GOVERNMENT EXPENSES.

What It Costs Uncle Sam to Pay Off His Help.

One Hundred Million Dollars a Year in Salaries—Comparative Statement of Wealth in the United States as Banks Show It.

According to the Chicago Journal, the total amount of salaries paid to government employes foots up a hundred million dollars a year. Yet this is only a dollar and a half apiece all around, now that our population is 66,000,000 people. And this only makes the average salary of the 200,000 people who hold office under the government about $500 per annum each.

Something of the details of where this money goes may be of interest. The diplomatic service is not so expensive a luxury as would be supposed probable. The salary of ministers amounts to only $340,000 per annum; secretaries of legation $40,000 per annum, and consuls $500,000, while there is also an additional allowance of about $100,000 for clerks and consulates. The salaries in the offices of the secretary of the treasury amount to about a half million dollars a year, but this does not include the various divisions in which the salaries run from a few thousand up to more than a half million dollars per annum. The salaries for the office of the secretary of war amount to over $100,000 and those of the record and pension divisions of the war department foot up over $1,000,000 per annum. The pay of the officers of the line in the army is $2,800,000, and there is added to that $890,000 for pay of officers for length of service. The pay of the enlisted men of the army is $4,100,000, officers on the retired list, $1,122,000. The pay table of the navy is about half as much as that of the war department, and the total salaries of the treasury department, including over two millions in the internal revenue service alone, is about twelve millions of dollars. The interior department spends about $5,000,000 a year for salaries, the agricultual department a little over a million, and the department of justice about the same.

The post office department, however, is the one which piles up the total of salaries. Even in the post office department in Washington the salaries amount to nearly a million dollars a year, and when you branch out into the postal service all over the country it becomes appalling. The appropriations for the fiscal year just about to end allotted $15,250,000 for compensation to postmasters and $10,764,000 for the free-delivery service. There should be added to this $5,000,000 for carrying the mails by star routes, most of which is for salaries; mail-messenger service over a million dollars, and railway post office clerks, $6,631,000. Even congress is a somewhat expensive luxury. The pay of senators amounts to about a half million dollars a year and that of representatives about $2,000,000 a year, to say nothing of the amounts paid for the employes, clerks, stenographers and messengers who assist them in their duties.

Nothing better and more happily illustrates the growth of this country and prosperity of the people than a comparison of the conditions at this time with those which existed eight years ago. That the country has been prosperous in those eight years is evident. Then there were 7,750 banks, now there are 10,000. Their capital stock then was $750,000,000, now it is over a billion. The people then had $2,700,000,000 laid away in the banks "for a rainy day," now they have $4,700,000,000 so deposited in the banks. Our national wealth, which then was $48,000,000,000, is now $69,000,000,000. The average per capita of wealth in the United States, including property and money, then was $850 for each individual, while to-day it is in round numbers $1,000.

A BARONY FOR SALE CHEAP.

One of the Most Famous of Carolina Plantations Put on the Market.

In old St. Stephen's, famous in song and story, a parish of Berkley county, on the banks of the tawny Santee, some fifty miles in a straight line from the shores of the Atlantic, is a great landed estate whose broad acres, level river bottom and rolling highland, cultivated fields, tangled swamp, stately pine grove, groups of live oak, with here and there a bit of virgin forest, form a domain fit for a prince. On it, according to the Charleston News and Courier, have lived and died a long succession of Carolina planters, all princes in their day, to whom, while slavery lasted, snowy fields of cotton and waving crops of Indian corn and smaller grain furnished a princely revenue. And the cattle, if not of a thousand hills, of a thousand canebrakes, was theirs, and droves of wild hogs, that throve in the thickets of the swamps, and blooded horses were their pride.

All that is gone by now. The lordly life of the planter has passed away forever; slavery has been abolished and the owner of the land, wearied of the struggle with demoralized freedmen, would fain give up the fight, and offers his patrimony for sale for a song, for barely enough to support him comfortably for the decade of life that may yet remain to him. There are six thousand acres in that estate, which is offered to any taker at very little over two dollars an acre. Of that six thousand acres there is arable land capable of producing a bale of cotton to the acre, twenty to thirty bushels of corn, over seventy bushels of oats, to say nothing of the possibilities of fruit and vegetables and of horse, cattle and hog raising.

Portuguese Rebanadas.

