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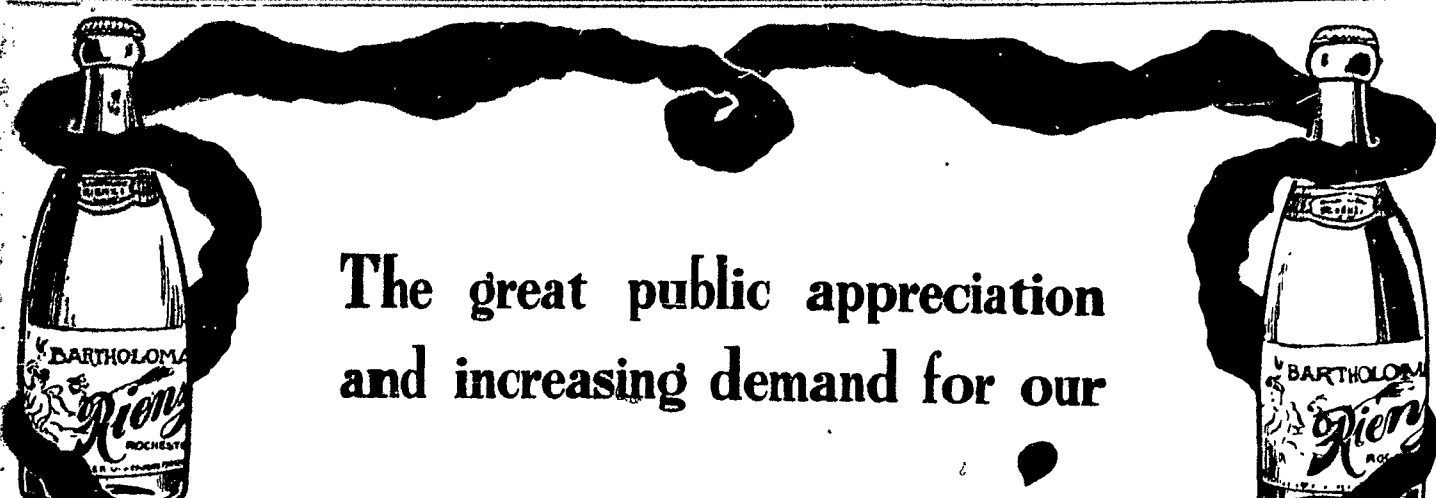
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UNCLE SAM'S BUSINESS

Post Office the Biggest Employer in the Country.

ENORMOUS OPERATIONS

New York Works for All the United States and Some Foreign Nations European System Compared With Ours—Work of Dead Letter Bureau.

The only business operated by the United States Government to-day—and that by explicit provision of the national Constitution—is the post office. In the number of persons employed, moreover, this is the largest business concern in the country.

The New York post office not only collects and distributes mail matter written by or addressed to its own citizens, it is also the gateway through which foreign mail enters the country and the funnel through which almost all letters, papers and packages must pass to the rest of the world.

During the year 1905 the New York city delivery department collected and delivered in round numbers, a billion and a half pieces of mail matter. More than nine million dollars worth of stamps and post cards were sold. The entire revenue of the office was \$18,000,000. Four and a half million letters and post cards were handled daily.

The New York post office has 2,500 employees. It has 37 branch stations for which mail is bagged on incoming ships and trains as if each was a separate town.

In the inquiry and dead letter department at the general office a most interesting and varied task is accomplished.

All the undirected, misdirected, fraudulently stamped, unclaimed and unmailable pieces of mail pass through this department. In 1905 there were received more than 72,000 inquiries for missing mail. Fifty-five per cent of these were recovered or accounted for. Nearly 3,000,000 pieces were sent to the dead letter office at Washington.

More than a million and a quarter of letters misdirected by the senders were forwarded, the correct addresses having been supplied by the alert, experienced clerks in the department. Often considerable ingenuity, as well as linguistic and geographical knowledge, is required to guess what the sender meant to write.

