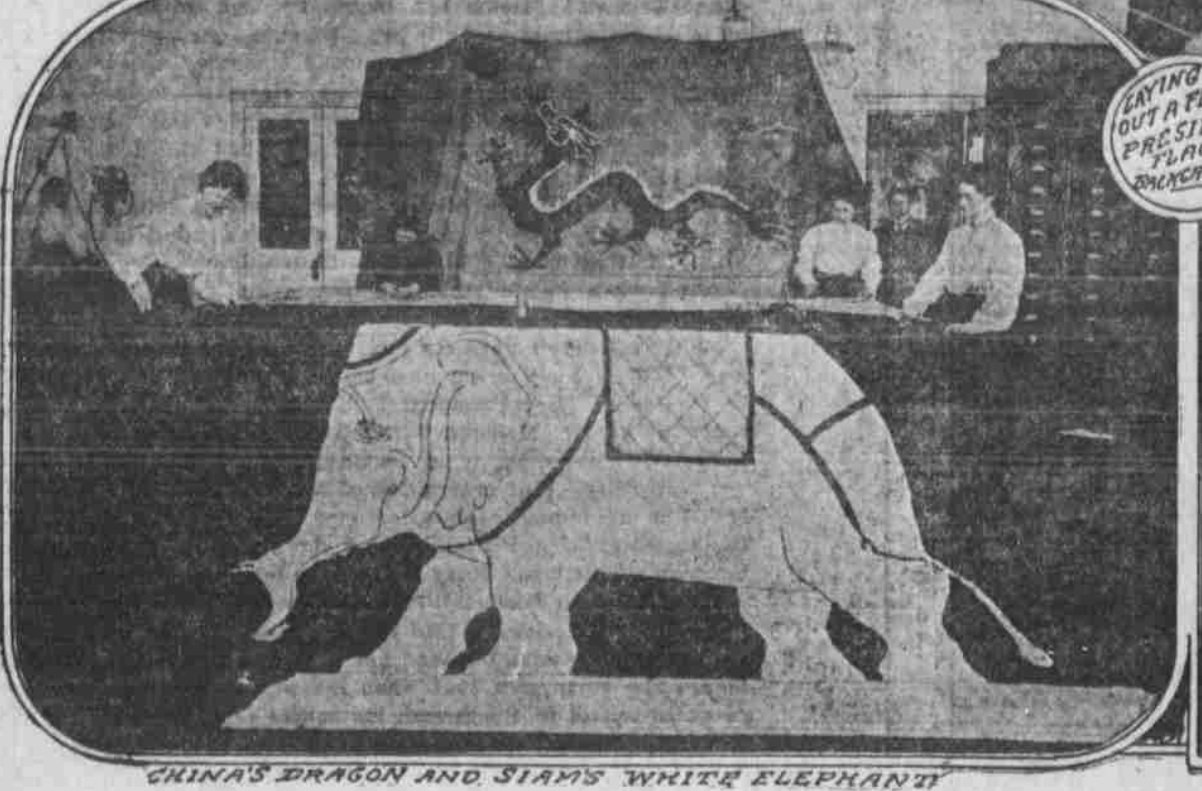
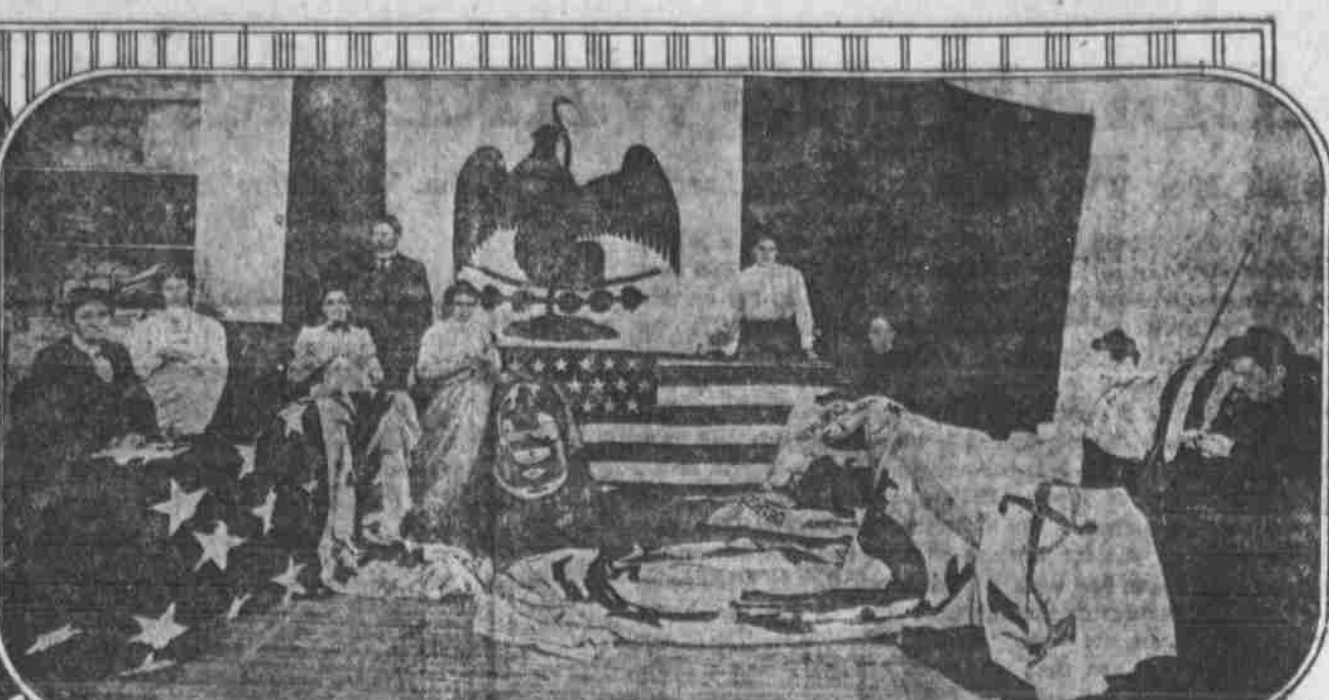
