CLAIMS ARE SIFTED.

Getting Money Out of the Treasury Is Hard Work.

All the Powers of Government Are at the Disposal of the Court of Claims Which Investigates Every Petition.

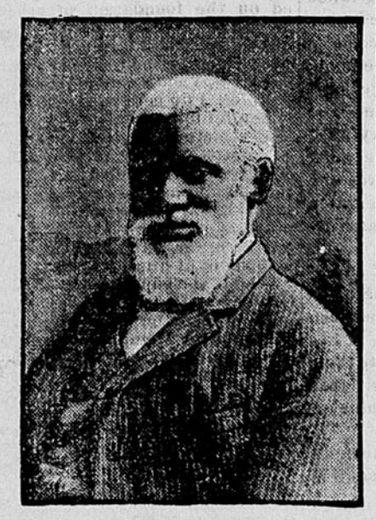
[Special Washington Letter.]

"PEOPLE who want to get money out of the treasury, through the court of claims, do not realize the difficulties which lie in their way," says one of the experienced officers of that court.

"For example, we have under consideration the claim of a man for $100,000 for the use of his insulated wire during the civil war. This man secured that amount from a telegraph corporation, and he expects to recover that much from the government. But there is where he makes a great mistake, as so many others like him have done and are doing. He thinks that this court of claims is a very small part of the federal government. As a matter of fact, this court of claims is 'the whole thing,' because we have at our disposal all of the powers of all the executive departments of the government. In this case, by way of illustration, we informed the secretary of the treasury of the claim, and requested that a secret service agent be sent abroad to ascertain whether or not this gutta percha insulation was invented by this claimant. We thus ascertain that this insulation was discovered and patented in Germany long before the civil war. It costs considerable to get this information, but it knocks out the claim of $100,000, leaving the government upwards of $95,000 ahead; for without this information the government would have been obliged to pay the claim.

"In like manner we can call upon the war department, navy department, department of agriculture and all other powers of the government in defending the treasury against these numerous and usually enormous claims. Here is an instance of a man who makes claim against the government for supplies furnished the federal soldiers during the civil war. In every claim of this kind the claimant must establish the fact that he was loyal during the great conflict. This claimant swears to his loyalty, and a number of his friends make similar affidavits. Well, we sent to the division of rebellion records, and there, in the records of the confederacy, we find that this man was disloyal, in that he furnished aid and comfort to the confederate soldiers. We have a dozen copies of his signature, and it corresponds with his signature to-day. Of course, he did not know that the government has possession of the rebellion records, and hence he did not know that we would easily have means to disclose his disloyalty. In common with all other claimants, he is waiting for the money which he claims; but, like a majority of his kind, he will be disappointed.

"Here is a colored man making claim to a large sum of money because of destruction to property by federal troops during the civil war. He makes oath that his master went into the rebellion and left all of his property to the colored man. It was in Alabama, and the colored man swears to his loyalty, as well as to the ownership of all this property. We have here the state laws of Alabama which were in force during the civil war, and it is provided that 'no negro shall own any property; not even a dog.' That settles this claim. The negro is simply used as a cat'spaw

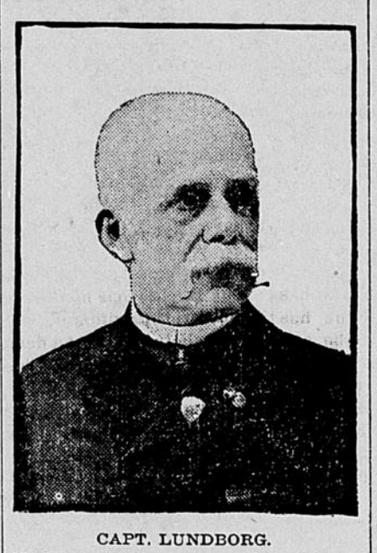


SILAS WRIGHT.
(Colored Claimant Who Wants an Alabama Plantation.)

by his master, who was disloyal. The government will not pay that claim."

One of the most important claims that has been before the court for a long time was that of Charles G. Lundborg, who demanded a judgment of $250,000 for an alleged use of certain plans and specifications prepared by him in the construction of vessels for our navy. Under date of May 8, 1885, the secretary of the navy published an invitation "to all engineers and mechanics of established reputation, and all reputable manufacturers of vessels, steam engines, boilers or ordnance, having or controlling regular establishments and being engaged in the business; all officers of the navy, and especially all naval constructors, steam engineers and ordnance officers of the navy, having plans, models or designs of any vessels, or of any part thereof, of the classes authorized by the naval appropriation act of March 3, 1885, to submit such plans, models and designs to the secretary of the navy."