Another interesting phase of this department's work is the locating of owners or consignees of money found loose in the mails. Last year more than 6,500 different sums were found, in amounts ranging from a cent to \$2,000.

New York is the main gateway of the United States, and the New York post office is the national mail funnel. The bulk of the Canadian foreign mail incoming and outgoing—passes through New York and is handled in bags by the New York office.

When Europeans write to Australasia points almost all their letters pass, in bulk, through New York and are despatched, via our transcontinental railroads through San Francisco to their destinations. Much of the European mail for the Far East, for Mexico and for South America finds that the American metropolis marks one stage of its journey.

A careful examination of the equipment and operation in the three great capitals of the Old World—London, Paris and Berlin—is encouraging to the New Yorker in many respects, and somewhat discouraging in others. By the development of the pneumatic tube in the two Continental cities, it is possible to send a card (known as *petite bleue* in Paris as a postkarte in Berlin) from almost any portion of the city to any other portion in less than an hour. That this is not possible in New York does not need statement.

Of course, the London postman has duties which are unknown to his American brother. The post office of the British capital, in addition to its purely postal functions, does a telegraph, parcels post, savings bank and insurance business. The London collector and carrier also has his salary graded more scientifically than that of the New York carrier, and when everything is considered, he is better paid.

The London post office is, all things considered, probably the most admirably managed and efficient postal institution in the world. The London postal district, which takes in all the territory within a circle extending in all directions eight or nine miles from St. Martin's Le Grand (the general post office at Chancery, near Ludgate Hill), is inhabited by nearly 7,000,000 people.

This area is divided first into postal districts and again into sub-districts. Of these sub-districts, which correspond nearly to our branch post offices, there are 100. In these, the collections and deliveries range (according to the density of population) from five collections and three deliveries a day to twenty-one collections and twelve deliveries every twenty-four hours.

In the business districts of New York there are nine deliveries a day and from fifteen to thirty-two collections. The post office is literally forced to make such frequent collections because of the immense congestion of matter, both for the local and foreign distribution. In delivery, however, we are behind London.

ROYALTY'S ALLIANCES.

England and Spain Have Four Times Joined in Marriage.

For Fourth Time in History These Houses United in Marriage.

One of the first Edwards married a Princess Eleanor of Castile, and the pomp and circumstance of that elaborate ceremony is to this day one of the boasts of the ancient city of Burgos, where the English King was united to the Spanish Princess. In this case the bridegroom proceeded to Spain with a splendid array of knights and all the trappings of the age of chivalry to win his bride and dazzle the eyes of her countrymen.

Centuries afterward James the First and his favorite Buckingham fussed and planned to bring about a marriage of the ill-fated Charles (afterward Charles I. of England) with a Spanish Infanta.

Mary Tudor, sister and predecessor of Elizabeth, married the oppressor of the Netherlands, Philip II. This turned out an ill-fated and



King Alfonso XIII.

short-lived union of the two crowns, and one of the results of this marriage was the famous Spanish Armada sent by the widower Philip against his dead wife's people.

After these unions between the royal houses of England and Spain one may well ask, is the present King of Spain a good match? One thing has been shown already, that the British religious conscience, which railed with fury against the machinations of James and Buckingham to effect a Catholic marriage and nerved the English seamen to meet and overcome the fleets of Spain, regarded with smug complacency or amused indifference the passing of an English Royal Princess from the Protestant faith to the Church of Rome.

That the Spanish people have responded to the liberal spirit of present times, and nothing remains but fragments of the mediaeval superstition and bigotry which harmed old Spain more than any other country, appeared in the prompt, generous enthusiasm shown by the people on the marriage of their king to Princess Victoria Eugenia.

While the other Spanish alliances of English royalty were dictated by State policy and ambition, this one has an element of sentiment in it.

