

ical sharks who continue to play to the popular tune but dance for the political ring. If the government wishes to successfully inaugurate a reform, it must be put into the hands of a commission who talk and act the same thing; who practice what they preach. If congress would compel the civil service commission to take their own medicine then the commission might be more vigilant in seeing that the other departments took the medicine also, and civil service reform might come more nearly reaching the point for which it was intended than it does at present.

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Assistant Postmaster-General Clarkson has certainly won the good will of American working women. So long as women have been employed in governmental service, although they have long been acknowledged to be more skillful and rapid in much of the work, they have always received less salary, by several hundred dollars, than do men for the same positions. It has also been the unwritten law that no lady should receive more than \$1200 salary, and only a chosen few receive that amount. In the reorganization of one of the departments, not long since, a lady being the fittest of the applicants for a \$1600 position, Mr. Clarkson forthwith appointed her. This is as it should be. There can be no reason why a woman should do the same work for less pay than a man, and the only reason that it is so is that they will work for less rather than not have the work to do.

#### UNIVERSITY FIELD-WORK.

This summer has been marked by a largely increased amount of field work in the natural sciences on the part of representatives of the University. This is encouraging, and means more for the welfare of the state than most people are apt to think. Many of the practical problems of agriculture, stock raising and other kindred occupations are decided by scientific investigations.

Professor Bessey spent a few days enriching the University herbarium by a botanical trip to the north-west part of the state.

Entomologist Bruner and H. J. Webber made a six weeks' expedition in the interests of entomology and botany. Their first stop was made at Broken Bow, where a large number of specimens were secured, but nothing very extraordinary was encountered. Then a week was spent in working up the region around New Helena, Custer county. Some good finds were made here. A curious natural feature called the "canyon" was worked where there has been an extensive cedar forest. At Thedford, *Merismopodia violaceae*, Breh., never before found in the state, was encountered. *Ricia fluitans* and *Lemma trisulca* are also noteworthy. The Dismal river region was unexpectedly found to be an exceedingly interesting region, the most surprising finds being made. Six ferns are native of the region, the largest two and a half feet long. The two rarest were *Azolla caroliniana* and *Woodsia oregana*, heretofore found only in New York, Florida, California and Arizona. A rare *Astragalus* (*pictus* var. *filifolium*) and two new grasses were also discovered here. Alliance, Pine Ridge, Crawford and Fort Robinson were visited and large numbers of specimens secured. Then wagon was taken to Harrison and the extreme north-west corner of the state was investigated. *Artemisia tridentata* was found for the first time in Nebraska. The mountain maple, *Acer glabrum*, and water beech, *Carpinus americana*, were found to enter Nebraska. Here also four species of cottonwood, *Populus monilifera*, *tremuloides*, *salsamifera* and *angustifolia*, were found in one canyon. It was found that treeless Nebraska has extensive pine forests in this section. Some

stops were made on the return trip and other specimens secured. At Thedford two *Charas*, new in Nebraska flora, were found. These had been badly needed in the University laboratory.

Mr. Bruner devoted his special attention to insects injurious to the trees planted on tree claims. His most noteworthy discovery was that of a rare tiger-beetle, which is worth a good deal more than its weight in gold to any collection. About 1,000 species of plants were brought home and a very large number of insects.

Later in the summer Mr. Webber and Mr. Haggard took a jaunt down to the south east corner of Nebraska, and walked up the Missouri from Rulo to Brownville. The object of this trip was to catch the eastern flora which is invading Nebraska. A number of new comers were captured.

Jared Smith took train to Alliance and worked the region south to the Platte for grasses.

Professor Nicholson, accompanied by Herbert Marsland and Ed. Nicholson, went up on the Elkhorn and the Niobrara for the purpose of securing specimens of the soils and water of that region. Analysis of the soil was made for the purpose of ascertaining its adaptability for the raising of sugar beets and other root crops. The waters were examined with reference to discovering any medicinal springs and to the purity of the rivers likely to be used for water supplies. Neligh, Long Pine, Chadron and Pine Ridge, Alliance and Ft. Robinson were the localities visited.

Just before school began Messrs. Bruner and Marsland made another trip, more especially after the rare tiger-beetle above mentioned. Alliance, Crawford, the "bad lands" and Pine Ridge were worked and some 500 specimens of various kinds secured. On this trip Mr. Bruner discovered the cochineal insect, only once before reported in the state.

Professor Hicks and E. R. Tingley spent some time working on the geology of Lancaster county during the early vacation. Altogether this is a very respectable showing for the University and will help materially in raising the reputation of the institution as the various discoveries are reported in the scientific journals. May the good work go on.

#### ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

As is usual when the students return in the fall, they find this year that many brains have been busy planning and many hands in executing improvements in the University. In University hall the aim has been to get the various departments localized.

On the third floor the room next the Union hall has been given to Professors Hunt and Sherman for joint use as office. At the other end of the hall is the modern language department, Professors Edgren and Fossler occupying room 26 and 28. On the second floor, Instructor Hodgman takes the room next Professor Hitchcock's to the west, bringing mathematics together. Professor Caldwell occupies the old library room, and the Seniors decide politico-economic problems under the direction of Dr. Warner in the adjoining room, where once the preps did congregate to whisper and to giggle. On the first floor Instructor Emory takes room 5, and Dr. Wolfe room 1. Professor Little's department is located in rooms 4, 8 and 10, and he may have a room in the basement for experimental work. Room 2 is set aside for the use of the regents and faculty. During the first of the term it was also used as a registry room.

The greatest change is seen in the new library room. The old museum has been transformed, by means of paper, paint and new shelving, into a very respectable library. It is fully twice as large as the old library, yet it is almost full.