THE MAIN ROAD, TWO MILES FROM CLEVELAND.

THE COUNTRY ROADS.

Those in This Country Said to Be the Worst in the World.

A PROPOSED COMMISSION.

A Movement to Secure a Good System of Highways, Partly Under National and Partly Under Local Supervision—The Economic Side of the Case.

THE COMMON ROADS and country highways in the United States, says John Gilmer Speed in *Harper's Weekly*, are worse than those to be found in any other country in the world pretending to be civilized and enjoying a stable form of government. "Even in colonial times," the writer continues, "the necessity to make better the condition of the common roads was seriously felt, and in those parts of the country settled by particularly long-headed people, as, for instance, in the neighborhood of Boston, there have always been pretty good public highways. But, as a rule, all over the country, from then till now we have been content with dirt roads, which in the winter are muddy quagmires and in summer streaks of dust. Both Washington and Hamilton, after the establishment of the republic, appreciated fully the importance of a general system of common highways. Washington recommended to Patrick Henry, then governor of Virginia, that the location, the building and the repairs of roads be taken out of the hands of the local authorities; for he saw, what we see yet more clearly today, that where our highways are left to the tender mercies of the local authorities they are mismanaged, badly built and even in their worst condition harmed by any attempts to make them better. This is not because these local authorities would not like to have good roads, but it is because they have no means with which to do much better than is done, and if they did have the means they lack the requisite knowledge, without which no decent roads can be built or managed."

The article refers to the movement begun in recent years in favor of the betterment of country roads and says: "The most active promoters of this movement have been the members and the committees of the League of American Wheelmen, or, in other words, the bicycle riders of the country. These gentlemen have been ceaseless and energetic in their work, which promises in the near future to be rich with good results. At the outset, and even at this time to some extent, these gentlemen have been somewhat handicapped by the lack of esteem of the farming communities.

"The farmers have always had to pay for building and repairing roads in this country, even when these roads happened to lead from one prosperous town to another. Very naturally these people, already overburdened by

A FRENCH ROAD—ON THE WAY TO MARKET.

direct and indirect taxation, have felt very indisposed to take any action which should add to that already heavy burden. Any effort to secure co-operation in road improvement must provide that the cost of such improvement shall not fall entirely upon them. Unless this be made entirely clear, from the farmers there will always be an active and stubborn opposition.

"Strange though it may seem, the farmers, as a rule, take less interest in this matter of road improvement than any other people. Very few of them are travelers and very few realize how bad the country roads are. They have never had better roads than those which exist today, nor did their fathers or grandfathers. Conservative men that they are, they feel that what was good enough in the olden time is good enough today.

PROPOSED SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION.

"It has been suggested that the American roads be placed under a system of government supervision and be divided somewhat as the French roads are:

"First, national roads. These to be built and maintained by the general government and be located with reference to military and postal requirements.

"Second, state roads. These to be built and maintained by the several states, and connect the various localities of the states, and be planned with reference to the national roads.

"Third, county or neighborhood roads. These to be built and maintained by counties and townships, and be located with reference to the classes just mentioned.

"Those who advocate this idea say that if our common roads were improved by some such plan as this we should soon have them in charge of competent and educated engineers. The national roads would probably be in charge of army engineers, the state roads in charge of engineers graduated from the agricultural and mechanical schools, and the neighborhood roads in charge of local men, who, once having had the example set them of how good roads are built, would be entirely competent to do what is usually necessary to be done in making a road of lesser importance. But even under such a plan as this each county should have an engineer to design the difficult work, determine upon location of routes and inspect constructions and repairs. Strange as it may seem, the proper location of a country highway presents to the engineer more complex problems than the location of a railroad. Country people do not understand this and are not willing to believe it; therefore the cross-roads storekeeper and the village blacksmith are usually thought to be entirely competent to decide upon the best route for a country road.

THE ECONOMIC ASPECT.

"The condition of the common roads has a very interesting economic bearing of a direct nature, and an indirect one not less important. In the matter of the earning capacity and value of horses and other draught animals the common roads have direct effect. If a horse can do one-third more work on a good road and be in a working condition one-third longer than he can on a bad road then his earning capacity, and hence his value, is increased just one-third. This assumption is based upon a very low estimate. In all probability, if it were possible to make an exact calculation, it would be found that the earning capacity and the total length of serviceable life of draught animals would be more nearly doubled than increased only one-third. The census enumerators of 1890 found that there were in this country 14,213,837 horses, valued at $68 each; 2,331,027 mules, valued at $78 each, and 36,849,024 oxen and other draught animals, valued at $15 each—making a total of 53,393,888 animals used on the roads, at a total value of $1,721,585,798. All these horses and mules work at some time on the roads, and, indeed, much the greater part of the total work done by them is upon country roads and city streets. If all the work done by them was upon the roads, the increased valuation, based upon the above hypothesis of earning capacity, would be $573,845,266, but as all the work is not done on the roads, it is only fair to reduce this by one-half, and then we would have, by a general improvement of the roads of the country, our property in horses and mules and other draught animals increased in value $2,866,922,633. I have no figures showing the value of carriages, buggies, and other road vehicles in this country. To put their value at $500,000,000 would be placing it very low, and there would be no chance to say that the estimate or guess was exaggerated. Taking into consideration the cost of repairs necessitated by reason of bad roads and the shortened serviceable life to such vehicles, I feel safe in assuming that with good roads these vehicles would last one-half longer, and their value, therefore, be increased at least $250,000,000. Taking these two sources of increased valuation together, we should have an enhanced property valuation of $536,922,633, all brought about by the improvement of the common roads.

THE COST OF A GOOD SYSTEM.

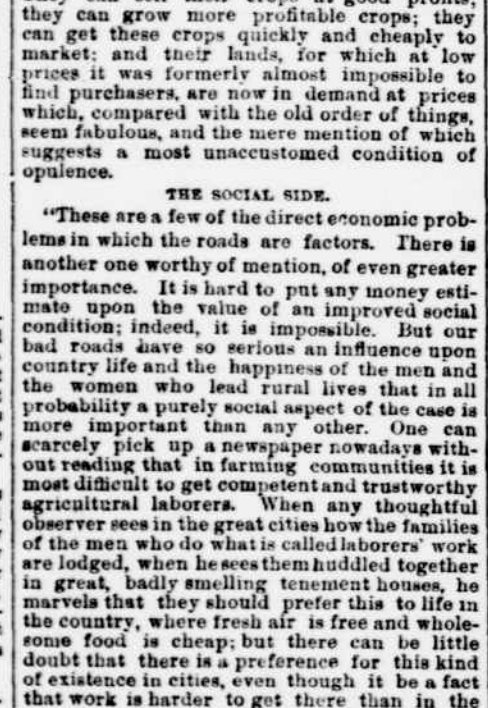
"Now let us see what it would cost to do the necessary work so that such savings could be made. It has been estimated by the authorities of the state of New York that with $10,000,000 the roads in the entire state could be put in very good condition. The roads in New

AMERICAN MUD ROAD.

