REVENUE CUTTER WORK

Value of Service Organized by Alexander Hamilton.

FINE RECORD IN YELLOW JACK WAR

How Vessels Have Done Good Work In Enforcing Quarantine Against Dread Disease In Waters About New Orleans—Service May Be Used to Augment the Navy In Time of War.

Six small sailing vessels patrolling our Atlantic coast in search of smugglers made the beginning of the revenue cutter service that has recently proved its value in enforcing quarantine against yellow fever, says the Washington correspondent of the New York Post. When Alexander Hamilton taxed the resources of the youthful states to equip boats for detective duty under the treasury department of 1794 no fertile imagination pictured the variety of service that would be demanded or the good that could be done by their successors in the next hundred years and more. That service was the basis of the United States navy, but a comparatively few years brought a parting of courses, and, while one arm has been developed to overawe and destroy, the other has steadily extended to protect and help the ways of peace. Revenue cutters have saved thousands of lives. They annually visit the farthest points in the American possessions, and they carry news and assistance to the lonely and shipwrecked.

The service maintained on the quarantine lines about New Orleans and the district infected with yellow fever furnishes a single illustration. Five vessels have patrolled the coast line night and day to capture and inspect the fishing craft and larger vessels that try to break through. Over 600 vessels have already been held up and inspected, many being sent to quarantine station at Gulfport and Ship Island for disinfection and further examination of suspected cases of fever. It has been a tedious, thankless duty, with constant exposure to the dangers of fever, and one of the crew of the Winona was taken with the disease and sent to the marine hospital.

Captain W. G. Ross, chief of the service, who was in charge of the quarantine for six weeks, excited much comment by the fearless way he went about. He relied entirely on his rugged physique and attention to his general surroundings for protection, and, as he has remarked since returning to Washington, had no fear of contagion. He slept in quarters from which mosquitoes were excluded as far as possible. He has less fear of the disease now than ever and believes good health and sanitary conditions prove ample protection.

The revenue cutter service has been under the supervision of the treasury department since those first small boats were sent out by Hamilton, except on occasions when our wars have led the president to take advantage of the statute to place the vessels under the navy department. The duties include the enforcement of all laws affecting the maritime interests of the United States, the prevention of illicit traffic by sea, compelling all craft to comply with legal requirements as to ships' papers, lights, inspection and passenger laws, and the rescue and assistance of distressed vessels and crews—in fact, the cutter service is the great humanitarian branch of our government, its activities extending over land and sea. Its varied duties have furnished subjects for many stories of fiction. One officer now in the service remarked recently that he was first interested in its possibilities through reading J. Fenimore Cooper's "Wing and Wing."

Those in the service point with pride to the record of lives saved. During the Spanish-American war the cutter Hudson, under command of Captain F. H. Newcomb, rescued the torpedo boat Winslow from the damaging fire of the Spaniards at Cardenas, while one of the minor achievements noted was the voyage of the McCulloch to Hongkong with the first news of Admiral Dewey's victory at Manila.

The cruise of the revenue cutter Bear and the rescue of more than 250 sailors from shipwrecked whaling vessels at Point Barrow was an achievement worthy of special mention. The Bear reached San Francisco in December, 1897, when orders were issued dispatching the vessel on a return trip in the midst of an arctic winter to save the whalers. The voyage was successful and would have attracted much attention had not the victories of our navy in the war with Spain overshadowed all else. This cutter continues its annual visits to Point Barrow, which is the northernmost point of the continent. The cutter R. C. Perry has this year visited Attu island, the westernmost of the Aleutian chain, and found three white fishermen who had seen no white men nor had any news from the outside world for a year. Their first question was, "Who is president of the United States?"

While the cutter service is under existing law a part of the civil establishment, it may become available as a part of the military force of the country. The officers and crews must be proficient in naval drills and have practical knowledge of the use of firearms. Although the burden of the service is in the protection of the revenue and the enforcement of statutes affecting maritime interests, it has been abundantly shown in our wars that the boats of the revenue service prove of assistance in the navy. The life of the officers is not always peaceful, and young men who seek this service may expect nearly as much fighting experience as those who go into the larger arms of the service.