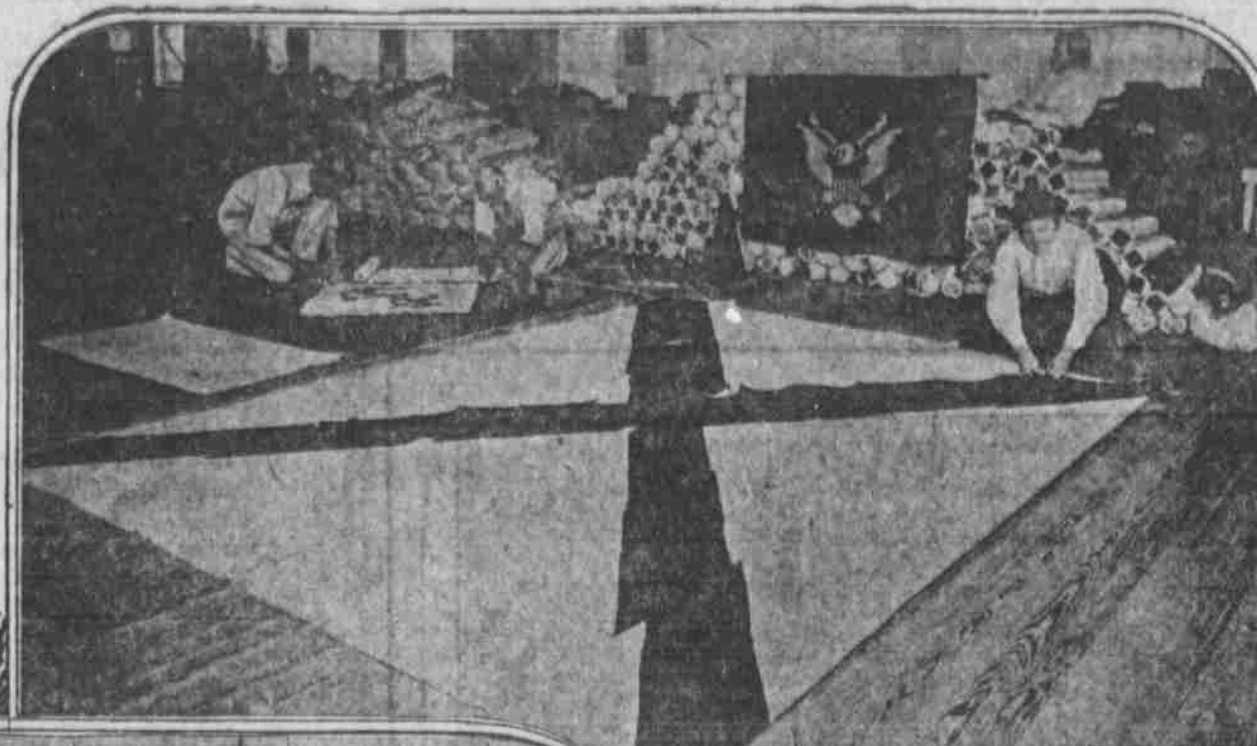


