Washington News

Comrade R. J. Elliott, of the National Soldiers' Home at Los Angeles, Cal., was in the city last week attending the National Encampment of the Union Veteran Legion. Comrade Elliott was a delegate from Encampment No. 138, of the National Home, which is the only one in the State of California. It has 75 members. It has a fine Auxiliary in Los Angeles, of which Mrs. Dean is President, and its 50 members are very active in assisting the veterans of the Soldiers' Home Encampment. Comrade Elliott has been on a visit of two or three months at Ashburn, Mass., and stopped over in Washington to fulfill his duties as a representative in the Encampment. He expressed himself as delighted with the fine visit that he had in Washington.

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Former President Roosevelt, now known thruout Africa as Bwana Tumba, is beginning to sit up and take notice of the United States Government again, and it is almost the first evidence that the public has had from the former President personally. It comes in the shape of a letter to United States Fish Commissioner George W. Bowers, and is a request of the Fish Commissioner to stock the waters of Lake Naiasha, Africa. Mr. Roosevelt asks: "Would it be possible for the Fish Commission to send here a good lot of black bass, either spawn or young or in whatever shape they are usually sent?" He describes the waters of the lake as fairly temperate and slightly alkaline, and believes any fish sent there from this country ought to live. He adds in closing his letter: "I have had great luck here so far." Commissioner Bowers immediately replied to the request, indicating his intention to comply with it as soon as possible. Mr. Bowers says that the fish will probably be forwarded from a point in central or southern Europe to which the Fish Commission has sent black bass. In his opinion there will be no difficulty in transporting the live fish.

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Wm. C. Sullivan, an attorney of this city, was elected President of the Catholic Young Men's National Union at its 35th Annual Convention in Boston last week.

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The delegates to the National Convention of the United National Association of Post Office Clerks are going to bring back some emphatic resolutions for the Postmaster-General to act upon. One of them is against "back-stamping" letters with the time of receipt. The clerks claim that the time consumed in doing this work prevents quick distribution of mail. The convention also resoluted against the use of transparent envelopes, as it is stated that this prevents the address being readily deciphered, the writing underneath showing thru and confusing the clerks. C. H. Berkley, Chief of the Registering Division at Washington, made a talk, in which he praised the Post Office clerks for their honesty, and suggested the adoption of a plan whereby forwarders of registered letters must declare their contents and value.

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Every once in awhile Speaker Cannon is conscious of the fact that somebody is throwing spit-balls at him. The last one, or at least the last reported up to date, comes from Representative Cooper, of Wisconsin. Mr. Cooper was Chairman of the Committee on Insular Affairs in the 60th Congress, and, not being able to come up to the standard the Speaker thought necessary, he lost the Chairmanship of the committee in the 61st Congress, whereat Representative Cooper gets right up on his hind legs and howls. Mr. Cooper says that it was because he was an insurgent that he is deprived of his committee Chairmanship, and in a speech in Rochester, Wis., the other day he declared that Speaker Cannon is an enemy to popular government that the country must get rid of before any legislative relief can be secured, and pledged himself to the fight which he declares is to be raised with renewed vigor against Speaker Cannon and "Cannonism." The kid of a correspondent who is writing Mr. Cooper up states that Mr. Cooper forecasts a fight at the opening of Congress in December, the purpose of which will be to prevent Cannon's re-election as Speaker and to modify the rules of the House. As a matter of fact, Mr. Cannon was elected Speaker at the opening of the extraordinary session of the 61st Congress, and doesn't have to be elected again for two years. The rules of the House may be taken up and amended, modified or made more stringent any time that the majority votes to do this.

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This is the month with an "r" in it, you will remember, and oysters are ripe. With the arrival of the oyster people whose brains are strings of figures begin to unreel them. The following is absolutely correct, because it is given out by the Fish Commission, and, of course, they sat down and counted every bushel of these oysters as they were given out. At least, that is what you would guess on reading the figures. This country consumes 30,000,000 bushels of oysters every year. Some $300,000,000 is invested in our shellfish industry, the annual produce amounts to $50,000,000, and transactions in oysters represent more than four-fifths of these vast sums. But, tho, when the female spawns she adds anywhere from 16,000,000 to 60,000,000 to the oyster population, it is calculated that the baby oyster has only one chance in 2,000,000 of reaching maturity. Its enemies are numerous. Its friends, outside of the Fish Commission and the intelligent dealers who perceive the need of conservation, have hitherto been few. It is all the more pleasing to recall that in 1909 a National Association of Shellfish Commissioners was organized to promote its cultivation and protection.

