

PAY DAY ON THE CANAL



Hats are Useful to Carry Money on Pay Day

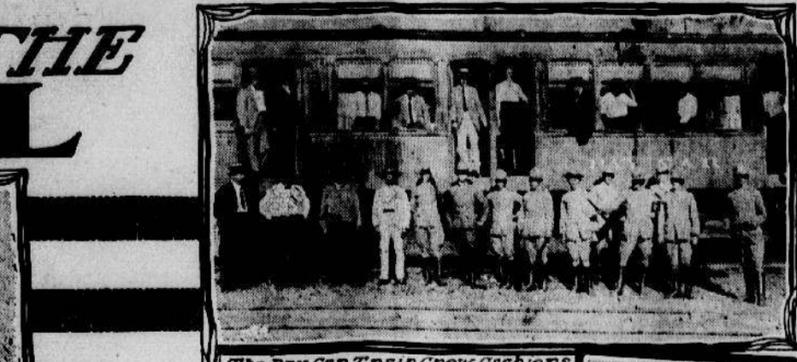
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In any big enterprise where a large number of persons are employed, it becomes a matter of some importance to devise a system by which the employees may be paid without much loss of time to the employer or any dissatisfaction on the part of the workmen by reason of delay. The Isthmian Canal Commission seems to have successfully solved this perplexing problem to the satisfaction of all concerned, and pay day on the Panama canal is interesting from many standpoints.

The pay roll alone is an index to this vast undertaking as more than thirty-eight thousand men are paid off each month. It requires three days to complete the distribution of money by the present system. Very little time is lost for the pay car, carries the money to all parts of the canal—going to the workmen rather than they coming for it. Various plans were tried with more or less success before the one now in vogue was adopted, and much is due to Mr. Edward J. Williams, the disbursing officer. This gentleman had a long experience in this line as before coming to the Isthmus he was the disbursing agent of one of the largest railroads in the United States, and his knowledge of workmen and their likes and dislikes has served him well on the Canal zone, where men of so many nationalities work side by side.

The disbursing office is located at Empire. The men are paid in gold and silver, coin being used in order to keep the money on the Isthmus, for this is the only means by which this can be done. In the early days of the canal building it was the custom to issue checks on the United States for such sums of money as the employees wished to send to the United States

each month. This was done solely to accommodate the men, but it soon became apparent that the employees were abusing this privilege by asking for these for the sole purpose of selling them to business men on the Isthmus to be used as New York exchange, the checks being sent in payment of bills due in the United States. So the issuing of these was discontinued. The next move by the disbursing agent was to pay certain numbers of the employees in paper money, but again the plan proved a failure for bills were easily shipped out of the country and this was done as fast as they came in. The merchants and others found this was a cheap method of exchange, as they merely required a registry fee and postage. The canal commission soon discovered that they were furnishing money to keep people who had no part in the canal construction from having bank exchange, so this philanthropic system was stopped. This finally led to the payment of an employee in gold and silver coin. Very little of this actually leaves the Isthmus, for in addition to the difficulty and danger of transporting the coin, there is a law of the Republic of Panama which levies an export duty on coin shipped out of the country. By the present plan the white men are known as "gold employees" and are paid in American gold coin, and the negroes are called "silver employees" and receive their wages in Panama silver, equal in value to gold. The currency of Panama was minted in the United States in 1905. This simplified the disbursing officer's task in the silver payments, for by that issue of money the value of a peso or Panama silver dollar was fixed at a two to one rate. It was also found necessary to issue Panama coins of smaller value, owing to the fact that the employees are paid off to the cent



The Pay Car Train Crew, Cashiers, Policemen etc. These Men Carry \$1,500,000 to the Men Each Month



Employees Getting Their Pay in the Culebra Cut



Mr. Edward J. Williams, the Disbursing Officer



Climbing on the Pay Car at Malachin

are paid out each day—a little less than fifteen tons of money. The bags containing the coin are taken to the cars, which are side-tracked at Empire, and placed in the safes in the cages of the cars which are fitted up like a bank. The arrangement of these cages is excellent, as the men can enter by the three doors, (one at each end and one in the center) cross the car, pass the cashier, and leave on the other side of the car. After the money is loaded the adding and change machines are put in place and by a few minutes past six, although it is barely daylight, the cashier is ready for business.