Adding of Oklahoma's Star Inaugurates Busy Season for Flag Makers

NEW YORK, April 4.—The navy's biggest flag-making establishment occupies a long, wide lot in the bureau of equipment building in the Brooklyn navy yard, quite out of sight and access to the casual visitor. Here some fifty skilled needle women and a number of men are employed.

It is a particularly busy place at present. In addition to the routine work of turning out the regulation outfits of flags for the battleships and other war vessels it is now engaged in the task of providing sets of the national ensign for use after July 4 when Oklahoma will be admitted as a state of the union. That event makes it necessary to add another star to the American flag, the forty-sixth.

The flag makers have just passed through an extra busy season. Then they were engaged in completing the supplies of foreign flags which the battle fleet will need in its voyage around the world. This was a good deal of a job because some of the foreign flags are fantastic in their designs and require a good deal of time to make. These flags are needed for saluting on entering harbors of other nations and for similar purposes.



To supply naval vessels with their full stock of foreign flags and the various signal and saluting flags it is necessary to run the flag-making plant at nearly full blast all the year around. On entering the spacious loft one sees rows of bright bunting heaped up waiting to be cut, while lines of electrically driven sewing machines, with women operators, are reeling off and putting the finishing touches to American and foreign ensigns of many different hues and patterns.

A good idea of the number of flags that must be carried by a single ship can be gathered from a large pile, shoulder high and fifteen feet long, just finished for the big battleship *New Hampshire*, which has just been ordered in commission. About one-half of the lot is composed of the foreign flag, encased in bags. The name of the country is stenciled on the bottom of each bag. The remainder, including the flags for ordinary use, signal set, the international code, etc., are not wrapped up, but are tied in bundles and lettered.

This pile cost \$2,500 and contains 250 different flags, the regulation number for battleships to carry for saluting, for signaling and to meet all ceremonial and official requirements while in foreign ports.

The foreign complement contains forty-three flags, each twenty-five feet long and thirteen feet wide. Certain of these contain animal shapes, curious designs and marine landscapes. They are, therefore, difficult to make and require a long time to finish.

The flag manufacturing establishment is under the supervision of Thomas Maloy, officially termed master, flagmaker, and Miss M. A. Woods, quartermaster flagmaker. Besides critically inspecting the finished output these officials also test all the bunting.

This comes from Lowell, Mass., in lots of several thousand yards. One day a specimen lot is soaked and washed in soap and water. The next day the same process is followed with salt water. It is then exposed to the weather for ten days; during thirty hours it must be in the bright sun. This is the color and fading test.

The last test is for tensile strength. For this test a strip two inches wide of the warp is placed in the machine and must withstand a pulling strain of 85 pounds, while two inches of the filling sustains a 55 pound strain.

The plan of a flag is first marked on the floor by means of chalk lines and metal markers. From measurements taken from this plan the bunting is cut off in the proper lengths. The pieces are also assembled on the floor and the first sewing is also done here.

Daily this section of the floor is covered at all hours with different flags while the men and women cutters are at work. The final sewing is done on the machine by the women. Each machine is run by a small electric motor.

Some of the women excel in sewing on the stars, others are skilled in finishing certain other parts of the flag. Nearly all have been many years in the establishment. The pay runs from \$1.25 to \$2 a day.

The thousands of white stars used on the flags are cut out by machines especially devised for this purpose and operated by electricity. Only a few years ago the stars were cut out by hand. Now a plunger, fitted with steel knives of the shape and size of the star wanted, cuts out with a single down stroke from fifty to one hundred stars. Pressing the foot on a pedal operates the machine.

Some eight different sizes of stars are used, each having a special cutting die. Two men sew the flag raven, the heading and the wooden toggles on the finished flags. Afterward the heading is stamped with the name of the ensign and date of contract.

The largest flag made is the United States ensign No. 1, which is 24 feet long by 19 feet wide, and costs \$40 to turn out. The president's flag requires the longest time of any to make. It takes one woman a whole month to finish it.

