

ALONG THE FRONTIER

MEANS ADOPTED TO COLLECT TAXES ON IMPORTS.

Intricate System of Invoices, Affidavits and Official Papers—How Goods Are Shipped Through the Custom Houses—But Little Inspection of Land Frontiers.

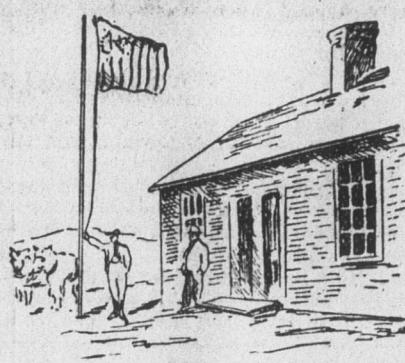
TYPICAL CUSTOM HOUSES.

When a foreign vessel comes to this country it comes as an alien and a stranger. Its only rights are secured to it by treaty. Unless a ship seeking to land at one of our ports has its flag flying to denote its nationality, and unless it has its clearance papers from the foreign ports from which it sailed or can account for them, or, in short, unless the vessel can produce its passports and be properly introduced, it cannot be admitted to land and unload merchandise in the ports of this country. A foreign merchant desiring to ship goods to the United States must first go before the American Consul residing at the port from which he intends to ship the merchandise and make oath to the kind, quality and quantity of the articles he wishes to ship to the United States. This affidavit is called a "consular certificate" and is attached to the invoice of goods the merchant is going to export. Three of these invoices, properly certified, are made out, one of which is kept by the Consul, one sent to the Collector of the Port to which the goods are to be shipped and one given to the exporting merchant, who sends it to his customer in the United States. The invoice which goes to the Collector of the Port in this country is sent by the captain of the vessel which carries the freight listed in the invoice.

After the vessel crosses the ocean

the captain gives to the Collector at the same time that he does his manifest and clearance papers. These papers are then taken to the Naval Office, where the work is verified. When these papers are returned to the Custom House and found to be regular the Collector makes out what is known as an "estimate" of the amount of duties that should be paid. He also names a certain number of packages that must be sent to the public stores for appraisement in order that the rate of duty may be accurately ascertained.

After these formalities are through with the importers, pays the estimated duty on the goods he has to transfer immediately to his store or ship to other merchants in the interior of the country. He may, if he wishes, get two permits, one allowing him to have immediate possession of the goods upon which he has paid a duty and the other



FRONTIER CUSTOM HOUSE AT LOCHIEL, ARIZ.

to allow him to remove the goods on which the duty is not paid to a bonded warehouse.

When a merchant imports a cargo of goods which he does not wish to place immediately upon the market, he can store his merchandise in a bonded warehouse by getting a permit to do so and by giving a bond to secure the payment of the duties. The bond is to the effect that if the merchandise be withdrawn within three years from the date of importation and the duties paid then, the bond is to be void. If merchandise is removed within a year after being placed in bond, then only the regular duties are imposed, but if it remains in bond longer than one year an extra charge of 10

per cent. upon the regular duty is added. All merdandise placed in a bonded warehouse must be withdrawn within three years or the goods will be sold to pay the duties.

The Mexican "Free Zone." At ports other than seaports the methods employed in collecting duties are the same as those just described, except, of course, that there are no revenue cutters or tugs. The manner

of collecting the customs at some of the frontier custom houses is quite informal. This is especially true of the customs offices on the Mexican frontier and on the boundary line between the States and the British provinces. There is a peculiarity about the Mexican frontier that is entirely its own. It consists in what is known as the "free zone," and is situated in old Mexico. Several years ago the Mexican Government passed a law setting apart a narrow strip of territory on the boundary line between that country and the United States to be a "zona libra" or free zone, into which goods and merchandise could be shipped from any part of the world free of duty. The object of this legislation was to build up a narrow strip of Mexican territory at the expense of the United States frontier. This piece of strategy by the Mexican Government is accomplishing its purpose, because the United States is debared from retaliating with a similar law, for the reason that it would be contrary to the provision of the Constitution which declares that "all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

The free zone is a strip of land one mile wide on the Mexican side of the line, and extends from Matamoras to Tijuana. The United States frontier adjoining old Mexico is poorly guarded. There are custom houses at Brownsville, Laredo, Eagle Pass, and El Paso, Tex., and at Nogales, N. M. Mounted inspectors patrol this part of the frontier, but they only act as detectives, and there are not enough of them to guard properly the boundary line between this country and the free zone in Mexico. It is doubtful if any ordinary number of men could guard the Mexican frontier. The barren

land is within fifteen leagues of the main shore it is possible that it may run across one of Uncle Sam's revenue cutters. If the ship is in the regular channel and making directly for port but if the vessel is out of the beaten track, it has no police flying, and if there is anything rakish or suspicious looking about it, the revenue cutter will signal it to "bring to," as coming to a halt is called in sailor parlance. To make this signal the revenue cutter runs up the revenue jack or fires a gun across the bows of the incoming vessel. When the vessel comes to a halt a boat is lowered from the cutter and two officers are sent aboard the ship to make an examination. If the captain can show his clearance and other ship papers, and they are found to be regular, he is permitted to go on, otherwise the vessel is placed under arrest and taken to the nearest port.

