

SECURE SPECIMENS

Expeditions of Smithsonian Agents Narrated in Report.

Institution's New Pamphlet Tells of Work of Different Parties and of Many Specimens Received—Solar Rays Variable.

Washington.—Following the custom established in 1911, the Smithsonian Institution has just issued an illustrated pamphlet dealing with the many scientific expeditions conducted under its direction, or in which its representatives participated.

The pamphlet describes the work of about twenty different parties, and the territory covered includes certain portions of British East Africa, Abyssinia, Algeria, Eastern Siberia and Mongolia, the Altai mountains, Borneo, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, British Columbia, Alberta, Newfoundland, Labrador, the Panama canal zone, and the Bahama Islands, and many sections of the United States.

The institution was represented by two small parties in Borneo.

Dr. W. L. Abbott, who financed the Dutch East Borneo expedition under Mr. H. C. Raven, and who has presented many large collections to the National museum, has been carrying on a personal investigation in Cashmere, where he has been trapping and studying the smaller mammals of that country, specimens of which have been sent to the museum.

Through the invitation of Dr. Theodore Lyman of Harvard University, the institution was enabled to cooperate with the Museum of Comparative Zoology in an expedition to the Altai mountains of Siberia and Mongolia.

George Mixer, another collaborator of the museum, also visited Siberia, where he secured certain mammals from the region about Lake Baikal, among them bear and seal.

Of particular interest was a trip made by Dr. Alex Hrdlicka to Siberia and Mongolia, to study the physical anthropology of the natives. His particular object was a search for data concerning the race which is supposed to have peopled America. He draws the conclusion that there exist in several places in Siberia, Mongolia and Tibet numerous remains of an ancient population, which was physically identical with and in all probability gave rise to the American Indian.

The hunting trip carried on by Paul J. Rainey in British East Africa, in which the institution was represented by Edmund Heller, was terminated in December, 1911, and since then the collection has been received at the National museum. Altogether the trip was a remarkably successful one; nearly 4,000 mammals, 1,000 reptiles, and 400 birds were obtained.

The astrophysical observatory of the Smithsonian Institution again sent an expedition to Hamour, Algeria, for the continuation of the observations relative to the heat of the sun, an investigation on which the observatory has been working for the past seven years, with observing stations on Mount Wilson, Cal., and during two seasons in Algeria. Mr. Abbot, the director of the observatory, states that the observations of the last year prove conclusively the supposed variability of the solar rays.

SPONGES FOR FERTILIZING.

The department of agriculture, through its bureau of soils, has recently completed analysis of the Loggerhead sponge, which grows abundantly in the waters of Southern Florida, to determine its value as a fertilizer. This sponge, according to Mr. Thomas E. Reedy of Key West, grows in countless thousands and to an enormous size in shallow water, where it is easy to procure. Mr. Reedy also states that the farmers of the Florida keys use the Loggerhead sponge with wonderful results and hardly ever use chemical fertilizers. Dr. H. P. Moore of the United States bureau of fisheries cites the use of this sponge by citrus fruit growers of the Florida mainland and states that he has seen this sponge growing in such quantities that he has long thought it should be exploited.

A specialist of the department recently made analyses of samples from Key West which verify the value of this sponge as a fertilizer. The analyses show that the approximate results on air dry material show four per cent. of nitrogen, three-quarters of one per cent. of potash and phosphoric acid, five per cent. of lime and 40 per cent. of organic matter. The specialists say that it is evident from the composition of this material and its demonstrated efficiency as a fertilizer that it has considerable value to farmers and fruit growers who have easy access to it in the shallows of the sea. The department is conducting further investigations to determine the feasibility of extending the use of this sponge as a fertilizer.

SEEKING INFORMATION.

While strange letters are not a rarity in government departments, the secretary of agriculture recently received a letter which breaks all records for inquiry having to do with drugs and medicine. This letter, which is printed below, omits the name and address of the writer, gives an insight into a certain type of persons who think they can use all sorts of drugs and poisons in making patent medicines. An exact copy of the letter follows:

Mixed Metaphors. "Jones has certainly a bad way of mixing up things in his talk." "What's the matter now?" "He says at his house staining the bare floors is the topic just now on the carpet."

