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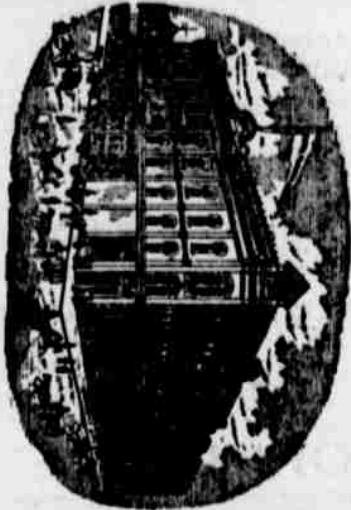
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The postal service of the United States employs more persons than that of any other government in the world. The chief clerk of the Postoffice Department has prepared a list showing that 267,502 persons are under the orders of the Postmaster General. The army and navy combined does not aggregate more than half of this number. The postal employees are divided as follows: Postmasters, 69,486; rural free delivery carriers, 30,001; city letter carriers, 21,554; star routes and railway mail service, 42,731, of which 12,214 are in the railway mail service; clerks, second class offices, 24,743; assistant postmasters in first and second class postoffices, 1,534; estimated number of clerks in third and fourth class offices, 14,000; estimated number of clerks paid by postmasters, 62,000. In the Postoffice Department there are 1,156 clerks and other employees and 400 inspectors. The figures of Chief Clerk Chance do not include 30,000 substitute rural free delivery carriers, and about 3,000 substitute city letter carriers, which would swell the figures to 302,302 employees. It is estimated that the postal employees draw about \$16,000,000 a year in salaries.

By the Panama Canal the distance by water from San Francisco to New York will be reduced from 13,700 to 5,300, and the distance from New York to Yokohama or to Sydney will be reduced from about 13,000 to less than 10,000. On the other hand, the Panama Canal will make it no easier to run over from New York to Hong Kong for a day's sailing than it is now to go by the Suez; the routes east and west are each more than 11,000 miles long, and the route by way of Suez is 100 miles shorter.

Interest in the Department of Agriculture's water sterilizer has been renewed by the success attained in a city of the Middle West. The water supply had become infected with typhoid-fever germs. Dr. Moore of the department sterilized the reservoir with copper sulphate so successfully that although the germs were wholly eradicated and the epidemic checked, no trace of the disinfectant could be detected in the water by sight, smell or taste. The amount was one part of copper sulphate to one hundred thousand parts of water.

Prof. Wiley, of the Bureau of Chemistry at Washington, who is conducting the adulterated food experiments, complains that he is utterly unable to procure for his purpose any uncolored butter. He also denounced the use of the coal tar dyes with which butter is colored, saying that they "overburden the kidneys." This is an instructive comment on the United States laws which prohibit the coloring of artificial butter, even with palm oil, which is perfectly wholesome, but permit the coloring of genuine butter with coal tar dyes or anything else.

It is expected that a constitutional amendment will be offered during the present session of Congress prohibiting polygamy in any State or Territory of the Union. It is now agreed that this is the only method by which the condition of affairs in Utah can be remedied. It is impossible to revoke the enabling act by which Utah gained Statehood, and the general opinion seems to be that a constitutional amendment is necessary to give the government sufficient authority over a State in which polygamy is practiced to eradicate the evil.

Once more the proposition has been made to raise the salary of the President to \$100,000 a year. It will continue to be made till it is finally approved by Congress. Then the President can maintain the White House in proper style during his administration without drawing on his private fortune, and at the same time can save enough to live in dignified retirement the rest of his life.

Grover Cleveland, the only living ex-President, will be 72 years old when Roosevelt's term is completed in 1909; yet there can be no addition to the corps of ex-Presidents till then. Mr. Roosevelt, who will then be but a little more than 50 years old, ought to have a long membership in the "ex-Presidents' club," which of late years has sadly dwindled in numbers.

Since the Bureau of Plant Industry was organized, three years ago, it has been necessary to increase its force nearly 50 per cent, and it now employs 500 workers, 60 per cent of whom are engaged in scientific investigation, and its application to the farm, the orchard and the garden.

Of ten billion dollars on deposit in the savings banks of the world, nearly a third is in the banks of the United States.

During the past fifteen years the United States government has spent a million and a half dollars on irrigation and geological surveys of the Great American Desert. As a result, it is asserted that a large part of this arid land can be brought under cultivation by irrigation and made to support a population about as great as that of the whole country to-day. With this assurance it is plain that we have not, as yet, even approached the limit of our producing power.

Fearing the arduous work of the North Atlantic squadron of the United States navy, some 520 men deserted during three months last autumn, a fact which has just leaked out from official sources. The following estimate is made of the numbers of deserters from various vessels: Battleships—Kearsarge, 60; Alabama, 75; Illinois, 65; Massachusetts, 65; Maine, 64; Iowa, 72; Missouri, 100. Converted yachts—Maydower, 16; Scorpion, 13.

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