The Pacific division is usually paid off the first day, so the car goes direct to Pedro Miguel. Here the iron and concrete workers line up and one is surprised at the rapidly with which the cashiers work. The "gold employees" have one door and the silver employees use the other two. The employee first shows his brass identification check and then his pay certificate. If the number on the certificate tallies with the one on the brass check the money is counted out to the man and he passes out on the other side of the car. The envelope system would not be feasible there, from the fact that the heavy coin would wear through the paper before it reached the employee, so nine men out of ten, especially the "silver employees," carry their money from the pay car in their hats. Many of the unskilled laborers can neither read nor write, but they know to the exact cent just what their pay will be and they count and recount to be absolutely sure that it is correct. If they fancy that a mistake has been made, Mr. Williams is called and here again he shows a patience that is remarkable, for he is determined that even the poorest laborer shall receive his pay to the cent. There is rarely a mistake, however, or any dissatisfaction. It is natural that in a work such as canal building, men will be injured from time to time, for they do not always wait until the labor train stops when they wish to get on off, and in consequence of this hurry quite a number have lost legs or arms. Others have been hurt by accidents in their work. As far as possible, these men are taken care of and given some fight employment. Mr. Williams pays these men personally, whenever it is

possible, in order that they may avoid climbing into the car. It matters little what class of workmen they are, it is all the same—they are crippled and deserve consideration. It is 7 o'clock in the evening when the pay car is at hand, and the men come from the hills like bees from a hive. The great shops at Gorgona are paid off on the second day, and these shops cover such a large area that a pilot or guide accompanies the engineer to direct him to the proper railroad track leading to the different departments. About twelve hundred men are paid off at these shops, and among them are some of the very best mechanics in the United States. They are attracted to the Canal zone by the remunerative wages and the excellent treatment they receive at the hands of the canal commission.

The pay car goes to the Atlantic Division on the last day, and the entire morning is spent at Gatun, where a small army of workers of all classes and nationalities receive their wages. In all, forty-four tons of coin are paid out (\$1,500,000.00) for a month's work on the great waterway. The car is always well protected, for at least a dozen Canal zone policemen are on duty, as well as a "plain clothes" man who mingles with the workers to keep an eye on things in general. Ten cashiers are required to do the paying, besides the regular train crew. Mr. Williams is always on hand to oversee the work. A stop is made for lunch each day, but the paying continues as the cashiers take turns in leaving the cars. Occasionally a man will raise his pay certificate and is invariably caught. None of the raises have been large, but the men had to be punished for the principle involved as an example. The wages are remunerative—far more than could be obtained for the same class of work in the United States. The canal commission follows the Golden Rule and expects its employees to reciprocate in the same spirit.

Americans World's Greatest Eaters

Washington, June 29.—It costs in round figures \$8,000,000,000 a year to feed the American people, an amount just about equal to the annual value of all the products of Uncle Sam's six and a half million farms. There is no question that at the present time the average American eats more food of a higher quality and a greater variety than the citizen of any other country. There is no question either that he spends far more for his food supply than the resident of any other land, and that the growth of his food budget has been far more rapid than the increase of his wages, great as these have been in many cases.

For several years the bureau of labor here collected information on the expenditure for food in the homes of over 2,000 workmen in different parts of the country with incomes of about the average for their class. The growing pressure of the cost of the living problem may be seen in the steady increase in the outlay of these families for food from 1907 when it was a trifle less than \$200 a year to 1907, the last year for which statistics were published, when it had advanced to \$375. Since 1907 there has been a 10 per cent further advance in food prices, so that the cost to the average workingman's household for food alone now is presumably \$410 a year. Applying this to the whole country would give the sum of \$7,300,000,000 as a food budget to which should be added the surplus outlay of the 10 per cent of the nation's households that spend double this amount in furnishing their tables which would give a total of slightly over \$8,000,000,000.