Dragging Down Pains

are a symptom of the most serious trouble which can attack a woman, viz: falling of the womb. With this, generally, comes irregular and painful periods, weakening drains, backache, headache, nervousness, dizziness, irritability, tired feeling, etc. The cure is

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"I SUFFERED AWFUL PAIN in my womb and ovaries," writes Mrs. Naomi Bake, of Webster Grove, Mo., "also in my right and left sides, and my menses were very painful and irregular. Since taking Cardui I feel like a new woman and do not suffer as I did. It is the best medicine I ever took."

WHISKY IN PILLOWS

How Liquor Is Sold With Balsam Head Rests.

INGENUITY OF THE MOONSHINERS.

Burton Holmes Tells of Their New Rose in Tennessee to Evade the United States Revenue Officials. Novel Experience of a Campaign Party Near Jellico.

"Whisky pillows" are the latest device of moonshiners to evade the United States internal revenue authorities, says the Chicago Post. Many stories have been told of the ingenious tricks resorted to in the sale of illicit whisky, but the "pillow" is the latest and most novel.

Burton Holmes, the lecturer, who has been in the mountains of Tennessee recently, tells of discovering the pillows thus:

"I had joined a camping party near the small town of Jellico, which is on the state line between Tennessee and Kentucky," he said. "Some one suggested a trip up the mountains to get pine needles or balsam pillows from the mountaineers, who sell them to the few tourists that reach this wild region of the Blue Ridge. It was after several hours' hard climbing that a full half mile off the trail we saw our first cabin. We all went over, and after several whoops and calls our efforts were rewarded by a woman coming to the door.

"We asked if she had any pine pillows for sale, and instead of answering she slowly and with great care looked us over. I could see that her inspection more or less satisfied her, but she said she 'didn't know,' she would have to see, and, turning, she went back into the house.

"Almost immediately we could hear a hurried conversation that was being carried on in low tones, and in a surprisingly short time a man appeared and asked what kind of pillows we were looking for, 'men's or women's.'

"Not a little surprised at the question, I replied that we would like a few of both. My answer evidently puzzled him, for his eyes narrowed into a peculiar squint, and he told us he did not have any women's 'made up,' but that we could have loose balsam for these at the rate of 50 cents a pillow. He said he had men's pillows all ready, but they would be $1.50 each.

"Finally, we were fitted out with enough balsam to make pillows for the women, and each man in the party had under his arm a rude sacklike pillow that felt as if it contained a brick. We had all been wondering what made the pillows so heavy until curiosity finally overcame one of the men, and with the help of a penknife he started an investigation.

"The mystery was soon solved, for when he withdrew his hand a full quart of moonshine whisky came with it. Needless to say, none of us that had purchased 'men's pillows' could use them to sleep on until slight alterations had been made."

Are You Engaged?

Engaged people should remember that after marriage many quarrels can be avoided by keeping their digestion in perfect condition with Electric Bitters. S. A. Brown, of Bennettsville, S. C., says, "For years my wife suffered intensely from dyspepsia, complicated with a torpid liver, until she lost her strength and vigor, and became a mere wreck of her former self. Then she tried Electric Bitters which helped her at once and finally made her entirely well. She is now strong and healthy." The Barrington Pharmacy sells and guarantees them, at 50c a bottle.

CUT AND WIRE NAILS

METHODS BY WHICH THEY ARE TURNED OUT IN VAST QUANTITIES.

The Wire Nail Process Is Simple and Almost Wholly Automatic, While the Cut Nail Process Is Less Automatic and Much Harder.

The making of nails is one of the oldest American, as it is one of the oldest English, industries, but in Great Britain the greater part of the product has been hand work, in America machine work.

Of modern nails, the wire or French nails and the common cut nails are made in quantities which far exceed all other kinds. The wire nails have increased enormously in general use during recent years, but there are still many purposes for which cut nails are preferred.

The process of making wire nails is exceedingly simple and almost wholly automatic. A large reel or spool of wire of a size equal to that of the shank of the nail to be made feeds forward at each revolution of the machine a piece of wire equal to the length of the nail and a fraction of an inch more.

This is seized firmly by clamps, which straighten, while they hold it, and at the same time a pair of jaws so cut the wire as to leave a sharp point to the nail.

Before the clamps let go their hold a hammer, the face of which is a die, strikes the other end of the wire a sharp blow, which forms the head.

The clamps have corrugated surfaces, not merely to hold the nail more securely, but to impress upon it a series of ridges and depressions, which make it harder to draw out when once driven home.

