#### WHAT LIVING COSTS.

BUREAU OF LABOR WILL DE-TERMINE 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 elabporate investigation of the above economic interregatories.

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. It is an investigation into the cost of living of working men's families and into the retail prices of staple articles used by such families. The object is to determine the cost of housing, fuel, lighting, food, clothing. etc., of the ordinary family in the United States.

There is also an investigation into retail prices which is to determine the changes in the prices of staple articles of food for a period of years and thereby determine as nearly as possible the changes in the cost of living in 1904. compared with other years covered.

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 ronsisted 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. No effort was made to select large families, the only basis of selection being that the head of the family must be a wage worker or a salaried man earning not more than \$1,200 a year. The average incomes for the year of these families from all sources was \$827.19. The average expenditures for all purposes was \$768.54. and the average expenditure for food was \$326.90

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

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 and it finally worked out the relative price of food, weighted according to the average family consumption. It then worked out the per cent, of increase or decrease in retail prices of various articles for 1903, as compared with previous years, and finally figured out the average cost of food for each family for each of the years under investiprices of food weighted according to family consumption.

By this means Col. Wright arrived at the conclusion that the average cost of food per family in 1900 had been \$318.20. In the year 1896, the year of lowest prices, it fell to \$296.76; in 1902 it reached the highest point of the period. \$344.61; while in 1903 it fell slightly, to \$342.75.

In making its report on the state of wages and the hours of labor the bureau. took probably 5,000 different establishments throughout the country, which include 500 or 600 different occupations. The data of the report for the year 1903 included 3.429 different establishments and 519 different occupations. No reference whatever is made by the bureau to wages and hours of railway employes, farm laborers or coal miners. The interstate commerce commission furnished data as to railway wages and the agricultural department is supposed to investigate the compensation of farm laborers. It was found to be impossible to get any accurate data in the coal regions as to wages of miners, because most of the work in the coal mines is done by contract.

# MAPLE SYRUP CHRISTENING

Vermont Petitioners Demand Saccharine Baptism for Battleship.

"Cleveland .- At the Quincy, Mass., shipyards there is soon to be launched a goodly battle ship bearing the grand old name of Vermont. Comes then a mighty throng of petitioners demanding that the vessel be christened with a bottle of maple sirup. Here is the chance to slay three birds with one chunk of granite. The demon run-under its special and enticing form of champagne—gets a black eye; the golden product of Vermont's forests receives a valuable advertisement and the state assumes her rightful place beside her saffron sisters. Let, the good work go on. The Kansas' shall be christened with unstandardized oil; a bottle of cigarette antitoxin shall be smashed across the indiana's bow. Smear the Chicago from stem to stern with heef trust lard: let the Milwaukee be made famous anew with a foaming stein.

Two Signs of Progress. Probably the first Indian divorce in the country was filed in Montana the other day. There is evidence that the ared man is rapidly adopting the customs of the whites. When the baseball seamon arrived he deserted her and went off with the white team. This is further evidence.

Dudish Attire.

After refusing them for 30 years a Taney county man named Willets has has begun wearing socks. He threatens to whip anybody who calls him a dude.

### 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 miltions 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. "It has been nearly eight years since the country down there was what you might call 'on the boom,' but it has been ten years since the professional town boomers quit us.

"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. That is Lanowack. The promoter, who had been hanging around for some time, suddenly purchased a quarter section of land and tacked the name on it. He was a boomer, one of the real sort who could sell anything they got their hands on.

'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 Mr. Col. Sellers who was doing the business there decided that a certain German settlement in northwest Kansas was looking for just such a city as he had to offer and he went up to visit them. He tarried a week, talked Lanowack and painted rainbows for the moneyed farmers who used to 'Hoch der Kaiser!' Best country in the world and lots of it, he told them; soil peculiarly fitted for raising cotton. corn, wheat, oats, rye, hay, turnips, cadishes, parsnips, babies, Indians and in fact anything that a Christian gentleman has a right to ask for on this lowly footstool. Yes, and right in the middle of this land of milk and honey and Wiener schnitzels was Lanowack. high, dry and healthful, the Arcadia

of the west. "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 Germans filled their pockets with the green goods and tumbled in. They were not going down as settlers, but merely as investors who would reap the harvest as soon as the people rushed in from the east and built up the town, as they were sure to do. They were getting in on the ground floor. Of course they never suspected that the promoter was in the cellar.

"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. The visitors would be marched into one saloon while the band outside played 'Die Wacht am Rhein," and then they would move on to another.