York are not better than they are in other states. They are a great deal worse than in some of the New England states, for instance, and I therefore assume that this estimate can be followed as a guide in determining what would be needed to complete in the whole country excellent roads, which, once constructed, could be cheaply and easily maintained. Considering the area of New York and the density of population, and using these figures in the problem, I estimate that $400,000,000 would give us a good system of common roads all over the country. This is a great deal of money, but it doesn't seem great compared with the values which would be enhanced by its wise expenditure. And right here it may be noted that the cost of maintaining and repairing a highway properly constructed in the first instance ought never to be greater for a year than 1 per cent of its first cost. In the two items of horses and vehicles, as I have shown, the increased value of these properties would more than pay for the improvement; but it is not the greatest value by any means. The effect upon the horses and vehicles used on roads would be more immediate and more direct, and therefore I have called particular attention to this phase of the subject. The enhancement of the value of real estate would be so great that the items I have mentioned would seem so insignificant as not to be worth discussing. In one neighborhood alone—that of Union county, New Jersey—the improvement of the roads has changed values so greatly that men who a few years ago were struggling farmers, with earnings so scant that it was difficult to make two ends meet, are now not only well-to-do, but absolutely rich. They can sell their crops at good profits; they can grow more profitable crops; they can get these crops quickly and cheaply to market; and their lands, for which at low prices it was formerly almost impossible to find purchasers, are now in demand at prices which, compared with the old order of things, seem fabulous, and the mere mention of which suggests a most unaccustomed condition of opulence.

THE SOCIAL SIDE.

"These are a few of the direct economic problems in which the roads are factors. There is another one worthy of mention, of even greater importance. It is hard to put any money estimate upon the value of an improved social condition; indeed, it is impossible. But our bad roads have so serious an influence upon country life and the happiness of the men and the women who lead rural lives that in all probability a purely social aspect of the case is more important than any other. One can scarcely pick up a newspaper nowadays without reading that in farming communities it is most difficult to get competent and trustworthy agricultural laborers. When any thoughtful observer sees in the great cities how the families of the men who do what is called laborers' work are lodged, when he sees them huddled together in great, badly smelling tenement houses, he marvels that they should prefer this to life in the country, where fresh air is free and wholesome food is cheap; but there can be little doubt that there is a preference for this kind of existence in cities, even though it be a fact that work is harder to get there than in the country, and not a bit more regular. Not only is this the case with laborers, but we find, whenever we choose to inquire, that the best youths born of country families early begin to feel a hankering for town life. If they stayed at home to till the soil or fields there would not be this scarcity of agricultural laborers which has just



FRENCH STONE ROAD.

been noted; but no sooner does an adventuresome youth in the country begin to feel the down upon his cheeks changing into whiskers than he is fired with an ambition to go to some city and become a member of the great bustle and strife which the close competition of men with men produces. This doesn't mean that he is afraid of the hard work that has to be done on the farm, for none but a fool would believe that a man to succeed even moderately does not have to work just as hard in town as in the country, and farmers' boys are not fools—at least they have not proved themselves to be in America, for the great majority of our distinguished and successful men have been recruited not from the colleges and universities of learning, but from these very fields which now suffer because there are not men enough to cultivate them.

A PROJECT BEFORE CONGRESS.

"Among those who conspicuously advocate the idea that the national government should take a part and lead in this matter of road improvement is Gen. Roy Stone of New York, the engineer and inventor. The restless activity of Gen. Stone's mind has been directed to this problem for many years, and he has recently secured the co-operation of several prominent statesmen in Washington in a project soon to be formulated in a bill to be brought before Congress. This bill proposes the formation of a national highway commission, which shall examine the whole subject, formulate a plan for a national school of roads and bridges and make an exhibit at the world's fair.

"The suggestion that it shall be shown during the world's fair that America is alive to the necessity of improving her interior method of communication is particularly happy. It is true that the larger proportion of foreign visitors who will come to America in 1893 will see only such highways as railroads and city streets, but those who come really to study us and to measure our civilization and general progress will go further afield, and they, of course, will see the disgraceful condition of our common roads. It will be well worth while to show to such as these that we are alive to the importance of the subject and aware of the reproach of our wretched ways."

MADE A MAN BY A SOUND THRASHING.

An Unpublished Incident in the Life of Gov. Carlin.

From the Chicago Tribune.

A few days ago an incident in the life of Gov. Carlin came to light which has never yet found its way into print, which is undoubtedly true and which illustrates most forcibly the greatness of the man. John C. Reeves, the receiver of the land office at Shawneetown, was sent to Edwardsville to take temporary charge of the office there. Reeves was a powerfully muscular man, over six feet tall, an athlete and a "sure shot." A collage graduate, he had been sent west to take charge of the Shawneetown land office, but spent much of his time in supervising other offices and disentangling the affairs when complications caused by inefficient officers arose. He was quiet and reserved, yet withal a genial companion when once he became well acquainted. He boarded at the "tavern," but spent nearly all of his time when not eating or sleeping in the office, so that he made few acquaintances in the town. One evening he went to supper, and upon entering the office (bar room it was then called) he noticed sitting in a chair a small-sized man, who would not weigh more than 125 pounds, and who apparently was sick. In a few moments the door opened and in stalked a man fully as large and muscular as Reeves. He looked around the room a moment, then went up to the sick man, who was a stranger to him, made some remark and closed by slapping him in the face with his open hand, but in such a violent manner as to knock him off of the chair. As the invalid arose Mr. Reeves expostulated with the assailant, who at once informed him that if he did not like it he "could have some of the same medicine." The words were scarcely out of his mouth when Reeves, with one bound, jumped from his chair and dealt the man a blow in the face that sent him sprawling over a chair and on to the floor; he followed up the blow by jumping on the prostrate form of the man and raining blows upon his face with almost lightning-like rapidity. The noise brought the landlord and one or two others to the scene, who, by main strength, pulled Reeves from his victim. The latter arose, looked around, and staggered out. Then there was such consternation as had not been known in Edwardsville for a long time. Mr. Reeves was informed that the man he had assaulted was none other than Tom Carlin, the recognized "bully" of all that county, a man of whom all persons were afraid, though all admitted that when sober he was a good citizen. Mr. Reeves did not seem to be at all alarmed, but went about his business as usual.

The evening of the third day, while he was alone in his office, in walked a man with a bruised and bandaged face, who looked very much as though he had been in a cyclone. "Are you Mr. Reeves?" he asked. "Yes, that is my name; what can I do for you?" "My name's Tom Carlin. I'm the fellow you whipped at the tavern the other night and I came in to say that you done right; I was a coward to knock that sick man over and I deserved all I got." "I am very glad that you feel that way about it," replied Reeves. "Well, I do, and I'm in earnest. Now, say, I've been a bully just as long as I want to be; I want to learn to read and write and cipher and try to make a man of myself, and I want you to help me if you will." Mr. Reeves expressed not only his willingness, but also the pleasure it would give him to teach Carlin while he remained in Edwardsville. Every night Carlin was on hand and he was a most apt pupil. Reeves, however, did not remain long, but soon after he left Carlin married a woman who was quite well educated, and he pursued his studies under her tuition. It was no easy matter for him to break away from the companions with whom he had so long associated, but he had the moral courage to do so, and removed to Greene county. He was the first sheriff of that county, and located its present county seat and donated considerable land for public purposes. He was twice elected to the state senate, and in 1838 was elected as the sixth governor of the state. It is said he always regarded Reeves as one of his best friends, and, as sheriff, senator and governor, frequently consulted him as to private and public affairs.

