

# GOVERNMENT BANKS AND CORPORATIONS ADOPT THE FINGER PRINT FOR POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION.

## A WOMAN TEACHES UNCLE SAM ITS USES.



Mrs. M. E. Holland, said to be the Greatest Finger Print Expert in America.



She could identify the counterfeit by placing his finger prints under a searchlight.

OFFICIAL recognition has been given the finger print as a means of identification. The United States Government has adopted the system.

Hereafter all recruits enlisted for the army will have impressions of their finger tips filed as part of their record, and those of men already in the service will be taken. At each army post and recruiting station a man educated in the new art will be stationed. In a short time it is expected that the navy will do likewise.

Not only will the finger prints absolutely identify deserters, and, it is thought, serve to check the great and growing evil of desertion in both branches of the service, but will prove a blessing to the families of enlisted men. There need be no more "unknown dead" in war; everybody found upon a battlefield can be identified.

Instructions in the new system are now being given to army officials by a woman, who is regarded as its cleverest exponent in this country.

One of the most interesting and important developments of the new century, the finger print system, is making wonderful strides. Originally adopted to insure the identification of criminals, it is being taken up for use by banks and the paymasters' departments of large industrial enterprises where hundreds of illiterate men are employed. Many business men have begun to stamp the impress of their thumbs as a safeguard against check raising and against forgery.

OVER an immense green mound in Stonewall Cemetery, at Winchester, Va., is a stately marble shaft erected in honor of the unknown dead who lie buried beneath. One of the inscriptions upon it states that "none knows who they were nor whence they came."

In the future, if only a finger print of the dead soldier can be obtained, positive identification of the remains will be had. When it is necessary to inter the fallen at once, upon the field of action, prints of their fingers will be taken, the impresses inclosed in a vial and buried with the soldier.

By comparing this print at any time thereafter, with records filed with his enlistment papers, it will be an easy matter to identify the dead. From the urdles to the grave the lines on the tips of a person's fingers never change, and the chances of the finger prints of two individuals being alike are one in sixty-four billion.

Frequent applications are made to the Pension Bureau for certificates in lieu of a lost or destroyed discharge paper. When papers are issued on these substitutes they are sometimes found to be fraudulent.

With the finger print system no man will be able to get a new certificate unless his identity is established by it.

In order to put the system into operation, or, at least, to give it a start, forty enlisted men from various army posts in the Eastern part of the country will be instructed at Washington in taking finger prints and in photography. One smaller squad has already been trained.

It is the purpose of the War Department to have at least one man at every post and recruiting station who is familiar with finger print and photographic work. Arrangements are being made by the Navy Department to follow the example of the sister service, but for the present only the finger prints of new recruits and those who re-enlist will be taken.

More or less of a prejudice exists in the navy against the system, it is said, but it is hoped that this will be removed in time when it is understood that the enlisted men of the army submit to it without objection and without feeling that they are in any way humiliated.

Within a short time, it is announced, an examination will be held in the Bureau of Navigation to secure clerks who will have charge of the work in Washington, and will file and classify the records. These positions will pay \$3800.

While indorsement of the United States Government gives the finger print system an official standing, it had

already come to be recognized as one of the really big and important products of modern times.

For some years it has been employed by English police in their criminal records, by the French and others in the Old World, and its value is now being generally recognized by the police authorities of American cities, in many of which it has been adopted.

But even more, the system seems likely to be adopted by banks and by large industrial institutions. Only a short time ago it was announced that officials of the paymasters' departments of steel and iron companies and other extensive enterprises in Chicago, were considering the installation of a finger print system of pay checks.

Instead of making his mark on the pay check, the employe, if he cannot write, will leave the impression of his right thumb as his receipt.

The paying teller of a prominent trust company in Chicago is also investigating the method.