"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. He stood it well and immediately got the crowd on board the train and they visited Lanowack. The engineer stopped at the mail crane that was all of Lanowack that existed at that time, as to-day. But the crowd was delighted. There was the ground, just as the boomer had said: there was the country stretching round about. The air was light and healthful, and the map which the promoter spread out before them showed the location of the post office, the courthouse and federal building. Besides, there was the brass band and the railroad; and the kegs in the baggage car, which had been brought along as Lanowack lacked a well at the time and the waterworks had not yet been installed.

"The lots were put up at auction and went like hot cakes at prices ranging from \$25 to \$100, according to their proximity to the 'courthouse' or 'lederal building,' or some other important municipal edifice calculated to attract traffic. Business was good. The promoter was sorry he had not bought two quarter sections, as then Lanowack would have been twice as large -on the map. After everything had been sold the train pulled back into Oklahoma City, where there were more drinks, and everybody went to bed richer by far than when they first

arrived in town. "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.

"'Vy.' he said, 've gets ter see der country, we has pig railroad rite, all der peer ve vants, der fine moosick and der leetle vacation, unt id only cost huntert dolla. Id vas vert id."

Something New. Mrs. Smiley looked up from the magazine she was reading. "What is a mixed metaphor, John?"

she asked. "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 union has been more nominal than real and the gorden link of the crown has never been particularly solid. King Oscar has, indeed, at one stroke lost nearly half of his subjects and considerably more than one-third of his territory, but in Norway the monarchy has never drawn from the state revenues an exxcessive! income. King Oscar has never encouraged a lavish expenditure in the management of his court and a modest civil list, supplemented by a moderate private fortune, has sufficed for the needs of the royal family which has in many respects formed habits of democratic simplicity.

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. Norway allowed the monarch a civil list much less than half that granted by Sweden, about \$136.250, on which to maintain the royal dignity.

By law King Oscar was bound to pass six weeks annually in Norway. Until recently-and it must be remembered he is in his seventy-seventh year-he attended every year the opening of the Norwegian storthing, and on his visits to Norway resided in one or the other of the royal residences at Christiania, the royal palace and his county seat., Oscarthal.

The royal 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 \$122,000, voted by the storthing.

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 throne-room contains portraits of Oscar I. and Queen Josephine, besides other members of the royal family.

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., in Anglo-Gothic style. It was sold by Charles XV, to the government, but was set apart for the use of the reigning monarch. The painter Tidemand is well represented by some of his characteristic pictures of Norwegian peasant life. In the grounds are to be seen antique Norwegian buildings, an old Norwegian church, dating from the twelfth century, and typical farmhouses of the country.

# 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. The locksmith went with the young man to a house near by and set to work on the lock.

"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 German stuck to his task and in ten minutes he had the way clear. Then he whistled.

The young man came up. The locksmith said he wanted two dollars for his work. He was told to come around in the morning. As he knew some of the occupants of the house he consented. The young man walked into the house and the German went home. Next morning he went around for

his money. The house was full of cops. He stayed long enough to hear that the house had been looted and then made tracks for his shop.

### "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, "Jonathan, the high priest, and the senate of the Jews," in Greek.

The coin, when found, was inclosed in a small metal box and is supposed to have been lost by one of the French missionaries who visited Wisconsin in the early half of the seventeenth century. It was worth about one-twentieth of an American penny, but now has considerable value, as it is one of very few in existence.

Mississippi Bloodhounds. The state of Mississippi is to go into the dog-breeding business, limited to one class-bloodhounds. Several recent failures to run down escaping criminals with bloodhounds and some mistakes made by the hounds in tracking the wrong persons have convinced the officials of the need of improving the breed, the hounds being hitherto hired as occasion demanded from local parties. Mississippi has now bought the finest bloodhounds within its borders, and will start a state pack.

### 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. It is, perhaps, not really so, from a statistical point of view, but, at any rate, it is a microbe that gets itself more talked about than in the winter. when there are other matters to occupy the attention of the newspapers. At this moment, with the Grand Prix over and the fashionable life in the Boise on the wane, we are rapidly approaching the silly season, when Paris criminally reaches its high-water mark in the columns of the "Faits Divers." Of a truth there is reason for a certain disquietude! at the prevalence of crime, not only at this moment, but during the whole round of the 12 months.

