

OUR ARMY'S RATIONS.

UNCLE SAM APPEARS TO BE VERY LIBERAL WITH THE BOYS.

Spanish Soldiers Get Scarcely Enough to Live On to Say Nothing of Fighting—About Four Pounds of Food to Each American Soldier a Day.

Louis Napoleon said he lost in 1870 because his generals did not know how to move supplies. Wellington said his victories were won at the camp kettles. Napoleon, who fed his armies off the enemy's country, in order to make rapid marches, did not underestimate the value of a well organized commissary. In the Uim campaign he had 9,000 men flogged for pillaging, which was the usual outcome of his theory of subsistence. His army practically disbanded in the Russian Campaign to hunt for food. Lee lost 25,000 men by struggling in the Gettysburg campaign, whole regiments going away from the army to get something to eat.

So important is the stomach of the man behind the gun that our army has always been provided with a large ration, which competent judges say is really in excess of the wants of the average appetite. No other soldier in the world has so much allowed him to eat in three square meals of the day. It weighs four pounds. The Spaniards never had in their ration full two pounds of food.

A ration in our army is the allowance or subsistence of one person for one day. It consists of twenty ounces of fresh beef, or mutton, when it can be bought for the same price as beef, or twelve ounces of pork or bacon, or twenty-two ounces of salt beef, or fourteen ounces of dried fish when meat cannot be furnished, eighteen ounces of four or soft bread, or sixteen ounces of hard bread, or twenty ounces of corn meal, and a pound of potatoes or three and one-fifth ounces of onions, and the rest of the pound of potatoes, or four and four-fifths ounces of canned tomatoes, and the rest of potatoes or fresh vegetables to the same amount as the allowance of canned tomatoes. Every ration includes also either two and two-fifths ounces of beans or peas, and one and three-fifths ounces of either rice or hominy. These allowances make fifteen pounds to the hundred rations and ten pounds of rice or hominy. Ten pounds of green coffee, or eight roasted, or two pounds of tea are allowed to the hundred rations. Fifteen pounds of sugar go with a hundred rations, also there is a gallon of vinegar, four pounds of salt and four ounces of black pepper. The boy in blue also receives a candle and soup ration, four of the latter and eight of the former to be hundred rations.

Adding up these amounts, he has about four pounds of food furnished him for daily consumption. This is his allowance in peace or war.

Tommy Atkins doesn't fare as well as this. He gets in barracks, or stationary quarters, one pound of bread and three-fourths of a pound of fresh preserved meat daily. His groceries and vegetables he must buy out of his pay. In the field his country does more for him. For three days at any point where the army halts he is billeted on the innkeeper for hot breakfasts and dinner. When his commissary gets into working order he gets about the same quantity of groceries our boys have and half a pound of vegetables. Let his ration be little in excess of three pounds of food daily. If his commanding officer orders it, he can have a fifth of a gill of lime juice and half a gill of rum—something our army ration has never included.

The soldiers of France receive ten and a half ounces of meat, fresh, salt, canned or preserved, and twenty ounces of bread or biscuit. Only two meals—the "day" and the "night" meal—are provided for by the Government. The soldier's meal fund must get the bird. On certain occasions there are rations of wine, beer, cider and brandy, at the discretion of the officer. If the men are fatigued by a hard day's work they can have their liquor. The rations are a quarter of a litre of wine, half a litre of beer and the same of cider, and a sixteenth of a litre of brandy.

The Italian soldier, whose ration is about the same as that of the French, receives a quarter of a litre of wine daily. The Austrian can choose wine, rum or cognac in similar small amounts, and besides receives an ounce of smoking tobacco in this ration. The Austrian officers are favored with half an ounce allowance of cigars daily. Tobacco has not been recognized in our ration except that an army board some years ago proposed allowing half an ounce a day as part of an emergency ration.

Russia gives her soldier in time of peace two pounds of flour and half a pound of meat. To this is added an allowance of the cost of a pound of meat, which may be invested in vegetables and salt. In war the bulk of the ration is somewhat increased and oatmeal added. Diluted wine and a regular vinegar ration when the drinking water is bad are allowed.

Spain's peace ration consists simply of twenty-three ounces of black bread baked in one loaf across the top of which there are two slashes to divide into three parts for the meals of the day. The soldier buys all else. In war he gets five ounces of potatoes and rice and a half of peas. The meal allowance is the smallest known in any military establishment—two and three-fourths ounces of fresh meat, three-fourths of an ounce of pork sausage and three-fourths of an ounce of bacon or his soup. He has six gills of coffee a day, and on feast days is allowed

THE LAND WE LIVE IN

Interesting Matters Connected With this Country.

