

WHAT LIVING COSTS.

BUREAU OF LABOR WILL DETERMINE THE EXPENSE.

Investigation Covering the Year of 1904 Will Ascertain Retail Prices of Necessaries.

Washington.—Has the cost of living increased or decreased? Has the rate of wages been raised or lowered?

These are questions which will be answered by the bureau of labor, which is now conducting a most elaborate investigation of the above economic interrelationships.

The report will show the entire year of 1904. In making the investigation on which these data are to be based a great army of men has been employed.

There is also an investigation into the cost of living of working men's families and into the retail prices of staple articles used by such families.

As showing how the bureau of labor works, it may be stated that its agents, in gathering material for the report on the year 1903, canvassed 2,567 families, and prepared a series of tables.

The first table showed that these families consisted of an average of 5.31 persons, 7 persons above the average of private families in the whole country, as shown by the census of 1900.

In taking up its report as to the retail prices of food the bureau of labor had the investigation cover the entire period from 1890 to 1903. It took the prices for each of those years of 30 different articles.

Then followed tables showing the average quantity and cost to the family of various articles of food and the average total of expenditure and the personal items that entered into the cost of living.

MAPLE SYRUP CHRISTENING

Vermont Petitioners Demand Saccharine Baptism for Baptism.

Cleveland.—At the Quincy, Mass., shipyards there is soon to be launched a goodly little ship bearing the grand old name of Vermont.

Two Signs of Progress. Probably the first Indian divorce in the country was filed in Montana the other day.

Dudish Attire. After refusing them for 20 years a Tancy county man named Willems has begun wearing socks.

THE ART OF BOOMING

AS IT WAS PRACTICED IN THE WEST SOME YEARS AGO.

When a Town Would Spring Up Mushroomlike in a Night and Be Sold Out the Next Day.

Although Oklahoma, the western territory that wants to be a state, is now on the boom and is adding millions to its wealth every year, the real "boom days" are over, says the New York Herald.

"We never expect to see a repetition of the good old days when one man would make a town in a night and sell it the next day for a small fortune," remarked William O. Watson, an attorney in Oklahoma City.

"The last instance of 'over night booming' I remember was the town of Lanowack. On every side as far as you can see there is a prairie, just plain prairie, with hardly a house in sight."

"A blind man could see that there was no town there and nothing to make a town, but it was the promoter's business to sell just such impossibilities, and the way he did it proved him a master of his art."

"The promoter knew his men and his business. After he had slung on the beautiful red paint he backed up his special train to the station.

"The train passed through Lanowack in the night and the investors tumbled out at Oklahoma City. At break of day the boomer had his brass band on the street and every saloon in town was thrown open to the prospective owners of Lanowack, the coming metropolis of the southwest."

"By the time they were half way through the rounds it was decided that Lanowack was the best proposition before the American people and the promoter was voted the savior of the German citizen."

"The promoter cleaned up something like \$5,000 out of the deal, after paying for his train, band, beer and other expenses. About a year afterward I met one of the Germans and rather sympathized with him for the way he had been taken in, but it was pity wasted."

Something New.

Mrs. Smiley looked up from the magazine she was reading.

"Mixed metaphor," echoed her husband. "That's a new one on me. I'll ask the bartender to-morrow." Chicago Daily News.

PALACES OSCAR HAS LOST.

Royal Residences and Civil List of Swedish King Were Exceedingly Modest.

London.—When the Norwegian storthing, by a simple decree, declared the union with Sweden dissolved and that the king of two countries had ceased to act as king of Norway, the material loss of King Oscar and the royal family of the Bernadottes was not so great as might seem at the first blush.

The civil list of King Oscar as king of Sweden is about \$363,710, and the royal family enjoys also an annuity of about \$82,000, voted to King Carl XIV. and his successors on the throne of Sweden.

The private apartments contain paintings and sculptures by Norwegian artists, most of which were presented to the king and queen on their silver wedding in 1882.

The second royal residence ("Oscar's Hall") makes a favorite excursion for visitors to Christiania, as it is beautifully situated on the Christiania fjord, two miles from the city. It was built in 1847 by King Oscar I.

The state palace, situated on an eminence in the western part of the city, was built in 1822-1848, and with the gardens did not cost more than \$123,000, voted by the storthing.

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Locksmith was tricked. Betrayed by a Man Who Employed Him to Open His Door.

New York.—A German locksmith in Harlem had a call one night recently from a young man who said that he'd lost his keys and wanted to get into his house quietly.

"There's no use of my hanging around," said the young man. "I'm going to the corner for a drink. When you get through whistle."

The young man came up. The locksmith said he wanted two dollars for his work. He was told to come around in the morning.

"Widow's mite" is found. Ancient Coin Recently Picked Up on a Farm Near Berlin, Wisconsin.