It consists of a blue ground with the coat of arms of the United States in the center. The life size eagle, with long, outstretched wings, and other emblems are all hand embroidered and involve much patient work. The flag is made in two sizes, ten feet by fourteen feet and three feet by five feet. The embroidery work used on this and other designs costs \$5 a pound.

The foreign flags are the most showy and difficult to make. This is notably true of the flags of the Central and South American republics, two of the most tedious being those of Salvador and Costa Rica.

The former has for a centerpiece a landscape showing a volcano in eruption and a rising sun, set in a design of draped banners, cactus branches, cornucopias, etc. In the ground of a rayed diamond, with the date of the independence of the nation inscribed at the top.

Costa Rica has two ships in full sail on each side of a dividing chain of mountains rising from the sea, with the morning sun just appearing in the back ground. The whole is surrounded with draped flags with staffs, armoured spears, battleaxes, swords, trumpets, etc. There are from 100

to 200 different ensigns, all of which are patiently sewed on by hand.

A separate corps of hand embroiderers do nothing but this kind of work, and it occupies one woman sixteen days to complete the Salvador design. The cost of making the Costa Rica flag is \$45, that of Salvador, \$22.50, the latter being the most expensive foreign emblem made. The flag of Siam, containing the big white elephant, costs \$38.

Another record breaker in point of trouble to make is the dragon flag in China. The dragon is the prominent feature of the Chinese standard, and its fantastic scaled body, with claws and open mouth, is worked out on a yellow ground in blue, green and white. Over 200 separate pieces form the grotesque figure, which is ten feet long. From twelve to fourteen days are taken to finish the flag, which costs \$17.50. The cheapest foreign flag made is the Moorish, which costs \$21.

Each ship is entitled to a new supply of

flags every three years, though some flags wear out in less time.

The bureau of equipment has just designed some twenty-five new signal flags which have been added to the naval code of signals.

One of the most important changes of 1908 is the addition of Oklahoma's star, making the forty-sixth to be placed on the national flag. Instead of the present arrangement in which the six rows alternate with eight and seven stars the new United States flag will have the stars arranged in this manner: Top row, eight stars; second row, seven; third row, eight; fourth row, eight; fifth row, seven; sixth row, eight.

One expert needlewoman is selected for placing and basting on the stars; then they are finally stitched by the machine operators.

Over 10,000 flags were turned out in the last year, which required some 150,000 yards of bunting in their manufacture, while the needlewomen netted over \$15,000 for their skill and labor.

About the Baganda Who Raise Their Clothes in Their Own Gardens

KAMPALA, Uganda.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—Away off here in the heart of the dark continent, within a few hundred miles of the headwaters of the Congo, and right at the source of the Nile, is a nation of semi-civilized Africans who are clad all in bark. I have just left the Kavirondo, on the other side of Victoria Nyansa. They go stark-naked, and are not ashamed. These people are fully clad, and they consider all exposure of the person indecent. A married woman who would go about wearing only the girdle of beads and the short fiber tail which constitutes full dress about Port Florence would be arrested in Kampala, and the Uganda man who would strut around with only a little apron of skin tied to his waist at the back, would be drummed out of the country.

The Baganda, as these people are called, are a nation of pruders. This is so especially as far as the men are concerned. Everyone of them, when not working, is clothed in long flowing garments from his head to his feet; and in the time of the last king the man who showed a bit of bare leg in his majesty's presence was instantly punished. I have told you how the old blind musician of the present king lost his eyes by allowing a princess to see him in swimming. This was at the command of old King Muteba, and that notwithstanding he kept a large corps of nude girls about his palace to act as his valets. Nowadays the Uganda women are almost as much clad as the men, and it is only when out working in the field that they may occasionally be seen bare to the waist.

from the armpits to ankles. I am told that many of them take off their clothes when dining inside the house, in order to keep from soiling the. The women I see are on the whole pretty well clad.

Adam and Eve in Uganda.

When Adam and Eve had their little trouble over the apple, and from it, as an eye opener, clad themselves in fig leaves, they set an example for these people of Uganda. The Baganda, however, use the bark of the fig tree and not the leaf. This bark clothing is all made of the inside skin of a species of fig tree which they grow in their gardens. I have just returned from a long trip through the country and have had an opportunity to see how the bark is grown and how it is prepared for clothing.