* * *

The National Geographical Society is up in the air. Its headquarters are here, and it has a membership all over the United States and a few from foreign countries. It was preparing to give Dr. Cook a magnificent banquet with all the proper accessories, and make him feel mighty good on his return to the United States. The Committee on Banquet had one meeting to make its arrangements when the Peary surprise was sprung. They were still going ahead and were going to make the banquet for two, which would have been eminently proper, when Peary began slinging mud, and that sent everything right straight up the chute. It had a hurry-up meeting of its Committee on Banquet Arrangements, and dispersed to meet at the call of the Chairman, and the Chairman has his mind pretty well made up that that committee won't be called until after the Peary-Cook controversy is settled. The really scientific members of the Geographical Society are very much disgusted with the mud-slinging that has commenced over the North Pole discovery. Some of them are just a little bit inclined to say that they don't believe that it has been discovered at all.

* * *

President Taft has received the resignation as Governor of Porto Rico of Regis H. Post. Mr. Post is resigning, it is said, because of the ill-health of his wife. Of course, politicians are putting another light on the story, but that doesn't matter. It is thought that the Presiden has already selected a Governor to succeed Mr. Post, but he seems to be slow in announcing the name.

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John M. Dalzell, better known as "Private Dalzell," who is a prominent member of Burnside Post, of this city, was stricken with partial blindness last week while at his desk in the Treasury Department. He was very ill for a time, and was confined to a dark room. His illness is due to overwork, but his physician thinks that the blindness is only temporary, and that a complete rest will soon restore him to his accustomed vigor. Private Dalzell has been for 10 years in a responsible position in the shipping division of the Treasury Department.

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The War Department has been advised of the sailing of eight of its armored cruisers of the Pacific fleet for the Philippines last week. They will touch at Chinese ports, also visit Japan. The journey is for practice, and the fleet is commanded by Admiral Sebree. A tremendous crowd gathered to see the sailing out of the Golden Gate Harbor, and it is said that a more magnificent sight was never witnessed.

The flagship Tennessee was in the lead, followed by the Washington, California and South Dakota, of the First Division, and the West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Colorado, of the Second Division, under the red pennant of Rear-Admiral Edward B. Barris, second in command. When Golden Gate was passed the speed of the ships was increased, and from here to Honolulu an average of 18 knots will be made.

It will be Feb. 15 before the eight fighting ships again pass thru the Golden Gate.

* * *

A funny scare struck Washington people last week. It will be remembered that the Washington Monument stood for nearly a quarter of a century in an unfinished state, and that when the war broke out it stood half completed, with the rotting scaffolding sticking out of the unfinished shaft. Naturally the inside stone work (or marble, more properly speaking), which had not been finished up and smoothed off, began to disintegrate from the weather. When, after the war a great many years, a Washington Monument Association was formed, and the Government forced to contribute toward the finishing of the monolith whose unfinished condition was a disgrace to the Nation, the monument was completed. Those weather-worn stones still continue to scale off, and the high winds or something, it is not known just what, caused a good deal more dropping than usual last week, and the word got out that the monument was crumbling and might fall any minute. You cannot imagine what a furore that created. Hundreds of women and children went to the monument grounds and camped for hours at a time, many of them carrying lunch with them, expecting to be "in at the death." But the monument didn't fall, and it is not going to. It stands as strong and durable as a granite quarry. It would have to be hewn down to get rid of it.

* * *

The Agricultural Department has some work laid out for it right here in Washington. The squirrels in the parks of Washington are dying rapidly from disease of some kind. No squirrels were ever any more petted and pampered than are those in the parks of Washington. The children love them and play with them all day long, and everybody who passes thru a park carries nuts or something toothsome for the pretty little gray animals. But they are unaccountably dying. Their bodies are found in the White House grounds emaciated and starved looking, despite the fact that the White House police care for them tenderly. It is thought that some mysterious disease is attacking them, and the Agricultural Department is going to make a study of the little creatures to discover, if possible, the "bug" that is preying upon them, and make use of it in exterminating squirrels in the States that have too many of them and seem unable to get rid of them by any commonly employed methods.