This claimant, Lundborg, submitted plans which were never used nor returned to him. Because the department did not return his plans the claimant has asserted that they were accepted and that he was entitled to the amount set forth. As a matter of fact, the plans presented by Lundborg contained nothing of value that was new; and such suggestions made by him as were valuable were already in use in British, French and American war vessels. For example, the claimant lays particular stress upon his tank system of raising and lowering the bow and stern of a vessel. The court of claims disposed of this contention by showing that Mr. Froude, the eminent authority upon naval construction, had in 1872 in illustration of this theory made a series of tank experiments which were well known to the shipbuilding world, and wide discussion followed. It was further demonstrated by the court of claims that the navy



CAPT. LUNDBORG.
(Claims a Fortune for an Alleged Naval Discovery.)

department has in its possession plans of all of the public and secret improvements in naval construction held or in use by the naval powers of the earth.

This court was established by act of congress, February 24, 1885. It has general jurisdiction of all "claims founded upon the constitution of the United States or any regulation of an executive department, or upon any contract, expressed or implied with the government of the United States, or for damages, liquidated or unliquidated, in cases not sounding in tort, in respect of which claims the party would be entitled to redress against the United States, either in a court of law, equity or admiralty, if the United States were suable, except claims growing out of the late civil war and commonly known as war claims," and certain rejected claims.

It has jurisdiction also of claims of like character which may be referred to it by any executive department, where the amount in controversy exceeds $3,000, or where the decision will furnish a precedent for the future action of any executive department in the adjustment of a class of cases, or where any right, authority, privilege or exemption is claimed or denied under the constitution. An appeal only upon questions of law, lies to the supreme court in all cases; but the findings of fact by the court of claims are final, and not subject to review by the supreme court.

There are five judges who sit together in the hearing of cases, the concurrence of three of whom is necessary for the decision of any case. The court sits in the department of justice building on the first Monday in December of each year, and continues in session until the following summer, or until all cases ready for trial are disposed of.

During the sessions of the congress scores and sometimes hundreds of bills are introduced authorizing the court of claims to consider cases which are barred by lapse of time. The statute of limitations bars consideration of cases which are based upon facts which are alleged to have occurred more than six years previously. It was only by congressional enactment that the claimants mentioned above, Lundborg and others, secured standing in this court. These cases demonstrate the carelessness of some congressional committees in such matters. If congressmen had gone into those cases as carefully as they should have done, the time of the court of claims would not have been encroached upon, because the bills would never have been passed.

The attorneys and assistant attorneys employed by the government for this court render valuable service of which the general public hears nothing. Their salaries are from $2,000 to $3,000 per annum. The attorney who looked up the laws of Alabama and defeated that one claim earned his salary for about 40 years by saving so much to the government, and that same attorney will save the government perhaps half a million dollars a year, by painstaking endeavor in a number of cases requiring knowledge, acumen and diligence.

"I will not take a case before the court of claims if I can avoid it," says ex-Congressman J. Hale Sypher, one of the oldest practitioners here. "In the first place, the fee is always contingent, and in the next place the work is hopelessly hard. The attorneys for the court are all able lawyers, and, as your friend told you, they have all of the resources of the government back of them. Although I believe they sometimes reject good claims, on legal technicalities, they undoubtedly save the government many millions by disproving and causing the rejection of unjust claims.

There are lots of wheels within wheels in this great big ramifying government of ours, and therefore it happens that we never hear of the good work done by many faithful public servants.

SMITH D. FRY.

Paris Courts Feminine Effects

And Is Not Satisfied Except with the Extremes.

WHEN some time ago I said that French femininity had tired of the masculine effects that have been so prominent a feature of the modes for the past few seasons, I did not realize to what extent they would go in the other direction, nor how great a change there was in store for us.

From mannish effects the French woman has turned to the most decided feminine effects and startling novelties. In fact, anything that is a decided novelty, and has sufficient of the feminine touches to make it attractive, is sure to be popular, no matter how peculiar its construction or colorings.

