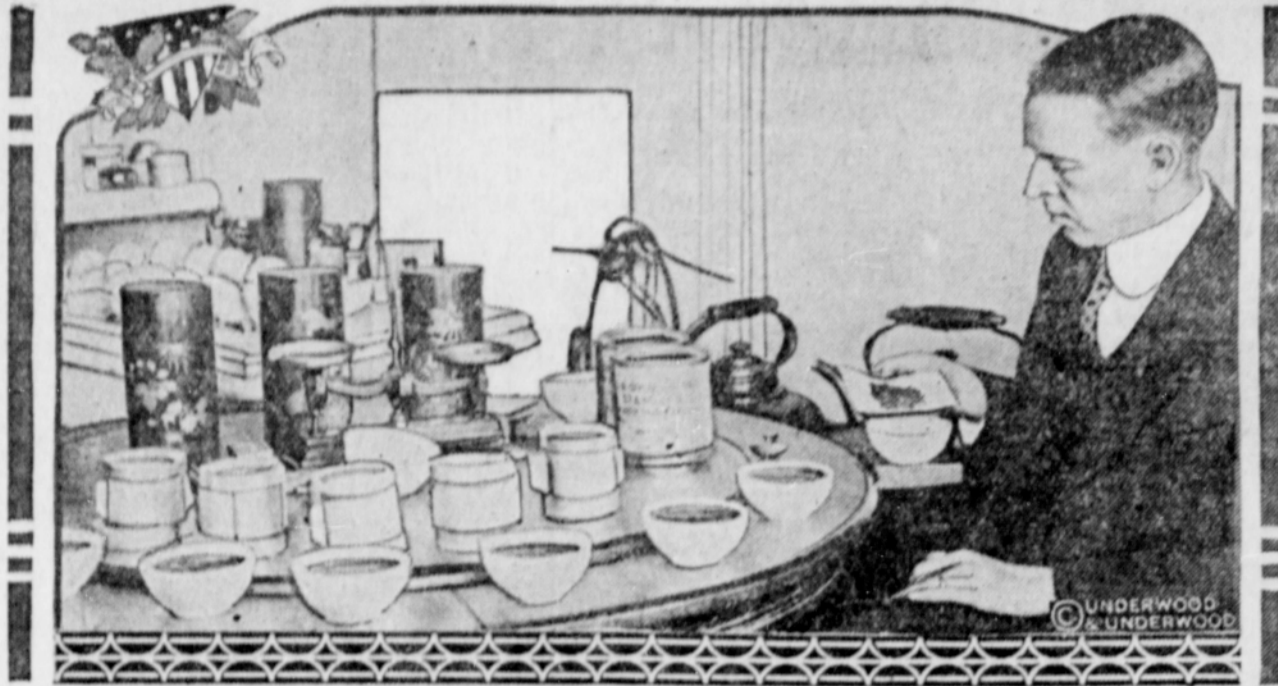


Tea Taster for the Government Is Appointed



George F. Mitchell, supervising tea examiner, bureau of chemistry, has been appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Gore as the official tea taster, assisted by a board of experts who met for the first time in New York when standards of the various teas were determined. Photograph shows Mitchell at the bureau of chemistry demonstrating the tea tasting that is his official job.

Errors Bring Joy to Stamp Collector

Philatelist Ever on Watch for Printer's Mistakes.

Washington.—Consider the philatelist; how contrarily he works. Queer things have always been done in the name of collecting and all collectors have come to be regarded as having rules of their own by which they live and operate. But nothing they have done is more contrary to usual laws than the manner in which they have turned mistakes into fortunes. Since time was, people have professed to derive indirect profit from their mistakes, but the collector actually does reap material gain from errors.

Where do all the rare stamps come from? For what does the philatelist value them? There are the old stamps, of course, such as the postmaster stamps of the days before there were government issues, and there are stamps valuable for their sheer beauty of design and execution. There are the stamps of foreign countries which have had various political experiences such as the Alsace and Lorraine issues of 1870-1871. These are interesting as history.

Error Increases Value.