A Revenue Tug. Having passed the revenue cutters, the vessel in some of the larger seaports meets a revenue tug just after entering the harbor. These little boats steam out to meet the big ship, and turning around run up alongside of the ship while it is slowly moving toward the landing place. A ladder is run up from the tug and two inspectors are placed on board, who remain until the vessel until it lands and the cargo has been unloaded and the duties assessed. In ports where there are no revenue tugs the inspectors go aboard when the vessel first lands, but in either case no one on board the ship is permitted to go ashore and no part of the cargo can be unloaded until the officers have made an examination of the ship's manifest and clearance papers.

After the vessel lands the Captain must, within twenty-four hours thereafter, "enter" his vessel—that is he

must report to the Collector of the Port, delivering to him copies of the manifest and clearance papers. To do this he has deposited clearance papers with the Consul of the nation upon which the ship sailed. The Consul examines the papers and if they are regular he gives the Captain of the vessel a certificate to this effect. The Captain then gives the Collector this certificate, which is official evidence that the vessel is from the country that it claims to be. Besides delivering his clearance papers to the Collector the Captain also delivers to him the manifest of his ship, containing a list of the passengers on board the vessel and the invoice of goods sent to the merchant in this country, which it will be remembered was endorsed by an American Consul in a foreign port before the goods were shipped to the country. The Captain must make oath that his manifest is in every way correct to the best of his knowledge and belief. When these regulations have been complied with the Collector issues an order for the delivery of the cargo.

But before the importing merchant or consignee can secure his goods he must go before the Collector and secure a permit allowing him to unload his freight. Todo this he goes to the Custom House and produces his invoice and bill of lading. The invoice is compared with the invoice in possession of the Collector and which was sent to him by the Consul residing in the country from which the goods were shipped. The bill of entry, which is presented by the importing merchant, is also compared with the bill of entry which

is in the northern part of Texas and in the southern part of New Mexico and Arizona afford great protection to the smugglers. Usually natural impediments make smuggling unprofitable. But it is the reverse in this instance. The professional smuggler this sterile and wild tract of country is

BETTER NOT EAT 'EM.

THE OLD TOADSTOOL TEST IS OUT OF FAVOR.

There Are So Many Varieties of These Fungi that Picking by Amateurs Should Be Discouraged.—The Common Mushroom—Beware of the Deadly Toadstool!

How to Know a Mushroom.

So numerous have been the fatalities of late from eating poisonous toadstools under the impression that they were genuine mushrooms, that it becomes a matter of the greatest consequence to have a correct understanding as to the difference between the healthful and the dangerous article. There are in this country about 120 different varieties of fungi, and it is safe to assert that over 100 varieties are either unhealthful or positively poisonous. It is extremely difficult to tell the difference, and



DELICIOUS MUSHROOMS.

even experienced farmers and dealers are at times deceived. There are, however, a few classes of mushrooms about which there can be no mistake, and the only safe rule is to touch no fungi outside these well-known varieties. It may be generally stated, however, that the mushroom has an agreeable odor and taste, while the toadstool is acrid to the palate, and gives out a heavy scent that is far from pleasant.

The genuine mushroom is plumper, rounder and softer than the toadstool. The latter, although at times very large, has the appearance of what might be termed a hungry growth. While the surface of the mushroom is scarcely ever regular, there is a smooth skinness about the skin of the cap which is not found in the toadstool. In the mushroom the "gills" are fuller than in the toadstools. The "gills" are the delicate filaments beneath the convex cap which correspond in measure to the ribs of an umbrella. A toadstool is usually taller in proportion to its weight than a mushroom, while the stem is thinner, darker and more wiry. Pink gills mark the best-known species of mushrooms, but

they are toadstools, too, that have pink gills, although the tint is not quite so delicate.

The toadstool can usually be detected under the influence of salt, which brings out the evil flavor and makes the taste more bitter. The fungus should be placed cap down and the salt inserted in the gills. Some farmers say silver is a sure test, but this is doubtful. The plan is to place a silver spoon or coin in the stem, and if it becomes tarnished the fungi are pronounced toadstools. If the silver retains its bright color they are declared to be mushrooms. There are healthy mushrooms in which the gills are purple, rust colored and black, but it is not safe for a novice to experiment with them.

The Common Mushroom.

