

report. Officers availing themselves of leaves of absence must bear in mind that while the government grants a privilege it expects in return full and accurate military returns of the country and a test of the officers' ability to prepare such information if called upon. That the country passed over has been previously reported upon and mapped will not relieve officers from making the necessary maps and reports from original sources of information and observations. If the report is not satisfactory in this respect the hunting leave will be counted as ordinary leave of absence."

THE PRACTICE OF ARMY OFFICERS bringing Filipino and Chinese servants into the United States on army transports is to be put a stop to by the war department. It is said that nearly every transport returning from Manila has brought from three to half a dozen natives as servants of army officers or their wives. Officers serving in Cuba and Porto Rico have abused the privilege that has been theirs for some time in this respect and they will now be required to return the servants they brought with them from these quarters at their own personal expense. The Brooklyn Eagle's Washington correspondent tells the story of this new rule of the government and in speaking of the order, gives that part of it referring to natives from the Philippines as follows: "These native servants must invariably be sent back to the Philippines and this office has no authority to furnish transportation on any army transport for female servants unless accompanying a mother with an infant in arms. It is therefore desired that great consideration be given by authorities in Manila to any applications of transportation on the army transports for male or female native Filipinos, Japanese, Chinese or other foreign servants, from the Philippines, or Nagasaki, Japan, to the United States."

A NOVEL MEANS OF CORRECTING ABUSES in the matter of transferring clerks and other employes in the postal service has recently been undertaken by the postal authorities at Washington. The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Inter-Ocean says: "A special inspector has been sent out, with instructions from the commission to visit postmasters in a number of central states, coach them in the civil service regulations, and warn them against the practices which were disclosed by the recent postoffice department investigation. Not the least remarkable feature of the new methods of correcting abuses of the civil service rules is the fact that the inspector in this case is a young woman, Miss Caroline I. Griesheim, who has been connected with the civil service commission's office for many years. Her tour embraces the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. She will confer with postmasters and local civil service boards and explain to them the recent modifications of the rules whereby it is intended to prevent the transfer of clerks from interior offices to the departments in Washington, and to avoid the employment of employes and clerks in positions outside of the grades to which they are legally appointed. The occurrence of a number of irregularities in Ohio gives especial importance to Miss Griesheim's work in that state. Since the revelations made in the course of the postoffice investigation there have been cases of violations of the civil service rules brought to light in the post-offices of Ohio, and it will be a part of the important civil service inspector's business to report on these."

IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT MANY PEOPLE find employment in this country in making statues and figures designed to represent the gods of heathen lands and that these figures are then sent to those countries where such practices of worship are in vogue. A writer in the New York Tribune says that the city of Philadelphia is extensively engaged in this peculiar trade and adds: "The chief market for Philadelphia made gods is India, where the demand is for Buddhas and Ganesas. The most expensive ones are marble Buddhas two feet high, which cost \$50. The models must be accurate, for the devotee of India must have all details traditionally exact, as every band, every color, every little decoration has some symbolic meaning. The Buddhas are made after an exact copy of a Siamese Buddha reputed to be the best image of the god extant. The god Ganesa, with his four arms and elephant's head, is no less costly. Plain and undecorated Ganesas can be had for \$50. If the divine dignity be heightened by ornament, the god may fetch as much as \$75. A bit of color slightly inaccurate in shade or

an ornament improperly placed may render the most picturesquely hideous Ganesa or Buddha absolutely worthless to a Hindoo."

A PLAN TO RAISE THE PRICE OF WHEAT throughout the world is on foot, according to the London correspondent of the Chicago Tribune. This correspondent says that the Daily Mail, a newspaper of London, is authority for a statement from Warsaw to the effect that an American association, stated to number 38,000 farmers, has asked the Russian ministers of finance and agriculture for their assistance in raising the current prices of agricultural products, especially wheat. It is said the association proposes to establish a grand union of wheat growers, embracing agricultural organizations in the United States, Russia, Argentina, Austria-Hungary, Roumania, Canada, and British India, which will annually fix the minimum selling price. The Mail's correspondent adds that in view of the apparent abhorrence of trusts on the part of M. De Witte, the Russian minister of finance, it is doubtful if he will accede to the request of the American association.

AN INSTITUTION KNOWN AS CHILD'S London bank, the principal proprietor of which is Lord Jersey, has some quaint rules. According to a writer in the Chicago Chronicle, one of these rules is that one partner of the bank must always sleep on the premises. The Chronicle writer adds: "In addition to this a head clerk is constantly on duty 'keeping officership,' as it is termed, and several junior clerks also live and sleep in the house. Another quaint relic of past days is the habit of calling the front of the bank 'the shop' and its back premises the 'counting-house.' Much is written of the modern business woman, but she existed as a social factor nearly a century ago. From 1806 till 1867 Sarah, countess of Jersey, ruled Child's bank as head partner and signed the firm's books and shared profits until the day of her death."