Why? "Why do people speak of the human race?" "Because men and women are always running after each other."—Cal-Maria Pelican.

Secretary of Agriculture, wood that is allowed in medicine and wood it is to be patented before it could be sold. Arnicin Dovers Powders Quinine Sp. some salts and a number of herbs that grows here, such as Mullin and and Bark. How much Arnicin wood be allowed to say a gallon of Chili Tonic please write me at once. My mother wants to make this medicine and I want to know the Rules before it is done. Respectfully,

July 2nd, 1913. and how much 155 alcohol wood be allowed in one gallon this to preserve it only I think some you see 8% in Volume please tell just how much the law wood permits.

It is needless to say the experts of the bureau of chemistry did not encourage the writer to enter the patent medicine field. He was given specific warning as to the danger of preparing such substances in haphazard fashion, and also given full warning as to the federal law governing the matter.

The federal authorities, however, have no legal power under the food and drugs act to prevent these people from making this medicine containing poisonous substances. While there is strict legal regulation over the practice of medicine and the filling of prescriptions, the same legal control does not extend to the manufacture of patent medicines, provided the makers of these patent medicines state on the label the presence of all substances which the law says shall be so noted, and do not use a label that misbranded the article or misleads the purchaser as to its contents, and do not make any excessive or false claims as to its remedial powers, the federal authorities cannot stop the sale of the article in interstate commerce or otherwise.

CALENDAR REFORMED.

Thirty days hath September, April, June and November; All the rest have thirty-one.

You know the rest. Over in the office of the comptroller of the treasury they don't believe in the second line of this old saying, but they stick absolutely to the first.

A case in point is that of Dr. Charles W. Richardson. He was ordered to active service on May 31, for that day only. His service was to deliver an address to the graduating class of the army medical school.

Doctor Richardson completed his active service by turning in his bill for one day's active service. When the matter came to the attention of Assistant Comptroller Warwick that official decided that in all cases where compensation is rated on a monthly basis each month, February included, the month is presumed to have thirty days and does not pay for the thirty-first day. Therefore Doctor Richardson was refused pay for his labor on the 31st day of May.

In further explaining the decision treasury officials said that Doctor Richardson, had he delivered his address on February 28, would have received three days' pay.

The only thing left is to figure it out for yourself.

SENATOR WAS CURIOUS.

Senator-elect Robert E. Broussard of Louisiana is a wiser man now. The geological survey made him so.

Mr. Broussard was one of the first persons to venture out of his hotel after the severe storm that swept Washington a few days ago. On the sidewalks, where he traveled, he found thousands of pebbles of many shapes and colors. He noticed among others gray, blue and reddish-tinted stones. Believing that the storm had blown such pebbles out of the air or some distant planet, he became curious to know where they came from and whether or not they contained precious metals. He saved a handful of them, and without saying anything about his find, took the little stones to the geological survey for examination. He received a note saying:

"Pebbles, blown from the roof of a house that was being covered, some painted blue and others red."

RED TAPE TANGLED.

The red tape of the United States government simply gets tangled up until it costs the government a pretty penny. Recently an army officer sent in his gas and electric light bills, and these were tied up in so much red tape in the department that the government was finally penalized for the amount, and had to lose the discount. The auditor for the army held the officer responsible and deducted the amount from his credit, but the controller relieved him and allowed him the amount of the difference.

TO RESTORE PLATE.

The bronze plate placed on the mainmast of the battleship Maine in 1910 by the Daughters of the American Revolution of Habana, Cuba, is to be restored to the historic old spar, when it is erected in Arlington cemetery to mark the graves of the unknown dead of the ill-fated battleship. The Habana chapter of the daughters recently won the consent of the navy department archives when the work of raising the vessel was begun.

Overindulgence.

"My wife will know I drank too much at the banquet." "Why, you are walking straight enough."

"But look at the fun umbrella I picked out."

Dreadful Slam. "I guess I ain't much of a hit with Mrs. Wombat."

"Why not?" "At the party last night, she left me to talk to her husband."

Not Very Close. "Are you related to Barney Sullivan?" Patrick Sullivan was once asked.