Especially is this true of the evening gowns. Of course it is much easier to get the dainty feminine effects so greatly desired all at once, in an evening gown than in any other form of garment, and the French woman has improved every opportunity offered her.

It is said that one reason for this, a reason that has pushed the dress designers into insisting upon feminine effects, is that the queen of England has intimated that she would much prefer to have her subjects purchase the gowns they will wear at the coronation ceremonies at home. Her tastes in dress are decidedly feminine, and she is having a strong influence upon the costuming of her subjects. For this reason it is expected that just such modes as seem to prevail would be acceptable to English women, and the Paris designers, by thus catering directly to English tastes, hope to capture a goodly share of the orders made possible because of the coronation ceremonies. And they will, for English patriotism has not yet reached the stage where it will put up with badly-designed gowns offered by English costumers. French art in dresses is much aprpeciated in England.

But to return to the evening gowns. They are cut of the Marie Antoinette

OF BUFF CREPE DE CHINE.

fashion, and the skirts grow wider and wider, and the sleeves fuller, with many puffs and ruffles, and a great amount of trimming and combinations of silks, velvets, cloths and laces. There are many novel warp-printed, blurred effects in louisines and taffetas. Then the embroidered grenadines, and hand-painted silks, with crepe de chines, and the printed silk mousselines.

One of the very startling modes in evening gowns has a bodice designed on the Marie Antoinette fashion, composed of white velvet, lace, chiffon and black velvet baby ribbon. The skirt is of white silk and black French lace. It is tucked with the tucks slanting from the back toward the front, and every so often there are stripes running up and down of black French insertion. It has a full-shaped flounce at the bottom, headed with a wee ruching of silk. Over the skirt is the white velvet bodice, with low decollette, finished with fichu of chiffon, edged with lace. A pointed vest of lace, with strappings of black velvet. At each side of the vest the bodice is in long coat ends, and trimmed from the fichu, and around the coat, with black velvet baby ribbon in small scroll pattern. It has short elbow sleeves, caught up in the center with black velvet buttons, this giving a puff effect.

Another that is more dainty and not so startling is a sweet gown of crepe de chine in buff, trimmed with white lace insertion. The skirt has five tucks, then insertion, and so on all around it. There is a circular flounce, with three rows of insertion, and lace to finish at the hem. A full draped bodice, with Marie Antoinette fichu draped over the shoulders and caught in a large knot, with ends at the left side. The fichu and ends are edged with lace. Elbow sleeves made of tucks and insertion, with a ruffle of lace to finish.

An attractive high neck evening gown, of which there are quite a number being worn, is of warp-printed silk in delicate green, trimmed with lace applique. The skirt is tucked on each side of the front gore, with the lace applique in diamond shape between. Lace applique also in deep points forming a yoke below the waist line. A shaped flounce headed with lace applique, and the applique also on the flounce. A deep pointed yoke of lace, with velvet strappings at the throat. The yoke is finished with a draped fichu of lace. Below this the silk is tucked in clusters, with lace between. Sleeves fall a little below the elbow,

A HIGH NECK EVENING GOWN.

with lace flounce and velvet ribbon to finish.

Apropos of old French fashions, they offer several charming ways of freshening up old evening gowns. For example, one clever young woman has taken a soft pink crepe de Paris which has done duty as an evening frock for several seasons, has freshened the skirt, and wears with it, in place of the mussed and out-of-date bodice, a cunning short Louis coat of Pompadour brocade in pink and white with a fichu of white chiffon.

For a woman who has left her teens well behind, soft clinging velvet in a silvery green or blue or rose, or even in white, makes a most delectable empire evening gown. At a recent French fete such a gown in pale green velvet with a mere touch of silver embroidery and a corsage cluster of Parma violets was admitted to be at once the simplest and the most exquisite worn.

White Liberty satin in princesse form, or with a swathed bodice and clinging skirt which join under folds and show no separating girdle line, is a most satisfactory evening gown motif, and a gold scroll applied to the bottom of the skirt and appearing in bodice details, is such a gown's best trimming. An Empire model in Liberty satin with a Greek key trimming in gold or silver is charming for a figure to which it is becoming, but not every woman can carry Empire lines well.

A very broad girdle of Pompadour silk very sharply pointed in front, in a fashion suggestive of Watteau panniers, will give quite a new effect to an old gown with a full shirred bodice. A fichu is an appropriate accompaniment of the girdle and large paste buttons make the girdle still more attractive.

