

# ROOSEVELTS RECEIVE IN "NEW" WHITE HOUSE

### Brilliant Function When the First Gentleman in the Land Stands in Line to Shake Hands With the Diplomatic Corps in Their Resplendent Uniforms, the Officers of the Army and Navy, and Private Citizens, All of Whom Are Welcomed--How the Guests Came Into the White House and What They Did After They Got There--The Etiquette of the Day.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Washington, Jan. 1.—This has been the most brilliant New Year's day within the history of the nation's capital. The first of January has for more than a century been made the occasion of America's greatest social festival.

The "new" White house was formally opened today, and the public directed its eyes upon the far-heralded improvements upon the old historic mansion which have cost Uncle Sam \$500,000. At the same time President Roosevelt ceremoniously ushered in the "gay" season of the present congress.

Custom has decreed that the first year of each congress shall be an "off" season, socially, the purpose being to allow new members to study well their lines before their entrance as stars upon the drama of Washington social life.

## JOHN ADAMS OPENED THE FIRST WHITE HOUSE

One hundred and two years ago next Thursday, President John Adams and his good wife Abigail formally opened the then new presidential "palace" for all time. The birth of that first festive day within its walls was, as is the opening day of the "Greater White house," accompanied by the rap of the hammer and the grate of the saw. For when January 1, 1803, rolled around Mistress Adams was disappointed to discover that the lower floor of her official home was neither finished nor fur-

nished. So the president and his spouse had to receive their guests in the room on the second floor, now used by President Roosevelt as a library.

A little before 11 o'clock this morning the president, Mrs. Roosevelt and the ladies of the cabinet assembled in the new blue parlor. At 11 o'clock sharp Mr. Roosevelt gave his first nod to Col. Theo. A. Bingham, United States army, master of ceremonies at the White house. A second later the Marine band in their red coats struck up "Hail to the Chief," and the doors to the blue parlor were thrown open. Immediately the members of the cabinet in the exact order of their succession to the presidency, entered, Secretary Hay appearing first and Secretary Wilson last.

## DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN BRILLIANT UNIFORMS

Meanwhile the entire diplomatic corps, groomed in their gaudiest and best court uniforms, assembled in the neighboring red parlor. The picture they presented far surpassed in brilliance any scene yet presented at the theaters. In the glare of myriad of electric lamps their varied colored costumes, their sparkling epaulettes and glistening swords were resplendent against the red velvet walls and the ivory wainscot.

Baron von Holleben, who, by virtue of his being the ambassador of longest service at our capital, is known as the dean of the diplomatic corps, passed out

of the door after the last of the cabinet circle had paid his respects. Then the entire corps fell into line, according to their respective ranks, each attended by his wife or one of the ladies of his official household.

Before this gorgeous line reached the blue parlor each member of the cabinet was joined by his wife in the receiving line, with the exception of Secretary Hay, who took his stand at the president's left. Then, as the diplomatic corps filed in, headed by its dean, the premier of the cabinet introduced each member in turn to the first gentleman of the land. Of course this was a mere formality, the president having a personal acquaintance with each member of the diplomatic corps.

## MR. AND MRS. HAY ARE TO HOLD SOIREE

The last of the diplomats having passed, Secretary and Mrs. Hay took their leave of the presidential party and repaired immediately to their luxurious mansion across Lafayette square, where they made preparations to receive the entire diplomatic corps at a magnificent stand-

adorned by parapet walls and a balustrade and is a reproduction of the "west terrace," which connects the old White house with the new executive offices. The east terrace terminates in a porte cochere, the entrance of all future White house guests. The old main entrance beneath the great porte cochere on the north side will hereafter be reserved as a private doorway for executive families.

## HOW GUESTS WERE LET INTO THE WHITE HOUSE

Guests entering the eastern porte cochere were permitted to pass along, or colonnade opening toward the river, or enter any door of the long room opening to the colonnade. This room was given over entirely to quarters for cloaks, hats and wraps. Such accommodations were provided for the apparel of 2,500 persons.

From the terrace the line of guests passed into the basement under the east room, into a hallway on either side of which they found dressing rooms—those on one side for ladies, and those on the other for men. The line then mounted from the terrace to the hallway west of the east room by way of a staircase twelve feet wide. From



THE "NEW" WHITE HOUSE.

up luncheon, which, according to custom, the secretary of state gives to all diplomats accredited to this capital at high noon, each New Year's day.

## COLONEL BINGHAM HAS AN IMPORTANT POST

Colonel Bingham, whose duties at our republican court are precisely those of the lord chamberlains of European palaces, took Secretary Hay's place at the president's left. He was handed the names of all subsequent guests by an usher, and presented each to the president, who shook hands with each visitor. Captain John R. Proctor, Jr., of the artillery, the assistant master of ceremonies, presented each guest, in turn, to Mrs. Roosevelt. Both of these officers were in full dress uniform, with gold lace, white gloves and dress swords.

