

and do not bother yourself again about work until 9 o'clock the next morning. One month out of the year you have to yourself and can go where you please and do what you please, and your pay goes on just the same. If you are sick your wages are not docked, and I know of clerks who get from thirty to sixty days now and then as sick leave. As to wages, there is no question about the salary; that is fixed by the government, and as long as you are in Uncle Sam's employ it cannot be raised or lowered by the officials just above you. Every two weeks you go to the pay office of the department in which you are working and your money is handed over to you in crisp new greenbacks, or sometimes in gold. If you are a good man your job is pretty sure to continue, and a great number of these clerks have been in the service for years; some, indeed, have spent a lifetime there, and there is one old clerk here who has been drawing a salary for sixty years from Uncle Sam. There are others who have worked from forty to fifty years, and the number who have been in from one to four years runs well up into the thousands. The number who have been just ten years in the service is more than seven hundred, and there are hundreds more who have been in from twelve to fifteen years. A great many clerks have been twenty years or more in the service, and the tenure of government office is by no means as uncertain as is generally supposed. The surety of holding a position increases every year, and the civil service rules are being so extended that only the chiefs will finally be dismissed at the close of an administration.

As to salaries, in proportion to the amount of work done and its character, they are as high as those of any laborers of the world. Uncle Sam's factories are run on a big salary basis, and the classified service get, as a rule, from \$900 to \$1,800 a year. The chiefs get \$2000 and upward, and there are flat places in nearly every department which command \$3,000, \$4,000 and \$5,000. The Department of Justice, for instance, has three offices which bring between \$4,000 and \$5,000, and the assistant attorney generals each receive as much as a Congressman. In the Department of Agriculture there are a number of good \$2,000 places, and the government of the District has about twenty offices which run from \$2,000 to \$5,000 in salary. The officials who govern Washington city are all appointed by the President, and the salaries received are good. The Post Office Department has many high salaried places, and there are a number of soft spots connected with the White House whose possessors have neither crow's feet at their eyes nor wrinkles in their bellies. The best positions, in point of certainty of tenure, are those connected with the State, War and Navy departments. The clerks of the State Department are rather aristocrats than otherwise. They generally speak one or two languages, and when it is necessary to shelve them they are sometimes sent to consulships on the other side of the world. The treasury has numerous changes. It contains over 4,000 employees, and of these 1,600 are women.

And just here I want to say a word about these women clerks of Washington. They are the brightest and

ablest people in the service. They do their work continuously, and some of the most efficient of Uncle Sam's employees are females. If I had my way I would give the women the preference as to all classes of work which they can possibly do, reserving only the harder places for the men. As it is, however, there are two men to every woman in the departments, and the number of women all told amounts to less than 7,000. These women are of all ages, from eighteen to eighty, and there is, by the way, one clerk in the Treasury Department who has now reached ninety years. There are many women over sixty and hundreds of sweet young maidens of twenty-five. These women do all sorts of work. Starting in as counters in the treasury about a generation ago, they have extended their work to all sorts of clerkship, and they now pass upon questions of law, examine patents, translate foreign languages, and do everything under the sun. Some of the most expert counters of the government are women, and several of the very best bookkeepers of the treasury wear petticoats. Women are fast making their way as typewriters and stenographers, and the chief trouble to the outside employer of labor here at Washington is that as soon as he trains a woman thoroughly into his work as typewriter or stenographer she makes an application to Uncle Sam and gets a place at a higher salary in one of the departments. I have had this experience happen to me half a dozen times, and I have come to look upon my office here as a kind of a training school for the government service. In the dead letter office the most expert translators of bad writing are women, and it would surprise you to know that the Treasury Department has a woman lawyer who prepares the briefs for internal revenue matters and who could probably make more outside of the department by practicing law than she gets by acting as a law clerk within it. There are a number of women editors in the service here at Washington. The official records of the war of the rebellion are to a certain extent gotten up by women, and in the Navy Department you find women who are making maps and tracing charts for our ships in different parts of the world, and in the government printing office there are women typesetters, stitchers, press feeders and compositors.

Everyone has heard of the pretty girls of the treasury, but you find beautiful maidens in all of these government departments. Hoke Smith directs the handiwork of 1,500 girls, and Dan Lamont has a company of 114 in his department of war. Postmaster General Bissell has hundreds of maidens under him, and in the government printing office there are more than 1,000 women. Many of these come of the best families of the country. Not a few are the daughters of noted generals, governors of states, Senators and Representatives, and now and then you find a relative of a President or a cabinet minister. The majority of them are women of good education, and with but few exceptions they are educated and refined ladies. They receive salaries ranging from \$720 to \$1,800 a year, and a large number of them support families. Many of them are widows, not a few are old maids, and thousands are sweet, marriageable young women, who have too much sense to change a

sure living under Uncle Sam to a prospective one in company with some good-for-nothing man. The best of them are, open to engagements, and not a few of the most noted marriages of Washington in the past have been in connection with the government clerks. Attorney General Brewster, who has the ugliest face which ever entered a government department at Washington, got his wife, whose features were Venus-like in their beauty, in a government department here. She was the daughter of Robert J. Walker, a former Secretary of the Treasury, and as she sat at her desk one day in the treasury department the future Attorney General walked through the room. She made some remarks about his homeliness. I do not know whether Brewster overheard it or not, but he saw her, and with him it was a case of love at first sight. He sought an introduction and shortly afterward offered her his hand and his wealth, and his name for herself and her children. It is said that he proposed to her in words something like this: "My dear, you are beautiful and I am hideous, but if you will marry me it will not be the first instance of mating the beauty and the beast, and I assure you that you will never regret marrying me." His proposition was accepted, and the next time Mrs. Brewster came to Washington it was as the wife of the Attorney General of the United States. Stephen A. Douglas got his wife in one of the departments at Washington, and you all remember what a talk there was about Secretary Bayard and Miss Markoe during the time that Bayard was at the head of the State department.

It is a wonder to me that there are not more marriages among the clerks. Young men and young women of marriageable age work side by side in the departments. They come in contact with each other hourly and sometimes fall in love with one another, but not often. In the bureau of engraving and printing, where the money is made, there is one man and one woman at every printing press, and there is no separation of the sexes. There are, I believe, more platonic friendships here among young men and young women than you will find anywhere else in the country, and cases have been known where couples have married and kept their marriages a secret for years in order to avoid the rule that a husband and wife shall not be employed at the same time in the civil service at Washington. Many such cases have been found out, and the recent investigation of the congressional committee will probably lead to some changes in this respect. According to its report, there were last fall twenty-four husbands and wives drawing salaries from Uncle Sam, which the husband and wives who are out of work and have no job at all think is decidedly unfair.

Does Uncle Sam really pay good wages?

To hear some of the clerks talk about the matter you would think he does not, and, perhaps, in proportion to the amount of responsibility involved they receive small salaries. One clerk tells me that the big men of the departments have the softest places and most money, while the poorly paid clerks do the work. There is no doubt that many a \$1,000 clerk does the same work for