A dish as much eaten by the Portuguese as mince pie by Americans, is the rebanadas. It is of Moorish origin, and is easily and quickly prepared—as befitted the habits of a nomadic race. Thick slices of bread are soaked in new milk, fried in olive oil and then spread with honey and eaten hot. The result is something delicious, and those who have once tasted the rebanadas will want to taste it again.

AN UNLUCKY MAIL CAR.

No. 800 Is a Veritable Terror to the Erie Railway Men.

Railroad men, as a rule, are far from being superstitious, but there is a certain mail car on the Erie railroad which trainmen always dread to have on their train. This car, which is regarded with such a superstitious dread, is mail car No. 800. On account of the aversion to it, this car is kept at the shops, except when it is absolutely needed on the line. This car, according to the Chicago Tribune, has a record which perhaps no other car in existence can equal. Not this car alone, but all its predecessors bearing the same number have met with disaster.

In the great disaster at Tioga Center thirteen years ago, mail car No. 800 was wrecked and burned. A new No. 800 was soon after built at the Jersey City shops. After being in a number of minor wrecks, it went down the steep bank at Shohola a few years ago in one of the worst wrecks the road has ever experienced. The remains of this ill-fated car were burned and a new one bearing the same number was built at the Buffalo car shops. For a short time the bright, new car ran from one end of the road to the other in safety, and the trainmen began to lose their fear of it when it was in their train. Its luck was short-lived, however, and it has been in nearly every serious wreck the road has had since. A little over a week ago train No. 12 ran off the track at a switch. As was expected, this car was on the train.

Recently there was a wreck near Lackwaxen. A railroad man at that station the day of the wreck, in talking to some passengers, said: "I'll bet 800 was in the train." When the train had been put on the track and pulled slowly into the station the railroad man said: "There, I told you so." Sure enough there was the mail car with the unlucky 800 in big figures on its sides. These three figures are a terror to every man on the road, and until the car is laid up for good the railroad men say frequent wrecks may be looked for.

SEIZING AN OPPOREUNITY.

Johnnie Thought He Had the Chance of a Lifetime.

Many laughable things have happened in Sunday schools, but few superintendents or teachers can ever have been taken more completely aback than was Bishop Cheney on one occasion. He was to superintend his own school, says American Youth, and as he entered the church he met a little group of street gamins—ragged, dirty and unattractive.

"I stopped to speak with them pleasantly and told them that I would put them in classes after I was through with the opening exercises. At this one of them thrust his hand deeply into his pants pocket and pulled out an old jack-knife.

"'Mr. Cheney, I wish you would keep that until after the Sunday school is over.'

"Why he wanted me to keep it I did not know then. I do not know now; but I took it, put it without thought into my pocket, took my place upon the platform, struck the bell that called the school to order and was about to give out the opening hymn when my attention was diverted by the patter of little feet coming up the broad aisle.

"It is a long church, and a little girl was coming from the extreme opposite end. She came slowly, but with an expression in her face that showed she had a most important message to communicate, and so all exercises were suspended.

"Every eye was upon her and upon me as she climbed up the chancel steps. With a face and voice expressive of intensest eagerness she said to me:

"'Say, Mr. Cheney, Johnnie wants his knife. He's got a chance to trade.'"

SUNDAY BATTLES.

Some of Them Were the Most Famous of History.

Many of the most famous battles of history have been fought on Sunday. To go on further back than the beginning of the present century, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, the battle of Eylau, won February 8, 1807, by Napoleon over the Russians and Prussians, and the battle of Friedland, June 14, 1807, won by Napoleon over the same allies, were both fought on Sunday.

On Sunday, May 21, 1809, Napoleon was defeated at Essling; on Sunday, May 2, 1813, won the victory of Lutzen, and on Sunday, June 18, 1815, was overthrown at Waterloo.

Wellington, besides Waterloo, won several of the greatest victories at Vimeira, in Portugal, August 21, 1808; at Fuentes de Onoro, May 5, 1811; at Orthes, February 27, 1814; at Tarbez, March 20, 1814, and at Toulouse, April 10, 1814, all of these battles being fought on Sunday.

During the civil war in this country the first battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861, was fought on Sunday, and the battle of Chickamauga September 19 and 20, 1863, ended on Sunday.

Vicksburg was surrendered on Saturday, July 4, 1863, and formally occupied on Sunday, the following day, and on the same day Lee began his retreat from Gettysburg. Petersburg fell on Sunday, April 2, 1865, and on the following Sunday Lee surrendered.

