

next ten years the 65,000,000 people of the United States would not need to wear underclothing, and suppose, instead of living off of beefsteak and all sorts of other expensive meats, we should confine ourselves to rice, fish, vegetables and tea. You can see what an immense saving there would be. Remember, I do not advocate these changes, but they enter as factors in the competition which is bound to ensue with these people of Asia in the future, when, by modern machinery, they will begin to manufacture for the world.

THE LABORER'S DAILY LIFE.

I asked some questions in western Japan as to how the working people live. I was told that nearly every man had his own cottage or house, and that the rent was sometimes as low as four cents a month, and the house sometimes consists of only one room. Still, it is wonderful how happy the people are, and how they laugh as they work. The average workman rises at six, and has his breakfast, consisting of rice and tea. The rice is often cold, and it may have been left over from last night's dinner. He pours hot tea upon it to warm it and eats it with chopsticks. At eight he begins work, and at noon he has a lunch of rice, furnished by his employer. At six he eats his dinner at home. This consists of plenty of rice, a little dried fish and clams, if they are in season. In the evening he smokes, chats and gossips with the neighbors, and probably goes to bed early. He has two suits of clothes, one for working and the other for holidays. He goes to the public bath about once a day, and there parboils himself in connection with the other men and women of his acquaintance for about eight-tenths of a cent. There are 800 public baths in Tokyo alone, in which 300,000 people bathe daily, at the cost of one cent a head, and though the workman may omit his dinner, he will seldom omit his bath.

You find public baths in all the cities, and these are full every evening. Both men and women bathe together in the country districts, and a whole family goes to the bath house, and babies and all steam themselves until their pores are clean. Within the last few years there has been a separation of the sexes in the big city bath houses, but it has only been by running a fence about three feet high through the pools, and the men bathe on one side, while the women wash themselves on the other.

SOMETHING ABOUT WAGES.

I am told that wages have been increasing since the modern civilization has come into Japan, but they are still very low, and the reduction in the price of silver just about cuts them in half. The figures which follow are in Japanese currency, and if they were in American money they would be just half of what is here given. Common laborers receive from ten to twenty cents a day, and the men who pull carts and practically take the place of our dray horses get from ten to fifteen cents. In the cities the prices are higher than these, but farm laborers often receive less than fifteen cents a day. Carpenters get from forty to fifty cents. Head cartmen receive from twenty-five to forty cents a day, and paperhangers get from forty cents upward. Blacksmiths are paid from twenty-three to thirty-eight cents, and painters about the same. I saw many boys working for about ten cents a day, and I was told that the clerks in the

stores who got \$15 a month thought they were doing exceedingly well. Many clerks work for their board and their clothes, with the understanding that after an apprenticeship of about ten years the merchant will give them a small stock of goods and allow them to start out for themselves.

Frank G. Carpenter

GENTILE VALLEY, IDAHO.

A few items in relation to a section of country not often heard from through newspaper columns may be of interest to many of your readers. I refer to the curiously named "Gentile Valley" in Bannock county, Idaho.

Leaving Oxford, a small railroad town on the Utah and Northern railway, and following about twenty miles of road, which leads to a great extent over low mountain passes and narrow canyons, Cleveland ward is reached. The inhabitants of this thrifty little burg have certainly followed the good advice to not "lay their foundations in the sand," as the settlement appears to be located in the very tops of the mountains. Cleveland has a well-attended district school and here is also located the only store in the valley, under the enterprising management of Mr. James Larsen.

Across the Bear river (which flows through the center of the entire valley) and within halting distance from Cleveland, is the Mound Valley ward. Yet, on account of a lack of bridges across the river, it is necessary to travel about six miles to find a good ford and reach Mound Valley. The industrious citizens of this ward have shown a great amount of enterprise during the past year, by erecting a fine brick meeting house, twenty-four by forty feet inside, and also a large district schoolhouse. To the indefatigable labors of Bishop Eli Bennett a large amount of this spirit of improvement is due and the members of the ward, appreciating the advantages of a suitable place for the education of their children as well as a building for worship and innocent amusements, have carried out their plans in a manner which would do credit to a much more numerous and wealthy population. A brass band, organized by some of the young men of the place, is among the musical organizations of the ward.

About six miles northeast of Mound valley is the Trout Creek or Lago ward. A fine large meeting house has been erected here during the present year under the supervision of Bishop M. M. Harris and an efficient building committee, among whom Brother J. P. Sorenson has lent an unusual amount of energy toward the good work.

Across the valley some five or six miles from Trout Creek is Thatcher, the oldest ward in the valley. Even of the settlements named has its public school, the attendance of each averaging about fifty pupils.

Many stories in relation to the name this valley bears can be heard, the most probable of them being that in the days when antagonism against the Mormons in Idaho was at a high pitch a few non-Mormon settlers took up the

first claims there, making boasts that no Mormon settlers should be allowed to enter, and christening the place "Gentile Valley." However this may be, it is a fact that four progressive Mormon wards are today located in the valley and that every citizen, regardless of religious belief, is doing his best to build up a thrifty and enterprising commonwealth.

Extending north from Gentile valley for a great distance, is an immense tract of arid land, dotted in many places with beds of lava rock. Through a portion of this tract of land runs the Bear river, and a number of settlers are now making an attempt to secure water for this land by building a dam in the river. If their efforts are successful it will be a great boon for that section, as thousands of acres of land can thereby be brought under cultivation.

J. FRANK PICKERING.

OXFORD, Idaho, Dec. 20, 1894.

CHARLES BRIGGS SHOT.

Thursday, about 5 o'clock, James Ellington shot and probably fatally wounded Charles Briggs, at Boise, Idaho, says the *Statesman* of that city. The shooter escaped and a posse headed by Deputy Sheriff Duncan is in pursuit of him. The shooting occurred on Thirteenth street, several blocks beyond the street car terminal. The story of the affray was told by the wounded man after he had been carried to his cabin near the scene of the shooting.

He said he and Ellington came to Boise from Calif. together a few months ago. They had been staying with John Abbott in a little cabin on Thirteenth street. He and Ellington had some words about three weeks ago and Ellington left. He had since been living down town, spending most of his time in questionable resorts. Yesterday evening Ellington met Briggs on Thirteenth street and demanded that Briggs pay him \$30 which he claimed Briggs owed him. Briggs repudiated the debt and some hot words were passed. Ellington pulled a revolver and fired point blank into Briggs' face. Fortunately Briggs dodged and the bullet passed through his hat. Briggs then grasped Ellington and in the struggle that ensued was shot through the hand.

The contest was short lived. Briggs was thrown on his face, and Ellington deliberately shot him in the back and then ran.

In the struggle Ellington jerked Briggs' watch from his pocket and carried it off with him. Chief of Police Shellworth, who was on his way home, heard the shooting and ran in the direction of the noise. When he came in sight of the men Ellington had just started to run. The chief took after him, firing his revolver at him as he ran. The distance was too great, however, and Ellington escaped, going in the direction of the Ellis ranch.

The posse started in pursuit of Ellington within two hours after the shooting and it is thought it is impossible for him to elude the officers. Considerable feeling is stirred up over the affair. Briggs is 58 years of age, while Ellington is a man of powerful build, not over 35 years old.