The central parts of Paris are well. and adequately policed, but the suburbs and the outer regions are in a deplorable condition of insecurity. No other conclusion can be come to from the long series of attacks upon the person, murders, robberies and violations which have been set forth in the police news during the last 18 months. A case in point is the shocking assassination of the English governess. Miss Charlotte Cary, which is now occupying the attention of M. Hamard and his sharpest detectives. That such a deed is possible in broad daylight and at the very gates of Paris is no compliment to the police arrangements. I hasten to say that the police themselves are not necessarily to be condemned; rather, on the contrary. it is the limited budget, or grant, that is at fault. The police service is starved for want of funds, a condition, by the

way, which is not singular to Paris. 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. Too much license is unfortunately given to the creatures belonging to a detestable class which preys upon women and supplements its evil earnings by an occasional robbery or murder. Numbers of these utterly worthless members of society are to be seen on any fine afternoon sunning themselves on the fortifications, which are the especial haunts of the malefactor. One of the first measures toward rendering the town and environs of Paris secure would be the suppression of these ill-furnish leafers. whose characters and occupations are well known to the police.

Short of Draconian laws against these people there are other measures taken that should result in some amelioration of the summer crime of Paris. Appeal should be made to the good taste and patriotism of certain iournals who specialize in criminal details, whose daily dole of murder, suicide and spoliation is a succession of stimulation to the weak-brained to go-and do likewise. The theaters, too, are not without blame. Lately we have seen a series of positively horrible dramas, one in which a woman is strangled before the audience in the most realistic manner and in much the way in which the poor English woman appears to have met her death. There is too lenient an eye east on incitements to crime, and that is, I believe. the cause of a great deal of it. No wonder a deputation from the city council is urging the government to abolish public executions, which is the apotheosis and glorification of the criminal. Without advertisement he

#### would largely cease to be. DIRTY TOWELS FOR SOLONS

Lavatory Appropriation Was Unwittingly Killed by the Last Congress.

Washington.-Members of the Fiftyninth 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. In the last appropriation bill there was an item of \$25,000 for "miscellaneous items." Certain persons employed under that appropriation were obnoxious and they were legislated out of office by the insertion of a proviso reading: "Exclusive of salaries and labor." The washing of the enormous number of towels used on the house side is paid for out of this appropriation.

On the morning of July 1 the new legislative act went into effect and the clerk of the committee. on accounts promptly decided that washing towels was "labor" and, therefore, could not be paid for out of an appropriation that expressly forbids any payment for labor. The matter was referred to the comptroller of the treasury, from whose decision there is no appeal, and he fook the same view. The question now is how is the Fifty-ninth congress to get its towels?

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. But the government has gone into the crop estimating business to protect the producer, and the producer kicks like a mule when the figures do not suit him. The reply of Secretary Wilson to the New York cotton trade when they protested against his figures implied that he was mainly concerned to serve the interests of the producers.

### 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. There has long been a difference of coinion on the score and most of the trotting tracks have objected to the use of oi! on the ground that it hurts the track by making it too hard for the horses.

President Speare, of the Bay State Automobile association, which conducted the races at the Readville, Mass., track on Decoration day, directed the oiling of the course two days before the meeting in such a manner as to satisfy the automobilists by keeping down the dust and without dissatisfying the horsemen. as evidenced by the report made by Secretary Jewett, of the trotting course.

"The first time automobile races were held here the track was wet from the rain and the machines did not do it much harm. Last year it was dry and dusty and we lost tons and tons of clay, probably \$1.000 worth at least during their races.

"The dust made the event distasteful to everyone. It was almost determined last year to use oil, but at the last moment I weakened, some of the directors being bitterly opposed to it. They were afraid of the odor. That did not worry me, but I was afraid the oil might have a detrimental effect on the footing.

This year we put about 6,000 gailons of oil on the track. The automobile races were held two days later, and there was very much less dust than is usual even at horse races. In fact, there was none to speak of. The oil entirely eliminated that drawback.

"I was afraid that the oiled surface would not pack-that instead of our usual hard surface we would have a brittle and cuppy one. But I believe that the track is better than it was before the oil was used. In proportion to the surface covered there was very lit tle oil used. The dust on the track absorbed it and it did not penetrate.

That oiled 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. I do not know how oil would work on other soils but on ours it has acted in a way that has delighted me."

# GIRL BECOMES SOLDIER.

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

New York.-Uncensored and hurried in transmission there came out of the figh lag fromt of the Transsaat at 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 was spectacle, is none other than a young woman, Mrs. Martha Bennett, masquerading as a man.

Weeping, she confessed to Capt Aibert Roser that she had enlisted for the spectacle under her brother's name and by virtue of his discharge papers, hoping thereby to carn enough money to return to her home in Ire-

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. Her hair had been cropped close, soldier fashion, to make the masquerade all the more real.