A Natural Preference.

An impecunious man stood at the corner of one of the Jersey City cross streets during the recent bad weather, watching a brakeman as he helped to shunt a freight train into one of the great car yards. The roofs of the cars were slippery and wet, the brake wheels looked cold, the brakeman had red nose, watery eyes and a general appearance of discomfort, and he looked as if he had been out all night. Turning to a bystander, who was also waiting for the train to pass, the impecunious one remarked as he looked up at the dejected and grimy figure: "On the whole, I think I'd prefer to be a banker."

QUEENS AT WORK.

Feminine Finery Fashioned by Royal Fingers in the Earlier Days.

Many of our queens and princesses, like Solomon's paragon, "sought wool and flax and worked willingly with their hands." Katharine of Aragon, according to the Spectator, introduced fine stitching of black silk upon linen, called Spanish work; Queen Elizabeth made a smock for her brother Edward's christening when she was only six years old; and Mary, queen of Scots, tried to propitiate her majesty of England with offerings of headdresses and nightcaps wrought by her own delicate handiwork.

Though the extravagance and luxury of women's dress is a favorite theme just now, they have ceased to wear red velvet gloves with gauntlets of white satin worked in silks and gold thread and spangles, or even of perfumed leather enriched with seed-pearls and gold thread, as in the days of Henry VIII. and his daughter. The time of samplers is gone by, but some of the old stitches have come into fashion again. We find "Russian cross-stitch," chain-stitch, tent-stitch and various forms of applique on German, English and Italian work of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

Known to the Ancients.

The cat-tail of the American swamps is almost exactly the same plant as the Egyptian bulrush. It is no longer used for making paper, as it once was, but from its root is prepared an astringent medicine, while its stems, when prepared dry, are excellent for the manufacture of mats, chair-bottoms and the like.

SURE TO PLEASE.

BREEDING pug dogs is one of the industries of Osage City, Kan.

SETH LOW, president of Columbia college, New York, has given five thousand dollars to the Brooks memorial fund at Harvard.

IN a store at Athens, Ga., stands an old-fashioned clock which was made in Liverpool. It hasn't missed a tick for forty years.

THE entire report published by the Baltimore American of the inaugural ceremonies of James Madison consisted of five and one-half lines. Many papers devoted as many pages to the inauguration of Cleveland.

SOMETIMES insane people are conscious of their own condition. At an entertainment lately given in an asylum one of the patients said to another: "Let's stay here by the door and see the crazy people come in." "Why, we're the crazy people," replied the other.

PROBABLY the meanest thief ever caught is Louis Bourgard, of Paris, who recently, while riding in a cab, ripped open the cushions, tied the horsehair into a parcel, and with the money procured from selling his "plunder" paid the cabman his fare.

NOT GENERALLY KNOWN.

WITH a vocabulary of 1,000 words a man can transact all the ordinary business matters of life.

THE extent of the oscillation of tall chimneys may be exactly taken by a close observation of the shadows they cast upon the ground.

MANY persons who talk learnedly about coffee and its making have seldom, if ever, tasted pure coffee. All they know is a more or less infusion of chicory, adulterated with a portion of coffee. Pure coffee doesn't taste so well.

WHAT are the halcyon days? They are the seven days before and the seven days after the shortest day. The halcyon, or kingfisher, is supposed to be breeding at this time, for which reason the sea, for this fortnight, very considerately preserves a perfect calm.

"EGG-ALBUMEN," much used for cooking purposes, is manufactured from the whites of the eggs of certain sea fowls, which are found in large numbers near Iceland, Greenland, Labrador and the Hebrides, and also in the Northern Pacific. It is sent to market in a dry state looking very much like glue.

FOREIGN MENTION.

BELGIUM is declared to be the most intemperate country in Europe.

THE highest chimneys in the world are two in Glasgow, one being 468 feet high and the other 455 feet, while one near Cologne comes next, with a height of 441 feet.

IN Denmark it is the law that all drunken persons shall be taken to their homes in carriages provided at the expense of the publican who sold them the last glass.

THE Turkish government has proposed to the sultan that he invite the states of the Ottoman empire to "a commercial and industrial competition" in Constantinople.

THE saltest lake in the world is Lake Urumia, in Persia, situated more than 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. It contains 22 per cent. of salt as against 8.5 per cent in the Dead sea.

ROME is to be illuminated by electricity generated twenty miles away by a cascade at Tibur. The wires over which the current will be transmitted will cross the desolate Campagna, where most things are at the mercy of the brigands.