But an exceedingly important aid, to the layman, surprising source of rare stamps is the error. In every issue of stamps errors occur and every error increases the value of a stamp for the philatelist, but the error he loves best, and the one for which he watchfully waits whenever a new issue of stamps is due is the inverted error. The inverted error is always liable to occur when the issue is a bi-color job, which means that the sheets of stamps must be printed twice. There is the danger, from the standpoint of the philatelist, that in the second printing at least one sheet will be turned upside down and come out with an inverted center. The last time the philatelic world had a thrill of this kind was in 1918, when the bi-color aero stamp issue was printed.

A young private stamp collector picked up \$15,000 for the error made in this issue. The collector was Mr. Robey of Washington, a jeweler whose hobby is philately. He had been watching for the appearance of the new issue and when it came he started out to buy a 24-cent aero stamp. Sure enough, in a little branch post office of Washington he discovered his error—a stamp with its airplane inverted. He bought the entire pane of a hundred stamps and then

HEROIC NURSE IN NOME



Miss Emily Morgan of Wichita, Kans., the only Red Cross nurse in Nome, is doing her part in battling the diphtheria epidemic at the Maynard-Columbia hospital there. She is in charge of the hospital. She helped keep the death list down while the crack racing dog teams of the Yukon carried their precious packages of antitoxin across the snow-swept flats. Miss Morgan visited the cabins and schools of the Eskimoes and aided them to fight off the disease.

called the clerk's attention to the error. The issue was called in and a hunt made for other errors by the post office officials, but no more were found. The other three panes of the sheet of errors were discovered at the bureau.

Mr. Robey sold his block of stamps to Eugene Klein of Philadelphia for \$15,000 and the dealer in turn sold them to E. H. R. Green, son of Hetty Green, for \$20,000. Mr. Green broke the block, kept some for his own collection and put the others on sale on the regular market. They bring \$750 each now and the stamp is said to have a "good future." Which means, hold on to your 24-cent error if you have one.

The first inverted error on record was made in 1860 in the 15, the 24 and 30-cent values. Some of these got into the hands of collectors before they were found and called in. An unused copy of the 15-cent value was sold in New York recently for \$4,100, and an unused 30-cent value fetched \$3,500. Stamps, like eggs, are valuable in proportion as they are scarce.

In the 1901 Pan-American set there were inverted errors in the 1, 2 and 4-cent values. These have never demanded prices in four figures, but they disappear into collections not on the market.

The 5-Cent Red Error.

The most sensational error that has ever been made in the United States was the famous "5-cent red error" of 1915. Its value is not yet great because it had such a wide distribution before it was called in. The price ranges from \$10 to \$14, according to whether the stamp has ten perforations or eleven, or no perforations at all. The 5-cent error is interesting on account of the way in which the mistake came about.

When the plates were ready for printing a proof was pulled and submitted to the inspector for approval. On proof of plate 7942, the inspector marked three impressions as lighter

SECRET CANNIBAL CULT FOUND IN BELGIAN CONGO

Explorer Tells How Human Flesh Is Eaten.

London.—A "secret society of cannibals" who consume human flesh purely from a sense of public duty is the discovery claimed made in the Belgian Congo by E. Torday, who describes his adventures among these folk in a book entitled "On the Trail of the Bushmango," just published here.

Torday, who in the course of study of the Bushmango arts and crafts made a collection for the British museum, is enthusiastic about the artistic qualities of the Baluba—as the secret cannibals are called.

The tribe does not profess cannibalism publicly, and it was necessary to obtain their confidence before it was possible to obtain inside information as to their rites. Torday liked the Baluba and they liked him; hence he got behind the reserve which has prevented the ordinary traveler penetrating their secrets.

Dealing with the "public duty" aspect of the tribe's cannibalism, the writer says: "In every village there are a certain number of people who sometimes, simply out of a sense of duty for the public good, dispose of the corpses of slaves and malefactors by eating them." The idea was that this prevents souls of the dead returning to take vengeance on the village for wrongs suffered during life.

This sort of "public duty" cannibalism is conducted on secret society lines, owing to unpopularity of the practice among the neighboring white folk. There is a distinct rite of initiation. The introducer of a new member must first "touch his tongue with a piece of pudding dipped in the stew (human), then he will be made to eat some of this in tiny bits and finally will swallow a piece of flesh."