That this estimate is roughly accurate is shown by the fact that it approximates so closely the total value of food supplies produced in the country. While it is true that \$385,000,000 worth of foodstuffs were sold to foreign nations in 1911, at the same time \$253,000,000 was spent for food supplies brought from abroad, leaving to Uncle Sam's credit only the meagre balance of \$32,000,000 on this score. In 10 years our exports of foodstuffs have fallen off over 50 per cent while imports under the same heading have increased 50 per cent. If this movement continues at the same rate as in the past, it will be only two years more before Uncle Sam, who once proudly boasted of "feeding the world," will have to call upon other nations to help feed his own people.

While the manner in which the \$400 expended by the family of the average American is distributed varies greatly in different parts of the country, it is possible to give reasonably accurate estimates of some of the chief items contributing to the total. It is a familiar fact, for example, that Americans are the greatest meat eaters of the world. In a great number of American families meat forms some part of every meal, and in even the poorest homes it appears on the table for dinner at least, whereas a family of the same relative social

stratum in many European countries would not expect to eat meat oftener than once a week. In the course of a year the average American family consumes an amount of beef representing the equivalent of a yearling steer and the pork product of an average-sized pig besides smaller quantities of poultry and mutton. In very few families probably does the amount of the annual meat bill fall below \$150. In addition it takes the output of one milch cow to supply each family with its milk, butter and cheese. The expense of this feature of the American diet amounts to about \$55 a year for the average family, an investment in dairy cattle of nearly \$1,000,000,000 being required to supply this demand. With little or no range fast disappearing and the consumption of all these products increasing at a rapid rate with the growth of city population, it is small wonder that the price of all meats have gone soaring and that we export only about a third as much of these products as we did five years ago.

If each family in the United States were able to keep a flock of a dozen chickens these would just about supply the average demand for poultry and eggs. Of the latter, the average consumption is a little more than two a day for each household. Many of these are used in the manufacture of various food products and do not figure directly in the marketing bills in which these items probably amount to \$10 to \$12 a year. Since bread is the staff of life, and bread to the American means wheat almost exclusively, it is perhaps not surprising that we consumed approximately 567,000,000 bushels of wheat last year, according to official estimates. This means that seven barrels of flour were used by the average American family. Purchased in this form and prepared for consumption in the home in accordance with custom that prevailed a generation ago, this would have meant an expenditure per family of slightly over \$50. In less than half the homes of the country is bread baked at the present day, however, and the custom of patronizing the corner bakery inevitably increases the expenditure on this account to a considerable extent.

Next to meat, bread, milk, butter and eggs it is probably that sugar and coffee are articles of more nearly universal consumption in the United States than any others. Coffee is one of the few food products of which the entire supply must be purchased in other countries but this does not deter the American people from using 870,000,000 pounds of it every year, or nine and a quarter pounds for each man, woman and child in the country. The price of coffee has doubled in the past half dozen years and the expenditures for this breakfast luxury at the retail rates prevailing probably represent an outlay of about \$10 a year for each

family. Of tea, on the other hand, Americans consume relatively little, less than five and a quarter pounds being used by each family at a yearly cost of between \$2 and \$3. When it comes to sugar, it must be admitted that Americans have a very pronounced sweet tooth. They consume about 80 pounds of sugar

other half being used in manufacturing various food products. Sugar is almost the only article of general household use also that has not been subject to a marked advance in price within the past few years. Expenditures of the average family on this score amount to about \$12 a year, or just about the amount that is spent for coffee and tea. In view of the food value of sugar as a supplier of energy, this is a very moderate expenditure.

Louisiana and Texas furnish about 700,000,000 pounds additional; Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippines send 1,800,000,000 pounds. The remaining half, or 3,750,000,000 pounds, comes almost entirely from Cuba. From the economist's viewpoint sugar is of peculiar interest as the only commodity now purchased in vast quantities from foreign producers which the United States can grow from its own soil. It is claimed that if the domestic sugar industry continues to receive the encouragement