The next delegation after the diplomatic corps to assemble in the red parlor was the supreme court of the United States, headed by the picturesque chief justice. Each justice was accompanied by his wife or the ladies of his household, and following them were presented in order the court of claims, the court of appeals and the supreme court of the District of Columbia. Following the judiciary came ex-members of the cabinet, former United States ministers, senators, representatives, delegates, members of the press and the commissioners of the District of Columbia.

## OFFICERS OF THE ARMY WERE AT THE RECEPTION

Commissioned officers of the army, navy and marine corps meanwhile had gathered in their respective wings of the great state, war and navy building adjacent to the White house. Each of the army officers wore a brand new full-dress uniform, inasmuch as the official change in military apparel had just taken place. Adjutant General Corbin—who, in General Miles' absence, is the ranking officer in Washington—led the line of army officers. They followed the officers of the navy and marine corps, in separate delegations and in the order named. Following the marine officers were the commanding general of the District of Columbia national guard with his staff.

Exactly at noon the regents of the Smithsonian institution and Prof. S. P. Langley, its secretary, were admitted to the executive presence. Behind them were the various commissioners, assistant secretaries and bureau heads of the various departments of the federal government. At 12:15 societies of veterans of the Mexican, Civil and Spanish wars were received. The last delegation to be received in a body was the Oldest Inhabitants' association of the District of Columbia. During the passage before him of this long line Mr. Roosevelt now and then conferred a special compliment by inviting some personal friend or dignitary of high rank to take a place with the receiving party and mingle with the other favored guests.

## CITIZENS HAD CHANCE TO SEE THE PRESIDENT

During the next hour the president received a long, uninterrupted line of citizens of all colors and nationalities, with reference to personal calling or previous conditions of servitude. Early in the morning the most zealous of these commenced to assemble about the porte cochere at the new entrance to the mansion. The police formed these into a line, four abreast, and this column encircled the entire executive reservation. It is estimated that from 10,000 to 15,000 people awaited admission to the blue parlor, some of the first comers standing in the crisp winter air for three or four hours. The more elect were allowed to enter the porte cochere by carriages, and thus avoid the long and tiresome stand.

The route of gradual passage into the blue parlor and out again was entirely new this year, as a result of the enlargement of the old mansion. From the basement beneath the great east room to the fountain facing the treasury department is rapidly being brought to completion a long wing known as the "east terrace." This is

this hallway they passed into the east room and thence through the red, blue and green parlors and out of the north door.

Last season and for several winters past reception guests were admitted by the north door and dismissed by way of a sort of coal chute, projected from one of the north windows. In order to make their circuit of the building, the thousands of guests had to pass through the private and state dining-rooms, thus preventing such members of the executive family as were not actively engaged in receiving, from partaking of their luncheon.

## FIRST FROCK COAT CREATED QUITE A STIR

Full dress was worn each New Year's morning to the White house receptions until President Arthur's time. There was a stir in social circles when that popular executive received his first New Year guests in a frock coat. Since this innovation on his part, the swallow-tail has not appeared at White house daylight functions except upon the backs of Latin-American diplomats, who, however, during President McKinley's administration donned the court dress adopted by all of the republics of the world except our own. It was also the custom in the early days for ladies receiving in their homes during the last administration by several Western ladies.

President Roosevelt has a special sentimental interest in the New Year festivities inasmuch as calling on that holiday is an old Dutch custom. The father of the executive New Year reception in the New World was Peter Stuyvesant, the last of the staunch Dutch governors of New Amsterdam. Two hundred and fifty years ago this fellow-countryman of our president's forbears commenced to hold in what is now New York just such levees as the public will witness here today.

## THOMAS JEFFERSON AND HIS NEW YEAR CHEESE

Just a century ago this New Year, Thomas Jefferson created quite a sensation at the capital by placing in the east room an immense cheese, weighing 1,225 pounds, which had been presented to him "as a free will offering," and "but a peppercorn of their love" by the women of Cheshire, Massachusetts. Elder Leland, a revivalist of that village, accompanied the cheese, preaching at every station, and formally presented it to the Father of Democracy, who acknowledged it by a grateful speech. This monster token of esteem reposed in the east room for more than a year, and, according to Jefferson's diary, the reverend gentleman who presented it on behalf of the Cheshire dames, presented also a bill for \$200, which the embarrassed executive paid.

For their guests on New Year's day early presidents always set out eatables in the east room. But during Andrew Jackson's administration one of these New Year celebrations degenerated into a free fight between guests who had partaken too plentifully of the cup that cheers. The combatants seized the huge Virginia hams placed upon the refreshment tables and, using these for weapons, brought them down upon the astonished heads of their antagonists. The waiters scrambled for the huge punch bowls and carried them out upon the lawn, which act was a signal for the rabble to follow and thus the first house of the land was spared more of the disgraceful scene. This wrangle was a warning to subsequent executives and in all of the years since guests have departed from all public receptions in a sad state of hunger and thirst.

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# MAN WHO IS AT THE HEAD OF THE A. O. H.