Alfonso XIII unites in his veins the blood of the houses of Bourbon and Hapsburg. He goes straight back to Hugh Capet (A. D. 987), of France, founder of all that line of Kings whose zeal and warlike ambition in the French Revolution, and he can claim lineage with the long line of the Louis of France, Saint Louis, Louis XI, Louis XIV, and all the Philips and Ferdinands of Spain, including our own patriot, Isabella. In his paternal line are great men, wise rulers and good men, and also monsters of tyranny, debauchery and every human frailty.

On his mother's side he enjoys the honor of descent from the house of Hapsburg going back to that sturdy Rudolph (A. D. 1252) who founded the family that has given to Austria its kings and emperors.

The annals of the Hapsburgs, as well as the Bourbons, contain tales of insanity, suicide and mental degeneracy. Yet in spite of these seeming handicaps, the bequest of the ages, it seems from all accounts that Alfonso is about the best of the family. The future alone will show whether this last of the house of Bourbon will add luster to the name and be a credit to himself, his wife and his country as king and husband.

Alfonso bears in his face to a striking degree the physiological marks of his lineage. The high nose of the Bourbons, the pendulous lip of the Hapsburgs and the emaciated figure of the Spanish line are his. He has given no evidence of that foolish pride which cost the life of one of his ancestors because the grandee whose business it was to attend to the fire did not happen to be present when the fumes of the stove threatened the monarch's life. On the contrary, thanks to his careful training and natural good sense, Alfonso XIII. seems to be a good deal of a democrat and to possess a strong saving sense of humor.—New York Herald.

England's Real Rulers.

The real ruler of England is the permanent official, an easy-going person whose berth is secure and whose pension awaits him when he has put in the fewest number of hours a day that the law allows, doing as little in that time as is compatible with keeping awake. The only real passion of his life is a hatred of all reformers.—The Idler.

SPAIN'S YOUNG QUEEN.

By Her Graciousness Has Won the Hearts and Favor of the People.

When Princess Ena of Battenberg married His Majesty Don Alfonso XIII, she not only became Queen of Spain but also Queen of Jerusalem, of the Two Sicilies, of Navarre, of the Canary Islands, of the Eastern and Western Indies, Archduchess of Austria, Duchess of Burgundy, of Brebant and of Milan, and Countess of Hapsburg and was the sixth of the late Queen Victoria's descendants to abandon the faith in which she was reared, and to expose herself thereby to a charge of apostasy. The latter, however, has ceased to be regarded with the horror of former years, and although differences of creed stood in the way of marriages between the late Prince Imperial of France and Princess Beatrice of Great Britain, and between the late Duke of Clarence and Princess Helene of Orleans (now Duchess of Aosta), yet it cannot be denied that far less importance is accorded nowadays to considerations of this kind than formerly.

During the first forty years of her reign Queen Victoria was strongly opposed to conversions, and was led thereby to veto several matrimonial alliances which could not be contracted without her consent.

Toward the end of the seventies, however, something occurred to



Queen Victoria of Spain.

change Queen Victoria's views on the subject of what she was pleased to denounce as apostasies. The Prince Imperial of France, whom she had known from his infancy, and of whom she was extremely fond, fell in love with her youngest and favorite daughter, Princess Beatrice, who was quite as attractive a girl at that epoch as her own daughter, the young Queen of Spain, is to-day. Of course there could be no question of the Prince's conversion to Protestantism. For that would have proved a deathblow to all his prospects of ever becoming Emperor of the French, which then appeared promising. But Princess Beatrice, whose infatuation was quite as great as his own, expressed her perfect readiness to join the Roman Catholic Church in order to become his bride. Glad as Queen Victoria would have been to see her child thus happily married, she would not hear of such a thing as her conversion to the Church of Rome.

The history of the Spanish Queens of the nineteenth century is one long story of intrigue, dissipation, war and exile.