SHORT BUT INTERESTING.

THE Buddhists have thirty-two hells.

THERE is a hog in Atchison which chews tobacco.

UNTIL the past winter it is said that no wolves have been seen in Massachusetts for half a century.

COMMERCIAL travelers, it is said, support two thirds of the country hotels in America, to say nothing of instructing the proprietors how to manage them.

THE Spanish language has a word of nine letters, which spelled backward or forward suffers no alteration in its orthography. It is the verb "reconocer."

NEBRASKA was made a territory on May 30, 1854. The original territory embraced 351,558 square miles. A portion was set off to Colorado in February, 1861, and another portion to Dakota in March. In March, 1863, Nebraska was further shorn by taking off the territory of Idaho.

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Each additional pair of animals	50
Horseman	25
Pack animals, each	25
Hogs and sheep, each	5
Loose stock, each	5
Empty teams, half-price.	

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE rates of tolls on the BIG MEADOWS AND BODIE WAGON ROAD are as follows:

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All tolls will be required to be paid at the time of passing the toll gates, as no credit is given

Buggy team	$1 50
Loaded wagon and two animals	1 00
Each additional pair of animals	50
Horseman	25
Pack Animals, each	25
Hogs and sheep, each	5
Loose stock, each	5
Empty teams half-price.	

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BRIDGEPORT CHRONICLE-UNION.

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"As she was not a fairy and had a fist which rivaled in size the digit of my namesake," said Walter P. Corbett, of Macon, Ga., United States marshal for the southern district of that state, "when she hauled off and hit me with all her might in the mouth I felt it. But my esteem and consideration for the sex, of course, prevented any like exhibition of fistic prowess on my part.

"As a rule women do not engage in illicit distilling. When they do it is to take advantage of their sex and they distil for a brother or a husband. No jury in Georgia will convict a woman of illicit liquor manufacture, and they therefore screen their male relatives.

"One of the most memorable raids I ever made was in Taylor county. The old man had five daughters, two of whom were quite pretty. When we drove up we were met by a bulldog as big as a calf. A few blows with a fence rail settled him. In an arbor not far from the house was one of the daughters. She was subject to epileptic fits. Our arrival produced one. The other girls were down at the distillery at the edge of the swamp. We went down there, three of us. They set upon us and for a few minutes there was fun. Maidens of their caliber, who can handle a hoe, plow, or split rails, are formidable antagonists. The way they swore at us, struck us, scratched us, tore us and bit us for a few moments would have been amusing to a casual spectator, but it was certainly trying to our feelings. However, we subdued them and soothed them, rescued the epileptic sister from her fit, destroyed the distillery, confiscated the whisky and left. No, we didn't arrest them, for it would have been worse than useless, and the father, as it happened, was away.

"They promised solemnly never to make another drop of moonshine whisky, but went to work the next day, and we raided them again about three months afterward, though this time they didn't fight, and I have been recently informed that they are still at work. These five Amazons of Taylor county, I understand, entered into an agreement among themselves not to marry, but to make whisky as a close corporation of five. I don't see how the two pretty girls could have made this resolve. As soon as they saw us one of the elder girls called out in a shrill, high voice: 'Revnews,' which is the word of warning among moonshiners and will throw a community of moonshiners into convulsions."—Washington Star.

JAY GOULD'S MISTAKE.

He Thought He Would Escape Reviling After Death.

Many men have wondered what their fellows would say of them after their death. Jay Gould had his weakness. He once confessed it.

"I don't think I ever had an ambition," he said, "except to break the world and to see what it will say about me when I am dead. No man will be cruel enough to say what he really thinks of me when I am dead."

If the dead millionaire could see the stacks of clippings which his son Edwin has collected he would hardly undertake the task of reading them for two very good reasons. It would take him several years to accomplish the task and the tone of most of the comments would not have pleased him.

Shortly after his father's death Edwin Gould arranged to have sent him a copy of every newspaper article printed about his father. He has since December 2 received twenty thousand clippings, which combined make an obituary notice some six miles long. Of these twelve thousand have been taken from the press of this country and Canada, three thousand from the British newspapers and the remainder from those of France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Holland and Spain. Two clippings have been made from Turkish publications.—N. Y. World.

Reformed Spelling.