* * *

Washington doesn't intend to be responsible for the spread of the Texas cattle fever if an ounce of prevention will help it. A consignment of cattle received from Kansas City has been put into quarantine in the Bennings cattle yards pending developments and investigation by the Bureau of Animal Industries. It is thought that pens will be erected especially for the Southern cattle trade, and such animals will not be permitted to mix with the Northern cattle, thus preventing any possible contamination.

* * *

Unkind surgeons refused to sew on a toe for a man at the Casualty Hospital one day last week. Dennis Miles, a colored man, was mowing the grass in a yard and accidentally mowed off one of his big toes. He stuck the toe in his coat pocket and started for the hospital with it, but all to no avail. The surgeon in charge said he couldn't sew it back, and so Dennis took the toe home and put it in alcohol for a souvenir, and went back to his mowing.

* * *

Officials of the Biological Survey, of the Department of Agriculture, are preparing to wage war upon the brown Norway rat thruout the county, as statistics recently collected by that Department show these rodents are responsible for the loss of millions of dollars annually.

David Lantz, an assistant of the Biological Survey, who has the matter in charge, says that the farmers, who suffer most from the depredations of the rats, are the ones who do the most to encourage the animals and furnish them with breeding places.

Mr. Lantz is of the opinion that the only adequate method of fighting the pests is by universal trapping and by the construction of rat-proof warehouses and granaries, which are the principal breeding places of the rodents.

* * *

Francis J. Kilkenny, National President of the Association of the Homegoing Pilgrimage to Ireland, returned recently from a trip to the Emerald Isle. Mr. Kilkenny went there to make preparations for the trip of the homegoers next year.

He stated that the Irish people are delighted with the plan and are going to do all in their power to make the affair a big success. Special concessions are to be made persons holding membership in the National association.

Mr. Kilkenny said he was surprised to find that Ireland now has better facilities and more money with which to carry on successfully industrial enterprises than ever before. He said he thought 50,000 Irish-Americans would take the trip home next year.

* * *

Five hundred dollars was last week forwarded by the American Red Cross Society to Beirut, Turkey, for the relief of the families of the 25,000 Armenians that were massacred last April. The amount sent last week brings the total fund sent for the relief of the Armenians up to $27,000.

* * *

Mrs. John A. Murphy, a well known D. A. R. leader and wife of a prominent Cincinnati physician, is dead. She passed away suddenly in a Kentucky hotel, where she was spending the Summer months.

Mrs. Murphy had been a Regent of the Cincinnati Chapter, D. A. R., and State Regent and Vice President-General of the National Society, D. A. R.

Mrs. Murphy was one of the most prominent members of the Daughters of the American Revolution Congress. She was well known in Washington, where she had done much work along patriotic lines. Mrs. Murphy was particularly interested in the "Children of the Republic," an organization in which she was very prominent. She was a splendid woman in every way, and her genial face will be missed from the National Congresses.

* * *

Mrs. Sarah Platt Decker, the brilliant literary and society woman, who is so well known in Washington, and who was formerly President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, seems to be in full possession of all her faculties. She says that the Nation's children are as well worth "conserving" as forests, waterfalls or other National resources, and that much less attention is paid to them. This statement was made by Mrs. Decker in rejecting the offer of a Representative in Congress from Colorado to resign his office in her favor. Mrs. Decker said she did not wish to sit in Congress, but she said that if she were there she would make it her chief business to promote legislation for the children of the country. She requested the Representative to work in this direction, and promised he would have the support of every woman's club in the Union.

* * *

Owing to the many conflicting rumors as to the President's order that the Army shall not exceed 80,000 enlisted men after July 1, 1910, this making a reduction of about 8,000 men in the authorized strength, it is interesting to know exactly what the order was. Following is the text of the order:

"War Department, July 22, 1909.

"By direction of the President, it is hereby ordered that during the fiscal year 1911 (July 1, 1910, to June 30, 1911), the authorized strength of the Military Establishment, including the Philippine Scouts and the Hospital Corps, shall not exceed 80,000.

"J. M. Dickinson,
"Secretary of War."