A WORD FOR TRAMPS.

They Are Not All Bummers, as Has Been Supposed.

From Harper's Weekly.

The tramp takes many chances of accident in his mode of traveling. He is subject not only to the ordinary risks which all passengers assume, but from the class of trains on which he generally rides, the places he takes on the cars and his poor opportunities of entering and leaving them in safety, to others which the regular passenger escapes. A great number are annually killed while riding between the express and mail cars or on the brake beams.

In event of a collision they have infinitely less chance than the passengers in the coaches of escaping unharmed. In mounting moving cars many of them are killed. I recently saw one with his upper arm bone broken, the accident having occurred while in the act of climbing into a moving box car. Another, in showing some boys how proficient he was in seating himself on the brake beam after the train had started, put his foot under the wheel, and as a result lost his leg above the knee. Every railway surgeon sees similar accidents with greater or less frequency.

One should not fall into the popular error of thinking that all tramps are professional "bummers." I think that perhaps a majority of those whom I see are men who are going to some other point in search of work. Many of these are employed by farmers and ranchmen living in the vicinity of the railroads at such times of the year as they need assistance and several employers have told me that they were generally very good help.

I have repeatedly known of tramps seeking work who had worthless time checks in their pockets from previous dishonest employers. It would be doing a very grave injustice to these men to class them with ordinary vagrants. But a large proportion never do any work when it may by any possibility be avoided.

The aggregate number of tramps in the country must be enormous. I have repeatedly seen them in gangs of from six to fifteen and those of two or three are met with continually. At remote points on railroads, freight trains have been repeatedly captured by organized gangs of these men, and the trainmen forced to accommodate the members as the leader directed. It is a sad commentary on our economical system that the number seems to be constantly increasing.

There are certain things that we may learn from the tramp, and one in particular that would be valuable to us all. The Americans are, I presume, the most impatient of any race of people. But the American tramp is a second Job. If he does not succeed in stealing a ride on the train on which he has fondly calculated for two days, he does the most philosophical thing there is for him to do—that is, he waits a day or two more. If he does not get anything to eat today, he hopes for better luck tomorrow.

If the impatient conductor of his particular train orders him off he occasionally gets a little provoked, but much more commonly he says something to the effect that "he guesses he can if he has to," and acts accordingly. In all these things and a thousand others he shows a development of patience and fortitude we all might do well to emulate.

Condition of the Hebrews Growing Worse.

A St. Petersburg dispatch says that the condition of the Hebrews within the pale becomes worse daily. The government does not allow them under any circumstances to leave the bounds of the pale. They are unable to obtain work and there is much suffering among them. An enormous death roll is only averted by the continuous charity of rich English Hebrews.

The minister of the interior has directed the government of the pale to report as to the prospects of Jewish immigration in the spring.

A. L. Rogers, murderer, sentenced to be hanged today, has been respited to April 15 by Gov. Hogg of Texas.

False Economy

Is practiced by many people, who buy inferior articles of food because cheaper than standard goods. Surely infants are entitled to the best food obtainable. It is a fact that the Gail Borden "Eagle" Brand Condensed Milk is the best infant food. Your grocer and druggist keep it.

A JAPANESE TEA.

The Forms and Ceremonies That Are Required to Be Observed.

THE DUTIES OF THE HOST.

They Are Made a Test of His Culture, His Taste and His Entertaining Powers—The Occasion Calls for the Exercise of the Highest Intellectual Ability.

Written for The Evening Star.

TO MOST FOREIGNERS who have visited Japan it is surprising that in the literature concerning that country there is no complete description of its highest form of social entertainment, and which, too, in its details is perhaps the most esthetic that the world has ever known. In the light of European civilization it is difficult to conceive of an entertainment which may be styled a rite, and as such observed with special forms and in particular places, whose purpose is metaphysical and in which student, soldier or statesman seeks contemplation or development of ideas upon any subject, no matter its nature; by which culture, fine manners and purity of life are promoted, and for the enjoyment of which the guest must possess culture of the highest order, familiarity with etiquette, fine conversational powers, an appreciation of the beautiful, and the accomplishment of arranging flowers, plants and paintings for the most charming effects.

HOW SUCCESS IS MEASURED.

The guest at a formal tea in the Japanese capital is always sure that the beverage will be of the finest quality; but the host measures his success not by the preparation of his tea, but by the proper observance of certain forms in serving it, without which his entertainment is simply a feast, pleasing in its order and beauty, but failing in its object because of its length, ceremonial and lack of excitement.

Japanese historians state that this social feature was an importation from China along with the tea plant; that it was first practiced by old men living in retirement, who went out among the hills, taking with them only the barest necessities, and, selecting a beautiful place, built a pavilion, in which, forgetting the cares of life, they contemplated the exquisite scenery before them. Whatever led to purity of thought, such as the gods, flowers, trees, became a theme of conversation. Generals and other high officials sought in its observance the quiet and concentration of mind necessary for solving a successful maneuver. A code for it was written during the thirteenth century by Shirks, a noted scholar and man of refinement; two centuries later it was revised by Hideyashi, famous in Japan as a warrior and statesman, since whose time it has remained as then systematized. There are five or more forms of the formal tea, but that called senke is the most popular. The ceremonies differ for summer and winter and vary with the quality of tea used. Of the latter there are two varieties, known as Koi-cha and Usu-cha, the use of the former requiring greater ceremony than that of the latter. In either case the tea is powdered.

WHERE THE TEA IS GIVEN.

The tea is given in one room of a house separate from the residence and specially devoted to the purpose. In cities such house stands on a lot bordered by a thick hedge, but in the country it is built on a summit that commands a beautiful landscape. In both cases the grounds are a flower garden of unusual beauty. The house is built of the finest wood, the roof is shingled and the workmanship throughout of the highest order. The tea chamber measures fourteen by twenty-seven feet; the ceiling is of wood and the walls white or light gray in color; the matting is of the finest quality and in the center should be an opening for a fire-bowl in winter. A raised platform in one corner is used for flowers and plants in rare pots or vases. Roll pictures, ancient scrolls or other curious manuscript are displayed on pillars of sandal wood or ebony. Another corner accommodates a rare screen, between the leaves of which hang the kama, a kettle of quaint design, made of very thick iron. Beneath it is a low stand on which, in white ashes, are live charcoals. The water used is pure and is drawn from a spring set apart for the formal tea. Near at hand is a cabinet of mulberry three feet high and containing three shelves, on which are jars of powdered tea, a box of incense and a white feather brush. Beneath is a vessel of fresh water.

Two other rooms are required to complete a building so unique in purpose. One is a prettily designed reception room and the other an apartment in which the utensils are arranged in order of use.

RECEPTION OF THE GUESTS.

