

LIFE ABOARD A WARSHIP

Fare the Bluejacket Gets For 30 Cents a Day.

THE PAYMASTER'S WORK

In Port a Single Ship's Crew Eats 500 Pounds of Fish, 250 Pounds of Pork or a Barrel and a Half of Beans a Day—Most Tare From Inland States.

How many housewives would like to have to cater for a family for 30 cents a head a day? That's exactly the sum it costs Uncle Sam, and he has something like 30,000 bluejackets to feed at his man-of-war table.

Even on ordinary days a sailor sits down to a fare no civilian need sniff at, says the Home Magazine. Eggs, boiled potatoes, bread and butter and coffee form his breakfast one morning. Perhaps the next he has sausages and corn bread.

Roast veal with gravy, boiled potatoes, succotash, bread and butter, gingerbread and coffee is an ordinary dinner menu, while fried pork chops, bread and butter, apple sauce and tea is the bill of fare submitted by the steward to the paymaster for the same day's evening meal.

That the fare agrees with him is attested by his hospital record. Seldom more than five to ten men are sick at a time from the ship's crew of 850.

Not all the seamen are brought up near the sea. Many of them are inland boys who run away from home for the life on the brine. The books of the Virginia, for instance, bear this out with a record that of the 850 sailors 500 have enlisted from states as far inland as Idaho and Wisconsin.

Every minute of the day aboard ship is lived according to rule. At 5:30 o'clock in the morning the sailor is aroused by the call of three bells. Thirty minutes is allowed him for lashing his hammock, etc. After that he is allowed to take it down only by special permission. There is no sneaking it off for seductive little naps in the day.

His breakfast is served at 6:30 o'clock, five bells. Twelve seamen mess at one table, one of their own number receiving an extra stipend of \$5 monthly from Uncle Sam for waiting on his comrades.

This assignment is now generally made in rotation. Jack tars have been known to come to blows in their zeal to secure it. Then again, when stationed in warmer climes, it was not always easy to find men willing to do it.

Uncle Sam sets seven tables, in accordance with his riffs of class distinction, which are as fixed and unswerving as the laws of the Medes and Persians. There is, first Admiral's mess, at which the head officer is served in solitary state. Second, Captain's mess, at which the presiding officer enjoys the same lonely distinction. Third, wardroom officers', or Joffication mess, so called for the good times enjoyed by the tabular of commissioned officers below the rank of Captain.

Fourth, the junior officers' mess, consisting of midshipmen, the young graduates of Annapolis, who, having been educated at Uncle Sam's expense, are now getting their first maritime experience. Fifth, the chief petty officers' mess, for those in rank below the midshipmen. Sixth, the warrant officers' mess, who, by pull, special ability or act of prowess, have raised themselves from the enlisted ranks. Seventh and last but not least is the general or mess table where the lusty appetites of the rank and file are assuaged.

Uncle Sam's officers want the fat of the land, and supply it from their own purses. By special clubbing arrangements among themselves an officers' mess is provided at a cost to each officer of \$30 a month. Even a colored chef is retained.

His souffles and his salads are true works of art. The key of the wine chest he guards with jealous care. But all this is a matter of reckoning between him and the officers. Uncle Sam enters not at all.

Uncle Sam's head housekeeper, the paymaster, indeed, has quite enough on his mind trying to keep nearly a thousand lusty men satisfied with their grub and at the same time keep his bills down to the satisfaction of the Navy Department auditor at Washington. It is no light undertaking.

The paymaster, in truth, must be a man of rare parts, and is rightly esteemed one of the ablest and most honored officers in the service. Take the qualities needed to make a successful hotel man. Add to them those to make the popular leader. Throw in intense pride and loyalty to the service, seasoned with untiring zeal for the interests of his men, and you get the kind of mixture Uncle Sam has to find before he appoints his paymaster.