There will be no trouble in carrying out the order, as the enlisted strength has already dropped much below the authorized number, owing to the difficulty of obtaining men. In fact, it is anticipated that it will be difficult to keep the Army up to 80,000 during the next fiscal year, if the expected improvement in business conditions and extraordinary demand for labor materialize. One reason for the issue of the order at the time was that it might be used in the preparation of estimates of expenditures for the next fiscal year.

* * *

The Post Office Department has induced the surety companies which furnish bonds for postal employes to reduce their rates of premium 15 per cent. The Department was aided by the proposition of Chairman Tawney, of the House Appropriations Committee, to have his committee report legislation which would eliminate the business of the companies with all the Federal Departments.

Postmaster-General Hitchcock has issued an order that hereafter no bond shall be accepted from any surety or bonding company which shall cost more than 35 per cent in excess of the rate of premium charged for a like bond during the calendar year 1908, or $1.35 a thousand. The order affects more than 200,000 postal employes.

* * *

Even Vice President Sherman "butts in on the umpire." He was very indignant at the ruling of the umpire in a game at Kansas City last week. The game was between Kansas City and Minneapolis, played in Kansas City. The umpire was called to the Vice President's box after his ruling against the Kansas City team, and Mr. Sherman in his emphatic way informed the umpire that he believed that he had made an unfair ruling. The umpire smilingly replied that even "an umpire can err," and let it go at that.

* * *

The Spanish War Veterans were organized into a National body in this city some 10 years ago. A little later some half dozen organizations of youngsters who "fit into" the Spanish imbroglio in Cuba and the Philippines amalgamated and called themselves "the United Spanish War Veterans," a long, unmeaning and cumbersome title. Up in Seattle, where they are holding their National Encampment, they resoluted to change the designation to the simple one "Spanish War Veterans," and it was done. Very wise action.

* * *

Embassador White and Mrs. White have been signally honored by President Fallieres and Mme. Fallieres, of France. The French President and his wife did our Embassador the honor to visit him in his country home. So far as is known this is the first occasion during the third Republic when the French President has visited any Embassador at his country house.

* * *

Lurton R. Ginn, of Washington, D. C., was elected President of the Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada at the closing meeting of the Association in St. Louis last week.

* * *

Mrs. Anne E. Gridley, the famous army nurse, and mother of Capt. Gridley, who lost his life on the Olympia, is gradually failing, and it is thought the end is near. Mrs. Gridley is 84, and has been hale and strong until the last year. Six weeks ago she gave up her position in the Patent Office and took to her bed, where her energies have gradually failed her. Mentally she is as strong as ever. She makes her home with her only remaining son, who is a member of Burnside Post, of this city.

* * *

Less than $400 was subscribed in answer to the appeal of the American Red Cross for the sufferers at Monterey, Mexico. The appeal was issued on Sept. 1, and asked that $100,000 be contributed by the public.

Mr. Magee, Secretary to the Red Cross Society, says that the conditions at Monterey are more deplorable than at first reported, and that it is urgent that more funds be sent the sufferers. Two thousand dollars was telegraphed by the society from its emergency fund when the suffering, as a result of the floods, was first reported.

* * *

Butter is—well it is just butter, you know. And butter which has been worked over after it has become stale is "process butter," according to the laws of the District, and there you are. A lot of market merchants have been arrested for selling "process" butter under the name of plain "butter," and the majesty of the law had to be upheld, so there were a lot of arrests. It is well. If one pays for plain butter, one wants what one pays for. There is no law against selling "process" butter, but it must be marked as such. About half the stuff that is on the market as "butter" is madeover stuff, worked in salt and sweet milk to get the smell and strong taste out of it. It is one of the very worst fakes known to the trade.

* * *

President Taft is leaving nothing undone to make it clear that he does not intend that census work and politics shall be mixed. Acting Secretary McHarg, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, has received a letter from Mr. Carpenter, Secretary to the President, stating that Census Supervisors who hold political positions, such as Secretaryships or Chairmanships of County Committees, must give up either their political or Government position.

In a number of States, and this is particularly true of the South, Republican politicians have been recommended for appointment as Supervisors of the Census. Complaint was made that as the Supervisors have authority to appoint enumerators, it would be possible for them to build up powerful political positions.

Mr. Carpenter's letter was written at the direction of the President, and Mr. McHarg immediately communicated its contents to Director Durand. As this is not a season of political activity, it is likely that the effect will be wholesale resignations on the part of persons holding local Republican or Democratic Party positions.