The tea does not last longer than two hours. Invitations are written and sent by messenger for noon, 4 p. m. or 6 a. m., as the host may wish. Whatever the hour, full dress is the costume. The guests on arrival are received in a pavilion in the garden, in a reception room or else in the gallery about the tea chamber. A few minutes are spent in conversation, in admiring the landscape or the flowers, if in town, that beautify the grounds. They are now shown to the tea chamber by the host, the guests entering in order of age, while the host kneels without.

Now is the crucial moment for the host, whose wealth and accomplishments may be said to be on exhibition. The proverbial pride of our grandmothers in displaying their rarest china is more than surpassed by that which he feels in the beauty, richness and splendor of his wares, bowls and furniture. His pottery, hanging pictures, flowers and vases are examined critically by the guests, who, in native fashion, sit during such time on the heels. So that the host has virtually invited a brilliant company to pass judgment upon his culture and refinement.

The hanging pictures are inscribed, if possible. As the characters are those used by the ancient scholars of Japan a classical education is required to understand them.

Love of flowers is one of the most pleasing characteristics of the Japanese, and the arrangement of them in the tea chamber is studied carefully by the guests, especially with respect to the weather and the light of the room. Their effects in color are exhibited in the most ingenious manner. Transparent bowls are used, some plain and others of the richest hue. They are partially filled with water, on the surface of which float the most exquisite blossoms. They are then exposed to the several conditions of light in such positions that the prismatic hues reflected from the bowls blend with the rich colors of the flower and present effects indescribably beautiful. A similar exposure is made with the blossoms beneath the surface, and with resulting combinations that afford still richer hues and more dazzling spectra.

PREPARED FOR THE CONTEMPLATIVE STATE.

After this interchange of artistic ideas and the mental refreshment due to the inspection and study of the beautiful the guest's mind is freed from care and prepared for the contemplative state suited to the very intellectual conversation at a later hour. The flower exhibit finished the guests seat themselves in a semicircle; the host proceeds to the door of the room, and bowing smilingly remarks, "The honor of your company is a source of much pleasure. I shall now make the fire." After a short absence he returns with a basket of charcoal, a pair of tongs, two spiral-shaped handles for the kettle, a tea bowl, a ladle, a spoon for the tea, a bamboo whisk stirrer and a purple silk cloth for wiping each vessel before use. In preparing the fire beneath the kama the charcoal is arranged in a special way. In all parts of the formal tea the positions of the utensils and the movements of the host are regulated by code. Incense is burned to dispel the odor of the charcoal.

At this stage refreshments are served in a prettily decorated room apart from the tea chamber. The dainty cups, bowls and other wares, the silken napkins, the lacquered stools and trays—the former square in shape with a rim around the edge—on which the dishes are placed, form a most inviting scene. One course is invariably rice, and the last a rare confection or fruit. The host attends the tables himself. He does not eat with his guests, but receives from each choice morsels of food on the palms of his hands. At the end of the last course he engages each guest in short conversation and then retires, leaving his company to inspect his ancient pictures and rare bric-a-brac. Etiquette allows the guest to carry away such part of the dainties as he may wish. To this end the sweetmeat is wrapped in white paper, though the latter may be decorated if desirable.

ENTERING THE TEA CHAMBER.

In the second part of the formal tea the guests enter the tea chamber and inspect the new flowers and pictures that have been placed there during their absence. The host then appears in the doorway, and bowing, seats himself in front of the tea utensils. The guests are also seated according to age and reputation as master of tea ceremonies. Before making the tea the host wipes each vessel with the purple silk. He then puts a spoonful of powdered tea into a richly ornamented bowl, pours boiling water from the kama upon the powder and stirs the whole with the bamboo whisk until it creams. A richly dressed boy then serves it to the guests, who, on receiving the cup, place it in the right hand, steady it with the left, inspect its decorations, raise it to the lips, and while drinking bring the body into an erect position. The host is served last of all. His role is difficult to perform, and upon its execution depends his reputation as a master of this formal ceremony.

The tea concludes with a conversazione very intellectual and refined, the subjects being such as the culture of the company may suggest. Philosophy, religion, metaphysics and similar themes always interest these cultivated people, who are ever ambitious for further information and advancement.

Since the establishment of the mikado in his temporal power the customs and manners of Europe have supplanted, in no little degree, that of the native civilization. This foreign craze has subsided, however, and along with archery and the native polo, the formal tea figures as a notable selection for embodiment in the new culture. It is not probable that the dress, manners and architecture of the ancient codes will be retained in future years; for the principles of this formal entertainment are readily adapted to foreign ceremonies, a fact which will cause, perhaps, the elimination of the more rigid forms and the survival of the more beautiful ones.

HOW TO APPRECIATE JAPANESE THOUGHT.

To appreciate properly the spirit of Japanese thought and custom it must be regarded from the oriental point of view. The religions, laws and civilization of the island empire must be understood. To this Mr. Edwin Arnold has contributed greatly in the "Light of Asia," in which are portrayed the life, character and philosophy of Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, and in whose empire of belief Japan is a conspicuous state. Mr. Arnold says: "More than a third of mankind owe their moral and religious ideas to this illustrious prince, whose personality, though imperfectly revealed in the existing sources of information, cannot but appear the highest, gentlest, holiest and most beneficent, with one exception, in the history of thought."

The other or state religion of Japan is Shintuism, which originated in China, and whose tenets are a pure materialism, making nature to begin with the "premier principe materiel" of the French. This principle, which a noted orientalist maintains is equivalent to reason, pervaded chaos, and, operating upon itself, was resolved into the dual powers corresponding to mind and matter, an idea that has been compared to the masculo-feminine principle in the development of the mundane egg in Egyptian cosmogony. This idea was entertained among the Hindus also, and the Androgyn of Plato was only another form of this myth. In its higher forms Shintuism may be regarded as a cultured and intellectual deism.

LONDON BARMAIDS.

Industrious and Respectable Girls Whose Lot Is Not Entirely Enviable.

From the London Times.

Many people, we believe, entertain the notion that the career of a barmaid, on the whole, is a rather sparkling and lightsome one, abounding in sprightly incident. Among non-frequenters of public houses, whose acquaintance with the internal administration of these busy establishments is exclusively derived from their inner consciousness, the impression prevails that the light labors of the ministering damsel who dispenses alcohol to whomsoever is prepared to pay for that inflammatory refreshment are enlivened by cheerful gossip and graceful pleasantries interchanged with her employer's male clients; that she is the object of delicate flattery and sedulous attention; that when she happens to be more than usually comely of face and figure she is continually in receipt of rich and tasteful gifts betokening the high regard in which her charms are held by a host of fervid admirers. To those who see her in their mind's eye, by the light of these imaginings, it does not appear in the least unlikely that she should eventually bestow her fair hand upon a gay young sprig of fashion or sporting scion of some historic house. On the other hand, from the point of view entertained by the "unco' guid," who appear always to think as badly as may be of their fellow creatures, she is "a snare for the feet of the unwary," a bold, bedizzened "daughter of Heth," an incorporate temptation to overindulgence in intoxicating liquor. Thus, in the fancy of some of those who know nothing about her, she stands depicted as a frank and radiant Hebe; in that of others, as a wily and lurid Delilah.