Demolish House Where William Penn Preached

Oxford, England.—Silas Norton's house, where William Penn preached one of his unpopular sermons in 1687, has recently been demolished.

Penn was at that time in Oxford only as a visitor. He entered as a student at Christ Church college at the age of sixteen, but was very shortly expelled for his religious opinions. Thomas Lowe, who induced Penn to become a Quaker, was for a good many years an Oxford resident.

Penn's old college, by way of amends, has his portrait hung conspicuously in its hall.

As the Pilgrim divines were chiefly Cambridge men, Oxford, not to be outdone, makes the most of all its American connections. Lord Baltimore is still without a memorial in his old college, Trinity, but as Trinity has portraits of two of its students well known in American history—William Pitt, who won the continent, and Lord North, who lost half of it—the college feels satisfied.

in tone than the others. These three were ordered removed from the plate and new impressions made. When the printer called for the roller to make these new impressions he received by mistake the roller for the 5-cent value, which greatly resembles the 2-cent roller upside down.

Nobody caught the mistake and the plate was approved and put to press. From March 7 until May 2 the sale of the issue went on before the error was discovered.

It is not to be supposed that only four errors have been made since 1860. Errors are being made all the time. Errors of ink and colors and errors in perforating. Down at the bureau of engraving and printing they confess to many mistakes in every printing but to the expectant, eager philatelist it seems a long time between errors.

Angola, Portugal's African Brazil

Reported Earthquake Brings It Into Prominence.

Washington.—A recent dispatch from Africa stating that "the island of Port Alexander" had been swallowed by the sea in an earthquake, serves to bring into news prominence Angola, Portugal's huge dominion in western Africa, says a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"There is no island of Port Alexander off Angola," says the bulletin. "Port Alexander, or more properly Porto Alexandre, is an excellent haven on the southern and most remote coast of Angola, protected by a long sandy peninsula. This is a true peninsula, well above the water even at highest tide, and could not properly be referred to as an island. The name has also been given to a fishing town that has sprung up in recent years on the main shore inside the protecting spit.

Has 1,000-Mile Coast.

"If an earthquake occurred in the immediate vicinity of Port Alexander it may either have destroyed the mainland town or a small supplemental settlement on the peninsula. A third possibility is that an island at some distance was destroyed and that the news of the disaster, coming through Port Alexander, caused the scene of the tragedy to be confused with the latter town.

"Angola covers a large part of southwestern Africa. It stretches along the Atlantic ocean for a thousand miles and extends eight hundred miles or more inland. A comparable slice of territory in northeastern United States would have a coast line extending from southern Georgia to New York city and, excepting Florida, would include an area greater than all the states south of New York and the Great Lakes, and east of the Mississippi river.

"This vast region, although it was discovered by Portuguese sailors in 1442 and although it has had Portuguese settlements since 1575, has not been developed to any great extent. It was really a victim of the discovery of Brazil and the route to India, for into those more promising regions was poured all the colonizing energy of Portugal at a time when that country was the world's leader in colonization. The stream of energy and men passed Angola by, and it has been a sort of Portuguese backwater ever since.

"But there are also potent geographic and economic reasons for Angola's lack of development. With the exception of former German Southwest Africa, which adjoins it to the south, Angola has the dreariest and most forbidding coast of any section of Africa.

"Sand dunes cover much of the land immediately along the coast, with here and there bare rocky promontories jutting out of the shifting grains. Where the sands are not in dunes a scrub grows, but it is so sparse that from the sea the coast appears utterly barren. Where water courses enter the sea there is often a luxuriant vegetation in their valleys. It is in such long, narrow oases that are grown the vegetables and fruits for the few coastal settlements.

"Behind this worst foot which Angola thrusts forward is a region of surprisingly good potentialities. The coastal desert strip extends inland from 12 to 120 miles and then the country rises by a series of huge terraces to a broad plateau which extends eastward into the heart of Africa. On each higher terrace condi-

tions are better than on that below. The transition is from aridity and lack of vegetation through semi-aridity to a reasonably well-watered park land of grass and scattered trees. Much of this plateau is an excellent region for Europeans, healthy, cool, reasonably productive and much of it free from the tsetse fly.

A West Coast Transvaal.