The making of cut nails is less automatic and much harder. Any one who has seen a nailmaker at work will understand the aptness of the old expression, to "work like a nailer." The iron for cut nails is first rolled into sheets, the thickness of which is equal to the thickness of the nail. It is then cut into plates as wide as the nail is long and of such length as a man can handle conveniently, say from fifteen to twenty inches.

The nail cutting machine is a heavy, compact piece of mechanism, not much larger than a sewing machine, before which the nailmaker sits on a stool. It consists of but little more than a pair of shears, strong enough to cut iron three-eighths of an inch thick, and a heading hammer.

Any one who will examine a cut nail will find that the shank tapers, not on all four sides from the head, as he may have supposed, but on two sides only. The other two sides are parallel. It is the neglect to notice this fact which leads so many persons to start a nail into wood in a way which splits it.

From a small furnace near the machine the nailmaker draws a plate which has come to a dull red heat. Holding this by means of pincers, he feeds the edge farthest from him to the jaws of the machine. As they descend they shear a tapering strip from the edge. This is seized by clamps, which hold it just long enough for the heading hammer to strike the blow which forms the head and then drop it.

Now, if the nailer were simply to push the plate forward again the tapering character of the strip which is sliced off would destroy the rectangular shape of the plate, and the nails would neither be of a length nor have square heads and points. To obviate this difficulty the plate must be turned over between every two nails that are cut, so that the head of the nail will come alternately from one side of the plate and from the other.

This—and it is the principal part of the nailer's work—is done with a simple turn of the wrist, and the plate is fed forward as before. As the machines run at considerable speed, and the "flop" must be accurately timed in order that the end of the plate may meet the shears at the right moment and in the right place, the difficulty and the tiresome nature of a nailmaker's work may be imagined. Some idea of it may be had by holding the thick end of a shingle in a pair of tongs and attempting so to turn it with a single motion of the wrist that alternate sides will lie uppermost on a table.

A good nailmaker will make from two to four flops—that is, will cut from two to four nails—a second, the smaller nails, of course, being made more rapidly than the larger ones. As the plate grows cool it is returned to the oven to be reheated, and another plate takes its place.

A nailmaker's hands and arms always show the character of his work by the tremendous development of certain special muscles and by callouses, which become as hard as horn.

The common names of nails—sixpenny, eightpenny, tenpenny, and so forth—are believed to be corruptions of six pound, eight pound and ten pound, names given in England to denote the weight of one thousand of a given kind of nails. Sixpenny and eightpenny was an easy step from "sixpun'" and "eightpun'."—Edward Williston Trentz in Youth's Companion.

The Other Way Around.

"It seems to me," exclaimed Aunt Rachel, "you two are always quarreling when I come in!"

"On the contrary, ma'am!" vociferated the masculine end of the domestic controversy. "You always happen in when we're quarreling!"—Chicago Tribune.

The animals to whom nature has given the faculty we call cunning know always when to use it, and use it wisely, but when man descends to cunning he blunders and betrays.

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Thistle Case Decision.

The interesting thistle case, State vs. Spunner Bros., which was taken from Justice Alverson's court on a change of venue to Justice Kohl at Lake Zurich, was tried last Saturday afternoon. Witness were many and considerable amusement afforded by the attorneys. A fine of $10 and costs, a total of near $30, was assessed by the court. The thistle law seems to be deeply rooted.

"SIMPLE LIFE" AT WEDDING.

Pair to Adopt Plan In Future and Abandon Cooked Diet.

Annie Louise Ambrose and Edgar Wallace Conable were married recently at Los Angeles according to the doctrines of the "simple life," says a Los Angeles dispatch. No unnecessary word was spoken by the Rev. D. L. Jenkins, who performed the ceremony. The word "obey" was omitted.

Because it is a custom to take a honeymoon trip, the bride and bridegroom walked from church to their new home and began life at once with a menu that abolishes meats and all cooked foods, their principal articles of diet being nuts, fruits and vegetables. At the wedding supper which followed the ceremony no cooked foods were served. The party sat under trees and ate nuts and fruit.

A garden and orchard on their farm will furnish food, and so far as possible no articles of raiment not made by the wife will be worn by either. Simple methods will rule their home in everything, and this includes the dispensing with shoes.

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