It is difficult to imagine in these days a single man not knowing how to read, yet out of 320,000 soldiers in the army 18,000 of them can neither read nor write. Education in France is obligatory in theory, but not in practice.

The man who can drink or leave it to the sea, usually drinks.

CONCERNING PERFUMES

Many Have a Decided Medicinal Property or Value.

A great deal has been said and written about the use of perfumes both in support of and against, but the point always raised is merely whether or not it is good taste. A question seldom touched upon is the fact that perfumes have a certain medicinal property or value, says Harpers Magazine.

The ancients recognized this medicinal quality, and one of the Latin writers has put more than a hundred different scents on record as remedies for various diseases. Among these the violet is given a place higher than any other flower. To possess this medicinal value it is, of course, essential that the essence should be pure and made from the flower. A large percentage of the violet water on the market is only a chemical imitation, and most chemical-compound perfumes are irritating to the nerves if not positively harmful.

The idea which our grandmothers had of scenting the sheets with lavender was merely carrying out the old idea that lavender soothes the nerves and is a great sleep-promoter. Some refreshing perfumes are stimulating, but lavender combines refreshment and relaxation.

Another perfume which has a distinct medicinal value is jasmine. Old writers suggest it as a general tonic, but add the warning that, though most beneficial when taken alone, it is in most compounds injurious, producing nerve exhaustion and profound depression.

Chemists find many interesting experiments in the compounding of scents. Almost all perfumes have as a basis ambergris or civet, and while these ingredients are most essential great care must be observed in their use, as a grain too much will make the scent distressingly irritating to the wearer, to say nothing of innocent bystanders.

There are many persons who cannot stand the scent of some particular flower which to people in general is most agreeable. The most striking illustration of the effect of a scent is seen in the case of a person suffering from hay fever or rose fever.

Another little known characteristic of scents is the quickness with which they will awaken a soundly sleeping person, even when repeated calling or even shaking has failed to do so. As a rule, a person who is most agreeable to a scent, a delicate perfume will rise in a cheerful mood.

THE TASMANIAN ABORIGINE.

Last of the Race—Discovery That Was Made Too Late.

The visitor to Tasmania can have an experience that is novel—he can call on the last of the native race of the land. She is Trucanini, and she holds receptions in a glass case in the National Museum. There is only the skeleton left, but judging from that she was a well organized little body of about 4 feet.

The Tasmanian aborigine was a clean sort of person, moving every day, so as not to have the dirt or ashes of yesterday in his camp. The mode was uncut hair for men, shaved heads for women. Both wore at times a necklace and also on occasions tied a strip of fur around the calves of their legs. They seemed to get along very well with this even though the winters were cold.

Then came the white man with his gun and his modesty. Between the gun and the blank blanket and some other clothes and the permanent shelter, there was only one left in the seventies, and she—Trucanini—died at about the age of 70 years, in 1876, and her bones, well articulated and polished, stand in state to-day.

When this face had disappeared the "pale-ozic fellows" discovered that these Tasmanian aborigines were probably the world's only specimens of the people of the stone age. But the discovery came too late. The folk who had mixed up with them were not of the calibre to give the world a very good, to say nothing of reliable, record of the inner characteristics of this extra primitive people. Their traditional account of how black as the ace of spades, they got marooned on this isolated island. Their principal record left is that they did not worry—a fact from which it may be reasoned that bald heads and gray hairs were probably not known in the days when slabs of granite were legal tender.

Poverty of Genius.

Like many other musical geniuses, Signor Puccini, perhaps the foremost composer of the day, knew days of adversity. In fact, when he was writing his first opera, "Le Villi," he was so poor that he was obliged to live for four months on credit at a tiny restaurant in a Milan slum. Ultimately the Italian Government allowed Puccini a charity pension of a few francs a week. With two or three other enthusiastic music lovers he lived in humble lodgings, but they were so poverty-stricken that they were often obliged to pawn their overcoats and boots in order to get a little ready money for everyday necessities. Playing the piano at cafe concerts, teaching at a franc a lesson and copying manuscripts, such was the drudgery which Puccini went through before his famous fame and fortune with his famous opera—"Til Etila."