We hear a great deal about "spelling reform," which means a simplified method of spelling English words. Most of the reformers favor using the present characters of the alphabet and spelling according to sound. A colored man at Isle of Hope, near Savannah, Ga., however, has improved upon this proposed method by combining the characters of the alphabet and the numerals. This Isle of Hope darky recently built a small sailing sloop of about six tons, and named her the Extenuate. Maritime law requires that the name of a vessel be painted on the stern, so Evans applied at the custom house to have his sloop measured, and to obtain a register. When the surveyor went to Isle of Hope to measure her he was dumfounded when he discovered painted on her stern "X10u8."—Harper's Young People.

Chinese Mourning.

In full mourning among the Chinese the black strands of the queue are replaced by white ones and in second mourning by light blue or green. It is an unpardonable breach of etiquette for an inferior to enter the presence of a superior with his pig-tail wound round his neck or head, and the greatest insult one man can offer another is to pull his pig-tail. It seems very odd to see sailors on ship or in barracks combing each other's long tresses, or coolies at the street corners performing the same friendly office. Custom forbids a man to wear a beard and mustache until he becomes a grandfather.

THE BOWER BIRD.

One of the Queer Denizens of Australia's Forests.

The most remarkable instance of estheticism among the birds is that exhibited by the Australian bower birds, who build long galleries in which to play, adorning them with shells, feathers, leaves, bones or any colored or glittering object which comes in their way. Capt. Stokes describes one of these bower birds as taking a shell alternately from each side of the bower and carrying it through in its beak.

Lumholz describes several of these playhouses of the bower birds. He says they are always to be found "in small brushwood, never in the open field; and in their immediate vicinity the birds collect a mass of different kinds of objects, especially snail shells, which are laid in two heaps, one at each entrance—the one being much larger than the other. There are frequently hundreds of shells, about three hundred in one heap and thirty in the other. There is usually a handful of green berries, partly inside and partly outside the bower."

In his interesting book, "Among Cannibals," Lumholz describes a playground of what would appear to be a different species of the bird, showing even a greater esthetic taste. He says:

"On the top of the mountain I heard in the dense scrubs the loud and unceasing voice of a bird. I carefully approached it, sat on the ground and shot it. It was one of the bower birds, with a gray and very modest plumage and of the size of a thrush. As I picked up the bird my attention was drawn to a fresh covering of green leaves on the black soil. This was the bird's place of amusement, which, beneath the dense scrubs, formed a square a yard each way, the ground having been cleared of leaves and rubbish.

"On this neatly-cleared spot the bird had laid large, fresh leaves, one by the side of the other, with considerable regularity, and close by he sat singing, apparently extremely happy over his work. As soon as the leaves decay they are replaced by new ones."

THE INDIAN'S SUGAR.

How It Was Extracted from the Trees in Vermont.

Ever since the Indians in the section now known as Fletcher discovered "honey" in the maple trees, that district has been known far and wide as the heart of the Vermont maple sugar country. The way the red man extracted the delicious compound was somewhat slow as compared with the present process. He used to cut a slanting gash in the bark and insert in the lower end a gauge-shaped piece of wood, from which the sap ran and dropped into a poplar or basswood trough. At the end of the season these troughs would be set up against the trees and left until the following season, by which time the troughs would be thoroughly mildewed. This materially added to the flavor of the aboriginal sugar, but can hardly be said to have improved it. The evaporator of those times consisted of an iron kettle swung from a sapling bent over a stump. By a slow and tedious process the sap was first heated and then boiled in this kettle, often taking two or three days' boiling before it could be sugared off. This was the way in which the redskins and the early Vermontors eked out a "sweetnin'" to their tea and johnny cake.

In the best Fletcher groves of to-day a long pipe or trough line runs from some central spot in the grove down to the big storage tanks in the sugar house. Here the perfected evaporator, when under full headway, will convert the first sap into sirup in half an hour, consuming about one cord of wood to produce a hundred pounds of sugar. There are in the town of Fletcher, at a moderate estimate, thirty thousand trees, this being probably within the real number.

A Deceptive Name.

A Philadelphian and his wife were dropped one hot summer day at the tiny post village of Mount Pleasant, on the Delaware railroad, and as they gazed over a flat country, whose differences of level are scarcely perceptible save by the aid of a surveyor's instrument, a native asked them what they were looking for. Then the Philadelphian explained that the name of the place had called up such visions of an airy eminence that he and his wife had come down to spend their vacation. They learned from the native that summer board was not obtainable there, and he obligingly explained that the place received its deceptive name in commemoration of the fact that it was situated on the watershed between Delaware and Chesapeake bays, the backbone of the peninsula, as it is locally called.