In 1829 Ferdinand VII. married Christina of Naples, who soon became known throughout Spain as "the woman of Naples," by reason of her wild life. In October, 1830, a girl child, afterward Isabella, Queen of Spain, was born. Over her the long Carlist war originated.

After the death of her husband she was secretly married to a private soldier named Muns, by whom she had ten children. She made her soldier husband a duke, and spent her days and evenings in singing and dancing with him. Because her best general, Espartero, refused to subdue the people of Valencia and Barcelona with cannon and sword, Cristina flew into a rage and went off to Paris, where she led a gay life.

Espartero was appointed regent, but from her house in Paris Cristina intrigued against him, so that eventually he resigned and at the age of thirteen little Isabella was crowned Queen. Then Cristina came back to Madrid and ruled the country in her daughter's name.

Isabella was only half educated. Her mother allowed her to indulge her whims and impulses, however foolish.

At the age of fifteen Cristina married her to her cousin, Don Francisco, a puny, shy and awkward youth. Isabella called him "Fanny," and always hated him.

Almost immediately she began to emulate the unsavory life her mother had led.

In 1851 Isabella bore a son and he was proclaimed heir to the throne of Spain. That son was Alfonso XII, the late king of Spain and father of the present king.

Isabella reigned and revelled, to the amazement of Europe and the disgust of many of her subjects, for thirty-five years.

When Alfonso came to the throne, in 1874, he married his cousin, Maria de las Mercedes, the sweetheart of his boyhood, but she died of gastric fever after five months. Alfonso married secondly Maria Cristina, niece of the Emperor of Austria, but after she had borne him two daughters his infidelities caused her so much grief that she fled with her children to Vienna.

It is hoped the lot of the present Queen will not be beset with so many thorns as have those of her forefathers.

LAW OF ACCLIMATION.

Nature Disapproves Removal to New Conditions.

Acclimation of lower animals is not possible if the new climate is markedly different from the native one. No naturalist ever doubts that. The death rate in zoological gardens is very great even with all the care to imitate the natural environment of each species.

The same law holds as to man. The characters he has developed in any one locality make him adjusted to that place and to no other. Nature is not such a stupid workman as to make these differences for no purpose. The only way to survive in a new climate is to find out what is injurious and then guard against it—that is, try to imitate the normal environment.

It has been discovered that most of the past mortality was due to infections, and therefore modern sanitation stepped in to reduce the death rate to a point but very little different from that at home. As a matter of fact the death rate of Americans in the Philippines should be far less than in the United States if the officials do their duty by it—send them home as soon as it is found that recovery is not probable in the tropics.

Washburn shows that the sick and death rates of Americans steadily decrease year by year of residence, and tells of acclimation. It is probably the survival of the most resistant—the others went home or died. He also tells that the large death rate in campaigns is inevitable and unavoidable, but it does not seem to have resulted from the late Japanese invasion of Manchuria—at least so far as we have heard.

When it does occur in the tropics it is partly due to exposure or climatic adversities, which can be avoided in garrison life. He concludes that tropical sickness is partly due to immorality and failure to observe rules of health. Both accusations will be resented by many men who have come home more or less wrecked in health in spite of their morality and care.—American Medicine.

Rabbit's Refuge from Lynx.

That the instinct of self-preservation is not confined to the human race is evident from many instances in the experience of hunters in the north woods, says the St. Paul Dispatch. George Brown, a trapper in the Abiquamenon River country, relates the fact that while seated in his last one evening at dusk, there was a commotion at the entrance.

A rabbit was seen. Behind the trapper's feet, a rabbit came and hid under his feet. The rabbit was seen to be a white one, and was placed upon the trapper's feet. The heart of the trapper had been placed upon the rabbit.

mal proved to be a lynx.