The real barmaid of ordinary commerce had scarcely any characteristic, save now and then that of good looks, in common with either of these ideal dispensers of liquid refection. As a rule she is an industrious, honest and respectable girl, of humble origin and rudimentary education, overworked and underpaid, debarred from all the luxuries and many of the comforts of existence, compelled to eat her rations of coarse food in a hurry and to sleep in a sordid garret, often after having been on her feet, with a few brief intervals of rest, for from fourteen to fifteen hours of the day and night. As a matter of fact, few young bread earners of the female sex in this country have a more laborious or duller time of it, week in, week out, than barmaids. Their work is peculiarly fatiguing, and their hours are exceptionally long. While they are "on duty"—that is to say, in many cases, from 8 or 9 in the forenoon until midnight—there is always something for them to do. When they are not engaged in serving customers, taking money and giving change, functions calling for the exercise of considerable dexterity and watchfulness, they are "cleaning up" the ever-recurring liquor stains of the bedabbled counter or keeping up a high polish on the metal and glass ornaments and appointments of the bar.

In establishments enjoying local favor, where business is usually brisk from morning until night, barmaids have no leisure whatsoever—no time to indulge in gossip, to listen to compliments or even to pay the most cursory attention to the rough and vulgar "chaff" which certain classes of public house haunters and "loafers at the bar" are in the habit of addressing to the defenseless young women employed to supply them with drink. These girls, moreover, many of whom have been brought up in decent homes by well-conducted and law-abiding parents, are under the daily necessity of witnessing scenes of brutal violence, in which men and women alike give the rein to their worst instincts, and of hearing the outbursts of foul language that are too frequently prompted by alcoholic excitement. Tipplers and dram drinkers of the lower orders seldom give a thought to the feelings of the "girl behind the bar" or place any restraint upon their free flow of invective in order to spare her offense or annoyance. She, for her part, is bound to put up with their utterances, however abominable, lest she should offend her master's customers, thereby incurring his displeasure and exposing herself to the risk of sudden and peremptory dismissal.

The Origin of a Gambler's Expression.

From the Helena Independent.

"There must be a dead Indian under the house." How many times that has been said across the gambling table in Helena! And yet how few people know the origin of the expression! Its meaning was well known, however, as nobody was heard to use it unless the cards were against him.

Still, for all that, a dead Indian, or what was left of him after his dust had mingled with the soil his forefathers owned, lay under one of the gambling houses of Helena, from the time the building was erected until a short time ago. In digging the foundation for the Exchange in the early days of the town an Indian grave was found. Rather than disturb the bones the builder concluded to let them rest there. The house went up and for years the cards were shuffled and dealt over the last resting place of the red man. The proprietor of the house knew he was there, and whenever luck ran against the game it became the custom of the dealers to lay the blame on the "dead Indian." By and by people who were playing against the bank took up the expression, and when a steady run of bad luck followed them it was the custom to remark, "There must be a dead Indian under the house." Twice within the past six months the Exchange has closed its doors for lack of funds or other sufficient causes. When the present owner decided to improve the building he concluded that he would move the Indian, and it was done.

Took Poison to Escape the Gallows.

Ben Gano, the wife murderer, at Mount Gilead, Ohio, is dead. He was convicted Thursday of last week of murder in the first degree. Thursday a motion for a new trial was argued and overruled, and at 9 o'clock yesterday the court ordered the sheriff to bring Gano into court to receive his sentence of death. On going to jail the prisoner was discovered in the agonies of death. He had poisoned himself, thus fulfilling his threat that he would never hang.

A false report was put in circulation to the effect that San Antonio is in a bankrupt condition.

REAL ESTATE GOSSIP.

Fine New Buildings for Business and Residence Purposes.

BUILDING ACTIVITY ALONG THE UPPER END OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE—A LARGE ADDITION TO THE OFFICE FACILITIES OF THE CITY—OTHER NEW BUILDINGS.

RATHER SPARSELY built up is the section of the city through which New Hampshire avenue passes from Q street north to the Boundary. The lack of houses in this locality has been the more noticeable because it lies in the center of a rather populous locality. On the east there is 14th and 15th and 16th streets with the cross streets lined with buildings, and on the west side is Connecticut avenue, 19th street and other streets which are well built up. Although New Hampshire avenue is paved and is adorned with rows of trees and parking, yet for a number of years past the residence erected by Mr. Walter Paris, just north of S street, stood alone, serving as a landmark for that locality. There have been several explanations given to account for this apparent neglect, but as is frequently the case, they fail to explain. However, a change has taken place and before the close of the present season it is probable that a number of improvements will be made in that locality. The large apartment house which is located just north of S street is nearing completion and its size makes it rather a conspicuous object. Several corner lots on the avenue have been purchased, as stated in THE STAR, by persons who intend to build, and one or two houses are now going up. Plans are being prepared for several others. Mr. Myer Cohen intends to build a handsome residence for his own use on S street just west of New Hampshire avenue. It will be three stories in height, the lower portion being built of brown stone and the upper of brick in combination with stone. A circular bay window will extend to the third story, where it will be finished with an open balcony. An attractive feature of the front will be the stone porch, which will be quite spacious, with steps at the side leading to the platform. Through a fine vestibule the main door leads into a roomy entrance hall, which will extend back until it widens out into a reception hall. From this point a generous platform staircase will lead to the upper stories. On the left of the hall will be the parlor and back of this the reception hall, which will be lighted in part by a window looking out into the rear yard. Farther to the rear will be the dining room, with a pantry connected, which leads into the kitchen. The entire first floor will be finished in hard wood and will be equipped, as will in fact the entire house, with all the modern appliances which contribute to the comforts of home. The two upper floors will be arranged in a convenient style and the architect, Mr. Von Nerta, has so planned the interior as to utilize in the best manner the advantages afforded by a southern front exposure.

OTHER PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS.

The lot adjoining the property of Mr. Cohen on the east is owned by Mr. Jacob Bool and he has announced his intention of building a house there. On the opposite side of the street it is stated that W. E. Boulter intends to build a house for his own use, while around the corner, on New Hampshire avenue, Mr. Le Roy M. Taylor is credited with the intention of putting up a house. It has been stated that Mr. Louis P. Shoemaker intends to build a residence on the corner of New Hampshire avenue and Riggs street and Mr. William H. Hoeke proposes to make a similar improvement at the S street corner. A new house is being erected on New Hampshire avenue just north of R street and one is being built just north of S street, while around the corner to the east on S street a row of two or three houses is going up. As may be seen there is a good deal of building activity in this locality, which is partly notable because it is rather unusual in that immediate vicinity.

AN AVENUE OFFICE BUILDING.