Cremation in Olden Times.

The Smithsonian institution has printed a paper by Dr. J. F. Snyder describing an urn containing incinerated human bones which was dug out of an ancient mound in Georgia. The urn, or vase, is nearly conical, eleven and a half inches high, and was covered by an inverted bell-shaped vessel fifteen and three-fourths inches in height. The ashes nearly half filled the vase, and mingled with them were calcined human teeth and fragments of bones. Lying on the surface of these remains were a quantity of wampum and several small pearls that had been pierced for stringing.

LACE MAKING.

A School Near Venice Where the Art Is Taught.

A school of about three hundred and fifty Italian girls, wearing the national costume and all industriously at work on exquisite lace, is a pleasant and interesting place to visit. So writes Mme. de Boret, who visited a lace-making school at Burano, an island in the Adriatic sea a few miles from Venice. The girls, who are from ten to eighteen years of age, sit in great, barely furnished, well-lighted rooms, on low chairs, holding their lace frames on their knees.

They wear a short, bright-colored petticoat, a green, red or orange fichu crossed on the chest, silver rings in their ears, and around the neck bead or coral necklaces. They have dark eyes, teeth like pearls, smiling red lips, oval faces, fine profiles, and black hair worn knotted in the back of the neck with a silver pin by the older girls, or in long ringlets by the younger ones.

They draw their needles slowly and gracefully back and forth, and gravely except when some girlish joke raises a storm of smothered laughter.

The teachers superintend the work carefully, and the pupils make fine Venetian, Brussels, Alencon and Argentan point and guipure laces. They sometimes fill orders for veils worth five thousand francs. A lace drapery which was shown Mme. de Boret represented a vast amount of work. Seven months had been spent in making the foundation for it.

The price of the laces is fixed according to the time spent in making them, the rate being a franc a day. The more skillful pupils add to their income by doing lace work at home also.

They all like the school, and though the pay seems small for such fine work, it secures them a comfortable living, for a little money goes a long way in the island of Burano. Queen Margherita of Italy has been a generous patron of the school.

THE COLORS OF BUOYS.

Each One Bears a Message to the Passing Sailor.

When you enter any harbor in the world where the channel is marked by buoys you will find that those on your right, as you pass in, are painted red, and those on your left black. If you should see one painted in red and black horizontal bands the ship should run as close to it as possible, because that indicates the center of a narrow channel.

Buoys with red and black vertical stripes always mark the end of spits and the outer and inner ends of extensive reefs where there is a channel on each side. When red and black checkers are painted on a buoy it marks either a rock in the open sea or an obstruction in the harbor of small extent, with channel all around.

If there are two such obstructions and a channel between them the buoy on the right of you will have red and white checkers and the one on your left will have black and white checkers.

When a wreck obstructs the channel a green buoy will be placed on the sea side of the wreck, with the word "wreck" plainly painted on it in white letters, provided there is a clear channel all around it; otherwise, an even number will be painted in white above the word "wreck" when the buoy is on the right side of the channel and an odd number if the buoy is on the left.

MILK CARTS IN FRANCE.

They Are Always Drawn by Dogs and Women.

No matter how much an American has heard of foreign milk carts drawn by dogs, and often by dogs and women, it always seems odd to see such a strange team, says Harper's Young People. The dogs have pretty harnesses, and draw bright green carts, but they look really unhappy, as if they had no pleasure in their work. They trot along with their tongues out of their mouths, and when they meet another dog they cannot even stop to bow to him. An American child would say: "Poor doggie!" It is said that some countries have made laws prohibiting dogs from working as milk-carriers, and in a few years dog milkmen may be a sight of the past. It is queer that there are so many kinds of milk-cans in the world. In America milk is carried in glass bottles and in small round tin cans. In England a pretty tin milk-pail is used, furnished with a brass handle and a wide brass hinge to the cover. The handsomest milk-cans in the world are the great brass cans which are seen in the little European milk carts. They glitter like gold, and the froth of the white milk makes pearl rims upon the well-filled cans. It is no wonder that American artists take these cans home to shine in dark corners of their studios.

Strict Stage Censorship.