States. If the \$100,000,000 or more now sent abroad to pay for sugar were disbursed through domestic trade channels, the country's trade balance on the exchange of food commodities would be \$122,000,000 or nearly five times as great as it now is. The desirability of having Uncle Sam produce his own sugar has been widely discussed as a result of the proposal brought before congress recently for the admission of foreign sugar free of duty. Advocates of this proposal asserted that it would be better to abandon the domestic sugar industry and to purchase the entire supply abroad, claiming that this would result in a lowering of the retail price of the commodity and a saving estimated at something like a cent and a half per pound, or sixty to seventy cents a year for each person. Opponents of the plan asserted that even if such a saving could be effected it was of negligible importance compared to the disbursement of \$45,000,000 a year to the farmers and workmen of the country through the domestic industry with a prospect of ultimately increasing this to \$250,000,000 a year. Representatives of the department of agriculture lent the weight of their testimony to the view that the industry should be encouraged, pointing out, by the utilization in sugar beets one year in four of only one acre in fifty of the country's farming lands adapted to beet culture, the United States could grow its entire supply of sugar and that moreover the culture of this crop was of vast benefit to the country by increasing the yield of every crop grown in rotation with it.

One of the striking exhibits in the list of annual expenditures is the outlay of over \$50 by the average family for various forms of alcoholic refreshment. The average consumption of each individual on this score is 22.79 gallons a year of which the greater part, between twenty and twenty-one gallons is beer, Whisky and other hard liquors are used to the extent of slightly less than a gallon and a half while only two-thirds of a gallon of wines is consumed. While these items perhaps should not be included in an estimate of food costs they play a very considerable part in accounting for the disposition of the average family income.

Of tropical fruits the United States imports yearly about \$25,000,000 worth in addition to the more than \$200,000,000 represented by the vast variety of native fruits, making an annual expenditure of \$12 to \$15 by the average family for this purpose. Taking into account the expenditures of the average American family for what may be called the staple articles of diet, it appears that they amount to about \$300 a year. This does not include the amount spent for alcoholic drinks nor does it include vegetables, the supply and prices of which vary so much in different parts of the country that it is difficult to compute the average amount expended for them. Estimating the cost of vegetables at one-half the average expenditures for bread and cereals, which seems a conservative

WHAT GOES INTO THE AVERAGE AMERICAN FAMILY'S MARKET BASKET



apiece in the course of a year, or more than the people of any other country except England, and the United States as a whole uses nearly one-fifth of all the sugar produced in the world. Of the average consumption of 80 pounds, however, only about one-half

of the government as it has in the past through customs duty on the imported product, this result will be accomplished within another two decades and that this is about the only hope of keeping the balance of trade in foodstuffs favorable to the United

estimate, and adding in the liquor bill, we find that the total is \$375, which is just the amount estimated by the department of commerce and labor as the actual expenditures of typical workingmen's families in different parts of the country in 1907. Adopting the estimate of \$410 as the present expenditures this would leave a margin of only \$35 for items not enumerated.

During the summer months mothers of young children should watch for any unnatural looseness of the bowels. When given prompt attention at this time serious trouble may be avoided. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy can always be depended upon. For sale by all dealers.

HOLIDAY IN MISSOULA PLEASANT TO VISITORS

Plains, July 6.—(Special.)—This town witnessed a safe, sane and quiet Fourth in all that the words imply, for it was deserted. Missoula claims a share of the populace, the two celebrations at Camas and Pineville, attracted nearly 100 from here, and the Methodist picnic and the one at the McCully ranch west of town were well attended by Plains people. The delegation returning from Missoula today brings reports of the biggest and most successful celebration ever pulled off in western Montana. According to the statements there was something doing all the time and the streets were almost impassable, being packed with humanity. Missoula, noted for furnishing amusement and handling a crowd, eclipsed all former records. The Plains people were well pleased with the circus and the other attractions.

FRECKLE-FACE

New Remedy That Removes Freckles or Costs Nothing. Here's a chance Miss Freckle-Face, to try a new remedy for freckles with the guarantee of a reliable dealer that it will not cost you a penny unless it removes the freckles, while if it does give you a clear complexion, the expense is trifling. Simply get an ounce of othine—double strength, from George Freishelmer, and one night's treatment will show you how easy it is to rid yourself of the homely freckles and get a beautiful complexion. Rarely is more than one ounce needed for the worst case. Be sure to ask George Freishelmer for the double strength othine, as this is the only prescription sold under guarantee of money back if it fails to remove freckles.