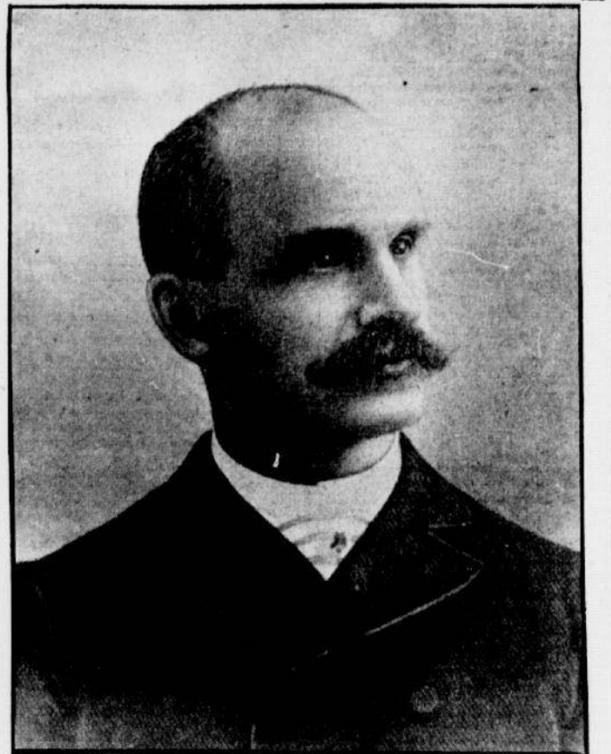
One of the most prominent organizations of state and national importance is the Ancient Order of Hibernians, which has a membership of nearly 2,000 in Montana. Enlisted in the membership of this order are men prominent in the affairs of the state, some of whom hold positions of honor and trust in public life.

Most prominent among those who are high in the order of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is Dr. J. Hennessy. At the last annual gathering of the organization Mr. Hennessy was honored with election to the national board of directors. At the time of his selection for this honor Mr. Hennessy was also state president of the order, which has county divisions all over the state. In connection with the order there is a ladies' auxiliary, known as the Daughters of Erin, of which there are two divisions in Silver Bow county.

nessy & Co. he has been eminently successful in building up a business of greater magnitude than any similar enterprise in the state. His pluck and enterprise brought due reward in a business triumph which is one of the notable mercantile achievements of the Northwest.

Mr. Hennessy was born in Fredericktown, New Brunswick, in 1854, and began his education at a collegiate school in that province. At the age of 13 he left school and began the battle of life for himself, securing employment in a grocery store and later becoming identified with a dry-goods house. Thus in his very first labors he equipped himself with the knowledge that in after years was to prove so beneficial to him.

In 1879, when most every young man had a touch of the Western fever, he came



D. J. HENNESSY.

D. J. Hennessy, the state president, is one of the most successful merchants of the Northwest. He was elected as a democrat to the first senate of Montana, and in the distribution of terms drew the short one. The next year he was re-elected for a full term and gave his constituents good service, being chairman of the committee of mines and mining and a member of the finance and other important committees.

After serving his party faithfully for one-half of the term for which he was elected he resigned his official position to devote his attention exclusively to his enormous business, which is enough to occupy the mind and reward the industry of any man.

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# THOMAS F. MEAGHER IS ONE MONTANA HERO

Thomas Francis Meagher was a soldier of fortune and a soldier of war. During the civil war he commanded a brigade of the army and fought valiantly throughout the struggle. The fortunes and honors of the brave men of his race who took up arms in any good cause, were dear to him. President Johnson, in recognition of his brave career, tendered him the secretaryship of the territory of Montana.

At that time the absence from the territory of Governor Edgerton imposed upon General Meagher the duties of acting governor. His whole administration of affairs embraced a constant struggle for the recognition of popular rights. The attack by Indians upon settlers in the vicinity of Fort Benton compelled him to call for volunteers, as there was no militia in the territory. It was in procuring the armament for those who responded to his call that the circum-

stances occurred which led to his death. General Meagher reached Fort Benton in the evening of July 1, 1867. There being no accommodations at the post, he took up quarters in a stateroom on the old battered Missouri steamer G. A. Thompson, which was lying at the levee preparatory to a trip down the river. Tired as he was after his long journey on horseback, he undertook to write some letters before retiring. The stateroom was on the upper deck and the guard

rails had been broken by a previous accident.

About 10 o'clock that night he left his stateroom. The night was dark. Obscurity partially enveloped the boat. There was a coil of rope on the verge of the deck, over which he stumbled, throwing him off his balance and while grasping vainly for the guard rail, he fell into the dark rushing river and was lost to sight forever.

He struck the guard of the lower deck as he fell, as though on the boat declared he uttered a fearful groan as he splashed into the water. The efforts of willing hands could bring no succor. His calls for aid were promptly responded to but before any one could lend him aid the rushing waters had swept him beyond their reach beneath its surface.

Major Martin Maginniss, president of the Thomas Francis Meagher Memorial association, has recently announced new



GEN. THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER.

plans for completing the fund started by a number of his countrymen for the erection of a statue to their hero.

At different times money has been contributed until a nucleus of \$2,800 now remains in the hands of the treasurer.

It is hoped that the plans which Major Maginniss is about to set in motion will complete the fund which it is desired to expend in a fitting memorial to the courage and loyalty of the brave soldier.

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