The strict censorship of the Italian stage after the fall of Rome is graphically described by Salvini. The words "God," "Redeemer," "madonna," "angel," "saint," "pontiff," "purple," "monsignor," "priest" were forbidden. "Religion," "republic," "unity," "French," "jesuit," "Tartuffe," "foreigner," "patriot" were equally in the index. The colors green, white and red were prohibited; yellow and black and yellow and white were also forbidden. Flowers thrown on the stage must not show any of those colors prominently, and if it chanced that one actress had white and green in her dress, another who wore red ribbons must not come near her.

AMONG THE RAILROADS.

NOT a person has been killed in a Maine railroad wreck since 1889.

BERLIN has the widest train roof on the continent—that at Anhalt station, which is 198 feet 5 inches.

ON the Bangor & Aroostock railroad there is one stretch thirteen miles long without a curve, said to be the longest straight piece of track in New England.

IN New York the trains on the elevated railroads always creep around the curves. In Brooklyn they always turn them at a rush. That is one thing, something in which Brooklyn is not slow.

NUMEROUS metal ties have been invented and many roads have tried them, but all have proved unsatisfactory. The principal objections to them are their cost and their nonelasticity. A track laid on metal ties wears out rolling stock much faster than one laid on timber.

THERE is one way of telling the speed of a railway train which old travelers claim is almost infallible. Every time the car passes over a joint in the track there is a distinct click; count the number of these clicks in twenty seconds, and it is said you have the number of miles the train is going per hour, as the length of the rail is uniform.

AMERICAN LAW-MAKERS.

SENATOR HILL will spend some time on the California coast at the latter part of the year.

SENATOR COCKRELL is the only man in the chamber who has had an unbroken term commencing as far back as the year 1877.

NINETEEN United States senators use but five letters each in spelling their names. The list begins with Allen and ends with White.

SENATOR W. D. WASHBURN, of Minneapolis, is called "Commodore" by many of his constituents. He owns a line of pleasure steamers that ply Lake Minnetonka.

HENRY L. DAWES, who has retired voluntarily from a congressional service in both houses that covered the period during and since the civil war, is as sturdy of figure and health apparently as he was at fifty. He is approaching the age of seventy-seven.

MR. CARLISLE'S new private secretary is Capt. Samuel N. Gaines, of Kentucky. Capt. Gaines was a gallant confederate soldier, was educated at the University of Virginia, and has since been connected with Kentucky journalism. He is a brilliant writer and a very attractive man socially.

FASHION DECREES.

MOTHER-OF-PEARL fans are once more heralded after being carefully laid away for many seasons.

A NEW navy-blue serge has a single thread-stripe of deep green, and is pronounced very stylish.

MEDIUM tan remains the favorite color for gloves. While other shades are sold, this is the standard, and there is more demand for it than for all other colors combined.

WHILE narrow-toed shoes are seen in the best shops, they are not by any means meeting with the favor that those who make a specialty of them would like to believe.

A FEATURE of some of the first drawing room gowns was that they were not made in pairs; one, for instance, being white and the other pink, which can not be called a copiable vogue.

THE young woman of the day scarcely considers herself up to the times if she does not possess a number of waists entirely unlike any of the materials in the skirt with which she wears them.

THE UNITED STATES.

THE United States has a less percentage of blind people than any other country in the world.

THE legal rate of payment for surveying government lands is from five to nine dollars per linear mile.

THE United States land office was organized in 1812 under the supervision of the treasury department. It became a part of the interior department in 1849. The government still posses ses 966,116,283 acres of land, more than one-third of which is in Alaska.

THE charter of Connecticut, given in 1662, included not only the whole of Long Island, but northern New Netherland in the Hudson river region. By a treaty which Stuyvesant had made at Hartford in 1650, the English towns on Long Island were allowed the right to accept the protection of Connecticut if they chose to do so.

A Mystery Explained.

Why does not a man weigh a pound more immediately after eating a pound weight of food? A little reflection will readily explain this apparent mystery. During the process of mastication, deglutition, etc., certain muscles are brought into active play, and the exercise of any muscle necessitates a temporary waste of its tissues, and a certain amount of carbon is eliminated and passes off during the course of the meal. This loss, however, is trifling as compared with that due to respiration and perspiration, both of which are increased during the various operations of making a meal. The length of time one may take to consume a pound of food makes but little difference to these losses, for if it is eaten leisurely there is but slight increase of respiration, whereas if it is hurried through both are abnormally accelerated. Hence, by the time the pound is eaten, the consumer has lost appreciably in moisture and carbonic acid.