"In the southern portion of Angola's plateau is a sort of little Transvaal, displeased with alien control from which ordinary treks did not seem to free them, a group of Boers took the wearisome journey across the great Kalahari desert and settled in this remote region. Many perished on the road, but those who won through have established solid communities in which the Portuguese officials have granted them the liberty and self-government in their communities which they so much desire. In their settlements, surrounded by houses of typical Transvaal architecture, and with the great heavy wagons in use, one might imagine himself a thousand miles away in the vicinity of Johannesburg or Pretoria.

"At several points railways extend from the coast of Angola to the almost temperate zone plateau.

"All of the Angola coast is indebted to the cold current that bathes it for cool sea breezes and in general a much more pleasant climate than its latitude entitles it to. But the current is especially beneficial to the Mossamedes and Porto Alexandre districts of the south. These are the healthiest portions of the coast, with relatively low mean temperatures, dry, cool air and freedom from malarial mosquitoes. The cool current also brings to the southern coast vast schools of fish like the cod, and the chief industry is fishing. The climate is excellent for drying fish, and a few miles inland are inexhaustible supplies of salt. The region ships thousands of pounds of dried fish and much 'cod liver oil.'

THAW HIRES "FIGHTER"



James J. Skelly, young Washingtonian, has obtained a rather unusual secretarial position, that of "fighting secretary" to Harry K. Thaw, who is now making his home on a newly acquired estate near Winchester, Va. Thaw advertised in the newspapers for a secretary who could use his fists if necessary, so Skelly applied.

Horse Brings Nickel

Beggs, Okla.—A horse was sold at auction here for 5 cents, another was sold for 10 cents and a third for 50 cents. These were animals surrendered on mortgages after the former owners had starved them rather than pay for expensive feed.

The live stock auction was started by farmers and stockmen to place stock in the hands of men who would properly care for it.

To Bar Tipping

Harrisburg, Pa.—A bill designed to prevent tipping was presented in the lower house of the Pennsylvania legislature recently. A fine of \$50 would be imposed on conviction.

Finds Prehistoric Irrigation Ditches

Expedition Makes Important Find in Arizona.

New York.—Indications of prehistoric extensive irrigation systems and dense population unequaled elsewhere in the United States have been found by Dr. P. E. Goddard, curator of archeology at the American Museum of Natural History, who has just returned from an archeological reconnaissance near Globe, Ariz. Doctor Goddard, who will go west again to prosecute the work, said he believed that a thorough study of the region would throw light on the connection between the prehistoric people of the Valley of Mexico and those who lived and developed a civilization in pre-Spanish times in the country around the upper Colorado and Rio Grande rivers. Doctor Goddard's work already has occupied several weeks and promises rich returns from a scientific standpoint.

Finds the Ditches.

Taking with him as an assistant Ehrich Schmidt of the museum staff, Doctor Goddard began what it is intended shall be a thorough examination of the ancient remains in the re-

gion drained by the lower Salt and the Gila rivers. He found that there had formerly been an intricate series of ditches which furnished water for large tracts of land in the vicinity of Phoenix and Florence, Ariz. His investigations developed that, in many instances, the modern irrigation ditches are merely the prehistoric ones cleaned out and repaired.

In this region, Doctor Goddard said, there also existed structures of considerable size, the walls of which are still standing. He found several pueblos one story in height with common walls. The ruins, which cover a large stretch of territory, vary in size as well as in age.

Doctor Goddard discovered that some of the pueblos were located near valleys where irrigation was not necessary for the successful raising of maize. It is one of these latter, located between Globe and Superior, which he has decided upon for complete excavation. In this particular ruin the communal house contains about one hundred rooms as is indicated by the remaining walls. Already a skeleton in fair state of preservation has been recovered there, together with fragments of pottery and ornaments of shell and turquoise.

In the same neighborhood Doctor Goddard said that he had found well-preserved cliff ruins. It is his view that a thorough examination of these will reveal specimens of the greatest scientific value and interest.