Madison, Wis.—Experts of the University of Wisconsin hold that an ancient small coin picked up in a field of the Allard farm near Berlin by Anton Disterhoff is a genuine "lepton" or "widow's mite" of Bible times.

The coin is copper, three-eighths of an inch in diameter, with a design representing two cornucopias and a poppy on one side and an inscription on the other.

Mississippi Bloodhounds. The state of Mississippi is to go into the dog-breeding business, limited to one class—bloodhounds.

Crop Estimates. The New York broker does not care very much whether the crop is scanty and prices high or abundant and prices low so long as he keeps on the profitable side of the market.

CRIMINAL MICROBE.

GERM OF CRIME FLOURISHES DURING SUMMER HEAT.

City of Paris Disturbed Over Unusual Prevalence of Criminality—Efforts of the Police to Abate It.

Paris.—Just as when the earth temperature rises to a certain degree it is supposed to release the germs of infectious disease, so the criminal microbe seems to be especially active in the summer heats.

The central parts of Paris are well and adequately policed, but the suburbs and the outer regions are in a deplorable condition of insecurity.

The organization of the cycle police has brought a certain amount of order and security into some districts, but they cannot obviously perform quite the same service as the foot police.

Short of draconian laws against these people there are other measures to be taken that should result in some amelioration of the summer crime of Paris.

Dirty towels for solons. Lavatory Appropriation Was Unwittingly Killed by the Last Congress.

Washington.—Members of the Fifty-ninth congress have just discovered that congress in a fit of absent-mindedness during the last session, struck out the appropriation that provides the clean towels used by members in the performance of their daily ablutions.

Royal Russian Incomes. Boris and Cyril, with their mother, Grand Duchess Vladimir, have an income of about \$15,000,000, chiefly derived from the forests and coal mines in the south of Russia.

Indian Birth Rate. For the first time in the history of Canada, the Indian returns published by the Dominion government show that the birth rate among Indians last year was considerably greater than the death rate.

Teeth for Soldiers. The British army council has decided to discontinue the experiment of providing recruits with artificial teeth.

Curious Flower Fashion. From Vienna comes a curious millinery fashion, that of wearing artificial flowers, "natural" as regards shape, but dyed a wrong color.

USE OF OIL ON COURSES.

Shown by Experiments on Automobile Racing Tracks to Be Beneficial.

New York.—Experiments in oiling roads and tracks for automobile competition would indicate that it is a success when carefully and scientifically done.

The first time automobile races were held here the track was wet from the rain and the machines did not do much harm.

"The dust made the event distasteful to everyone. It was almost determined last year to use oil, but at the last moment I weakened, so some of the directors being litterly opposed to it.

"That oiling dust now makes a perfect cushion, free from dust, nothing to blow away, while the footing under it is hard and as perfect as ever."

GIRL BECOMES SOLDIER. Takes Part as Man in Boer War Spectacle, But Succumbs to Strain.

New York.—Unheard of and hurried in transmission there came out of the Brighton Beach the other night a dispatch stating that Private Frederick McKenzie, of the Imperial Yeomanry, who has been taking part in the mimic charges and battles at the Boer war spectacle, is none other than a young woman.

She trusted to a close resemblance to her brother to escape detection. The description of the brother in the discharge papers brings to the mind's eye a person not unlike the woman.

It was in the afternoon, according to the courier who brought the news to the correspondents' tent at Coney Island, that the woman's secret became known.

Reputedly Rich Women Who Have Less to Spend Than Wives of Laborers.

A thoughtful woman, discussing the marriage problem, remarked that the wife of an artisan or laborer is often more financially independent than the wife or daughter of a well-to-do man of the better classes.

"The wage-earner's wife gets her little allowance at the end of each week, and knows just how much she requires to make both ends meet.

Old Treasury Bill. An unaccounted treasury bill for £100, dated 1745, was presented to the Bank of England the other day.

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DOGS ON POLICE FORCE.

Animals Have Become an Important Auxiliary of the Philadelphia Department.

The Philadelphia police are using dogs as helpers in their work. They have found that the famous St. Bernard dogs can be easily trained to discover unconscious men in alleyways or doorways or under wagons.

Returning to his master, the dog speedily gives the policeman to understand that he is needed, by dragging at his coat until he follows him to the place where the unfortunate man is lying.

With their marvelously keen scent these dogs are quick to detect the smell of fire, and therefore it has been easy to teach them to give warning to the police whenever they ferret out the presence of an incipient conflagration.

The dog police auxiliary has not yet been officially recognized in Philadelphia, but it is nevertheless a very efficient branch of the service.

Such a lovely errand. This cherub of four had his own reason for liking Brother Jack Best.

He was a cherubic youth of four, with a beautiful, blue-eyed countenance and an angelic smile—the kind of a boy that honest persons long instinctively to kidnap.

"Which one do you like best?" "Jack, I guess," replied the youngster after a moment of deep thought.

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