There can be no mistake about the common mushroom, as the most prominent variety is termed. It is the principal one of the three or four species that are cultivated. The common mushroom has a fine flavor, and is nutritious and highly healthful. It has a white, firm stem, fleshy cap and pink gills. It never grows high. When the cap begins to expand the gills are pale, but gradually they assume a pink hue. When grown in the open air the pink color

begins to show itself the moment the sun strikes. This is the best time to pluck them. When they grow older the gills assume a chocolate color and the flavor deteriorates. Later on the gills turn black, and then they are unfit for food. There is a suggestion of a delicate fleshy taste in the common mushroom when cooked fresh.

Another healthy variety is known as the horse mushroom, from its great size. The horse mushroom has a big hollow stem, with a broad, pendulous ring just below the gills and a slightly conical cap. The gills are a brownish white, and never the delicate tint of the common mushroom.

France Supplies New York.

Although the varieties of fungi are numbered by the hundred, only those mentioned stand in sufficiently high estimate to receive the attention of cultivators, and the common mushroom takes first place. Mushrooms are cultivated in caves kept at a temperature ranging from 60 to 70 degrees, and they require no sunlight. In recent years several such caves have been built by rich Ameri-

cans to supply their private tables. Jay Gould had one at Irvington, and so had Cyrus W. Field, and Levi P. Morton now maintains one at Rhinecliff. In these caves the mushrooms are grown all the year round. There need be no alarm about mushrooms secured at respectable restaurants, for they are all imported from Paris in sealed tin cases. All are cultivated, and none of the wild varieties are handled. Outside the walls of Paris there are over twenty miles of mushroom caves, and the Paris market is supplied daily with 3,000 pounds of cultivated mushrooms.

HE ROBBED THE MINT.

Henry S. Cochran, Who Stole Over \$100,000 of the Government.

Henry S. Cochran, who confessed that he stole over \$100,000 worth of gold bullion from the government, has for forty years been employed as Weighting Clerk in the Philadelphia Mint. The vault from which the bullion was extracted was sealed in 1878, and not until it was opened

Ever since the vault was sealed Mr. Cochran has been engaged in taking the gold. By means of a crooked wire he pulled the bullion bars from the top of a pile where they were placed crosswise like railroad ties. When they fell on the floor he would, by means of his hook, pull the bars to the iron latticed door, the bottom of which was a little loose on one side. As the gold bars only weigh from twelve to fifteen pounds each, he could carry them home secreted in his lunch basket. His later stealings Mr. Cochran hid in a ventilator loft of the mint, and here the gold was discovered after his confession. Some of the gold he sent to himself at the mint by express, and when it arrived he had it coined. When Secretary Carlisle's order was received ordering the coining of the gold bullion in the mint, Cochran manifested great uneasiness, and even went to Washington and begged the mint authorities there to persuade the Secre-



HENRY S. COCHRAN.

tary to countermand his order. This, they told him, was impossible, and Mr. Cochran returned home. Suspicion was aroused by Mr. Cochran's course of action and a detective was sent to Philadelphia from Washington. To him Mr. Cochran confessed his crime; \$134,093.40 is the exact value of the bullion taken.

Fortune in the Field.

Recent experiments point to the growth of new and profitable industry from the prolific scrub growth of the Florida forests and fields. It has been proved that the leaf of the saw palmetto can be ground into a pulp which makes an excellent article of hollow-ware for domestic and other uses, and the present experiments are expected to prove the adaptability of this material to the making of all kinds of paper. For some time past the peculiar cabbage-like substance in the top of the cabbage palmetto has been used with the tender tops as well, as a fiber in the manufacture of parchment. It is now proposed to obtain cheap paper fiber from the ordinary scrub plant. Some of this pulp has been successfully worked up into pails, tubs, basins and other hollow-ware. The supply of saw palmetto is practically inexhaustible in Florida. Millions of acres are covered with it, and when cut down to the ground it grows up again two or three times a year. A crop that grows without cultivation and in such very large quantities bids fair to have "millions in it."

Anecdotes of the Duke of Edinburgh.

The succession of the Duke of Edinburgh to a ducal throne on the continent has set the papers to telling stories about him. One is, that when commanding the Galatea he called in plain clothes on an admiral: who rebuked him with the stiff greeting: "I should have been very happy to receive your royal highness on any other occasion, but unhappily at this moment I am expecting a visit from the captain of the Galatea." The duke went back to his ship and put on his uniform. Another story is, that when traveling in Canada he had a guide who had served his brother, and who remarked one day: "The Prince of Wales gave me a splendid gold watch, sir." "Indeed," said the duke, "that's more than he ever did for me."

Elixir of Youthful Spirits.