It has not been common in recent years to report the erection of large buildings on Pennsylvania avenue. Property owners seem to be pretty well satisfied with the improvements as they now stand. However, the interiors of the buildings are constantly being refitted and adapted for modern purposes, so that after all Pennsylvania avenue keeps up pretty well with the procession. There will, however, be a change made in the course of a few weeks in the property at the northwest corner of the avenue and 6th street that will give a genuine modern tone to that section of the avenue. The old building now there, which, by the way, is rather historic, as it is connected with the careers of distinguished statesmen in the past who sought there the refreshment for the cares of state, which a well-kept restaurant is liable to afford, is to be torn down. In its place will rise a stately modern building, the stone and brick combined in attractive design throughout the six stories, so as to make it a thing of architectural beauty. At least that is the purpose of the architect, Mr. James G. Hill, who also has in view providing suitable office rooms for the Atlantic Coast Line Company. Special attention will be paid in the plan of this building to the wants of this company, for the very good reason that they happen to be owners of the property and intend to supply the money needed for the erection of the building. The entire floor space, however, will not be needed by the company and it is the intention to lease out some of the upper floors.

NEW OFFICE BUILDINGS.

There are not many office buildings in that locality, but it is probable there will be more before the close of the season. The large building of the Central Bank on the corner to the west has been used for this purpose ever since it was remodeled and now the National Capital Investment Company has made arrangements to erect a large office building on Louisiana avenue between 4½ and 6th streets. The demand for office room is evidently on the increase, as there will be quite an addition to the accommodations of this class during the present season. The building at the southeast corner of 6th and F streets is to be remodeled according to plans prepared by W. Bruce Gray. The first two floors of this building are now used for offices, but the upper floors were especially designed for the use of the Georgetown Law School. This school has removed to its new building and the opportunity will be availed of to make such changes in the interior of the building as will better adapt it for office uses. Then the building formerly occupied by the Carroll Institute on F street near 6th is being remodeled by the new owners and when the alterations are completed it will be available for offices. Mr. W. Bruce Gray is preparing designs for a handsome six-story office building which Dr. Toner intends to erect on F street between 11th and 12th streets. The front will be built of buff and light stone, and the design is very attractive and will make a handsome addition to the architecture of that locality. Adjoining this building on the west it is proposed by the Morgan estate to put up a handsome building, the upper floors of which will be available for office purposes. Then, at the corner, a fine building is being erected, which has been leased by Mr. G. Warfield Simpson. He will find space to accommodate his large business and, at the same time, be able to offer some portions of the building for rent. The large buildings that are being erected by Mr. McGill on G street near 9th and by the Ohio National Bank at 12th and G streets will also furnish additions to the office facilities of the city.

MR. BIEBER'S NEW STORE.

A good business building has been erected by Mr. S. Bieber at 903-909 8th street southeast. It has a frontage of 67 feet and a depth of 80 feet and is three stories in height. The front is of brick and the entire plan of the building is made so as to adapt the building especially for the clothing business which is carried on there.

MRS. RUTHERFORD'S HOUSE.

A handsome house is being built for Mrs. James A. Rutherford at 2013 O street. The design, which was made by W. J. Marsh, architect, is a pleasing type of house architecture. The front is of red brick in combination with Seneca stone, and is enriched by a deep frieze of fluted brick of delicate pattern. There is a colonial simplicity about this frieze which does not impair the rather rich and pleasing effect. Above is a straight cornice of plain details. The octagonal bay is continued to the third story, where it is finished with a band of fluted brick similar in design to that of the frieze, and surmounted with an open balcony. The platform steps leading to the main entrance is protected by a handsome railing of wrought iron. The interior plan gives a spacious effect to a house that is 21 feet front and 47 feet deep. There is a wide entrance hall, which opens out into a central hall, where the staircase is located. The hall separates the parlor from the dining room and there is an uninterrupted vista through the entire depth of the house, in order to avoid shutting off any light from the rear. The pantry is at the side of the dining room and is taken from the width of that room. It is large enough to allow space for a back staircase. The fireplaces in the parlor, hall and dining room are in the corners and the one in the hall is faced with mottled brick. The others are tiled. The china closet in the dining room is made a part of the finish of the room. On the second floor are two bed rooms and a bath room, and on the third floor are four bed rooms.

COMMANDER HEALD'S HOUSE.

Plans have been completed by Mr. W. J. Marsh, architect, for an English basement house, to be built on Q street between 20th and 21st streets by Lieut. Commander Heald. The front is of brick and the treatment is plain, almost severe, the effect being made dependent on the disposition of the openings and the materials. The main entrance is through an open vestibule, which is emphasized by a recessed arch. Handsome iron railings protect the steps. An octagonal bay extends to the fourth floor. The cornice shows the projecting rafters with hanging gutters. Above is a rather flat projecting roof, broken by a quaint eye-brow window. There is a reception room at the side of the entrance hall. The latter leads into a staircase hall. The entire width of the second floor is available for the suite of rooms. The parlor extends across the width of the house. Then comes the central hall with a staircase at one side and then the dining room. The pantry is built on to the dining room and at the end of that pantry is the back stair case. The front staircase is a pleasing colonial design with its plain square balusters and oval hand-rail. There are various little details in the interior which give an artistic finish to the house.

THE CHESS WORLD.

The New York-New Orleans Match—Problems, Games and Notes.

The Manhattan Chess Club of New York won the telegraph team match between New York and New Orleans last Saturday night by a total score of 4 wins, 5 draws and 1 lost game. The contest began at 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon and was brought to a close a little before 3 o'clock Sunday morning. A game between J. W. Baird, M. C. C., and Frank Dameron, N. O. C. C., being unfinished was decided a draw by Mr. Tschigorin. New York scored her four victories by Lipschutz beating McCalla, Ryan beating Dixon, Isaacson beating Hamilton and De Visser beating Blanchard. The only victory for New Orleans was gained by Labatt against Simonson. The four remaining pairs drew: Hodges with Maurian, Delmar with Wilcox, Baird with Seguin and Hanham with Moore.

PROBLEMS NOS. 101, 102, 103 AND 104.

(Tourney Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16.)

White to play and mate in two (2) moves in each.

No. 101. White: ♔ AtQ, ♕ KKt6, ♗ KKt4, ♗ Q4, ♘ KB8, ♘ QB8, ♙ KB7, ♙ Q2, ♙ QKt7. Black: ♚ At Q, ♛ QR3, ♜ QKt, ♝ KB, ♟ KB3, ♟ QB5.

No. 102. White: ♔ AtQB4, ♕ K7, ♖ Q2, ♗ QB6, ♘ K3, ♘ Q4, ♙ KB3, ♙ K4, ♙ QB3, ♙ QB5. Black: ♚ AtK4, ♜ Q3, ♝ KB4, ♞ K, ♟ KB3, ♟ KB5, ♟ K3.

No. 103. White: ♔ AtKB5, ♖ Q5, ♗ QKt8, ♗ QB6, ♘ KKt4, ♘ QKt4. Black: ♚ AtK5, ♟ K3, ♟ Q5, ♟ QKt3.

No. 104. White: ♔ AtQ4, ♕ QKt7, ♖ K6, ♗ K7, ♘ KR2, ♙ KR4, ♙ Q5, ♙ QKt3. Black: ♚ AtKB4, ♞ KKt, ♟ KR3, ♟ KR4, ♟ KB2.

GAME No. 48.

From the London tournament.

SICILIAN DEFENSE.

