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ASPIRANTS TO OFFICE.

HOW THE CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS ARE CONDUCTED.

Many Are Called but Few Are Chosen. Even the Most Hopeless Yearners for Government Jobs Make Frantic Efforts to Succeed—Some Knotty Problems.

WASHINGTON, June 13.—It would not be easy to find in the capital city a more interesting scene than that presented in the quarters of the civil service commission on a departmental examination day.

He is nearly always the last person to leave the examination room, fearing that if he departs earlier his fellow candidates will discover that he has failed and jibe him.

Another old man, white, and with a face that is finely molded, is pointed out as one who, twenty years ago, was rich and almost famous, successful in politics and thought to be a future senator of the United States.

As we look the old man who resembles Father Time is struggling with this: Add 34 of 1,388 to 7-16 of 1,908, and from the sum take 7-8 of 388.

The comeliest young woman in the room is bothering her pretty but rather empty head over a blank which contains a dozen such conundrums as:

Though here and there is one who looks like a tramp from the streets, these must be worthy, respectable men and women, for has not each of them been indorsed by three well known citizens of his town?

of 65 per cent. or better, and of the 300 who feel called only fifteen will be chosen to enter into the gates of the departments as clerks on the government pay roll.

Those who pass, but fail of an appointment within a year, must also come back and be ground once more through the unpromising hopper.

ment within a year, must also come back and be ground once more through the unpromising hopper. When the list of eligibles is made up the candidates showing the highest average are placed at the head, and experience shows that only those whose score reaches close to 100 need expect to profit for their pains.



construction of language and punctuation. Though these lessons are plainly given out, very rarely, indeed, is a candidate found who will succeed in catching every word.

The stationery division of the treasury department had on hand at the end of the fiscal year 1888 certain letter paper valued at 158,321.17, and weighing 1,255,577 pounds.



State in whose administration the following events occurred: Purchase of Louisiana, Mexican war, nullification of South Carolina, War of 1812, Emancipation Proclamation.

While the eager candidates are struggling with these question blanks, whose contents, of course, they had no knowledge of till they sat down here, two or three bright eyed young men are walking about among the desks.

No wonder the women are largely in majority in these class rooms. It is the woman who succeeds. One-third of the males fail to reach the coveted 65, against only one-sixth of the females.

RUSSIA'S GREAT FLOOD.

Frightful Scenes When the Neva Overflowed Its Banks.

NEW YORK, June 13.—The flood that overwhelmed St. Petersburg was not quite so terribly sudden as this Commaugh one, but it was fully as destructive, and to this day you may see on many of the great Russian public buildings a red line, with the date "7th November, 1834," marking the height of the water on that fatal morning.

Just at daybreak on the morning of the fatal 7th those whose houses looked down upon the great open space of the Admiralty plain (which flanks the river) were awakened by a hollow rumbling like distant thunder.

And now the tragedy began in earnest. As the timber houses along the river bank began to shake beneath the battering strokes of the waves, the doomed inmates tried to clamber to the roof, mostly falling in the attempt and falling headlong into the raging waters below.

Several other boats were soon at work and the men who guided them, steering close to the submerged houses, shouted to those at the windows and on the roofs to let themselves down.

But the horror was not at its height even now. With the coming of night came a bitter north wind and a frost of unparalleled severity, which completed the deadly work that the flood had begun.

A few figures were seen clinging to the trees along the front of the Admiralty building, and the passing rescuers halted them, but there was no reply.

How many lives were lost during that fearful day and night (which still stands alone in the memory of the Russian people like the burning of Moscow) can never be known now, but apart from the multitudes that were destroyed in the capital itself, hundreds upon hundreds must have perished in Cronstadt and the low flat islets at the mouth of the river.

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