"Very distantly," replied Patrick. "I was my mother's first child, and Barney was the sixteenth."—Woman's Home Companion.

No Time Wasted. Imogene—We weren't in the hall two minutes before he kissed me. Doris—Yum! Was it an event? Imogene—My dear, he's an efficiency expert.—Judge.

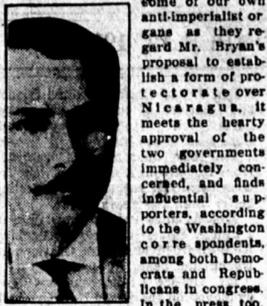
Prolonged Function. "The rich lady next door is very gracious of late." "I know the symptoms. She is going away for the summer, and hopes to jolly us into entertaining her cat while she is away."

Loud. "That young Jones is bound to be heard from," said the Old Fog, as he turned away from the window.

"Yes," remarked old Grouch. "I noticed his clothes this morning."

TAKING NICARAGUA UNDER THE EAGLE'S WING

Whatever the apprehension of the other Central American nations and of some of our own anti-imperialist or gane as they regard Mr. Bryan's proposal to establish a form of protectorate over Nicaragua, it meets the hearty approval of the two governments immediately concerned, and finds influential supporters, according to the Washington correspondent, among both Democrats and Republicans in congress.



In the press, too, the dictum that "party lines end at the water's edge" is confirmed by the approving attitude of prominent public men, regardless of their party affiliations.

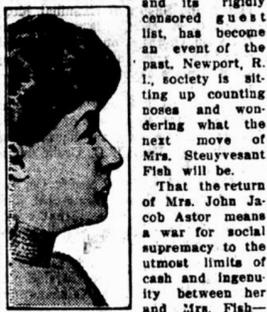
The somewhat disgruntled tone of much of the comment from the other Central American states—Costa Rica, Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras—is attributed to fear of "aggression" by this country and to the vanishing of their cherished dream of a federation of the isthmian republics. Their cry that "this is the beginning of the

American invasion" is robbed of some of its force by Nicaragua's statement that the proposed protectorate is of her own seeking, and by President Wilson's assurance that it does not represent a "general policy to be followed throughout Central America."

The purchase of the exclusive right to build a canal across Nicaragua from the Caribbean to the Pacific, marks the Boston Transcript, represents a policy of insurance against competition with the Panama canal. The acquisition of a naval base on the Gulf of Fonseca is scarcely less important, according to the same paper, because "we shall have much need of a great harbor on the central west coast when the Panama canal is opened," and "we have need at present of a suitable place to which our Pacific fleet may repair for maneuvers—Magdalena Bay, on the Mexican coast, having become unavailable even for target practice." But more significant than either of these features of the treaty, in the opinion of our press, is the proposed protectorate over the turbulent little nation of 600,000 souls, whose kaleidescopic politics have caused Uncle Sam so much anxiety in the past. At the Washington correspondent of the New York society has reached the stage of almost nervous prostration trying to guess where it will get off on the same momentous occasion.

MRS. FISH'S RULE IMPERILED BY MRS. ASTOR

Now that the "Mother Goose Ball," with its display of millions in jewels and its rigidly censored guest list, has become an event of the past, Newport, R. I., society is sitting up counting noses and wondering what the next move of Mrs. Steuversant Fish will be.



That the return of Mrs. John Jacob Astor means a war for social supremacy to the utmost limits of cash and ingenuity between her and Mrs. Fish—the latter of whom has held rule with Mrs. Herman Oelrichs undisturbed these many days—no one in the smart set doubts.

Behind Mrs. Astor is her long record of leadership in London, where royalty has shared in her entertainments frequently, and willingly. But more significant than anything else is the fact that she has swooped down on Newport and New York at the very time that King George and Queen Mary are said to be on the eve of a visit to the United States.

Just what to do with the British ruler and his consort when they land on these shores has Washington diplomats, statesmen and society sitting up nights trying to figure out. New York society has reached the stage of almost nervous prostration trying to guess where it will get off on the same momentous occasion.