White—Mason.				Black—Bird.
1 P-K4	P-QB4	14 BxB		KxB
2 Kt-KB3	Kt-QB3	15 P-B5		KtxP
3 Kt-B3	P-KKt3	16 Q-Q4 ch		P-B3
4 P-Q4	PxP	17 PxP		BxP
5 KtxP	B-Kt2	18 R-Q2		Q-Q
6 B-K3	P-Q3 (a)	19 B-B3		R-B2
7 B-K2	Kt-B3	20 B-Q5		R-K2
8 O-O	O-O	21 P-KKt4 (c)		B-Q2
9 Q-Q2	KtxKt	22 P-Kt5 (d)		R-K4
10 BxKt	Kt-K	23 R-K2		Q-B2 (e)
11 P-KB4	P-K3	24 Q-KB4		B-B4 (f)
12 QR-Q	Q-R4	25 Q-R6 ch		Resigns.
13 K-R	B-Q2 (b)			

(a) The veteran conducts the defense with his usual eccentricity. This move leaves him with a bad "hole" at K3. (b) The weakness of the Sicilian could not be better illustrated than by the present game. Black's pieces are either tied up or out of play, his king's side is not strong and his queen's side is in still worse condition, while white has a free open game with all his pieces in good shape for the attack which he is preparing. (c) The American is no sluggard when he has an opportunity for "fireworks." (d) No modern school about this. (e) The old man makes a brave fight, but there is no help for it. (f) Of course this is an oversight, but it is hard to see what he could have done to avert disaster in some form. If B-K3 then white plays PxP ch, followed by BxB or QxKt ch and black's game is hopeless. If R-K3, BxB, BxB, RxB and white wins.

GAME No. 49.

One of fourteen games played simultaneously by Mr. Tschigorin at the New Orleans Chess Club, March 15. Notes (a) to (h) by Mr. Seguin of the *Times-Democrat*.

FRENCH DEFENSE.

White—Tschigorin.			Black—L. L. Labatt.
1 P-K4	P-K3	18 QR-Q	QR-K
2 P-Q4	P-Q4	19 BxKt(f) (C)	BxB (D)
3 P-K5 (A)	P-QB4	20 P-KKt3	R-R6
4 KKt-B3	QKt-B3	21 QxP	QR-KR
5 PxP (a)	BxP	22 Kt-KB3	BxKt
6 B-Q3	KKt-K2	23 PxB	P-R4 (g)
7 QKt-B3	B-Q2 (b)	24 Kt-R4	QRxKt!
8 O-O	Kt-Kt3	25 PxR	QxRP ch
9 BxKt (c)	RPxB	26 K-B	RxRP
10 P-QR3	Q-B2	27 Q-Kt3	B-Kt4 ch
11 B-KB4	P-KKt4!	28 R-Q3	Q-B8 ch
12 B-Kt3 (d)	P-Kt5	29 Q-Kt	B-B6
13 Kt-Q2	KtxP	30 K-K3	Q-Q8 ch
14 Q-K2	B-Q3	31 K-Kt2	QxQ ch
15 KR-K	P-KB3 (e)	32 KxQ	BxR
16 Kt-Kt3	K-B2 (B)	33 PxB	R-QB5 (h)
17 Kt-Q4	P-R3		And white resigns.

(a) 5 P-QB3, followed by B-Q3, is, we believe, proper here. The text-move is unadvisable if only as weakening his KP, and, indeed, is rarely available except in the Steinitzian attack, where it is specially predicated upon 4 P-KB4. (b) This development of the QB in the French game is much favored by Mason. (c) Seemingly speculating on strengthening his KP, but extremely imprudent in view of the battery unmasked on his King. (d) Better appears 12 BxP, KtxP; 13 B-B4, KtxKt ch; 14 QxKt, Q-Kt3; 15 P-QKt4, &c. (e) Best. If, e. g., 15 * * Kt-Kt5, instead, then 16 KtxP!, &c. (f) The P won by this exchange is dearly bought in the light of the grave complications and marked weakness resulting in his K's quarters. It is not easy, however, to suggest a satisfactory line of attack. (g) Of course, in one sense, a mere waiting move to tempt white into the losing coup actually made, but involving a little trap, too, as it threatens 24 * * P-K4, winning the Q! (h) Another white P falls, and the first player remains in a hopeless minority.

(A) This is against the authorities, but M. Tschigorin probably wanted to make the game lively. He certainly succeeded. (B) Evidently better than castling queen's rook, for white would perhaps be able to gain time, by a queen's side diversion, to relieve his embarrassed king. (C) And we believe the move adopted to be as good as anything else. (D) PxB was bad, of course.

The following position occurred in actual play between Mr. A. B. Thornett and son. While not of any great difficulty it will be both interesting and instructive to inexperienced players: White—K at QB3, R at KKt8, P at QB4 and Q at Kt3. Black—K at KR3, R at KB7, Kt at K4, Kt at QKt5, B at QB4, P at KB2 and K at KKt3. White to play and draw.

SOLUTIONS AND SOLVERS.

No. 97. Key is B-QKt6. 3 points. Found by E. M. Borlett (65), E. Aug. Ruebsam (48), S. C. Dunham (55), F. A. Cooley (55), A. V. Gisiger, I. Y. Knight, O. L. Molstad, Dr. John P. Jefferis, H. C. Painter (55), Otto Wurzburg, "a fair problem;" Geo. Heintz (65), C. J. M. (51), A. V. Boatrite (55), "Twelve possible moves for black answered by Kt-K7;" R. H. Rzdori (63). Additional solutions by A. V. Gisiger (Nos. 94, 95, 96).

NOTES.

It is rumored that Judd has challenged Showalter to another match and that the Kentuckian has accepted the challenge. Of course the contest will have to be played (if played at all) after the Showalter-Lipschutz match, which is to take place in New York, beginning about April 15, for the native American championship and $1,000.

Mr. Tschigorin has been giving a series of simultaneous exhibitions in New Orleans during the past week. The final score was 36 games to Tschigorin's credit, 4 won by his opponents and 3 parties drawn. Considering that the gentlemen opposed to him were all strong amateurs the performance was remarkably good on the part of the master. We give above one of the games scored by Mr. L. L. Labatt.

Blackmar has won first prize in the Brooklyn continuous tournament.

Alice Mitchell's Case.

Attorneys for Alice Mitchell, Freda Ward's slayer, have forwarded to Dr. Prodest of Paris a statement of a hypothetical case, asking if such a person be not insane.

Chief Redstone's Reward.

Chief Redstone of the Assinaboine tribe, accompanied by C. A. Scobey of Fort Peck, Mont., has gone to Chicago where he will receive treatment for a cataract over his eyes. Redstone had been of great service to his tribe in inducing the Indians to lead a pastoral life, and the government shows an appreciation of these services by sending him to Chicago for treatment. It is believed that his sight can be restored.

Ideal of the Opera Goer.

He—"I see that some people of our set are to produce grand opera at their own houses."

She—"How delightful; then there'll be none of those odious music-loving people to disturb the conversation."—*From Life.*

A would-be facetious correspondent inquires, "What relation is vinegar to its mother?" Just the same, Horatio, that a champagne cork is to its pop.—*From Life.*

Written for The Evening Star.

HUNTING MORTGAGES.