The government has just published a large volume called a Statistical Atlas, which gives an immense amount of information about the greatest variety of interesting matters connected with this country and the people who inhabit it.

For example, it is interesting to learn that the women of this country do not bring as many children into the world as they formerly did. There has been a marked decrease within the last few years. The size of the average family since 1850 has diminished from a little over five and a half persons to a little less than five. Figures prove that the people in the Southern States have the largest number of children, while in New England the families are smallest. Louisiana has twice as many children under five years as Maine in proportion to population.

One of every 100 persons in the United States 51.21 are males and 48.79 are females. The excess of men over women in the entire country, therefore, is very large. Ten per cent. of the women and one per cent. of the men marry between fifteen and twenty.

Thirteen out of every 10,000 people in the United States are in prison. Seventeen out of every 10,000 are insane, the number being divided almost equally between the sexes. Nineteen out of every 10,000 whites are crazy, while only nine out of every 10,000 colored folks are similarly afflicted. The tendency to insanity is greatest among the Irish. It is comparatively small among the Germans and British, and least of all among the Canadians. Women go crazy later in life than men do, apparently.

Fifteen out of every 10,000 people in this country are idiots or feeble-minded. Race again seems to have an important influence in this matter. Sixteen out of every 10,000 white are feeble minded, and only fourteen out of every 10,000 colored. The tendency toward idiocy is greatest among Hungarians.

Seven out of every 10,000 inhabitants of the United States are deaf and dumb. Of these 55 per cent. are males and 45 per cent. females. The affliction is much less common among colored people than among whites. Again in this case the Hungarians are the greatest sufferers, fourteen out of every 10,000 being deaf mutes. The next in rank are the Russians, while the Italians are but little troubled with this sort of defect. Eight out of every 10,000 persons in this country are blind.

Consumption kills nearly 12 per cent. of the people of the United States sooner or later. Pneumonia is the complaint next most fatal, carrying off nearly 9 per cent. Diarrhoeal diseases destroy 8.5 per cent, and diphtheria and group account for 5 per cent. more of the deaths.

The greatest mortality from consumption occurs on the Pacific coast and in the eastern part of the upper Mississippi Valley. Pneumonia is most prevalent in the Rocky Mountain region and in Eastern Texas. Diphtheria is worst in the Rocky Mountain region, on the plains and prairies and near the great lakes. Cancer and tumor appear to increase with density of population, their victims being more numerous proportionately in New England and the northern part of the Mississippi Valley than elsewhere. Malarial fever is most destructive in Eastern Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Southern Missouri and the cotton belt. Measles range most persistently in the southern mountain regions, and whooping cough is particularly fatal in the southern Appalachians. The danger from scarlet fever is greatest among the Rocky Mountains and in the plains region. Heart disease and dropsy kill most people in the upland country of New England and on the south Atlantic coast.

The total wealth of the United States, i. e., the value of the property of the people and the government, was \$7,136,000,000 in 1850. Since then it has increased to \$35,037,000,000. The wealth per capita was \$308 in 1850; it is now \$1,039—a very decent little sum for every man, woman and child in the country, if it were only allotted equally. New York is the richest state, being worth more than eight and a half billions of dollars. Pennsylvania comes next, with nearly seven billions, and Illinois is third, with over five billions. Ohio has nearly four billions. Massachusetts more than three; and then follow in order California, Missouri, Iowa, Texas, Indiana and Michigan. Nearly two-thirds of the total wealth of the country is in real estate and improvements, and about 13 per cent. is in railroads.

Back of the Moon.

Speaking with strict accuracy, instead of presenting an unchanging face toward us, the moon appears to be never still, but always rocking backward or forward, falling toward us or away from us, and by the amount of these variations—small, it is very true—regions of the hemisphere turned away from us are disclosed. They are placed, unhappily, in the situation best calculated to defeat curiosity. We are permitted to take just a glimpse of "the other side," but to bring away only the minimum of information as to its condition. Perhaps it is rash to say we shall never know more of the "other side" of the moon, so marvelous have been the recent advances in astronomy. Some day, perhaps, new discoveries after the manner of Roentgen rays may enable us to get a photograph through the moon. Short of that, we must needs wait for some stray visitor from outer space to come into collision with the moon and turn it round, in order to enable us to satisfy our curiosity; and patience may well be stimulated by the knowledge that the results of such a collision should it ever occur, would in all probability be not less disastrous to the earth than to the moon itself.

WOMAN'S WORLD.

Light and shadow of life—New Women Can Do Missionary Work at Home.