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. Broken down by the hard work of the mimic fighting, she had applied for a leave of absence. Capt. Roser noticed her delicate hands all torn and bruised, and said that Private McKenzie did not appear to

have been inured to hardship. "Forgive me, captain, for deceiving you," she said. "I'm not Private Mc-Kenzie, but his sister, Mrs. Martha Bennett." And then between sqbs she told of her desire to earn money enough to return to her home in Ireland. She came to this country three years ago, she said, bearing with her the discharge papers of her brother, made out at Aldershot. So that there might be no question of this, the original papers were shown to the Coney Island correspondents.

Mrs. Bennett will receive her leave of absence, and on her return will have a place in the hospital corps of the Boer war.

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. The 33 Russian grand dukes own 350 castles and palaces in Russia and abroad, and support an army of about 20,000 ervants. Quite one-fortieth of the best land in European Russia belongs to these parasites. In the Ural mountains, Siberia and the Pacific coast they have obtained immense concessions, rendering most of them wealthy beyond the dreams of avarice. Of these 33 six, it is stated, have so little education they can barely read and

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 leath rate. This may be taken to indicate that the Indians of North America. will not become extinct in time, as some suppose.

### 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, who, because of drink, are succumbing to the cold, and if left uncared for would soon be beyond recovery, says the World of To-day.

Returning to his master, the dog speedily gives the policeman to understand that he is needed, by dragging at his cost until he follows him to the place where the unfortunate man is lying. And not until the latter has been transferred to the ambulance or the patrol wagon will the dog give his attention to other things.

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 comflagration. One dog, named Rex, bus discovered no less than five fires before a sign of smoke had revealed the danger to the watchman. Discovered thus early, while still in a smoldering condition, the fire was easily quenched, and thousands of dollars' worth of property thereby saved.

The St. Bernard dogs are also effective in the recovery of lost children. A little training has taught them that a crying child in the midst of a group of people is probably lost, and they have several times brought to the station house some little boy or girl who has strayed away from home or friends.

The dog police auxiliary has not yet been officially recognized in Philadelphia, but it is nevertheless a very efficient branch of the service. The demonstration of the ability of the dogs and the interests of public safety may lead in the future to the use of the St. Bernards in other cities and towns as adjuncts to the police force.

### SUCH A LOVELY ERRAND.

This Cherub of Four Had His Own Beason for Liking Brother Jack Best.

He was a cherubic youth of four, with a beautiful, blue-cyed countenance and an angelic smile-the kind of a boy that honest persons long instinctively to kidnap. He sat on the fence, swinging his beels and humming a kindergarten song, says Lippincott's.

"Oh, you darling!" cried an impulsive young woman, pouncing upon him and giving han a mig "lifas your mother any more like you? Have you any little brothers?"

"Yop," replied the angelic boy: "got three. Me and Jack and Billy and Frank.

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

"And why." asked the young woman, "do you like Jack best"" " Cause he did such a lovely errand

for me once." "What was that lovely errand"" "He bit Billy on the leg." replied

the sweetly serious cherub. "Why," pursued the young woman. "di in't you do your own biting" "'Cause I hate the taste of Billy's legs," was the calm reply.

WIVES WITHOUT PIN MONEY

Beputedly 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. But in some supposedly wealthy households the money goes in so many ways, known and unknown, that the income is often an uncertain quantity. to the wife or daughter managing the household. She is allowed to run upbills as she pleases, but she is given little or no money.

"I have known some of these reputedly rich women actually embarrassed for want of cash for railway fares, and even postage stamps. Any husband who is mean or careless enough to ignore such a state of affaira should be instructed in his duties."

Old Treasury Bill.

An uncounted treasury bill for £100. dated 1745, was presented to the Bank of England the other day. It is genuine, and it is believed that it was issued at 3 per cent. compound interest. That makes its present value £26,000, or \$130,000. The treasury has ; not yet paid it, but the general opinfon seems to be that it will have to

Teeth for Soldiers.

The British army council has decided to discontinue the experiment of providing recruits with artificial teeth. The soldiers would not pay for their teeth as agreed, out of their pay of 25 cents a day, and when the military. authorities tried to make them they descried, teeth and all.

Curious Flower Fashion From Vienna comes a curious millinery fashion, that of wearing artificial flowers. "natural" as regards shape, but dyed a wrong color. There are crimson violets, blue roses and yellow lilies of the valley.

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