CITY OF WASHINGTON

Present Municipal Is Less Than Thirty Years Old.

APPOINTING THE MAORY

Schools are Under a Board of Education Appointed by a Supreme Court Judge—Water Supply is Controlled by the Government—Lighting System Owned by Private Concerns.

The city of Washington was not incorporated until 1802, at which time its population was only about 3,000. The Government then was entirely different from the present form. Its charter provided for a Mayor, to be appointed annually by the president, and for a city council of twelve members, to be selected by the white male inhabitants who had paid taxes the previous year.

The corporation had authority to levy taxes to provide police, health and building regulations, to maintain and repair streets, and to do other things which they see by municipal corporations.

In 1812 a slight change was made, the Mayor being selected by the qualified voters. This act also gave enlarged power to the corporation. It is interesting to note that prior to 1812 neither the Mayor nor the members of the council received any pay for their services.

Slight changes were again made in 1820, from which date until 1871, when the charter was revoked and a new form of municipal government was established, the mayor was elected by the vote of the qualified electors. The board of aldermen and common council elected by the taxpayers continued to legislate for the city.

Considerable diplomacy had to be used in securing the land necessary for the city, says the Ohio Magazine. Nineteen of the proprietors, in consideration of the great benefit they expected to derive from having the Federal city laid off upon their land, finally agreed to convey all their land to the president or the commissioners appointed by him under these conditions:

First—They were to receive no compensation for the land taken for streets, the title to which should be in the United States.

Second—The president was authorized to retain as many squares as he thought necessary for public improvement or other public uses, for which land they should receive sixty-six and two thirds dollars an acre.

Third—The balance was to be laid out in lots, one-half to go to the United States, the other half to the owners of the land.

The money received from the sale of lots belonging to the United States was used in paying for the land taken for public use and in erecting public buildings. Other land was obtained by condemnation.

The changes made in 1871 provided a municipal government for the entire District. The executive officer was a Governor, appointed by the President, for a term of four years. The legislative body was an assembly composed of a council and a House of Delegates, the members of the former being appointed by the President, the members of the latter elected by the qualified electors.

The District was allowed a delegate in the House of Representatives, who was also elected by the qualified voters, and who was a member of the Committee on the District of Columbia of the House of Representatives. There were several boards provided, the principal one being the board of public works, composed of the Governor and four other persons, which had authority to make building regulations, change the streets and grades, build bridges and sewers and to perform other similar duties.

The acts of the board brought forth bitter condemnation, which had much to do with the abolishment of this new government. The panic of 1873 was also instrumental in causing the change as the bonds issued could not be sold and the board was deeply in debt.

The 1871 form was abolished in 1873 and a temporary form established. It was in the hands of a board of three commissioners to be appointed by the President. It was followed by the present arrangement, provided by the act of June 11, 1873.

This form, which is a municipal government similar to that of 1871, has worked well, and according to the majority opinion is the best municipal government in the United States. The board consists of three members, two of whom are appointed from civil life, by the president, the third being an officer from the Engineer Corps of the army not under the grade of Captain.

The schools are under a board of education appointed by the Judges of the Supreme Court of the District and consisting of nine members, three of whom must be women. There are twelve medical inspectors for the schools, working under the health officer of the District.

The water supply is controlled by the Government. It comes from the Potomac River at Great Falls, about seventeen miles north of the city, the conduit being under the charge of the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army. The lighting system is owned by private corporations.

CURRENCY IN CALIFORNIA.

In the Early Days Most of the Silver and Gold Was Foreign.

Coins in California till the fall of 1856 were a queer kettle of fish. More than sixty per cent of the silver and at least twenty-five per cent of the gold was foreign.

