plates must be