* * *

"Peace has its horrors no less than war," to paraphrase things a little. The papers last Monday morning noted thru the Associated Press dispatches no less than 12 automobile accidents and the death of seven people, and every one of the accidents was caused by "fool" manipulation of the automobiles. In Washington there were four automobile accidents, two of them being collisions with street cars, the chauffeurs and motormen trying to see which could cross streets first, and each accident preventable by the exercise of common horse sense. Fortunately the automobiles were in each instance smashed beyond repair, and there is some satisfaction in that. That no one was hurt makes the smash yet more satisfactory. It begins to look as tho the average owner of an auto must lose all the sense he was born with the minute he gets into the machine. If the auto has really "come to stay" the fool-killer ought to get busy, or else pedestrians and horse users will have to get off the earth.

* * *

The stork paid a visit last week to the Summer home at Manchester-by-the-Sea of Gen. Garcia Velez, the Cuban Minister, and left a baby boy. Mrs. Garcia Velez and her little son are doing nicely.

The Legation headquarters is located in one of the cottages at the Masconomo Hotel. The General is away from home at the present time.

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Taxidermists of the Smithsonian Institution have finished unpacking the cases containing the skins of animals sent back to the institution from East Africa by former President Roosevelt. The consignment consists of one large packing case and five small ones.

The large case contained a collection of skulls of animals which Mr. Roosevelt had killed, while in the smaller cases were packed birds and small mammal skins, which were collected by Maj. E. A. Mearns, who represents the Smithsonian Institution on the expedition.

The scientists of the institution find the skins of the small animals and birds far more interesting than the larger skins, as they say some of the specimens may prove new to science, and many of them are unquestionably new to the Smithsonian collection.

The officials also feel that they have reason to congratulate themselves on the excellent condition in which the consignment arrived.

* * *

Vice President Sherman felt very keenly the death of Mr. Harriman, the railroad magnate, and does not care who knows it.

"Mr. Harriman was a man of unusual genius," said Mr. Sherman. "His death is a distinct blow to the American business world. Mr. Harriman in operating his railway property seemed always to have in view the best interests of the stockholders. His foresight was unusually keen and active."

* * *

The bursting of a steam pipe on the Colorado, which is a part of the fleet on its practice stunt to the Philippines, caused the death of two of the men who were scalded by the steam. They were L. M. Lepetsky, an ordinary seaman, and C. P. McDermott, a coal passer.

* * *

Alack! For the lack of a housekeeper to tell them how to do it properly the fine new Municipal Building is just about to be carried away with roaches. Of all the pests in a house a roach is positively the nastiest and the most difficult to get rid of. They eat anything that can be chewed. Roaches by the thousands are finding it an easy matter to subsist on books and valuable papers containing records of District transactions.

It has been found that in every department in the new building where furniture from the old building has been installed the roaches exist by the thousands.

Nothing of a digestible nature, from the standpoint of a bug, is immune from their attacks. Typewriter ribbons make a nightly feast, and pretty girl stenographers find them resembling screen doors on their arrival at the building each morning. Carbon paper by the ream has been pounced upon by the insects, and wherever the newest sheets are kept there may be found the fattest of the insects.

The valuable records, bound in book form, are also subjected to the onslaught. The glue used in binding the books seems to form an excellent meal for them.

The District Health Office has been called on to assist in ridding the building of the pest.

The old truck moved from the den in which the Commissioners lived for so many years before the marble palace was builded was brought over to the new building and stored for nearly a year in the basement, and here the roaches which came along got a splendid start. It really is a problem how to get rid of them.

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The President has appointed Col. George B. Colton, of the District of Columbia, Governor of Porto Rico. Col. Colton went to the Philippines as Lieutenant-Colonel of a Nebraska regiment.

When the Santo Domingo question came up he was made Collector of Customs of Santo Domingo, and organized the customs police and greatly assisted in the settlement of the finances of that country. After this he was appointed Insular Collector of Customs of the Philippines. This office he now holds, having come home on leave at the instance of the Bureau of Insular Affairs to assist the committee in the preparation of the Philippine tariff bill.

Mr. Colton speaks Spanish fluently, and has a large experience with Latin-Americans. The President regards him as diplomatic in the extreme, and declares that he has every hope that Mr. Colton will become popular with the natives of Porto Rico, and convince them of his earnest desire for their welfare.