Most of the other gold coins were private coins. Moffit & Co. got a permit from the government to coin gold. Their coinage was confined to ten and twenty cent pieces and were stamped "Moffit & Co."

We had all kinds of doubloons and smaller South and Central American coins. Of the smaller gold coins the French twenty franc piece led all the others.

The English guinea was fairly represented, while the other gold passed for more. The twenty franc piece, value \$2.75, went at \$4.

There was a still greater discrepancy in the silver coins. A one franc piece went for twenty-five cents, and the East India rupee, value forty-five cents, went for fifty cents; the five franc piece, \$1. The French silver represented about sixty per cent of the silver circulation.

German silver thalers, worth sixty cents went at \$1. Everything above fifty cents was \$1, and everything above twenty-five cents was fifty cents. A French bank in San Francisco was said to have got rich shipping French coin in exchange for gold dust. United States coin was scarce until the mint was established. In the fall of 1856 the banks refused to take any foreign coins except at a heavy discount. The result was that in a few months all foreign coin disappeared. It proved a bonanza for the saloon people. They would still give a drink for a franc, while the banks gave only twelve and one-half cents. The saloon people gathered them and the rupees in at old prices and sold to the banks for bullion and made a good thing.

But for a few years we suffered badly for silver change. Even until 1856 gold dust circulated to a considerable extent in mining districts—but the scales were always used.

There was no paper money until D. O. Mills & Co. issued their gold notes about 1858. In getting change for an old octagon \$50 gold note often as many as four or five nationalities would be represented in the change. On all drafts sent East \$3 was charged by the express companies until Adams & Co. and Page, Bacon & Co. failed and left the field to Wells-Fargo; then it was raised to \$5.

Greenbacks were never recognized as money, only as a commodity. They were used for buying postage and revenue stamps. All mercantile billheads and notes had the special contract enforcement for gold. California even paid the claims of the Federal government in gold. And it came in mighty handy to Uncle Sam in 1862 and 1863. The old style Californian still has an inclination for the yellow stuff.—P. E. Magazine.

ELLEN TERRY'S STAGE FRIGHT.

Even Now, When She Plays New Paris, Her Nerves Dance Jigs.

According to Ellen Terry stage fright is like nothing else in the world.

You are standing on the stage, apparently quite well and in your "right" mind," she says in McClure's Magazine, "when suddenly you feel, as if your tongue had been dislocated and was lying powerless in your mouth."

"Cold shivers begin to creep downward from the nape of your neck and all up you at the same time, until they seem to meet in the small of your back."

"About this time you feel as if a centipede, all of whose feet have been carefully tied, has begun to run about in the roots of your hair. The next agreeable sensation is the breaking out of a cold sweat all over."

"Then you are certain that some one has cut the muscles at the back of your knees. Your mouth begins to open slowly, without giving utterance to a single sound, and your eyes seem inclined to jump out of your head over the footlights. At this point it is felt to get off the stage as quickly as you can, for you are far beyond human help."

"Whether everybody suffers in this way or not I cannot say, but it exactly describes the torture I went through in 'The Governor's Wife.' I had just enough strength and sense to drag myself off the stage and seize hold of a book, with which, after a few minutes, I reappeared and ignominiously read my part. Whether Mme. de Rhona boxed my ears or not I can't remember, but I think it is very likely she did for she was very quick tempered."

"In late years I have not suffered from the fearsome malady, but even now, after fifty years of stage life, I never play a new part without being overcome by a terrible nervousness and a torturing dread of forgetting my lines. Every nerve in my body seems to be dancing an independent jig on its own account."

After Thirty Years a Failure.

After having worn male attire for 30 years in an attempt to get other women to do likewise Mrs. Thomas Riton of Jersey City publicly admits that her campaign is a lamentable failure and now, in her sixtieth year, she resumes the conventional garb of her sex.

LUNACY IN IRELAND.

Cause of the Growing Number of Patients in the Asylums for the Insane.