The ordinary Uganda family lives in a thatched hut surrounded by banana plantations, and these clothing trees are planted in among the bananas. They are to be seen everywhere along the roads. They grow to a height of from twenty to thirty feet and their branches begin at about eight or ten feet from the ground. The bark is cut in such a way that it comes off in sheets. If it is properly stripped from the tree another coat will grow, so that the same tree will produce a new crop of cloth every year. In cutting the bark great care is taken to leave a thin film on the trunk and as soon as the outer bark is removed the trunk is wrapped in green banana leaves and these are tied tightly about it with banana fiber. I saw the natives doing such work in many of the gardens on my way across Uganda.

The bark comes off in strips from six to ten feet long and as wide as the circumference of the tree. These strips are soaked for a time in water, until they become damp and soft. They are then spread out on skin mats and hampered with mallets. This makes them thinner and broader. They are also pulled and stretched until they finally become much like pieces of cloth from half a yard to a yard wide and of the length of the cutting. The bark is composed of many fibers, which cross each other this way and that, just like weaving, and when it is dried it seems like a great sheet of woven fibers. It can now be sewn together into the blankets used as clothing and it can be painted and decorated in patterns. I have bought a number of sheets of this stuff. They are of a reddish brown color, of the same hue as cinnamon or tan bark. They feel just like woven cloth and look as though they might have been felted or passed through a loom. The stuff is somewhat thicker than cotton sheeting, but it is as firm and almost as smooth.

I understand some of this bark cloth has been sent to America and Europe and that it is used in Germany for making ladies' shopping bags and card cases, as well as caps, hats and book covers. I was told in Entebbe by an explorer there that he had applications for a large amount of it from certain American weaving mills, which wished to experiment in making velvet of

it. The cloth can be trimmed like silk, meryl or velvet. It can be dyed any color and it could be made waterproof. When it is blocked to any form it holds its shape; and, when cemented together into two thicknesses, laid crosswise, it is very strong. It might be used as a matting and seems to be decorative as a wall paper. As it is, there is practically no market for it other than that of the natives.

No Pins or Buttons.

I wish I could show you some of these Uganda girls, dressed in their terra cotta sheets, as I see them around me. The bark cloth is wrapped tightly about their bodies, leaving their plump arms and shoulders bare. It is often tied in at the waist with a bark cloth sash and is gathered up at the front so that a great fold hangs over and falls half-way to the knees. It gives forth a swishy rustle as the women move, and I am told that they delight in this noise as our girls delight in the swish of their silk petticoats. In such costumes they are entirely covered, and the only weak point about the dress seems to be that there are no pins or buttons and that there are not even shoestrings over the arms to hold the dress up. The mere knot at the front seems by no means safe, and I am in constant fear that the tie will slip and the bark cloth drop to the ground. The longer I stay, however, the less this fear holds. The dresses seem to be as tight as though girded, and that even on the girls who work on the road chopping out the weeds with their little hoes and bending half double as they do so. I have seen women so working with little black babies on their backs, held in by the bark cloth.

Suit of Clothes for Four Cents.

Speaking of the dress of the Baganda, I have said they are all fully clad. This is so of both men and women and of even small boys. The only exceptions are girls, up to the ages of 3 and 9 years. They go absolutely naked, save that each has a ring of woven fiber or of twisted banana stems as big around as my thumb. This they wear about the waist. During our trip yesterday my son Jack met a girl so clad and bargained with her for her outfit. The little one sold her whole suit of clothes for 4 cents, stepping out of her waist ring and standing there naked while she handed it to him and took the money. A moment later she scampered off into a banana patch and made a new ring of banana fibers to take its place. I am told that the little one consider themselves undressed when they have not this ring about their waists; and that if they have left it off they will run for it and put it on before they come to meet strangers.

This little girl had her head shaved close to the skin. This is so with both women and men among the Baganda. Nearly

every one has a scalp like polished ebony, although a few allow the hair to grow. The Baganda do not wear jewelry and the women do not pierce their ears nor disfigure themselves with scars and various other mutilations, as is common among most African tribes. Those who wear hair do not load it with grease, and, as a rule, the people are noted for their cleanliness and fondness for bathing.

Since the country has been opened to Europeans many of the richer natives have begun to wear cotton, and, strange to say, they prefer American goods to any other. These goods here go by the name of American. This means cotton sheeting, and that made in the usual length for one dress. Both men and women wear such sheets, so that any large crowd forms a mixture of whites and tans. The whites are the American cottons and the tans are the bark cloth.

How the Baganda Look.