* * *

Cook vs. Peary.

The row that is on between Cook and Peary, rival Arctic explorers, is reaching into the social circles of almost every city in the Union. It is almost as much as your life is worth to sit down at a lunch table with a party of your friends and open the conversation with some remark as to the merits of either Cook or Peary. Two ladies in a lunch room the other day threatened to throw soup plates at each other's heads. One of them works in the Navy Department and the other in the War Department. The Navy Department clerk, of course, upheld the honor of the Navy, and extravagantly exploited the rights of Peary, while the War Department clerk, who had once upon a time met Dr. Cook at a dinner party, nearly annihilated Miss Navy's latest pompadour and puffs with the sparks from her indignant eyes.

All this rot and row makes one tired. It also makes one wish that people would not do things and that discoveries might never be made, if this miserable jealousy is always and eternally to be cropping out. Of course, we know the Navy Department is probably more jealous of its rights and privileges than any other Department, and we also know that there is less known about the inside workings of the Navy Department than any other Department under the Government. It certainly does look as tho there was glory to go around and to spare in the discovery of the North Pole. If Peary, as he emphatically declares, is the really and only "blown-in-the-bottle" discoverer of the North Pole, surely he could wait for his claim to be proved and forego a little of the bluster and bombast that accompanied his statement in the beginning, unsupported by any more facts than were given by Dr. Cook. The two clerks who were rowing over the lunch table even had a fight over the wives of the two explorers, and for a moment it looked as tho the sliced tomatoes would decorate the countenances of the two Government clerks rather than furnish sustenance for the interior department. Miss War Department declared that Mrs. Peary was a snob and Mrs. Cook a lady. Miss Navy Department responded that Mrs. Peary would have been a blithering idiot if she had not stood by her husband when he had wired her that he nailed the Flag to the North Pole. Miss War Department responded just as emphatically that there was not any North Pole to nail the Flag to, and that Mrs. Cook had proven herself a lady in that she had quietly accepted the report of Capt. Peary, and said that she was very glad if he had found the North Pole, and that she did not fly into a passion and say nasty things about either Capt. Peary or his family when everybody knew that she had a real good chance to do so if she wanted to. Miss Navy Department got up and kicked her chair back, leaving her luncheon unfinished, and declared that she would hate to be caught dead in Mrs. Cook's house; that Capt. Peary was an officer and a gentleman, and Dr. Cook was only a civilian, and that the Navy Department ought to have the honor, since it had been looking for the North Pole for the last 100 years. She designated Miss War Department as a "hateful old thing," and told her she never wanted to speak to her again. Miss War Department responded that she never had wanted to speak to Miss Navy Department, anyhow, and the two former chums left by different doors, going in opposite directions, to the inconvenience of both, since they eventually must sit down to their desks under the same roof, altho in opposite ends of the building, and this is just a sample of what is going on at every table, in every office, and on nearly every street corner where two or three halt for a moment's conversation.

* * *

"Fly-Loo."

That's the very latest gambling game to strike members of the National Congress. It is a Chinese game, of course, and, quaintly enough, success in it depends upon the hunger of flies. You place a dime or any other piece of money that can be covered by it under a cube of sugar, having as many cubes as you like. The first cube upon which the fly alights, if it belongs to you, wins you the pot. Of course, each player looks out for his own cube of sugar. The story comes back to us from Spokane that some of the members of the House of Representatives who are loafing around up there have gone broke, and even had to borrow something like 30 cents apiece to pay up their debts of honor in playing fly-loo. The element of gambling in it is that some dishonest player can soak his cube of sugar in clover honey and put camphor, ammonia or most anything that flies don't like on the other cubes, so that he is bound to win out. Just the same, it is really a stirring, interesting game to play it straight, and it is not an unusual sight in Chinese quarters to see Chinamen yank out their lumps of sugar, stick pennies under them on a camp chair or some convenient board and then lazily sit hour after hour watching for the fly to land on their individual pieces of sugar, and win a few pennies for them.

* * *

Honor Properly Conferred.