Now that Mrs. Astor has arrived, the wise ones are up a tree, metaphorically. To desert Mrs. Fish and Mrs. Oelrichs and rally to the standard of Mrs. Astor with the chance of being included in a probable audience with royalty under circumstances where Mrs. Astor may play the leading role, is a temptation hard to resist.

On the other hand, to flock too quickly to Mrs. Astor may put the elect in a bad way, for the return of Mrs. Astor may be only a temporary affair, and her departure for England, much beloved of the Astors, may leave them outside the bars when Mrs. Fish and Mrs. Oelrichs again step into power.

That Mrs. Fish and Mrs. Oelrichs will not give up leadership without a bitter struggle is only too apparent. In the meantime society is guessing and watching for the next move of these resourceful women.

THIS CONGRESSMAN HAS WONDERFUL MEMORY

No one in the house of representatives dares to trifle with Representative John J. Fitzgerald of Brooklyn, N. Y., chairman of the great committee on appropriations, until the would-be trifier is sure of his facts. The reason is that he can remember the name, date, page and ever made in congress, of every speech of his friends say. This may be an exaggeration, of course, but Philip Campbell, the stalwart stand-pat Republican from Kansas, has reason to regret "Fitz's" memory.

A few weeks ago the question of "tenure of office for government clerks" arose in the house. The Democrats had a proposition to make government clerks' employment proceed in terms of six years.

Representative Campbell made a most vigorous and fiery speech against it. He called it iniquitous; he called it tyrannical; he called it unfeeling, unsympathetic and smelling of graft and corruption, and made great applause for himself on the Republican side.

"While he was talking, Representative Fitzgerald called Marcellus Shields, assistant clerk to the house appropriations committee. "Get me the Record of about April 12, 1906," he said.

Shields brought the volume and Fitzgerald turned to April 12. There was the speech of Campbell of Kansas in favor of a tenure of office—exactly in favor of the thing he was now denouncing. Fitzgerald waited his chance and then read Campbell's six-year-old speech, and Campbell nearly died of embarrassment.

"John," he said to Fitzgerald in the cloakroom afterward, "how in the name of crime did you remember that speech? Why, I forgot that I ever made it!"

Pat could not find his watch, so he went to his friend, the lieutenant at the police station, and reported that he had lost it. The lieutenant assured him that he would not leave a stone in New York unturned until the watch had been found.

Pat returned home much comforted by his friend's assurance, and a few hours later discovered the watch in the lining of his vest, so he set out immediately for the police station to inform the lieutenant of his find.

As he was passing along his way he saw some men who were tearing up stones in the street to put in gas pipes, and going up to them he said: "Niver mind, lads, I've found the watch."

Its Lack. "There is one inconsistency about the unwritten law."

"What is that?" "It is not practiced by payless lawyers."

Between Girls. "Mabel, do you favor the long or short ballot?" "I think it ought to reach the knee," responded Mabel dreamily. "Oh, excuse me. You know, I am planning my bathing suit."

CHICKEN SERVED IN JELLY

Always Something New in the Preparation of This Thoroughly Appreciated Summer Dish.

Roast a plump tender fowl, basting to keep it tender. When cold remove the skin and cut in very thin small slices. Put the bones in a saucepan with three cups of water and cook for three hours, reduce to two and a half cups. Add one tablespoon each of chopped onion, celery and carrot, one sprig of parsley and thyme, a small sprig of savory, one-half bay leaf, one clove and six pepper corns. Cook for ten minutes, strain through a cheese cloth, cool. Soak one-half cup of gelatin in half a cup of the cooled stock (fill stock). Warm the remainder of the stock and add the gelatin, stirring well. Add one tablespoon of lemon juice, heat to the boiling point, season with salt and onion. Beat the white of one egg till slightly foamy, add to it gradually one cup of the hot mixture, then add the egg and stock very gradually to the hot liquid; bring to the boiling point, stirring constantly. Remove to back of range and let stand for half an hour, strain through a jelly bag and let cool. Select a round pan that will be full when the chicken and jelly are added. Set the pan in ice water and pour in enough of the jelly to cover the bottom. When this is hard decorate the surface with hard cooked eggs sliced and cut in fancy shapes, pour in more jelly, a spoonful at a time, until the eggs are firmly fixed, then add enough to make the jelly three-fourths of an inch thick. When firm put in a layer of chicken, cut in small thin slices, first dipping them in a little liquid gelatin, then add the jelly a little at a time until the mold is full. If the mold is very deep two layers of chicken may be added. When the jelly is firm, turn from the mold on a fancy platter and garnish with parsley. It may be sliced and laid on lettuce or grape leaves for individual plates. A boiled fowl may be used in this way.