These natives of Uganda are fine looking. They are shorter than the average Caucasian, the men being not more than five feet four or five inches tall, and the women still less. They are all well formed. Every one holds his head up and throws back his shoulders, and all are broad-breasted and deep-chested. This may come from the hilly nature of the country and the fact that the people do much walking up and down hill.

The younger women have beautiful necks and arms and very full breasts. Many of them are like ebony statues, and almost every girl has a form which would be coveted by any American belle. Their erectness of figure comes largely from the habit of carrying things on their heads. This is done by both men and women. During my trip across the country I passed hundreds carrying loads in that way. Men went along on the trot with firewood, bunches of bananas and bales of hides balanced on cushions of leaves on their crowns. I saw women carrying gourds of water upon their heads so carefully poised that the water did not spill, although the gourds were untouched by the hand. Now and then we passed a girl going along with a glass bottle balanced on her pate, and at one place I saw a gang of porters carrying elephant's tusks in that way.

water. The streams are crossed by bridges and the whole twenty-five miles is as good as the beach drive along Rock creek in Washington or any of the roads at Central park. Indeed, the only native highways that will compare with it are those of Java, the labor upon which is done in much the same way.

Land of Good Highways.

Uganda is a land of good roads. This country is about as big as Kansas and it has thousands of miles of native roads, each ten feet or more in width. This is so in the most of German East Africa, in British East Africa and in the Congo valley. It was over such roads that Stanley went, and Livingstone and the other great African explorers made their way through such paths.

These roadways are one of the greatest signs of Uganda's civilization. They go up hill and down vale, crossing the streams and swamps on bridges and causeways. Since the British took possession of the country they have improved these native roads. They are building others and one can now go in a Jirikisha, pulled by natives, from here to Lake Albert, a distance of about 30 miles. I understand that there is even a road to Gondokoro, which lies in the Sudan on the other side of Uganda. That place is the terminus of steam navigation on the Nile, so that I could go by Jirikisha from here to that point and thence by steamboat and rail to the Mediterranean.

Where Women Work the Roads.

All the roads of this country are kept up by the natives under the direction of their chiefs, although back of the chiefs are the British officials, who work through them. Every person in the country, male and female, is subject to one month's work during the year as a road tax. We think it a heavy burden if we have to pay for one day's work on the roads, but here every one is supposed to work a whole month. Each chief is responsible for the roads of his territory, and he calls upon every household for the requisite amount of labor. The householders as a rule see that the most of the work is done by the women. This I found to be the case all the way from Entebbe to Kampala. Everywhere there were girls down on their knees pulling out weeds, or bending over and smoothing the roadbed with short-handled native hoes. In one or two places men were at work, but as a rule the rough labor was done by bare-shouldered, bare-armed and bare-footed females clad in bark clothing. Now and then I stopped on the way to watch them, and once took a snap shot of a shaven headed maiden with a native hoe in her hand.

Nation in Bark.

There are about 1,000,000 negroes in Uganda, and that is just the number of these semi-civilized Baganda. If you could collect all our Georgia colored population together and dress them in bark, having an occasional one clad in sheets of white cotton, you would have something like the nation here at the source of the Nile. The people are Basutu negroes. They are, if anything, better looking than our colored people, and are far more intelligent than the negroes about the Gulf of Guinea; from where the greater portion of our slaves came. Their bark clothing is made in the shape of great sheets of the size of a bed quilt, and it is wrapped about the body, ascending in the case of the men from the neck to the feet, and with the women from under the arms well down to the ankles. The Baganda man begins dressing by winding a strip of bark cloth about his hips and passing it between his legs and fastening it at the waist. After this he puts on his large sheet, which he fastens around his shoulders and often ties in at the waist. It is only when at hard labor that any other part of his body is bare. When working his lower legs often show.

Women to not seem to regard the exposure of their person above the waist as indecent, although they are usually clad

in bark. I have seen a woman who had a large sheet of bark cloth wrapped about her body, and she was carrying a large bundle of bark cloth on her head. She was walking along the road, and she was looking at me with a curious expression. I saw many other women like this, and I saw many men like this. They were all dressed in bark, and they were all looking at me with a curious expression.

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SNAPSHOT OF A SHORN HEAD MAIDEN WITH A BARK CLOTH TREE WRAPPED IN GREEN BANANA LEAVES TO INDUCE A NEW GROWTH OF BARK. FRANK G. CARPENTER.