

THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

How His Army of 9,000 Clerks is Quartered. Imperative Need for More Public Buildings. About a Dozen Private Buildings Now Being Erected to Accommodate the Various Branches of the Force.

The name "Department of the Interior" conveys very little idea to minds of the variety and importance of the duties performed by the nine thousand employees of that branch of the Executive Department of the Government.

The headquarters for this vast army of clerks is the Patent Office building, which covers two city blocks with its intervening street. The building is of white marble, of the Doric order of architecture, and cost nearly \$4,000,000, most of the money being taken from the profits from the issue of patents.

Here also the Land Office, with its 475 clerks, performs its multifarious duties connected with the survey and sale of the millions of acres of public lands. Congress has directed the Secretary and the Land Office to move out, but failed to provide other quarters, and so they stay. The Patent Office force numbering some 600 people, is crowded down to about one-half of the space it really needs, and tons upon tons of original patent drawings and models are stored in the corridors.

The ends of all the hallways have been turned into office rooms, and nearly all the models have been stored in a rented building to make room for clerks desks. Still the building is over-crowded, and the condition of affairs is constantly growing worse. Some 25,000 patents are issued a year, and one hundred extra copies of each patent are kept on hand for sale. To make room for this constantly increasing stock, the number of separate patents, now exceeding 550,000, is a very serious thing, and the once broad hallways are narrowing to lanes scarcely wide enough for two people to pass "edgewise."

In another building, called the Pension Office, are quartered the 2,000 clerks of this branch of the Interior Department. The building is of brick, and is of enormous proportions, as one could imagine from the fact that 17,000,000 of bricks entered into its construction. The building gives the general idea of a great barn. The offices are arranged four or five stories high on four sides of a central covered court, the scene of all recent inaugural balls. The roof is supported by columns, eight feet in diameter, and 100 feet high, and each containing 100,000 bricks. These columns were at first covered with white plaster, but have recently been so colored as to resemble Mexican onyx.

The Indian Bureau has found a home in an office building on F street, where 100 clerks are employed. By far the greater part of the force of this bureau is stationed at the Indian agencies, reservation schools, or training schools.

The fifth great branch of the Interior Department, i. e., the Geological Survey, which has about 200 employees, has its force divided between a rented building on F street near the Treasury Department, and the Smithsonian Institute building.

The Bureau of Education occupies a rented building across the street from the Patent Office, and the Bureau of Labor occupies a building on F street near the Geological Survey headquarters. These last two bureaus have some forty and sixty clerks, respectively.

The bureaus enumerated are the most important branches of the Interior Department, but besides these are the following minor branches: Office of Railroads, Interstate Commerce Commission, Pacific Railway Commission, Government Hospital for the Insane, Freedman's Hospital, and the Architect of the Capitol.

To furnish proper quarters for the Department another building as large as the Patent Office should be built. The Secretary could then collect together the clerks now scattered through a dozen or so rented buildings.

A Mechanical Horror.

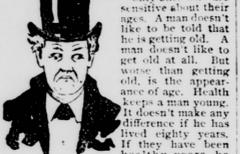
Philadelphia Engineer. Here is a description of a most remarkable clock belonging to a Hindoo prince. Near the dial of an ordinary looking clock is a large gong hung on poles, while underneath, scattered on the ground, is a pile of artificial human skulls, ribs, legs and arms, the whole number of bones in the pile being equal to the number of bones in twelve human skeletons.

When the hands of the clock indicate the hour of 1 the number of bones needed to form a complete human skeleton come together with a snap. By some mechanical contrivance the skeleton springs up, seizes a mallet, and, walking up to the gong, strikes one blow. This finished, it returns to the pile and again falls to pieces. At 2 o'clock two skeletons get up and strike while at the hours of noon and midnight the entire heap springs up in the shape of twelve skeletons and strikes, each one after the other, a blow on the gong and then falls to pieces as before.

SPRAYING about North Yakima seems to be effectually done. The trees are snowy white from the ground to the tip ends of the limbs.

The Comet mine at Berner Bay cleared up \$33,000 on a twenty days run in February.

WOMEN are not the only ones who are sensitive about their age.



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HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

To prepare an excellent home-made cologne follow this receipt: Sixty drops each of oil of lavender, oil of bergamot, oil of lemon and orange flower water. Add to this a pint of alcohol. Cork and shake well.

The uses of cold rice are manifold. Mixed with minced meat and egg it may be fried like an omelet or it may be used alone and made into croquettes. Cold rice pudding can be cut into rounded pieces with a spoon and served again on a flat dish. This makes a nice dessert when served with whipped cream.

Dirty, grit and grease will settle in the skin when the face is washed only in hard cold water and soap, and this alone in time injures the color and softness of it. One should never bathe the face in hard water, any way, if a fair complexion is desired; the water should be softened with a little borax.

After washing and drying the hands, carefully pressing down as you do so the loose skin at base of nail, rub a little "roselite" pomade over each nail, wipe off with a piece of linen, and polish with a nail-polishes till a very shiny appearance is obtained. If a polisher is not at hand, a blotting paper pad is an excellent substitute.

To two ounces of best glycerine add one tablespoonful of borax. You, who can use glycerine, will have a most soothing balm for rough skin, chapped hands, sore lips, etc.

Cookies—Two cups of sugar, two eggs, two-thirds of a cup of sour milk, one cup of butter, one teaspoonful of soda, flavor with nutmeg; add flour enough to roll out and bake in a quick oven.

Cheese sandwiches are always good to serve with salad. Grate any cheese and rub it to a paste with butter, and spread the bread, dust with salt and pepper and cut into stripes.

Coffee Cake—One egg, one cup brown sugar, half cup molasses, half cup shortening, half cup raisins, half cup coffee, one teaspoon each of cinnamon, allspice and cloves, one teaspoon soda; flour to thicken.

Ferndale, in Whatcom county, is to have a cremery.

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