FUDGE AND WHIPPED CREAM. Delicacy Rich Enough to Tax the Digestive Powers of All but the Very Young.

Fudge with whipped cream is a delicacy rich enough to appeal to the palate of the most exacting boarding-school girl.

First, measure out a pound and a half of brown sugar—three cups—into a saucepan, and add to this a cup of milk, half a cup of butter, a pinch of salt and a half square of chocolate and cook the mixture till it hardens when tried in cold water.

Take from the fire and beat with vigor for three minutes. Have ready a half pint of cream beaten to a froth and add this to the mixture. Next add a little vanilla for flavoring and chopped walnut meats if desired. Proceed as with the usual fudge, beating till almost stiff and cooling on buttered tins.

For the Sewing Room. When scissors become dull, put a pin between the blades and rub it up and down, working the blades as in cutting. This will put a new edge on the scissors and takes but a moment's time.

If one likes to have her towels marked, but has not the time to embroider them nor the money to spend on handwork, the sewing machine shops, where one has machine hem-stitching done will embroider a monogram of initials by machine for 10 or 15 cents each, and, as each letter is stuffed as in the handwork, when carefully laundered and ironed on a blank, the effect is quite as good as of handwork. Of course, the towel must be marked before giving it to the shop.

Mint Frappé. Roll together ten minutes the juice from one can of pineapples, one cupful of sugar and two cupfuls of water. Remove from the fire, add one tablespoonful of gelatin which has been softened in a little cold water. Add a bunch of fresh mint, bruise it well with a spoon and allow it to stand covered about ten minutes. Then strain and add the pineapple, which has been previously put through the meat grinder. Freeze until it becomes like fresh mush. Then add the beaten whites of two eggs, continue to freeze, then pack with ice and salt. Decorate each glass with a spray of mint leaves.

"Brula" With Pecans. "Brula" is another name for caramel ice cream, and here is an unusually good recipe for making it: Make a custard, using a little less than a quart of milk to two eggs. Put one pound of dark sugar in a hot skillet and stir until it has become a rich, reddish brown. Then mix with the custard while the latter is still hot. When it has cooled, add a pint of cream and a half cupful of finely crushed pecan meats. Freeze as usual.

New Scrub Bucket. The newest style in buckets is a great improvement over the old pall where a forgotten cake of soap sometimes dissolved and there was no place to lay the cloth. Now there is an improved pall, square in shape, with a small tin tray which fits into the top. This tray has a compartment for box of washing powder, soap, rag and brush, and is a great improvement over the old kind of house bucket.

Snow Cake Without Eggs. Two cups sugar, one-half cup butter one cup sweet milk, two cups pastry flour, two teaspoons baking powder, one teaspoon vanilla. Put ingredients together and add in the place of whites of four eggs two cups of snow, put in the last thing. Be sure and have a good, hot oven, as it should bake quickly. This rule makes a three layer cake; also you can add chocolate to one layer and have in between white layers.

To Keep the Pantry Cool. Fasten two thicknesses of muslin over the pantry window; keep the window open and the muslin wet with salt and water. This will keep the flies out as well as cooling the pantry.

FINGERS AND RINGS "ACOMPT" OF 1786

Why Engagement Ring is Worn on Left Hand.

It Was Rite in Ancient Greek Church to Use Right-Hand Third Finger—Fashion Changed at Time of Reformation.

No other finger than the third of the left hand is now ever considered for either an engagement or wedding ring, but it was not always so. At the time of the Reformation it was just coming into fashion, and the rule in the ancient Greek church was the use of the right-hand third finger. Wedding rings have been used as far back as we have any record, and the right hand was the favored one.

