

receive \$9 a month; tanners, \$6 a month; telegraph operators, \$24 a month; ordinary laborers, \$4 a month, and cigar makers, about \$5 per month. It is the same all over the empire, and the wages may be divided in half, as they are paid in silver, which is worth only half the value of our money.

MONEY-MAKING IN COREA.

I could fill a page of this newspaper with the possibilities and the curious features of labor in China and Japan, and the same may also be said of Corea, though there has been until now so little security for the fruits of labor that the people have had no incentive to work. The treaty will bring a new light into the hermit nation, and many of the old and barbarous customs will now pass away. For some time there will, however, be chances for speculative turns outside of the wonderful resources of the country. One will be when any member of the royal family dies. At this time the whole nation is supposed to go into mourning. Every man in the country has to put on a white straw hat as big as an umbrella and a new gown of yellow grasscloth. The man who has a corner on grasscloth at such times is sure to have at least three million men howling for it. He can charge his own prices, and can do almost as well as Col. Sellers hoped to do with his eye water for the millions of cross-eyed Chinaman. I have already written at length concerning the gold mines, the coal mines and the probabilities of there being large deposits of petroleum in Corea. The country will now be developed and there are good chances in it for American capitalists.

Frank G. Carpenter

ANCIENT LEGISLATION.

GRAAGAAS.

The collection of the laws of the Icelandic republic, which lasted from the latter part of the ninth century and to 1260, is commonly called Graagaas, two complete vellum manuscripts of which are extant, and about which a great deal has been written in German, and all the Scandinavian tongues, but very little, if any, in English. One of these vellums is in the Royal library, Copenhagen, Denmark, and was presented to Frederick III, king of Denmark, in the year 1656, by Brynjolf Sveinsson, bishop to the see of Skalholt, Iceland. It is of calfskin beautifully tanned, of white shining color, written in slightly phonographic black letter handwriting. It is a large vellum, being 13½x9¼ inches in size, and nearly 200 two column pages. According to the best authorities, such as Jon Sigurdson, Dr. Gudbrandur Vigfusson, Dr. Konrad Maurer, J. F. G. Schlegel, L. L. D. and others, it was written some time about the middle of the thirteenth century, being therefore no less than 600 years old. Still the pages are white and shining, and the letters all plain, which shows there has been good ink in those days. It is divided into fifteen parts, and each part into several chapters.

Part I. Ecclesiastical Law, begins thus: "It is the beginning of our law, that all the people of this land shall be Christians, and believe in one God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost." It treats on baptism, funerals, churches,

bishops, priests, festivals, fasts and marriages. That law was formed by Bishop Thorlak, at the instigation of the pope in Rome, whom he had visited. Bishop Thorlak was a grandson of Snorri Thorfinnson, who was born in the year 1008, on Fall River in the present state of Massachusetts. His parents were Gudrid, a widow of Thorstein Eirikson, the brother of Leif Eirikson and Thorfinn, surnamed Karlsefni.

Part II. This treats of judicial functions, and begins thus: "It is said in our law that we shall have four quarter courts, one in each quarter of the land etc." It treats on judgments, sentences, handling of cases, diets and courts etc.

Part III. The military law begins thus: "It is said in our law, that if two men meet on the road and one attacks the other, the assailant on the conviction thereof shall be exiled." It treats on punishment for killing, wounding or maiming persons. It also has a chapter on personal liberty.

Part IV. Law about Wergeld. Truce formularies, etc.

Part V. Law regarding the authority invested in the president of the republic; his duties, etc.

Part VI. Law about congress; it begins thus: "Congress shall meet every summer in the place where it now meets." This section treats about congress, its function and power, etc.

Part VII. Law about inheritance; it begins thus: "A freeborn and legitimate son, is a lawful heir to his father and mother." This section treats of inheritance, guardianship, and probate matter.

Part VIII. Law regarding the duty of maintenance; it commences thus: "It is provided that each and every man in our land shall provide, for those of his relatives that cannot provide for themselves. First of all shall every man provide for his own mother, etc."

Part IX. The law treating of betrothals commences thus: "A son, freeborn legitimate heir, and intelligent enough to manage his own inheritance, sixteen years of age or older, has a right to betroth his mother, etc." It treats of marriages; the rights of women, marriage covenants, insurance, special responsibilities.

Part X. The law regarding real estates begins thus: "It is provided that a man when sixteen years of age shall be regarded capable of managing his own estates." It treats on how landed property can be reclaimed, or dividing lines, hay-lands, exchanging on estates, irrigation, pasturage, fishing and hunting, ship wrecks etc.

Part XI. The law regarding rents and interests begins thus: "No man shall charge higher interest than ten per cent on any kind of property etc."

Part XII. The law regarding the searching for stolen property, thieves, robbers, murderers etc. begins thus: "Every man shall have a right to keep his own property, except he has given it, or paid etc." It treats on theft, robbery, pilfering, false measure and weight, gambling etc.

Part XIII. The law regarding municipal government, paupers, indigent people etc.

From page 171 to the end are to be found brief law paragraphs, the most important being the following: Regarding gross insults, finding and keeping of stray animals, public corrals, vicious

animals and tame bears. Then comes about arbitration, the specific value of silver, the value of pure silver being fixed at ten to one against gold, and blue silver thirty to one. Blue silver was undoubtedly a silver bullion mixed with lead.

There is an ordinance regulating the rights and privileges of the king of Norway and his subjects when in Iceland, and those of the Icelanders in Norway; about the rights of inheritance by Norwegian subjects to a heritage left in Iceland, and of such in Norway belonging to Icelanders; collection of debts, the proper plaintiff in cases of seduction, fornication, and other sexual transgressions. Then there is a sort of an amendment to the ecclesiastical law, treating on funerals, tithing, infant baptism, carrying arms in a church, religious ordeals as carrying hot iron etc; the salaries of priests, church estates, and several others.

Looking over this index, no one can fail to see that considering the age in which the laws were enacted, viz: between the ninth and the thirteenth century the legislation was tolerably complete. Still there is an important ordinance mentioned in the sagas that is left out of here, viz: It was the duty of the people's representatives in their respective districts to the national congress to regulate the prices of foreign goods, brought by foreigners in foreign ships. Goods brought by Icelanders in their own ships was exempt from this.

The national congress consisted of forty-eight representatives; each one having two assistants or counselors, who could frame and introduce bills, and discuss any subject, but only the forty-eight representatives could vote. The president, who was elected by the representatives for the term of three years, had the casting vote in a case of a tie. New laws were read and discussed three years before the final passage. There was a certain scroll of law, called Hafidi's Scroll, that served as a sort of constitution as it is provided for in a special section, that laws passed shall be in accord to that scroll.

JOHN THORGEIRSON.

AN OPEN LETTER.

GUNNISON, May 10th, 1895. Sirs.—Your "notice to all interested in irrigation" dated April 15th 1895, was received May 4th, for which thanks. The "notice" has been presented and read to the people of this precinct, and they were invited to associate and organize, according to said notice.

We most respectfully ask the Utah irrigation commission to inform us what benefit for the people is expected to be derived from such association as proposed. And after the commission kindly has given us such information, as a guide, I will present it to the people of this precinct, for action on your proposition.

Within our irrigation company, containing every landowner in this precinct, (except about twenty farmers isolated at Christenburg and Willow creek) we have in actual operation, for the irrigation of about 7,500 acres of farm and garden land—

Three reservoirs, capacitated to water all our farms and gardens, in about seventy days and nights;

Thirty-eight miles of main canals;