Not many people ever stop to think of the momentous days when the purchase of the Alaskan Territory was under discussion. Secretary Seward stood almost alone for months in his advocacy of the purchase of that great unknown world off to the Northwest, and he was simply raked with criticism of the utmost bitterness by the newspapers and small-minded people of the country. About seven and one-half millions was what Russia asked to get off the continent up there and leave it to us. Seward said it was a mighty big bargain at that price. The great State Secretary had his way, and we bought Alaska, a regular pig in a poke, as it were. But, g-e-ee, do any of you realize what we have made out of Alaska, and her territory almost an unknown land to us at that? Why, we cart more than $7,000,000 in gold down from that country every year. She has paid for herself 10 times over to the men who have dared her dangers for the yellow dust and the golden nuggets which are brought down each Summer. That Alaska is a mine of mineral wealth is believed by everybody.

All these years have passed—more than 40, for we bought Alaska in 1867—and no recognition has ever been given Secretary of State Seward for his wonderful foresight until last week. They are having an Exposition up in Seattle, the only really successful Exposition that has ever been held, for it began on time, was finished to begin, and people are flocking there in numbers that is making the big Fair pay. Seattle has done full honor to Seward. One of its great State buildings on the plaza is named for him—inside the Exposition grounds—and the avenue which runs in front of it also bears his name. On this avenue and in front of the house bearing his name an heroic statue of Secretary Seward has been erected and was dedicated last week. The mansion, copied after the Seward home in Auburn, N. Y., is New York's building at the Fair.

Secretary Seward said that a generation would pass before his purchase of Alaska was appreciated. His son, Gen. William H. Seward, of Auburn, N. Y., delivered the oration at the unveiling. Secretary Seward's grandson was also present.

A little girl, Harriet May Baxter, granddaughter of former Gov. McGraw, of Washington, unveiled the statue. The sculptor is Richard E. Brooks, of New York.

The statue, which is to stand permanently in the grounds of the University of Washington, was cast in Paris and exhibition in the Paris Salon. On the pedestal are Seward's memorable words: "Let us make the treaty tonight."

* * *

Cost of the National Guard.

Four million dollars, appropriated by Congress for the militia, has been allotted among the several States and Territories by Lieut.-Col. E. M. Weaver, of the General Staff of the Army, who is Chief of the Division of Militia.

The enlisted strength of the militia, as shown by tables prepared by Col. Weaver, is 109,761, and the allotments under various heads include $1,472,250 for arms, equipment and camp purposes; $490,750 for promotion of rifle practice, $628,561 for ammunition and $970,656 for supplies.

The allotments for the States and Territories in round numbers include the following: Alabama, $88,000; Arkansas, $54,000; California, $73,000; Colorado, $30,000; Connecticut, $66,000; Delaware, $16,000; Florida, $37,000; District of Columbia, $56,000; Georgia, $90,000; Idaho, $19,000; Illinois, $194,000; Indiana, $91,000; Iowa, $86,000; Kansas, $59,000; Kentucky, $7 000; Louisiana, $53,000; Maine, $4,000; Maryland, $58,000; Massachusetts, $142,000; Michigan, $91,000; Minnesota, $83,000; Mississippi, $58,000; Missouri, $116,000; Montana, $18,000; Nebraska, $45,000; Nevada, $11,000; New Hampshire, $37,000; New Jersey, $105,000; New York, $360,000; North Carolina, $73,000; North Dakota, $24,000; Ohio, $170,000; Oklahoma, $40,000; Oregon, $36,000; Pennsylvania, $275,000; Rhode Island, $30,000; South Carolina, $60,000; South Dakota, $25,000; Tennessee, $66,000; Texas, $104,000; Utah, $16,000; Vermont, $26,000; Virginia, $78,000; Washington, $33,000; West Virginia, $44,000; Wisconsin, $92,000; Wyoming, $16,000; Arizona, $19,000; Hawaii, $14,000, and New Mexico, $10,000.

This seems a heap of money, but it is worth every cent of it. It is magnificent discipline and training for the whole 109,761.

VETERANS IN THE CITY.

James Sweger, 55th Pa., Lancaster, Pa. Comrade Sweger is in the grocery business.

J. L. Reitzel, 79th Pa., Columbia, Pa. Comrade Reitzel is a carpenter and builder.

John Hart, 2d Pa. Reserves, Slithville, Pa.

Jacob Harro, 16th Pa. and 2d D. of C., Lancaster, Pa. Comrade Harro is in the tea and coffee business.