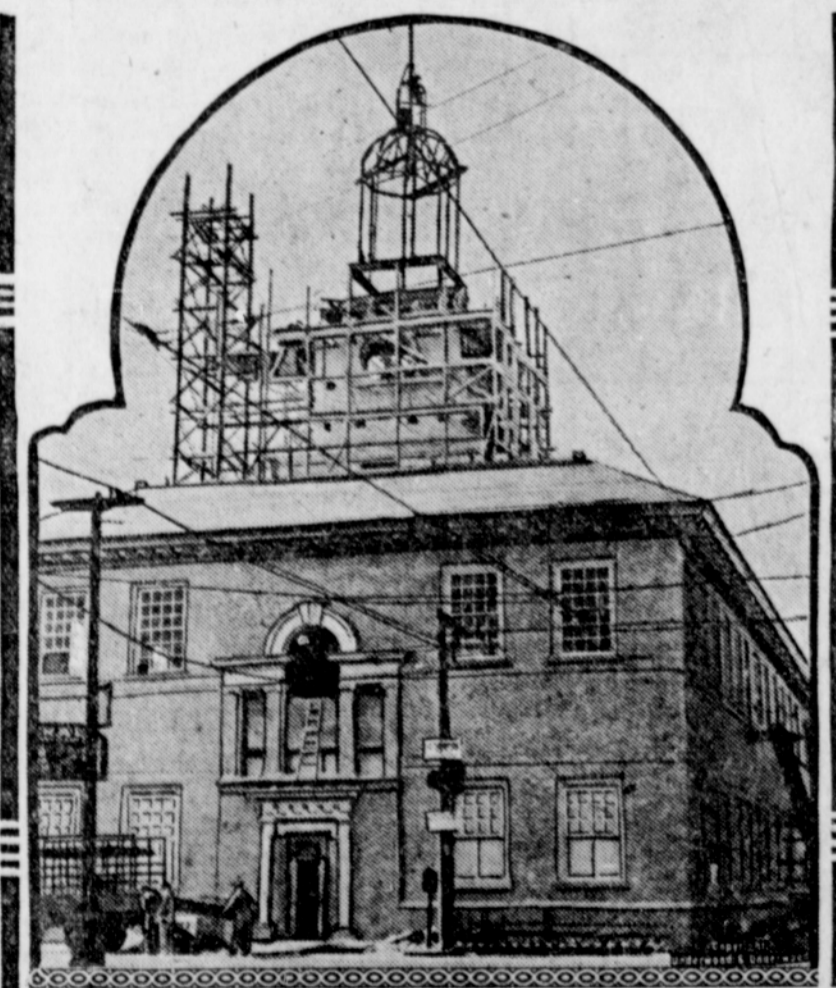
Explored Before.

In 1887 and 1888 some of this territory with its irrigation canals and buildings, was examined by the Hemenway expedition sent out from Harvard university under the leadership of Frank H. Cushing, but only meager reports of its discoveries were ever published. There is, however, one well-preserved ruin in Casa Grande which is at present under the protection of the National Park service of the federal government.

The new field of exploration for the American Museum of Natural History was made possible through the interest of Mrs. William Boyce Thompson, who for some time has made a close study of archeological remains she has encountered in the Southwest. Some years ago Colonel Thompson established a home near his mining properties in the neighborhood of Superior, and Mrs. Thompson, feeling that one trained in exploration should have an opportunity of examining the ruins, recently asked the museum to send a representative to undertake the investigating work.

Mr. Schmidt, who has been left in charge of the explorations during Doctor Goddard's visit here, will continue directly under the doctor's supervision. It is expected that, by means of material assistance and co-operation from Mrs. Thompson, a collection of marked scientific value will be made and brought to New York, where it will be correlated with the great mass of similar material which the American museum now possesses.

Bank Copies a Famous Building



This replica of Independence hall in Philadelphia is being erected in the stockyards region of Chicago and will be occupied by a bank.

Walk 33,579 Miles

Portland, Ore.—Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Baxter of Sioux City, Ia., who are now on a 50,000-mile hike around the world, passed through Portland recently on the way to Vancouver, B. C. They had covered a total of 33,579 miles of their journey when they arrived here.

Credits Hard Work

Bliddeford Pool, Me.—Although she admits she does not like bobbed hair, Mrs. Elizabeth Rich, who observed her one hundred and second birthday recently, declined to criticize modern fashions in clothes. Hard work, Mrs. Rich gave as her recipe for longevity and good health.