For a moment it did not dawn upon the lynx that it had been caught in a snare, and then it jumped to the opposite side of the tent and began to claw the canvas and snarl. By this time the trapper had grabbed a club and was on his feet. The fight that followed was lively and how he managed to dodge the lynx and also hit it in the semi-darkness is, he says, a mystery, but it was not long before the lynx was stretched out lifeless. The hunter came out of the encounter with a few scratches, and in the meantime the rabbit escaped.

Growing Tomato Plants.
The largest tomato plants in the world are found in California. One grower has three plants which have reached a length of thirty feet.

In three months from the time the seeds were planted, says What to Eat, they had climbed to the top of a twenty foot trellis. When they reached this remarkable height they grew backward until they attained a length of thirty feet.

They have no special care or cultivation and have had no protection from the weather; yet in spite of every disadvantage they kept on growing fruiting in the most astonishing fashion.

The trunks are one and a half inches in diameter, the foliage thick and luxuriant. Enormous quantities of tomatoes have been picked from these three plants, and the fruit is of unusual size, possessing fine flavor.

Paul Revere's Profession.

Was Paul Revere a dentist? The following advertisement, published in the Boston Gazette and Country Journal of Revere's time, is believed to prove that he was: "Whereas, many persons are so unfortunate as to lose their fore-teeth by Accident and otherways, to their great Detriment, not only in Looks, but speaking both in Public and Private:— This is to inform all such that they may have them replaced with artificial ones, that look as well as the Natural & answers the end of Speaking to all Intents, by Paul Revere, Goldsmith, near the head of Dr. Clarke's Wharf, Boston. All Persons who have had false Teeth set by Mr. John Baker, Surgeon Dentist, and they have got loose (as they will in time), may have them fastened by the above who learnt the Method of fixing them from Mr. Baker.

Treating Disease by Animals.

Very curious methods were employed by the ancient Babylonians to exorcise disease. The sucking pig and kid played an important part in the remedies. The pig, or kid, was to be killed, cut up, and placed upon the sick man. The heart of the pig, which had been placed upon the sick

man's heart was to be as his heart, the blood as his blood, the flesh as his flesh and the pig was to be in his stead. The virgin kid was dealt with in the same way, being placed upon the sick man.

Food in the British Navy.

Of the food served to the sailors in the British navy of 100 years ago a recent historian says: "A ships company had to start a cruise upon the old meat returned from various ships and routed out from the obscure cellars of victualling yards. Frequently it had been several years in salt before it came to the cook, by which time it needed rather a magician than a cook to make it eatable. It was of a strong hardness, fibrous, shrunken, dark, grisly and glistening with salt crystals. Strange tales were told about it. Old pigtailed seamen would tell of horsehoes found in the meat casks, of curious barkings and neighings heard in the slaughterhouses; and of negroes who disappeared near the victualling yards, to be seen no more. The salt pork was generally rather better than the beef, but the sailors could carve fancy articles, such as bones, out of either meat."

How Bees Embalm.

Bees can embalm as well as any undertaker. All intruders on their hives are slain and embalmed carefully.

If a worm, or a roach, or any insect blunders into a hive, the bees fall upon him and slay him with their stings. To get the corpse out would be a difficulty; therefore, embalming it, they let it remain.

The embalming process of the bees is simple. It consists in covering the corpse with a hermetic coat of pure wax. Within this airtight envelope the body remains fresh. It cannot in any way contaminate the hive.

When a small blunderer in among the bees they cannot kill him on account of the protection of his shell. So they embalm him alive. They cover him, shell and all, with snowy wax. He is a prisoner whom only death releases.

Strange New Mexican Lake.

About forty miles south of Zuni there is a singular depression, in a plain of cretaceous sandstone, about a mile in diameter, with walls 150 feet high. In the midst of this is a shallow lake, 4,000 feet long by 3,000 broad, the waters of which contain 28 per cent. of salt.

This has been a source of supply for salt used by Indians and Mexicans for centuries, and lately the salt has been hauled to surrounding ranches, everybody helping himself. The annual output is about 1,000 tons, but the processes are crude.