W. R. Tracy, 2d Mass. Battery, 42 School street, Bradford, Pa. Comrade Tracy is a pattern maker.

James H. Adams, 79th Pa., Lancaster, Pa. Comrade Adams is foreman of the C. F. Adams Candy Factory.

Wm. Mette, 4th Pa. Reserves.

James Maloney, 5th N. Y., Duryea Zouaves, Brooklyn, N. Y. Comrade Maloney is with the U. S. Shipping Company.

Maj. R. E. Hayes, Captain and Commissary Subsistence, Soldiers' Home, Hampton. Comrade Hayes was nominated for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the U. V. L. at the recent National Encampment, and made a good run. He is an inmate of the Soldiers' Home at Hampton.

N. Munshower, 82d Pa., Columbus, O. Comrade Munshower is a traveling agent for the Hartford Brewers' Association, and is a member of Encampment No. 78, U. V. L. He has done great work in organizing the G. A. R. and U. V. L., and was a prominent candidate for Commander-in-Chief at the recent National Encampment, coming within four votes of being elected.

E. R. Evans, 95th Ohio, Newark, O. Comrade Evans is a carpenter by trade. He was one of the unfortunates captured at Guntown, and was confined in Andersonville until the final release in April, 1865, when with the last squad he went to Baldwin, Fla.

W. P. Griffith, 102d Pa., Brooklyn, N. Y. Comrade Griffith was for 40 years on the New York Press, then became Deputy Clerk for Brooklyn, and was the first Deputy Clerk commissioned when Greater New York was formed. He is now connected with the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

Benjamin N. Woodruff, 150th N. Y., Brooklyn, N. Y. Comrade Woodruff is in the Bureau of Assessments and Arrears.

Wm. H. Dunflee, 3d Pa. H. A., city.

Col. Daniel Crater, 104th Pa., Soldiers' Home, Hampton.

Maj. Wm. H. Prince, Second Lieutenant, Co. G, 2d Md., Soldiers' Home, Hampton.

C. S. Stewart, 19th Md., 220 W. Chase street, Baltimore, Md. Comrade Stewart, who was severely wounded at the Mine fight, is a shoemaker.

August Ehraidt, 82d Ill., Joliet, Ill. Comrade Ehraidt will be remembered as having presented a fine G. A. R. window to the public schools. He is an earnest worker in the G. A. R., and every year holds memorial services with one or two other comrades over the graves of the veterans buried at his little town.

J. H. Morrison, 13th Tenn. Cav., Joliet, Ill. Comrade Morrison, who is a retired farmer, is Commander of Bartleson Post at Joliet.

A Typical Wife.

Mrs. J. W. Miller, of Springbrook, Wis., gives her case as a type of those who are affected by the limitations of the widows' pensions. She was a girl 15 years old when the war broke out, and has a vivid remembrance of the work that the women did for the men who were in the army, not only in scraping lint, but in a thousand other ways that promised benefit. She is now an old woman. Her first husband was a soldier, who died in 1891, and in 1895 she married another veteran, who is 77 years old, and has been unable for years to do any work. He gets a little pension. But where will she be when he dies?

Pension Changes.

J. Evans, 5 Cross street, North Side, Pittsburg, Pa., heartily indorses the articles of Comrade Messenger and others in regard to a service pension. We are charged with a great deal more money than we get. The medical examiners ought to be abolished, as no one is benefited by them. They get their money for every soldier they examine, and almost invariably turn down the applicant. The expenses of administering the Pension Bureau should be cut down and the saving given the soldiers.

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The Dayton Home.

Commander Gustavus Smith, of Dister Post, was chosen Delegate to the Department Encampment held at Newark, O. The new Memorial Hall will be completed by Sept. 1, which will have a tendency to increase interest in the G. A. R. Dister Relief Corps presented a handsome silk flag to St. Joseph's School last week, and also Lincoln's Address at Gettysburg.

Hard Luck.

Morgan H. Tate, Asotin, Wash., thinks that he is playing in hard luck because his pension has been rejected on the grounds that he had no claim, not being yet 62 years old. He was born July 12, 1847, and in his former applications stated that he was but 16 years old when he enlisted, Feb. 8, 1864. This would make the date of his birth 1848 instead of 1847, and he would therefore not be pensionable until 1910.

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