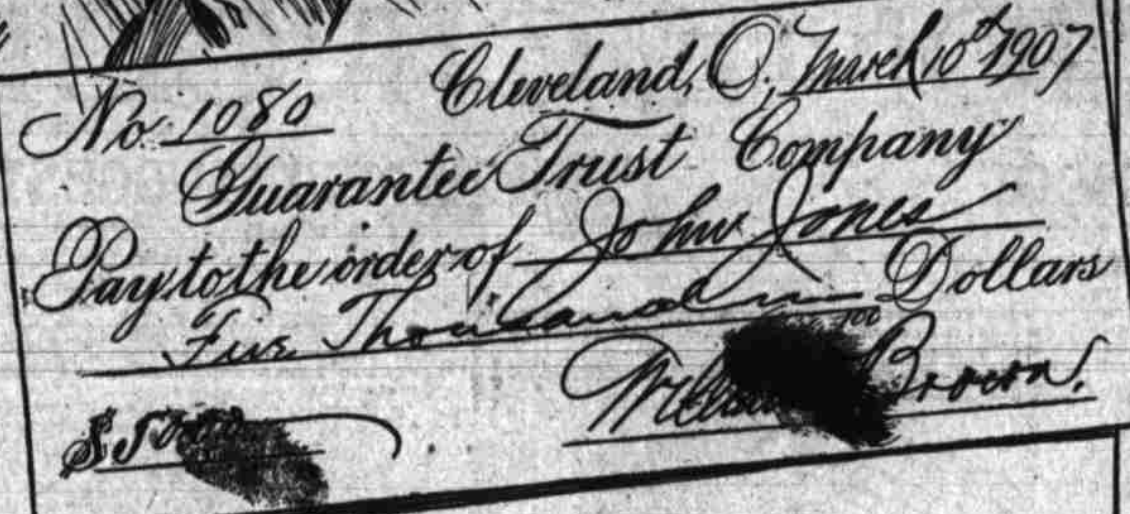
The value of the system can best be told, perhaps, by a woman who is regarded as the leading expert in the United States. Indeed, so great is her skill that she has been summoned to Washington to instruct government officials in finger print methods and to help establish the service there.

Mrs. M. E. Holland, of Chicago, is this woman. Even before she made a study of finger prints she was widely known as a detective and criminologist.

Handsome, with dark searching eyes, her face stamped with alertness and power, Mrs. Holland is charmingly amiable and womanly.

"The science of finger prints," she said the other day, "is valuable both in detecting crime and in providing an absolutely reliable and unchanging record of identity."

Only in its developed use is this system new. It was known as a means of identification ages ago by the Chinese and was used to some extent by the Hindus. In modern times, as far back as 1684, a learned man in England named Grew wrote a paper noting the curious



The Microscope Brings Out Finger Print Characteristics Even on a Painted Metallic Surface.

WOULD you go to jail for a dog? Would you submit to incarceration with criminals, "drunks" and malicious characters generally for contempt of court rather than give over your pet to the public executioner?

This is what Dr. J. A. Horigan, a prominent politician of Kansas City, Mo., and candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress did a week or so ago. His family and his friends heartily applauded his unselfish devotion to the dog.

DR. HORIZAN lives in a handsome house on Main street, Kansas City, but the dog, at last accounts, could not be so definitely located, as he had been spirited away in order to evade the execution of the death sentence imposed upon him by the police judge.

That is why the owner spent three hours in the municipal lockup, he professed imprisonment to revealing the whereabouts of the condemned animal.

Dr. Horigan's dog was charged with having bitten a little girl, and the physician was arrested for harboring a vicious animal. He was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100, and, in addition, was ordered to produce his pet for immediate execution by the police.

This the doctor flatly refused to do. "The dog is in a safe place and all the police and police judges in Kansas City cannot make me produce him," he said.

"Then you are in contempt and I will send you to jail until you purge yourself by agreeing to bring the dog into court," said the Court, determinedly.

After three hours confinement the Police Judge, Harry G. Kyle, thought that the leaven of repentance had worked sufficiently to produce the desired effect upon the doctor, and he ordered him haled before the tribunal once more.

"Will you tell the police where the dog is concealed?" asked the Court, a little more gently than before. "One little girl is worth all the dogs in Christendom, and I have determined that this dog must die. He bit a little girl, and that sort of a dog cannot live in Kansas City."

"But your Honor," expostulated the doctor, "the dog is a household pet and the girl stepped on his tail while teasing him. He is not used to that sort of treatment, and while I am sorry the dog bit her, it was not seriously and she really got no more than she deserved. The

# PREFERRED JAIL TO LOSING HIS DOG.



dog is a pet of the family and plays with my children every day. Do you suppose I would allow a vicious dog to play with my children?"



Dr. J. A. Horigan



"I will willingly agree to that," replied the doctor, knowing that he was perfectly safe in so doing. The dog had been safely smuggled away by some underground dog railway, and the doctor knew that all the police in town could not find the animal.

Dr. Horigan commends her husband's stand in the matter and is rather proud of being the wife of that sort of a "jail bird."