

UNCLE SAM AS A MEDIATOR

THE Treasury Department once acted as judge in a dispute that arose between a man and wife. The two had had a spirited squabble as to the possession of several national banknotes, each holding fast to one end of the wad. A five-dollar bill was in this way torn across the middle, and each contestant carried off half of it. The department received half of the bill from the wife, who said that the other half had been destroyed, and requested a new bill. Shortly after the receipt of the wife's communication there came the second half of the bill from the husband, with a similar statement and request. As the Government then had both ends of the bill, it awarded two dollars and a half to each.

Among the most remarkable requests ever addressed to Government officials was that from a Chicago business man. A month or two before the time set for the marriage of one of his daughters, he sent to the Treasury Department a large bundle of old and torn greenbacks, requesting their redemption and the issuance in their stead of new bills in the amount of those turned in. The new bills, he stated, were to be given his daughter as a wedding present. So far the request of the Chicago business man presented no peculiar difficulty to the treasury officials; but they objected when he naively suggested that the new notes should bear in red letters on their face the full name of his daughter.

Not long ago the Secretary of Agriculture got a letter from a Western farmer, who descanted at length upon his admiration of the work done under Secretary Wilson's administration. Especially did the farmer praise the publications issued by the department for the guidance of farmers desiring to experiment with the

new preparations for inoculating the soil with chemical compounds to increase its fertility.

The writer, however, complained that he was not entirely competent to pursue the experiments himself; and so would the department be so good as to send a "professor" to him, with instructions to institute a series of experiments in the line referred to?

An Iowa farmer once complained bitterly to the Weather Bureau that its official prognostications were being discounted by the predictions of an amateur weather prophet in that State. The correspondent seemed to be laboring under the impression that the "weather on the Government maps" was copyrighted matter, and as such should be protected from parties infringing thereon. It required some little correspondence from the bureau to convince the Iowan that any man had the right to place any kind of weather on the market in the form of predictions, as long as he did not claim any official authority for so doing.

Volumes might be written with reference to the appeals made to the Patent Office by inventors, bona fide and otherwise. A favorite complaint with many inventors is that their ideas are being stolen by others. One man wrote that inadvertently he had disclosed the principle of an invention that he was then perfecting, because he had been so indiscreet as to talk in his sleep while rooming with a cousin, an unscrupulous individual, it was claimed, who would certainly attempt to forestall the real inventor. The correspondent desired to warn the Government that he would institute proceedings for damages, should the patent be issued to the person complained of.

WHY DO I FEEL SO QUEER

By MARGARET G. HAYS

Drawing by GRACE G. WIEDERSEIM



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Father gave me a bright new quarter An' said, "My son, I think you oughter Make this thing last for a day or two. I never got money when I was like you." I felt almost too pleased to speak; I thought it'd last at least a week. But that was on'y three hours ago; An' now it's all gone—an' nothin' to show. Let me see—I wonder how it went? Well, first of all I must of spent A lot for peanuts an' candy too. Now, let me see—what did I do With all the rest? A plate or two Of Hokypoky an'—yes, root beer. Gee! I wonder what makes me feel so queer?

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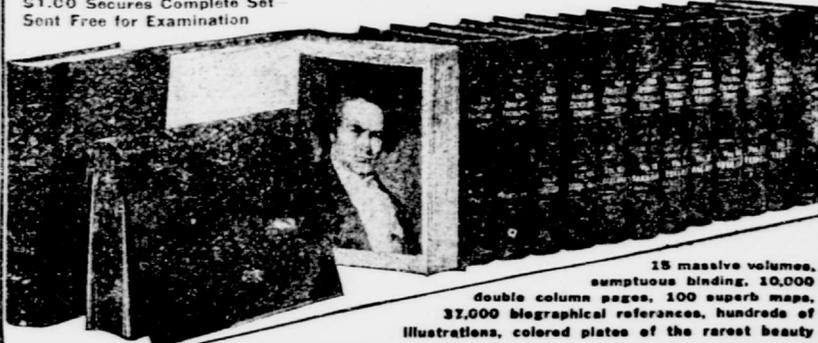
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