"As I was walking up and down my room the other day," said a man, "wrapped in thought and absorbed in care, with head lowered and hands clasped behind me, I heard a tittering, and looking back I saw my children following me, each with bowed head and clasped hands; they had tried hard to be very solemn, but had found it quite impossible. I could not help laughing myself when I saw them, but I picked up my burden and marched on. Promptly the children fell in again and marched after me; when I turned a corner I saw them tagging on as before. We all laughed again, and then the children and I played soldiers for a while. When we got through with that I found that my serious friend had gone away."—New York Sun.

Milk for Burns.

A French physician has obtained good results in dressing burns with milk. Compresses are soaked with milk and laid on the burn, to be renewed night and morning. An extensive burn on the leg was healed in this manner. Two days reduced it in size from 14 to 7 centimeters; at the end of three days it measured but 2 centimeters in diameter. Another burn which had been treated for eight days with olive oil and zinc healed rapidly under a simple milk dressing.

EDITOR STEAD, of the Review of Reviews and Borderland, has taken up a new fad. He is boozing a new jag cure and advertises for "half a dozen first-class drunkards—confirmed, hopeless, gin-sodden dipsomaniacs," upon whom to experiment. With such a wealth of material as the House of Lords and the London Board of Aldermen close at hand Mr. Stead will probably have no difficulty in securing what he wants.

Plants with white blossoms have a larger proportion of fragrant species than any others; next come red, then yellow and blue; after which, and in the same order, may be reckoned violet, green, orange, brown and black. The flowers of spring are white and highly fragrant; those of summer are red and yellow and less fragrant; those of autumn and winter are darker, and with still less perfume.

What Plants Are Fragrant.

INDIAN COURTSHIP.

How the Young Ute Braves Woo His Amorette.

Among the Ute Indians of Colorado polygamy is practiced to little extent owing to the nearly equal number of sexes. Several men, however, have two wives and a few have three. All the wives sometimes live in one tent with the husband, but it is customary to have a separate tent for each wife and her children. The men marry at about 18 years of age, the women from 14 to 16. Courtship is of short duration. A brave, after falling in love with a girl, will don his best clothes and feathers, paint his face in the brightest colors, load himself down with beads and ornaments, and then frequent the wicki-



AN INDIAN MAIDEN'S "YER."

up of the family of his inamorata. He will converse volubly with the girl's relatives, but affect a profound indifference toward her, often not noticing her when she speaks to him. She and her friends understand the significance of these tactics, and the man's availability and desirability as a husband are discussed. The girl's parents may endeavor to dissuade her from the proposed alliance, but the girl has decided to reject him she goes no heed to him, but if she accepts him she goes out to his horse, waters and feeds it, unstraps the deer and cares for the meat and skin, cooks some of the meat and invites him to partake of it with her, and by so doing she has concluded both the engagement and marriage.

WARDING OFF CHOLERA.

How the Superstitious Persians Ward Off the Plague.

The Persians resort to curious rites for the purpose of averting the attacks of the cholera. One of the most widely practiced of these is that of passing under the Koran. Two elders stand opposite each other, holding between them a scroll of the Koran, wrapped in a silken scarf.



WARDING OFF CHOLERA.

Under this swinging talisman the peasants pass one by one, and then go home, convinced that the cholera will not be able to touch them. The Persians stick to these ancient ceremonies in spite of the fact that the epidemic is working sad havoc among them. While the cholera is daily carrying off hundreds upon hundreds of victims, the Shah smokes his pipe, mutters his prayers and speaks contentedly of the "decree of fate."

Queer Language.

Another queer language is the finger-speech, as it may be called, of Oriental traders. It is largely employed on the east coast of Africa. The parties engaged in conversation by this method clasp each other's hand beneath the capacious sleeve worn in the East. If they are wearing garments without sleeves, then one will unroll his turban, and under the folds of it will carry on the bargaining in which they are engaged.

The reason for adopting this secret intercourse is simple. In the East, all business is transacted in the open air. The idle bystanders have a good deal to say, and are free with advice to both buyer and seller. The etiquette of the country requires that advice so given be thankfully received. It would become a great hindrance to trade were it not for some device to keep negotiations private.

Bicycle Engine.

"A bicycle fitted out with a small chemical tank and a fire ax is being experimented with in Boston," says a paper there. "The practical value of the experiment cannot be estimated at present. The machine is being tried by one of the men, who is a wheelman, and for whom it was made. It is a lady's light roadster, with cushion tires, and, with its whole outfit, weighs about 60 pounds. The chemical tank, fixed between the head of the machine and the seat, holds about two gallons of chemical, which amounts as an extinguisher to twelve pails of water."

Draught Animals.

A French scientist has just proved by experiment that the motive power of animals is a series of jerks, which consequently cause great waste of labor. He suggests that horses should be harnessed with elastic traces, as by this means the resistance would be overcome. It is well known that bargemen have their barges drawn with long ropes, the reason being, the longer the rope the greater the scope for elasticity.

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A GAS METER never lets grass grow under its feet.</div