One of the chief responsibilities devolving upon the summer tourist is in the line of missionary work. Unconsciously, whether she will or no, this duty is thrust upon her. Strangely enough, though, it is not in the interests of her fellow tourists. It is the inhabitants of the various places that she visits who are so benefited; those individuals who, having all their lives long lived within a stone's throw of the objects of interest which the tourist has come so far to see, are as grossly ignorant of them as—well, as the tourist is of the objects of interest in her own town. The curious part of it is that these aborigines are so satisfied with their ignorance. They positively pride themselves upon it. At one resort this summer a New York woman spent much of her time in enlarging upon the fact that though she could see the Metropolitan museum from her home yet she had never so much as crossed its threshold. She was a woman, too, not devoid of appreciation. She had scoured every art gallery in Europe with enthusiasm. The Metropolitan was simply too near a neighbor to have any interest in; that was all. The average Philadelphian that one meets has never set foot in independence hall. A majority of the Bostonians one met this summer were barely aware of the existence of the Shaw monument. "Really," said a westerner, who had so planned her summer trip that it amounted to a pilgrimage to the Shaw monument more than anything else, "I spent most of my time in enlightening Bostonians upon that monument. Those few that had seen it knew nothing about it. One Beacon street camera lens recalled it with an 'Oh, I know what you mean now.' It's that thing that they don't allow you to photograph unless you promise not to sell the pictures." The glass flowers at Agassiz hall, Cambridge, that represent the rarest contributions to botanical study in the world, are another thing upon which the bean-eaters are preternaturally ignorant. A year or so ago a Boston club woman was the guest of honor at a club meeting in Jersey City. The subject of the paper for the day was these glass flowers. It was exhaustive in every detail (being written by a woman who was not a Bostonian.) When it was finished the presiding officer turned to the visitor and said: "Now, Mrs. Blank, you are from Boston; you will tell us all that has been left unsaid about these wonderful flowers, won't you?"

It was a trying moment for the Boston woman. Never in all her life had she so much as heard of the flowers until that afternoon, much less seen them. She managed to gasp out in a way-double-and-how-he-undid-me style, however, that "so much has been said, and, on the whole, so well said," etc. And the first thing that she did on her return home was to go out to Agassiz hall, Cambridge and take a look at the glass flowers.—Philadelphia Times.

Useful Middle-Aged Women.

The intelligent middle-aged woman is a most excellent person to have around if she is left-handed, quick-witted and interesting. But most middle-aged women are given to retrospection. If they have to earn their own living there is a feeling of dissatisfaction and disappointment that seriously interferes with excellent service. Girls are ambitious and continually looking ahead for the promotion that does not always come to persons of mature years. Besides, they have a future and they feel it, and whether it is in business or in marriage, they are perpetual on the lookout for opportunities. There are few more doleful situations than those in which old people without any accumulation of savings find themselves. While they are competent, faithful and painstaking they are almost certain to be opinionated and in many instances tenacious in clinging to old ideas and traditions. And so they travel about hopeless and homeless. Sometimes one of them gets a position, with quiet people, who are not sticklers for the manner of doing things, and will get along very well. I do not even attempt to keep up with the rush of events, do not seek out and utilize some of the very excellent material that one finds in these middle-aged women. As a useful man around a small place, the old man is likely to prove very satisfactory, and a good old woman can be very helpful and make herself exceedingly agreeable in a household. Perhaps she cannot do very hard work, but she rarely looks for large compensation. It is a great pity that there is not some society or some means by which these really useful persons can be placed in families where their services are much more needed and would be highly appreciated.—New York Ledger.

The Queen's Gold Spoon.

A curious story is told of how one of Queen Victoria's smallest gold spoons was lost and found, says the Lady. A certain dame attended a State ball in a dress the skirt of which was arranged in perpendicular pleats in front, stretched across at intervals, and unknown to her, a gold tea-spoon got lodged at supper in one of these receptacles. Of course there was one missing after the ball, and it caused great perturbation to the official in charge of the gold plate. The next Spring the lady who had been the innocent cause of the loss went to a drawing room in the identical dress she had worn at the State ball, and as she bent low before Her Majesty the pleats of her skirt expanded and the gold spoon fell at the Queen's feet.—Boston Journal.

Ossey Corner Chat.

Italian blankets are a new drapery used for covering lounges and chairs and decorating mantels and pictures. The blankets are woven in strips from six inches to two yards wide and are of raw silk, tulle, or a cotton foundation. All colors and combinations are shown, and they are brilliant and beautiful. They are especially appropriate for Oriental rooms.

BIRD CLUBS THE CRAZE

No Kind of Organization, So Typical and So Numerous.