The Varied Experiences of a Census Agent in the State of Alabama.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MORTGAGES AND INHABITANTS—HOW THE WORK IS DIVIDED—ESTABLISHING HEADQUARTERS—MULES AND PEAS ABOUND—AN ABSTRACTER'S WORK.

THE SUNNY SOUTH HAS BECOME AN objective point for northern hunters. It is so extended in geographical scope and provided with such a variety of climatic attractions from the mountain heights to the Everglades that the game is varied.

While some distinguished statesmen seek the "tarpon," the wild duck and the quail below the historic line of Mason and Dixon, and others gun for delegates to national conventions, my pilgrimage through the southern country was occasioned by a thirst for information upon the cheerless subject of mortgages. The thirst was not a little, unimportant personal thirst of my own, but a thirst on the part of the census office, predicated upon an act of Congress calling for information upon the indebtedness of the country.

THE KIND OF A BIRD THE MORTGAGE IS.

The mortgage is a bird that is indigenous to every county in the United States and it knows no season. Its plumage changes not with every passing wind that blows, but maintains a permanent somber hue, entirely in keeping with the habit which the mortgage has always had of gnawing away at a farm through the stillness of the night while the honest farmer's tired soul is lulled by quiet slumber.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MORTGAGES AND INHABITANTS.

There is one conspicuous difference between taking the census of the inhabitants of a county and a census of its mortgages. In the former case the enumerator has to inquire into the health of the inhabitant; to discover something as to his age, color and previous condition; to figure a little as to his deficiencies in arms, legs, eyes, &c.; but a mortgage is always healthy; has a full complement of limbs in the shape of "whereases" and "to have and to holds," and is usually so thrifty and long-lived that the census office assumed that if a mortgage was recorded its origin, legality and general health needed no investigation.

TAKING A MORTGAGE CENSUS.

As taking the census of mortgages is a new scheme, a few general suggestions as to how to go about it may not be amiss. Like making rabbit stew, there is one initial requirement. In this instance you need not "first catch your rabbit," but you must first stake out your claim, or, in other words, pick out your territory to hunt in. Assuming, for illustration, that the state of Alabama is to be investigated, you first divide the state into districts—the congressional divisions will suffice—each district to be allotted to a competent abstracter. Then pick out a select coterie of gentlemen to do the work.

Another point as to selecting the men—to go south—care should be taken to select versatile gentlemen, whose habits and political opinions will readily assimilate with those of the hospitable citizens among whom they are to operate.

THE SPECIAL AGENTS.

There should be for a state like Alabama one boss special agent in charge, one or two assistant boss special agents and eight common barnyard special agents, all of whom should be able to read and write and know a real estate mortgage from a habeas corpus proceeding. The boss special agent should locate in some convenient central place in the state and establish headquarters. This he can do at the best hotel in the town, as he is allowed a subsistence per diem of $5. With his assistants he unfurls his flag, figuratively speaking, at his headquarters, while the other eight gentlemen distribute themselves around the state, as previously arranged, and establish what might be termed subheadquarters within each of the congressional districts.

After performing this act of establishing headquarters (which costs in most places only 10 cents, although in some of the larger towns 15 cents is charged, with or without bitters) the post office should be visited. There will be, or rather should be, found a complete outfit of blanks specially printed for that county. It may be said at this point that nothing so annoys a special agent as to go to the post office on his arrival in a town and find that his blanks have not arrived. He doesn't lose any money by these delays in the mails, but, inasmuch as "idleness begets mischief," he may be forced back to "establish headquarters" again at his hotel.

AN ABSTRACTER'S WORK.

In a few words, the business of an abstracter is to make a brief abstract or digest of each mortgage recorded on the county records on a separate slip or blank, giving the date, amount, number of acres or lots incumbered and a few other points, "for which see small bills," as this article is too brief to go into details.

MILLIONS OF MORTGAGED MULES.

The first impression that the Alabama abstracter will get may be summed in a word, "mule." There are probably 6,000,000 mules in that great commonwealth (more or less) and they are all mortgaged. There are more different kinds of mules in Alabama than are dreamt of in the philosophy of any man who is not a mule expert. They have mules of all colors. The prevailing species in southern Alabama is the "flea-bitten" mule, which, as to color, resembles the guinea hen.

After becoming imbued with the importance of the mule the Alabama abstracter has another product of that state forced upon his attention, viz., "black-eyed peas." "If he is conscientious in the discharge of his duty he will soon become familiar with the expression, "My flea bitten mule 'Toby' and my growing crop of peas." Inasmuch as the census investigation covered only real estate mortgages it was important that the abstracter should know the difference between "forty acres" and "a mule." But in Alabama they have such an indiscriminate way of admixing realty and chattels and combining land, oxen, mules and peas in a single mortgage that it will soon be discovered that it is impossible to apportion the amount of the mortgage among the several subjects thereof, and it is necessary to treat all mortgages on both land and chattels as real estate mortgages instead of attempting to divide the amount of the mortgage as so much land and so much mule, &c. The effect of this decision, as will be clearly seen, is to ignore the mule—"the animal without pride of ancestry or hope of posterity."

At the close of each day's work the abstracter mails his slips to Washington and he also mails two "report cards," one to Washington and the other to the boss special agent in charge. These cards show the number of abstracts made for the day and the expenses of the abstracter.

AT THE END OF A MONTH

the abstracter sends in his bill to the census office and is paid after the same manner as other government agents upon sworn vouchers. These vouchers must be carefully prepared, and if the abstracter calls "transfer of baggage 50 cents," "porterage 50 cents," the item will be cut out, probably as an inferred reflection upon the superintendent of census. After the voucher has been properly audited by the census office it is approved by two or three Interior Department officials and in the fullness of time the abstracter gets his money.

NOT A LUCRATIVE BUSINESS.

The abstracting business is not lucrative because the incidental expenses of "establishing headquarters" at various places and holding up the dignity of the government among the natives absorb appreciable amounts of money. But the business is rich in experiences, especially in the county seats that are "off the railroad." Even in the progressive state of Alabama there are a number of county seats which are accessible only by "horse power" conveyance or on foot, and some of the small towns are quite as "way back" as any in Arkansas, where the bartender asked a customer, "Whoever hear tell of ice in July."

I recall one Alabama "hotel" where I was aroused before daylight by a darky with a lantern on his arm, who said: "Boss, I come to git yo' shoes."

THE EFFECT OF HIGH LICENSE.

Apropos of prohibition in one Alabama town of 5,000, the license tax for a saloon is $2,500 per annum. In consequence of this high license there are only two drinking houses in town, and both depend almost entirely upon what they call "jug trade," which means that the white and colored citizens from the surrounding country bring their jugs in on market days and take their "jags" home with them.

The division in charge of mortgage statistics in the census office was originally called the "recorded indebtedness" division. Its work has been efficiently and systematically managed by Mr. George K. Holmes, and for some reason (possibly out of compliment to him) the name of the division has been changed to "farms, Holmes and mortgages" (although I believe the second word is spelled without the "l").

Alabama is not only an excellent field for mortgage hunting, but it is rich in resources, progressive in its business interests and its people are royal in their good fellowship and hospitality.

F. O. McC.