The lunacy question in Ireland has lately received much attention. It has been asserted for a long time that the people of Ireland have been steadily degenerating mentally, and that the madhouses, which years ago were almost empty, are now full to overflowing. Various reasons have been given for this state of things, ranging from the persecution practiced by the landlord down to the abuse of tea.

The writer has made investigations in most of the country asylums and has made inquiries among the people who could throw light upon the matter, including the doctors who look after the insane. The information thus obtained indicates that the people have lost their dread of the poorhouse and the lunatic asylum, just as the English people have lost the same dread. Twenty years ago it was considered a disgrace to have a relative in either institution; now the feeling of disgrace has disappeared.

Therefore when the farmer becomes too old to look after his property and sits down in the chimney corner to smoke his life away and to chat with himself during the process, his sons decide that he is "queer" or "of his head," and they have him examined and sent to the asylum. He is thus provided with good quarters and they save the expense of keeping him. This is one reason for the fullness of the lunatic asylums.

Other reasons may be supplied by the lunacy doctors and their desire to better themselves and their brethren. Each asylum must have one doctor for a certain number of patients, and as the patients increase so does the strength of the medical staff. Then a doctor having spent a short time in an asylum and becoming unfit for his work is pensioned off for life. One result of this is that the asylum doctors will pass as insane anybody who exhibits signs of eccentricity, however insignificant, the main object being to employ as many medical men as possible, each of whom takes his pension when he considers that his time has come.

As a matter of fact, I find that the madhouses, which some time ago was dreaded much more than the prison, is now preferred to the workhouse, and it is asserted that if a commission of independent mental experts visited the asylums and examined the inmates a large proportion of the patients would be discharged as not being entitled to the hospitality of the establishments. As for the great Central Criminal Lunatic Asylum outside Dublin, it is declared to be a notorious fact that most of the inmates are sane.

To this asylum are sent prisoners convicted of violence or murder when the juries find that they were insane at the time their crimes were committed. I have recently played cricket with those "dangerous criminal lunatics" in the asylum and conversed with them. I have found much less rational men in the clubs and streets of Dublin.

The agrarian war in the country has been a long and serious one, and has no doubt told upon a proportion of the people who were evicted or dreading eviction.

Prison Martyrs. An incomplete, but so far as it goes, a very interesting return, was issued to members of parliament the other day by the home secretary at the instance of Sir B. Sheffield. It shows the sentences passed during the last 20 years, on prisoners who have been afterward proved innocent, the length of time served by each and the amount of compensation awarded. No names are mentioned, but there is not much difficulty in identifying the more important cases says Pearson's Weekly.

Thus, the man who got seven years wrongfully, served five years and five months and was awarded £5,000, is, of course, Mr. Adolf Beck.

At the top of the list come two life sentences, nine years being served on each and £800 awarded to the sufferers. This refers to the famous Edlingham burglary, for which two men named Brannagan and Murphy were wrongfully convicted.

Owing to the list only going back for 20 years, however, many notorious cases of miscarriage of justice are omitted. For instance, no mention is made of the Habron case, which occurred in 1875. Yet this is one of the most famous of the kind recorded in criminal annals.

The victim, William Habron, went to Portland for life for the alleged murder of a young Manchester constable named Cook. He was entirely innocent of the crime, which was in fact committed by the notorious burglar, Charles Peace. The latter made full confession some years later when lying under sentence of death for another murder, and Habron was promptly set at liberty. He also was awarded £800.

The latter sum, in fact, seems to be the favorite dote for persons wrongfully sent to prison, although as little as £1 has been awarded. One other sufferer, too, besides Adolf Beck, has received the substantial sum of £5,000. This was William Barber, a solicitor, who was sentenced to transportation in 1855, and served four years, for a forgery about which he knew nothing.

The third-class passenger service of the English railroads is constantly increasing in popularity at the expense of the other classes.

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