Almost every phase of activity is being formed into a club, and we have all kinds of clubs—clubs on domestic topics, clubs on current topics, women's clubs, mixed clubs, mutual benefit clubs, and now we have "bird clubs," says Mrs. Ellen M. Hendon. For several years the subject of preserving the birds of the United States has been much discussed, and the several Audubon societies have issued pamphlets and labored faithfully to arouse the conscience of women, and one might with propriety add, of the men who sold the birds, to the cruelty of wearing the feathers of singing birds as decoration, and yet fashion dictates this winter the use of feathers on almost every article of a woman's dress. The hats are literally made of feathers, and even furs are made of feathers, while feathers decorate the bottom of her dress, both for street and evening wear. I met a girl the other day on the street who looked as if she had been tarred and feathered. She had on a woolly dress, over which little bits of wood stuck out, and she had a ribbon which came down to her waist, made of black and red birds' feathers, while her hat, an enormous creation, was simply made of blackbirds. Altogether she was a fearful and gruesome sight, and yet she had a pretty face and a good figure, and she walked along totally unconscious of what she really stood for, if only her dress were taken as an index. The Audubon clubs have been organized in many cities. In Illinois there is a flourishing club of 300 members, and the Chicago Woman's club has been instrumental in arousing the interest of women's clubs all over the State, so that in time the movement will extend and similar clubs be organized. Prof. Eliot, Dr. E. G. Hirsch and Mrs. Irene Wolff are members of the Audubon society. Mrs. Sarah Hubbard has for several years given lectures on birds to large classes of ladies, and during the summer has been invited to many of the beautiful suburban towns near Chicago to give lectures; but do what we may, or rather, what we can, for the older people, it is after all with the children that we must work to secure a just appreciation of the value of the animals and birds of the world.

As a sign of the times many beautiful books are being written for children on this subject, and probably no two men have done as much for our dumb and singing friends as have Harris, with "Uncle Remus," and Kipling, with the "Jungle Book." Massachusetts has a committee on the protection of birds, the committee having recently been added to the list of committees of the State federation, and the chairman of that committee in a recent article tells of what has been accomplished in connection with the work, the chief of which was the passing of a bill by the Massachusetts legislature making it punishable by fine to buy, sell or wear the dead bodies of the wild birds of Massachusetts or any portion thereof. The same laws have been steadily disregarded until quite lately by Americans, but recently the conscience of the people has been aroused and these laws are being enforced. We have, therefore, reason to hope that the legislation for the preservation of bird life will have the same happy result.

Draws the Highest Salary.

The best paid woman in the employ of the United States Government is Miss Mary Kirk, translator of Portuguese in the bureau of American republics at Washington. Her salary is \$1,800 a year. The maximum salary paid by the Government to women clerks is \$1,800 per annum. But very few ever receive it. The next is \$1,600, and the majority receive only \$1,400 and \$1,000. In these positions there are many interesting personalities. Representatives of famous families can be found in every department, and some hold positions of trust and responsibility.

Besides being the best paid, Miss Kirk is among the youngest of the women who draw salaries from the Government. Miss Kirk was born in Pennsylvania. Her father, Isaac Kirk, was a prominent member of the Friends society. She is a graduate of Swarthmore college, where she came prominently before the public in a leading part in the play "Antigone," in the original Greek. Her proficiency in languages brought her the teachership in a leading girls' college of Rio Janeiro, where she became familiar with the Portuguese language—a rare attainment for an American. She has been attached to the Brazilian legation in Washington as translator to Mr. De Mendonca.

Relations of Colors to Each Other.

The best grounds for gold are saxon blue, vermilion and lake. Whites will set off with any color whatever. Reds set off best with whites, blacks or yellows. Blues set off best with whites or yellows. Greens set off best with blacks and whites. Gold sets off best with blacks or browns. In lettering or edging with gold a white ground has a delicate appearance for a time, but soon it becomes dingy. Every one must have observed that colors, when brought together, mutually set each other off to advantage while others have altogether a different effect. This must be carefully attended to by every painter who would study beauty or elegance in the appearance of his work.

A City's Clerk.

At Frankton, Ind., the office of city clerk is held by a woman, who is discharging her duties in a methodical and thoroughly satisfactory way. She is Mrs. Flora Hays, a young woman of 24, whose husband held the place for some time before his death. Mrs. Hays assisted him in his office work, and therefore had a general knowledge of the work required. Upon being left a widow Mrs. Hays petitioned to be allowed to fill her late husband's place, and so many men stood as her friends in seconding the request that the appointment was made. It is said that the affairs of the office not only go on smoothly, but the men who come in on business take off their hats.

PICTORIAL PUZZLE



FIND AN ANCHOR AND A ROY.

PICTORIAL PUZZLE



FIND A FISHERMAN, A PIPE AND AN ANCHOR.

PICTORIAL PUZZLE



WHAT UNION GENERAL IS REPRESENTED?

PICTORIAL PUZZLE



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