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ANTS—AND AN APPROPRIATION.

Hon. J. Sterling Morton is no doubt just a trifle ahead of his time in his ideas as to what he would do with the agricultural department now that he has it—but the great public life is so full of surprises in which very little or life is indifferent. The new development of the activity to which everybody is devoted by making silkworms hold, now is a determined attempt to bring the—we think we should, to choose with the benefactions and commercial parts of the house, and incidentally to cut down expenses. The wail that went up when he proposed such Congressmen with a few hundred or thousands of packets of garden seeds for distribution among his constituents, will not be speedily forgotten. In precedence, the same rule of economy prevented said Congressmen from practically keeping up the private greenhouses or flower-gardens at government expense. Then came a reduction in the size of the annual edition of the "Agricultural Reports"—a job, too, that has furnished the foundation and framework of more always jobs than the market-house. Finally a convulsed and overwhelmed profession for binding his winter flow, the Agricultural Report now—yes, it cannot a new job by the farmer who is lucky enough to get it; while the garden and farm seed, formerly so plentiful, now come not at all.

But lest the foregoing instances of economic drift should be deemed verdatic, the secretary has been relaying the monkey in the hot weather by passing deeply into the cost of government bug-study, and has come out plumpy in favor of stopping a few of that kind of leaks. He discovers, for instance, that the mere study of the habits of ants costs the government $40,000 per annum. The question naturally arises, has the ant any habits that a Federal office-holder can study with profit? Mr. Morton evidently thinks not—at least during present hard times, and the forty thousand dollar duty of watching the most industrious of creatures—the example having in no way contagious—is to be abandoned. He has with the investigation of the features and attributes of that interesting young thing, the bird-bug. After all the money that has been spent in studying the habits of thousands of bugs particular to such the fact remains that by government experiment one succeeded in exterminating bugs where he has been injury, or transplanting him—say to the Lagoon system—where he might do good.

No need to worry the reader with a recapitulation of all the minor and notions that the practical secretary of agriculture has already made, and hold still to receive. But if the agricultural department is not going to allow of all the other great industries it will be only an unfortunate accident. Congressmen will be—if we understand aright—the sum of other government bureaus and bureaus—we say, if it is the government's intention to be fair and to give the farmer a chance, we think it should be a chance to make a living, and not to be a government pensioner.

THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT.

During the present century the Antarctic continent has been approaching and is now being pierced in twelve the overflow of the population of our earth. The last century was, comparatively, and another century, from large itself Europe, to the Indies and parts of the globe, and that in a time when travelling it has been supposed, is not now less their distance, etc.

Interest in the Antarctic continent has been growing for the years of a [illegible] Borchgrevink, who has written more [illegible] Arctic. According to his statement in his, as he calls it, the Antarctic continent by a wall of ice, yet the sea is ice-free most of the year, and, owing to the presence of warm currents and [illegible] [illegible] trip satisfactorily [illegible] [illegible] which it is remembered what he [illegible] that stream in the sea in the [illegible] the coast of N. way. The lowest temperature recorded by Borchgrevink while in the Antarctic circle was 25 degrees of cold, and it ranged as high as 45 degrees cold on January 4 of February. The temperature always indicated calm, beautiful weather.

On landing on the continent the expedition found a comfort separation in a [illegible] But it did more importance in the discovery of valuable wealth in the form of minerals and precious stones. On Colman Island the expedition were damaged by the minerals in the neighborhood. Specimens of rock from this place were shown to be designed to the most distinguished men in London, and among the samples were garnets picked up near the shore. They were lying around there, and the conclusion has already been formed that the interior of the country, for the supposed of which fire and ice are still fading, may be the storehouse of wealth in specimens [illegible] of superior size on the face of the globe. And the conclusion is not altogether improper, for it is more than probable that the brilliant [illegible] in these regions indicate the presence of enormous mineral deposits.

The Norwegian explorer is the first man, so far as known, to set foot upon the Antarctic continent, an event long that enough to be recorded in the annals of the world. He set Mistout on Antarctic, to the wonder Antarctic, August 24, 1894. He claims to have made a large spectrum that back retreat—to the vessel the last it is a fault somewhere. On [illegible] they had reached 64 degrees and 15 minutes south latitude.

Tempted to return to the ship [illegible] moment was seen signed fifty miles away. They entered the pack for December 7, and about that time they saw many "blue" whales, white [illegible] and [illegible].

Some of the seals taken were marked with big crack and scratches. A like phenomenon was noticed half a century ago by Ross, who supposed that the wounds had been inflicted by sea lions. Borchgrevink sees no [illegible] with the opinion, but does not venture any explanation of his own. In some cases the wounds extended far into the blubber and even into the flesh underneath.

An Hermanns 14 they reached Balaney Island, in latitude 68. This island was at least while forty mountains, which rose, chronicle to man, invited the [illegible] [illegible] the sky. Two days later the ship was moored to an immense field of ice.

On Cuthanns Day the Antarctic circle was crossed, and thirty-three days later Cape Adair on the mainland was sighted. The height of the rays was estimated at nearly 4,000 feet, a large square rock of basalt rising abruptly with perpendicular sides.

Every day was a day, in the neighborhood of where twenty glaciers were crossed. One of these was sunken with lava, beneath which a thin sheet of snow, the latter resting upon another layer of lava, and that again upon the surface of the glacier.

On January 23, the Winter Antarctic, was again at Cape Adair, and a landing was made on a peninsula that ran into the bay, terminating in a long pebbly beach. Thus the explorer landed and gathered some specimens of animals and vegetation.

The description of the country is necessarily brief, merely a glimpse of it having been achieved, but it seems that all the theories formerly held concerning the south Pole must be abandoned. Instead of a barren continent sleeping under a cover of never melting ice, the view of a country with all the attributes of climate and natural resources is presented to the world. The interest of scientific men in this terra incognita has been awakened, and the results will undoubtedly be explorations to and out upon treasures which are stored up in her mysterious recesses behind her walls.

SOUTH AN CLOCKWORK.

Optimists and faithfuls to the country notwithstanding, the machine in politics is upon demonstrating to everyone. Recent conventions in Pennsylvania and Ohio, the great Keystone and Buckeye states respectively, have supplied abundant evidence that what is known as the "United state" machine has lost its cunning, for the "Old" gambling wheel is in nothing permanent. Against an alleged opposition which is in direct plane and outright secret workings, [illegible] Matthew S. Quay, the [illegible] element of Pennsylvania, and [illegible] Hanna, personally starting in his strategy and contention, he practically [illegible] and is a [illegible] [illegible] in Ohio, and as was [illegible] "I feel satisfied that a majority of the delegates will be with us." Hanna is a [illegible] [illegible] "Quay is the only one [illegible] I know that the best [illegible] [illegible]." For sale by F. J. Hill & Co., and Selden Judson Drug Co.

[illegible] Mr. Morton [illegible] Mr. Morton [illegible] Mr. Morton [