

When you met a sheepman on the street Thursday morning you met the biggest, broadest smile you had encountered since wool hit the 30-cent mark last winter. That big, warm rain Wednesday night and the bright warm sunshine that followed was enough to make a wooden Indian smile. John Kilkenny, who was in town Thursday for the first time in a week or so, declared the grass on his range grew three inches or less Wednesday night.

S. R. Woods, forest ranger in charge of the Gurdane district, spent several days in town during the week and expected to return to his post

today. Mr. Wood says there is an unusual amount of snow in the mountains this spring and the season for stock entering the reserve will be delayed at least ten days. Mr. Wood and his assistants have been engaged lately repairing the forest service telephone line up Willow creek but had to stop the work at the Moore mill on account of the depth of snow.

Mosquitoes Prevent Rice Production.
Although rice is the staple diet of the population of Ceylon, it is nearly all imported. Malarial mosquitoes breed so freely in the rice fields that laborers cannot work there.

Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

Author "Washington Close-Up," "Banks and Financial Systems," etc. Contributor Political and Economic Articles to Leading Periodicals and a Writer of Recognized Authority on the National Government's Business Methods.

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XVII.

NO REWARD FOR LOYALTY

What can a man hope for who enters the government service as a career? Let us look at some actual cases. Here is the story of one as told by E. J. Ayers, chief clerk, Department of the Interior. He cites it as a case similar to that of many others in his department, and says there are many others who are in worse circumstances:

"The records of our department show that he entered the service as a laborer at \$600 a year, after a service of three and a half years in the United States navy as a first-class fireman, with an honorable discharge. He has been with us for more than thirty-three years, and is sixty-six years old, and has given more than half his life to the service of the government.

"He owns a little property three miles beyond the Chesapeake Junction, and he gets up early in the morning, before daylight, and comes in to work and goes out after dark at night. Today he is getting \$840 a year. He has raised a family of nine children—three of whom are now dead—eight boys and one daughter. His elder sons are married and have established homes of their own. Two of his sons were in the military service in France, and his daughter, twelve years old, lives with her grandmother, where he is supporting, educating and clothing her.

"He is a white man, a very intelligent man, eminently qualified for this particular line of work. His wife is dead. He is his own housekeeper and he does the cooking and the washing and the ironing.

"His home was established in its present location because it was not thought practicable to raise a family in the district, and he bought a piece of property in Prince George's county three miles beyond the railroad terminal, which distance, as I said, he walks twice a day, leaving in the morning most of the year before daylight, and returning home by dark. This small place consists of a shack and a few acres of land on which he has a mortgage of \$1,000, and you can judge that he enjoys no conveniences other than the small house, which protects him from the elements.

"The house is divided into four rooms, the partitions being of paper tacked to the framework, there being no laths or plaster.

"The small stove standing in the center of the room he has used for more than twenty years, and the pot on the stove contains his Sunday dinner, which he has prepared for himself, consisting of white navy beans and fatback. These beans are now costing him twenty-five to thirty cents a quart, and the fatback costs him forty cents a pound. It could have been purchased a few years ago for seventeen cents a pound, and the beans for ten cents. He does not get any fresh meat because he cannot afford to buy it.

"To my mind it seems a pity that the United States government should employ men of that type, or any other type for that matter, and not give them enough to live on decently. It is particularly a pity in this case because he is somewhat superior to many of the employees. He has stayed with us as a matter of faithfulness to the government, and has stayed with us when he could make more in one week outside of the government than we pay him for one month.

"Others have left us, but instances of that kind have been very few. At one time I had in our auditorium our employees and I made an appeal to them to stand by us during the war period, and there were more than 300 of them present, and they all of one accord assured us that they would stand by us and would give us the benefit of their labor in our department during the war period, notwithstanding the fact that the price for labor outside was a great deal more."

"This curious pride in their work and loyalty to the government and the government service was a thing that cropped up in the most unexpected places.

"As one employee put it: 'I think you will find that every service seems to be quite proud of its work. I know you will find it in our service as far as compensation and such as that are concerned. The pay in this office is small, but that element, that feeling in a man's mind that he is really helping to accomplish good work and helping this government to function well, is really part of it. I find in all my talks with employees that they really feel proud of their work, and that pride is really what gets things done. I think that is true everywhere in the whole service, and particularly throughout the executive departments.'

"That is curiously true, and it is one of the reasons, possibly the chief reason, why men stay on in the departments year after year at a low rate of pay and not much possibility of promotion.

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