

WASHINGTON SHYLOCKS.

Money Lenders at the Capital Who Bleed the Clerks.

Impudent and Extravagant Government Employees Who Borrow at Exorbitant Rates of Interest.

The United States government, as a rule, pays higher salaries to its employees than private firms pay for the same class of work.

The average department clerk receives what would be considered a very snug salary in most any other city, especially in cities where metropolitan prices for living do not prevail.

The faculty of the government clerk to get in debt has created a class of Shylocks in the various departments in Washington the like of which would be hard to find in any other city.

Enticing circulars are sent to the clerks by these "ten per centers." Sums ranging from ten dollars to five hundred dollars are offered as loans under the "safest security."

The local newspapers are full of the advertisements of these "ten per centers." Their enticing offers are especially intended for that class of employees who desire to cut a figure in Washington society.

This Shylock business was begun years ago, and to the discredit of the government was largely carried on by employees of the departments who were in position to know the wants and necessities of their fellow-clerks.

A well-known character in Paris is an old woman, whose breast is literally covered with crosses and decorations, and who is now peacefully engaged as a flower seller.

LONDON'S BURGLARS.

What They Did Last Year and the Penalties They Paid.

According to the annual report of the commissioner of police statistics for the past year record 309 cases of burglary in the metropolis, as compared with 337 in 1923.

The cases of housebreaking numbered 1,343, being 23 more than in 1923. In none of these was any act of violence against the person reported.

total loss was £13,368, as compared with £10,079 in the preceding year. In 79 of these cases the criminals found no property which they thought worth carrying away.

The vast majority of these crimes are committed to the prejudice of the poorer classes of the metropolis, at whose expense gangs of professional thieves habitually maintain themselves in idleness by a life of crime.

The 147 convictions for burglary were followed by sentences of penal servitude in only 37 cases, and of these there were but six instances in which the term awarded exceeded five years.

The Boston Transcript says that of the one hundred and forty-six inhabitants of the little town of Chilmark, on the island of Martha's Vineyard, thirty-six, or almost exactly one-quarter, are congenitally deaf and dumb.

DIPLOMATIC ETIQUETTE.

The Question of Rank as Settled in the Early Days of the Republic.

Thirty nations are represented at Washington by four ambassadors and twenty-six ministers, each of whom has anywhere from one to sixteen secretaries and attaches to carry on the necessary business.

The foreign representative makes the first call upon the members of the cabinet, but is called upon by the senators. The only members of congress officially recognized are the members of the house committee on foreign affairs.

Until two years ago, when Great Britain raised her representative to the rank of ambassador, and France, Italy and Germany quickly followed, the dean of the corps was always the minister who had seen the longest term of service here.

A Decorated Flower Seller.

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SHORT NEEDLE IN SEWING.

TURPENTINE FOR GREASE ON VELVET OR CLOTH.

REMOVING INK FROM BOARDS WITH MURIATIC ACID.

A SHEET OF WHITE PAPER ON A DARK TABLE COVER.

ONE OUNCE OF BORAX, TWO OUNCES OF SHELLAC, ONE PINT OF BOILING WATER.

REMOVING MARKING INK FROM LINEN.

Remove marking ink from linen with a solution of cyanuret of potassium, applied with a camel's hair brush, and rinsed in cold water.

NEW JERSEY'S ARK.

It Rested Upon Mount Ararat for Many Years.

The Queer Looking Structure Erected by the Owner of the Eminence—Once a Favorite Resort of the Children.

Mount Ararat is the first of a series of hills which end in the ridge upon which Summit is located. With many twists and turns the tracks of the Morris & Essex division of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad climb up from the Orange valley to the top of this ridge at Summit.

This ark, says an eastern exchange, would have been a mere coddleshell upon the broad expanse of waters, and if its builder built it for a second deluge he took care not to put too much of an outlay on a useless object.

It is stated that as many as twenty thousand young swans—cygnets, as they are called—are killed every year to supply this dainty stuff, to say nothing of innumerable young birds of the elder duck and wild goose variety.

SCOTCH PATRIOTISM.

Sawney Was "Wen" But He Was Also Full of Fight.

The Scotch of the present day are patriots, but not inclined to militarism. The recruiting sergeant goes among starving crofters and idle workmen, but he finds few willing to take the royal shilling and serve their country as soldiers.

THE SUMMIT OF PIKE'S PEAK.

Wild and Lonesome Life of the Signal Service Men There.

The railway-trains run daily to the top of Pike's Peak four months in the year—from June to the last of September; sometimes a few days longer if there is a unusually early snowfall.

SLIGHTLY CHANGED.

A young Colorado mining engineer, whom we will call Morton (according to Harper's "Driver"), was once seated in a chair in a Denver barber shop undergoing a shave.

DEATH OF AN ODD CHARACTER WHO WAS WELL KNOWN IN MISSOURI.

Jack Ring, known for a quarter of a century as the mayor of Ring's Island, died recently at his home in the middle of the river, south of St. Joseph, Mo.

THE OZARINA'S FINERY.

She Twists Her Young Husband Round Her Fingers in a Delightful Way.

We have been hearing some very pretty stories of the young czar's kind heart and benevolent instincts, and the manner in which she is alleged to be twisting the ear round her fingers is described as perfectly delightful from an English standpoint.

erine the Great, who was so fond of it that she used to sleep with it around her neck.

But greatly attached to it though she was, Catherine for some reason or other gave it to one of her two Orloff favorites, who took it first to Germany and then to Paris with him.

Thus it found its way to the land of the lion and the sun, whence it is now returned to the land of the bear.

DAINTY POWDER PUFFS.

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with them, and could control them far better than the police.

One of Ring's most daring feats was to climb to the top of the highest church steeple in the city and hang head downward for an hour.

Ring dragged the man by the hair, dodged the floating ice, and landed himself nearly a mile below the bridge.

The collarmaker killed himself a few days later by taking poison. Ring was of small stature and his head was far below the middle size.

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