ACCORDING TO EARLY TRADITION, historical statement and general belief the famous pirate, Blackbeard, buried untold treasure somewhere along the Atlantic coast of our country and the people of Chester, Pa., have become convinced that some of this treasure was buried in the vicinity of their city. Recently this belief was revived by the finding of a number of strange coins along Tilghman Creek street. The Chester correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald says: "That a large amount of the gold of Blackbeard lies buried along the river in the western part of Chester is common belief. For this reason the construction of every sewer, digging of every cellar or any work that disturbs the earth for a few feet beneath the surface is closely watched. Where Second and Tilghman streets intersect there was once a landing for ships, and this adds to the plausibility of the notion that some of Blackbeard's revels were held there and some day his gold will be unearthed."

AN INNOVATION HAS BEEN INTRODUCED in the discipline of the state prison in Charlestown, Mass. The Boston, Mass., correspondent for the New York World tells the story in this way: "As a relaxation from cell life and as a reward of good conduct, baseball games are being tried with satisfactory results by Warden Bridges at the state prison in Charlestown. The game gives the prisoners a beneficial change from the routine of prison discipline, diversion and fresh air. The innovation has been followed by an improvement in the discipline. The warden says the prisoners act as if permission to play ball or to see a game is the greatest boon that can be conferred upon them next to a pardon or the expiration of a sentence. The inmates have two nines, called the Resolute and the Hustlers, and they play every fair-weather Saturday. There is room enough for 200 spectators, all prisoners, in the yard."

THE SOLUTION OF THE NEGRO PROBLEM seems to be one of the great questions of the day. In connection therewith, much interest is being manifested in an organized effort by the Rev. J. Henry Duckrey of Cambridge, Mass., seeking the emigration of 500,000 negroes from the south to points in the state of Massachusetts within the next three years. Rev. Duckrey is acting as the head of an organization which is said to have unlimited money at its command and which claims to include in its membership many prominent men and women of that section of the country. Many of the negroes thus being sent to the

north are skilled laborers and some are women, but all seek employment. Rev. Duckrey claims that he is receiving much encouragement not only from citizens of Massachusetts, but from other eastern points, and believes that he can get 10,000 persons out of the south by November 1 of this year.

AS REGARDS THE CHANCES OF SECURING employment for these negroes, the Troy, N. Y., correspondent of the New York World, who tells the story of this new organization, also says that "a manufacturer of paper boxes at Cambridge, Mass., has agreed to employ 100 of the colored women and arrangements are now being perfected whereby several thousand colored persons of both sexes will find work. A large number will remain in northern cities, while some will be sent to the farming districts. Many persons believe that the coming of so many negroes to this section will fill the poor houses and cause wild descents to be made upon the charity organizations. Many others believe that the workingmen here today will be cut out of employment. On the other hand, the members of the emigration society assert that they are perfectly able to take care of every colored man and woman coming here, and each will be provided with employment. Mr. Duckrey has letters from business men who offer to furnish employment to the colored people immediately."

WU TING-FANG WILL BE REMEMBERED as the Chinese minister to the United States who was not only popular in this country among all classes of people, but was regarded as a man of extraordinary ability. A dispatch to the Chicago Chronicle from Washington says that Minister Conger of Peking has informed the state department that Wu Ting-Fang has been appointed second assistant in the corps of under-secretaries. "While," says Mr. Conger, "this gives Mr. Wu nominally only a clerical place, yet it makes an opportunity for utilizing his foreign knowledge and experience if the foreign office so desires." Minister Conger reports also that Lien Fang has been promoted to the position of first secretary, or director, of the board of foreign affairs, vice Na t'Ung, transferred to the presidency of the board of revenue, and that Ku Pi Hsin has been appointed second secretary, or director, of the board of foreign affairs.

THESE ARE BAD DAYS FOR REPUBLICS. That which has been known as the finest republic in the world has recently been destroyed. The Berlin correspondent for the New York World says: "Altenberg, or Moresnet, the neutral district covering barely a square mile and a half and having a population of 2,500, has passed to the control of Belgium, Prussia having surrendered her claim for a cash consideration not disclosed. This nook, where Holland, Belgium, and Prussia meet, following the Napoleonic settlement, was claimed by both Belgium and Prussia. These two countries agreed in 1816 to let the inhabitants rule themselves, and since then Moresnet has been practically a republic governed by an elected mayor and ten councilmen, the statutes being the Code Napoleon. Trade was absolutely free and the people were exempt from military service. The republic got along very well until a few months ago, when gamblers from Liege obtained the councilmen's consent to erect a gaming pavilion in Moresnet, designed to rival Monte Carlo. The concessionaires agreed to build electric railroads to neighboring towns, to maintain parks and various institutions, and to share in this way the profits of the roulette tables with every inhabitant. A casino was opened last week, and the German and Belgian press contained reports of the distinguished persons surrounding the tables, especially rich youths from Cologne. This publicity has now resulted in Prussia selling her claim to Belgium."

STAMP COLLECTORS AND OTHER PERSONS interested in the stamp system of the world may be interested in an article that recently appeared in the Kansas City Journal which relates to that subject. It is claimed that the stamps of Hong Kong, which remain unchanged since the first issue, are the oldest in the world. All other stamps have been changed in the forty odd years, but the head of Queen Victoria on the Hong Kong stamp has never been altered. Now, however, it appears that a new set of stamps is to be used with the head of King Edward, and when the change has taken place the oldest stamp will be the Russian, with the double headed eagle and the shield of St. George, which was issued in 1864.