There are no authentic reasons for the change save that, the right hand being in active use, the ring was more liable to wear and injury, as the gold used was exceedingly soft. A fifth-century writer speaks very entertainingly of rings. It was then the fashion to wear great numbers of them, elaborately set with jewels, carved, and sometimes of massive design and proportions, so that the hands thus laden were scarcely fitted for heavy work. Then the rings began to be worn exclusively upon the left hand, leaving the right one free.

The fanciful reason given by many for the use of the third left-hand finger is that it is nearest the heart, and, as an old chronicler says, this digit "hath especially the honor to bear rings." The story of the signet ring has an interest to all, for history tells us that every free man in Greece was privileged to wear his signet ring, and it was a much-prized possession. The custom was evidently adopted from the Sabines, and free citizens of Rome made some of theirs of iron. Afterward, when Rome was luxuriating in her tremendous power and was in the height of glory, many a staunch old Roman displayed his signet ring of iron in token of his regard for the simple way in which they used to live.

History does not tell us just when the custom of wedding rings originated, but it was long before the time of Christ. Some say that the ring is an emblem of eternity, as the circle has no beginning and no ending; and from the earliest time it was regarded as a symbol of constancy and fidelity, and exchanged in other transactions besides matrimony when evidences of faith and loyalty were solemnly sworn to and sealed with the sacred token.

At first the signet rings were used in the marriage ceremony, and in the sixteenth century "motto" rings came into favor. That means the plain golden circles inscribed with "Until death," "Semper fidelis," "Two hearts that beat as one," "Mizzah," "We two together go," "One faith, one love," etc. These were called "poesy" rings.

Another reason for selecting the third finger for the wedding ring is the fact that from the earliest time the bishops or heads of the churches wore the insignia of their office upon that finger; the "high priest of the temple" wore it as long as he retained the position, it being placed there in the consecration ceremony. We find the bishops of today wearing the church ring set with an amethyst.

Signet rings are mentioned in the Bible, and we find the ring in those days to have been a sign of honor as it is with us. During the war a lover who wished to specially honor his bride sent the gold money to the goldsmith with which to fashion the wedding ring, for in those days the heavier and broader the band the wealthier and girls used to measure the width and "heft" the circles to see whose was the broadest and heaviest, and thereby establish a social standing unimpeachable.

Now the bride asks for a very narrow rounded circle with which to pledge her vows, one that will be as unobtrusive as possible and not interfere with the wearing of her other much-bejeweled rings, some of which are almost as big as sixpences and as long as—well, as long as the fingers which they adorn.

Urgent Business at the Postoffice. A man called at the Wellington postoffice the other day and asked for the postmaster. He was told by the clerk that the postmaster was not in.

"When will he be in?" was asked. "The postmaster would be in within half an hour. Is there anything I can do for you?" the clerk asked.

"No; I want to see the postmaster." "After a while the man came back and asked again for the postmaster.

"He's not back yet," the clerk told him. "Is there anything I can do for you, or can I tell him something when he comes?" "No, there ain't nuthin' you can do, and I wish the postmaster was here. I want to see if there's any mail for me, and I'm gettin' in a hurry."—Kansas City Star.

Not What He Was Looking For. Farmer Crab's brook is noted for the number and size of its eels. Fishing therein is "strictly prohibited," which in itself is attraction enough for the small boy.

The other evening an urchin was leaving the neighborhood rather hurriedly, when a youthful friend inquired: "Caught anything, Bob?" "Yes," replied Bob. "Eel?" "No; too."

His friend understood and wisely decided to turn back with Bob.

Fabulous Age. Spratts—Miss Elder is much older than I thought. Squaker—Impossible. Spratts—Well, I asked her if she had read Aesop's fables, and she said she read them when they first came out.—Ladies' Home Journal.

An Obvious Inference. "Pop, this book of mine talks about the teeth of a winter's gale." "Well, my son?" "Does the winter's gale use an ice pick for its teeth?"

What She Served. "What did she serve?" "Three kinds of meat." "Three kinds of meat? I thought she was going to have only a light lunch." "That's what it was—chicken salad."

A Specimen. "So your paper had a full description of the chrome works this week?" "Yes." "That's what I call yellow journalism."

Yankee Blacksmith Was Exact in His Bookkeeping.