Liberty satin is a favorite material for evening gowns, even for young girls, and, of course, will outwear several filmy mousselines. Moreover, even

ON THE MARIE ANTOINETTE FASHION.

when retired from active service it may do duty as a lining for one of its diaphanous rivals. SADIE MERRITT.

Lo, the Poor Fisherman.

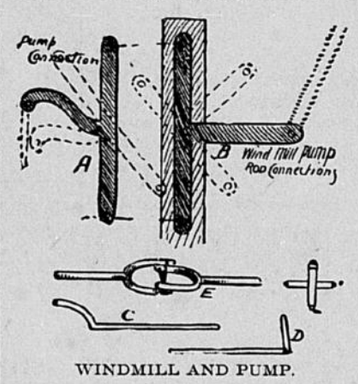
The Nickersons, of Boothbay, Me. brought into Boothbay harbor one day recently a cargo of fish that stocked $18,000—netting a profit of $14,500. The remarkable fact about this catch is that the average was 60 to 70 fish to a dory load.—Lewiston Journal.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

HANDY ARRANGEMENT.

How to Operate a Pump by Wind Power Where Pump Is Some Distance from Mill.

It often happens one wishes to operate a pump by wind power when the pump is at a distance from the windmill. Sometimes the pump is at the foot of a hill, while the mill must be placed at the top, or two pumps could often be worked by one windmill if there was any way of transmitting motion from one to the other. It is a matter of little trouble and expense to construct an arrangement for this purpose. Get a blacksmith to make a device shown at a, which is to take the place of the usual pump handle. The device (b), which is somewhat similar to a, is bolted on a post at the windmill in



WINDMILL AND PUMP.

such manner as to have the reciprocal motion of the mill applied to it. The two devices are connected to each other by wires fastened in the holes in ends of each arm. The motion of b at the windmill tower is therefore communicated to a on the pump standard, which may be at any distance from the windmill. The holes in each device can be about two feet apart. When wires are to be run an extra long distance, or over very uneven ground and other obstacles, they are supported by posts on which are bolted movable arms similar to a or b. By using long posts the wires can be raised out of the way.

Another excellent device is shown. The crank or handle (c), on one end the rod or the shaft takes the place of the pump handle, while d, on the other end of the shaft, receives the motion from the mill. The rod on which these two contrivances are placed can be of almost any length. Where it is not possible to run it direct from the mill to the pump, it can be joined by means of a universal joint, and run around or over any obstacle. This joint is shown at e, and consists of two shafts or arms, each terminating in a semicircle, and connected by means of a cross upon which each semicircle is hinged. When one shaft is turned, either to the right or left, the other shaft turns in the same direction. Any good blacksmith will be able to make it. The material used in the rod connecting pump to mill can be either one-half or one-inch iron, or common inch gas pipe.—Farm and Home.

NOT GENERALLY KNOWN.

Legs of the Hog Perform the Function of Discharge Pipes for All Sorts of Waste Matter.

The hogs' legs perform a function not known to any other animal, and that is an escape pipe or pipes for the discharge of waste matter or sweat not used in the economy of the body. These escape pipes are situated upon the inside of the legs, above and below the knees in the fore lgs and above the gamble joints in the hind legs, but in the latter they are very small, and the functions are light. Upon the inside of the fore legs they are always active, so that moisture is always there about and below these orifices or ducts in the healthy hog. The holes in the legs and breathing in the hog are his principal and only means of ejecting an excess of heat above normal, and when very warm the hog will open the mouth and breathe through that channel as well as the nostrils.

The horse can perspire through all the pores of its body, same as a man, and cattle do the same to a limited extent, but the hog never. His escape valves are confined to the orifices upon the inside of his legs. People often wonder why it is that the hog dies so suddenly when he runs rapidly or takes quick and violent exercise by fighting. But when you consider the few escape pipes, their small capacity and remoteness from the cavity where the heat is generated, the wonder is that he does not die quickly when overheated.—American Swineherd.

Disposing of Dead Animals.

The bodies of dead animals are converted into fertilizer by some farmers, but something depends upon circumstances as to the advisability of so doing. If an animal dies of some contagious disease and is buried the earthworms will bring to the surface the germs of the disease. This fact was demonstrated by Pasteur, the famous French chemist, who made tests in that direction. Disease was communicated to animals that ate grass which grew over the body of a buried animal. The better plan is to consume the bodies of diseased animals, or subject them to a bath of sulphuric acid after death, in order to destroy the germs of disease.

