

his spear, which stuck in the ground and broke in his hand. Colter instantly snatched up the pointed part, with which he pinned him to the earth, and then continued his flight. The foremost of the Indians, on arriving at the place, stopped till others came up to join them, when they set up a hideous yell. Every moment of this time was improved by Colter, who, although fainting and exhausted, succeeded in gaining the skirting of the cottonwood trees on the borders of the fork, through which he ran and plunged into the river. Fortunately for him, a little below this place there was an island, against the upper point of which a raft of drift timber had lodged. He dived under the raft, and after several efforts, got his head above water amongst the trunks of trees, covered over with smaller wood to the depth of several feet. Scarcely had he secured himself when the Indians arrived on the river, screeching and yelling, as Colter expressed it, 'like so many devils.' They were frequently on the raft during the day, and were seen through the chinks by Colter, who was congratulating himself on his escape, until the idea arose that they might set the raft on fire.

"In horrible suspense he remained until night, when hearing no more of the Indians, he dived from under the raft, and swam silently down the river to a considerable distance, when he landed and traveled all night. Although happy in having escaped from the Indians, his situation was still dreadful; he was completely naked, under a burning sun; the soles of his feet were entirely filled with the thorns of the prickly pear; he was hungry, and had no means of killing game, although he saw abundance around him, and was at least seven days' journey from Lisa's fort, on the Bighorn branch of the Roche Jaune River. These were circumstances under which almost any man but an American hunter would have despaired. He arrived at the fort in seven days, having subsisted on a root much esteemed by the Indians of the Missouri, now known by naturalists as *psoralea esculenta*."

He had a narrow escape from yet another return to the wilderness; for on his way down he met Wilson Price Hunt, starting for Astoria, who desired his services as much as Lisa had done. The circumstances of this temptation are thus related by Irving:

"Such is a sample of the rugged experience which Colter had to relate of savage life; yet, with all these perils and terrors fresh in his recollection, he could not see the

present band on their way to those regions of danger and adventure, without feeling a vehement impulse to join them. A western trapper is like a sailor; past hazards only stimulate him to further risks. The vast prairie is to the one what the ocean is to the other, a boundless field of enterprise and exploit. However he may have suffered in his last cruise, he is always ready to join a new expedition and the more adventurous its nature, the more attractive is it to his vagrant spirit.

"Nothing seems to have kept Colter from continuing with the party to the shores of the Pacific but the circumstance of his having recently married. All the morning he kept with them, balancing in his mind the charms of his bride against those of the Rocky Mountains; the former, however, prevailed, and after a march of several miles, he took a reluctant leave of the travelers, and turned his face homeward."

Colter, after all his wanderings, thus reached civilization safe at last; and it seems likely that he died in 1813 in St. Louis. A. T. R.

#### SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS.

Considerable interest is felt as to the effect which the removal of the tea import duties will have upon the consumption of that article in the United States. The import figures covering the period since the imposition of an import duty upon tea (June 13, 1898) do not justify the assertion frequently made some years since that a small tax would increase the consumption of tea by insuring better qualities. The average annual importation of tea since the enactment of the law which placed a duty upon tea has been but about 83 million pounds, while the average during the preceding three years was about 93 million pounds per annum. The total importation of tea in the three fiscal years following June 30, 1898, was 248,741,459 pounds; and in the three fiscal years immediately preceding that date was 278,303,262 pounds. Deducting the amount re-exported, the net imports stand: for the three years following June 30, 1898, 244,640,547 pounds; for the three years immediately preceding June 30, 1898, 273,945,091 pounds. This gives an average importation for consumption during those two periods of over 1½ pounds per capita per annum in the three-year period prior to June 30, 1898, and but a little over 1 pound per capita per annum in the three-year period following that date.

This reduction in the importation of tea since the imposition of the customs duty upon that article has been accompanied by a corresponding

increase in the importation of coffee. In the three years following June 30, 1898, the total importation of coffee was 3,474,690,284 pounds, against 2,188,758,040 pounds in the three years immediately preceding that date; and the per capita imports for consumption for the latter three years averaged 10.4 pounds per annum, compared with 9.9 pounds for the three years prior to June 30, 1898. It is proper to add, however, that during the three years since 1898 prices of coffee have been much lower than those of the immediately preceding period, the average import price per pound, as shown by the figures of the Treasury Bureau of statistics since the fiscal year 1898 having averaged 6.7 cents per pound, against an average of 11 cents for the three years immediately preceding 1898; while in the case of tea the import price per pound, exclusive of course of duties, shows but slight fluctuations.

The following table shows the total importation of tea and coffee in each fiscal year from 1890 to 1901, and for the eight months ending with February 1902:

Fiscal Year	Tea Imports Pounds	Coffee Imp'ts Pounds
1890	83,886,829	499,159,120
1891	83,453,339	519,528,432
1892	90,079,039	640,210,788
1893	89,061,287	563,469,068
1894	93,518,717	550,934,337
1895	97,253,458	652,208,975
1896	98,998,372	580,597,915
1897	113,347,175	737,645,670
1898	70,957,715	870,514,455
1899	74,089,899	831,827,063
1900	84,845,107	787,991,911
1901	89,806,453	854,871,310
1902(8 mos)	64,116,811	768,550,026

#### A CRUEL GIVE-AWAY.

A Berlin newspaper declares that the Chicago people wore paste jewels on the occasion of Prince Henry's visit to that city. Germany appears to have it in for Chicago on account of the meat question.—Washington Post.

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Mrs. M. Hall, 3194 Eleventh street, Des Moines, Ia., has discovered a harmless remedy for the Tobacco Habit. Her husband was cured in ten days after using tobacco for over thirty years. All desire for its use gone. Can be filled by any druggist.

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