Many Pages of the Book Deal with the Setting of Shoes, Mending Axes and Tools, and the Transportation of Hay.

John S. Cole of West Springfield, Mass., is the possessor of a very interesting and very old book—the account book of Elazar Loomis of Partridge field. The book was begun by that person in 1786, or ten years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Loomis was a blacksmith, and many of the pages of the book deal with the setting of shoes, mending axes and tools, and the transportation of hay.

All the "acompts" in the first part of the book are reckoned in pounds, shillings and pence, but toward the end the present system seems to have come into general use and the accounts are then kept in dollars and cents.

The accounts, which are carried on through a long period of years that were in themselves hazardous ones, show a painstaking care and an eagerness to business detail which will well be followed today. That Loomis was a careful business man is shown by the fact that he kept all his receipts in the account book.

The book at frequent intervals was audited by Loomis and an assistant and is so signed. Besides being of historical value as a relic of post-revolutionary days, it affords an excellent means of comparing the cost of living and the price of labor then and now.

So much is heard today of the increased cost of living, of the exorbitant prices demanded by manufacturers and of the ever increasing demands for better wages and less hours by both skilled and unskilled labor, that it would be interesting to note the difference in the values of Loomis' time and the values of today. In the beginning of his "acompt" he values his hired labor at 62 cents daily. This suddenly jumps to 75 cents daily today, the laborer, with a pick and shovel, is getting from \$2 to \$2.50 daily or practically three times as much as Loomis paid his assistants in blacksmithing. This is really a comparison between skilled and unskilled labor.

The difference in the price of food-stuffs is also very marked. Loomis bought 403 pounds of beef for an amount slightly over \$21, or at about five cents a pound. Today he would have been obliged to pay several times that amount for a pound of it. He got butter at 15 cents a pound, now it is 30. Potatoes came at 82 cents a bushel or less than one-third of what they are today. Since the west opened up there has been but little change in the price of oats, for our blacksmith paid 50 cents a bushel for them, while they are quoted at 46 cents today.

In the rental of his horse and team it looks as if Loomis used very poor judgment or else the ruling prices were very low, for he took a load of hay to Pittsfield for 50 cents, a distance of 40 miles each way. At another time he rented his "hoss" to a man for a day for a set of mill, or 25 cents. A ton of hay cost him \$7, about one-fourth of what it is today.

There are a number of amusing entries in the book, such as 3,200 pounds of coal for \$2 and a day's work for a bushel of potatoes. He shod a "hoss," mended a "handel," made a ferrel and mended a shovel, all for 42 cents. The spelling of a great many of the words is strange—for instance, horse, hoss; sleigh, slay; mowing, mung; full, fool; kettle, kettel.

These are only instances from many hundreds in the account and they go to show what a remarkable change has taken place since revolutionary days. The book is in a remarkable state of preservation for such an old one. It is bound in calf. The paper is of good quality and is well preserved. The ink has yellowed and in some places almost faded away, but for the most part one is able to read all the items.

There are only a few persons today who would have the patience to keep such an exact account of receipts and expenditures as Loomis did, especially through such a long period of years. Everything is set down, even the smallest of items and the whole at frequent intervals is balanced. At the bottom of each balance is the receipt of the debtor or creditor, whichever he was, usually signed by a witness.

Rich Hermit Starved to Death. A rich hermit, John Kirkpatrick, better known as the "Hairy Man" of the "Val of Leven Hermit," died of starvation at Jamestown, Dumbaron, Scotland, a few days ago. Kirkpatrick lived alone in a wooden hut near the Forth of Clyde railway. He was about fifty years of age. Although he possessed of considerable wealth, he did not take the necessities of life. He had long hair like that of a woman, and he wore quaint dress. The hut, which was previously used as a henhouse, was infested with rats and in filthy condition. Kirkpatrick is supposed to have belonged in Jamestown about ten years. The police found that he had a considerable amount of money in the bank.

Too Sensitive. "There is absolutely no use to talk to me about woman suffrage." "Really, old man, I cannot understand why you oppose it so strongly." "Well, I'll tell you. I was in a clothing store last week looking at some neckties when a woman came in and told one of the clerks she wanted to buy a collar for her dog."—Fun.

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