FEEDING A SKELETON.

An Old Scotch Story from Which Scores of American Farmers Can Draw a Lesson.

A story is told of a Scotch physician who was in search of a boy with sufficient nerve to assist him when difficult surgical operations were on hand. The doctor, by the way, was a ventriloquist, and he hit upon the following plan to enable him to secure the boy he was looking for: Each candidate was set to work to feed gruel to a skeleton which stood in an adjacent room. No sooner had the boy got to work than the doctor would call out in sepulchral tones: "More, give me more." The voice sounded to the boy as though it came from the skeleton. A number of those first tried, as soon as they heard the sepulchral tones, dropped the bowl of gruel and ran. At length a boy was found who continued to feed the gruel, notwithstanding the repeated cries of the skeleton for more. When the gruel was all fed he struck the skeleton on the side of the head with the spoon, saying as he did so: "My, Bony, but you are hard to satisfy." This boy got the position.

We laugh at the idea of feeding a skeleton, but are not some persons engaged in just about as profitable a business? They feed live stock all the winter, that is to say, young and growing stock. The animals go out in the spring just about as they went into the yard in the fall. The chief difference is that they have a little more bone and hair in the spring and a little less flesh. Sometimes they have considerably less in the spring than in the fall. Those persons have been about as profitably employed as the boy who was feeding the skeleton, and the food fed to those animals accomplished about as much for those who fed them as the food fed to the skeleton accomplished for the owner of the same. So it is with all growing animals. The food fed to them is wasted when they make no growth.—Farmer's Guide.

HARD COUNTRY ROADS.

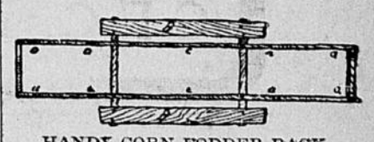
When Properly Built, Cost of Repairs Is Slight Because the Damage Is Inconsiderable.

Inasmuch as the good roads movement is to be furthered only by the most persistent agitation, it is a pleasure to note that many of the country newspapers are enlisted in the work and propose to keep up the fight. It is not a difficult task to meet the argument that such roads are expensive. In the townships in which permanent roads have been built it was found that saving in the wear and tear of vehicles, the longer life and better health of men and horses, and the increased value of adjacent properties much more than atoned for the outlay required for the construction of the roads. Once the base is laid the rest is easy. Science has provided for that. The cost of repairs is slight, for the obvious reason that the damage is inconsiderable. The ordinary rain digs no trenches through the best material of which roads are built. Even narrow-tired vehicles cut them but slightly. The iron of horses' shoes is as nothing upon the surface. Rightly constructed they are what they purport to be—roads which with the least possible repairs are permanent. These are the facts which the newspapers engaged in the improvement of our road system are impressing upon our people, and it is a pleasure to note that some of them realize alike the importance of the work and the necessity for more than usual vigor in advocating its performance. —Golden Days.

DRAWING GREEN CORN.

Description of a Rack That Makes Transportation from Field to Silo Very Easy.

The illustration represents a rack for drawing green corn from field to silo. Low wheels on a common wagon gear is what we use it on. It is made of two posts about 16 feet long, with four pieces bolted across on under



HANDY CORN FODDER RACK.

side. Let the two in center be long enough, say 18 inches on either side, to support a board, b, on outside of poles. The eight dots, a, represent holes for stakes, which are to keep the corn from the wheels. Lay on one or more boards to walk on. In loading fill between the hind stakes lengthwise to top of wheels, then lay corn on crossways. The short boards on outside keep the corn from dragging on ground. Load with butts all one way. —Orange Judd Farmer.

The Pigs and Their Dams.

There is a great difference of opinion in regard to the time that young pigs should be allowed to remain with their dams. If we only desire to raise one litter a year they may be allowed to remain with their dam until they are about ten weeks old, but if two litters are to be raised, it will be necessary to wean them when six or eight weeks old. We may also be guided largely by the way the young pigs are thriving. If the milk of the dam does not agree with them it may be wise to wean them early, but if they are doing well it is better to let them remain with the dam some eight or ten weeks. —Rural World.

New England apple orchards seven years from planting out ought to produce two barrels a tree, or 80 barrels to the acre. Fruit-growing there does pay.