Mrs. Alice Longworth a Silent Influence in Capital Politics

Daughter of Theodore Roosevelt Almost Daily Visitor in the Gallery of the Senate

By Hannah Mitchell

THE saying is in Washington that the Senators have formed the habit, upon coming into the United States Senate chamber at noon, of looking up to the family gallery, to the left from the Vice-President's chair, to estimate the temper of business for the day.

If Alice Roosevelt Longworth is in the gallery—her usual place is in the front row—they take off their coats, figuratively speaking, of course, and prepare themselves for a "hot day." Republicans and Democrats have learned that her presence is a barometrical indication of Senatorial weather.

The "irreconcilables in the gallery" is the name in Washington for a small group of women who have watched the league of nations fight in the United States Senate from the side lines.

Most Interesting Girl

As leader of the silent rooting in the gallery, Alice Roosevelt Longworth is the outstanding figure. Since the controversy began last spring, even before the President had returned from his business of putting the final touches to bind the league and the treaty together, she has been a regular visitor at the Senate sessions.

Since the time of her wedding in 1906 Alice Roosevelt Longworth has not been in the public eye to any extent. During the time that Theodore Roosevelt was President his eldest daughter was perhaps the most interesting American girl. Every move she made was chronicled. Her goings and comings were a matter of importance to every household in the land.

She was the fairy princess in our humdrum democratic life, and a princess worthy the name and the sentiment. No girl ever had so many wonderful adventures, no girl's happy times and new dresses were ever the cause of so much comment. Every one wanted to know everything about Alice Roosevelt.

Interest in Her Marriage

Speculations were many and varied as to whom our "princess" should marry. Young Americans of high estate were named as possibilities, the members of the Diplomatic Corps were gone over as to their matrimonial advantages by the gossips of the nation. The public was not sure a worthy prince could be found, but to complete the legend of the fairy princess to the taste of the American people Alice Roosevelt must marry.

And marry she did. The man of her choice seemed a modest enough selection for the girl who might have had any one. He was not particularly well known throughout the country. But in Washington and in his home state, Ohio, and among the upper circle of old American families his name stood for a great deal.

He was a member of the House of Representatives in Congress, and one of the few young men in the House. His name and record were respected by the political circles in Washington. His state valued his services as a Representative and has continued to show its appreciation of his work by sending him back term after term.

Member of Old Family

His family was one of the oldest and most respected in the country. Behind him are three generations of success and gentility. Perhaps the "prince" was not as handsome as the imaginative American public would have had him. He is bald and his head and face are almost massive. His eyes are gray and far apart. His brow is full and high. His voice is low and his manners are courteous. Very seldom does he make a speech in the House, but when he does have something to say he does not speak to empty seats.

The wedding ran true to the fairy story conception of such events. For days accounts of Alice Roosevelt's presents, her shopping tours, the entertainments in her honor, filled the newspapers. The climax of it all was the gorgeous wedding at the White House upon an ideal day in February, 1906.

Now, true to the fairy story, Alice Roosevelt's romance ended in "they all lived happily ever after." And for several years the fairy princess has not been in the public eye.

Her husband has lived up to all the promise of his early political life. He has become one of the most influential men in the House of Representatives. There is little chance for the four-hundred-and some Representatives to shine, and the man who makes a showing must have the confidence of his constituents to the extent that they will send him back again and again to his post in Washington. He must prove his ability in the cumbersome body of men of all sorts and conditions from all parts of the United States who represent us in the lower house of Congress.

REPRESENTATIVE NICHOLAS LONGWORTH in a characteristic pose. When his wife is in the Senate gallery he usually strolls over from the House side

Her Influence Powerful

A few years ago it began to be whispered that Mrs. Nicholas Longworth was a person of great influence in Congressional circles. She kept out of the limelight, but her power was felt. Political factions were glad to announce that she was in sympathy with their movements. Although she never issued statements, the power of her known sentiments in favor of a measure was granted to be worth much with members of both houses.

During the long struggle for Federal woman suffrage Mrs. Longworth was known to be for the measure. She watched the progress of the measure and threw the weight of her "interest" into the balance for it.

Upon public questions Mrs. Longworth's answer to persons wanting to quote her was always that she was "*never* quoted." It was understood that so long as her husband was holding public office she would not make public announcement of her own views.

While other women have been "getting into politics" on equal footing with the men, Alice Roosevelt Longworth has perhaps been playing politics on an equally broad scale and with as telling results as any of them. To begin with, she was "in" politics through no will of her own. As her father's daughter she could be no place other than "in."

Created a Salon

For want of exact information as to the part Alice Longworth played in public life the legend grew up in Washington that she followed the European woman's method of wielding influence in political circles from behind the lines. It was said that she had a "salon," where many of the younger political lights of Washington gathered and discussed the political problems of the day. Her personality and mind led the sentiment of this more or less indefinite group.

The degree to which Alice Roosevelt Longworth's personality captivates every one who has ever seen her or hears of her may be estimated. Take the matter of hats. Alice Longworth almost always wears a broad hat. Now, whether it is her custom to take off her hat or not is not known positively. But if she does take off her hat at a luncheon or public gathering every one notices it, and every reporter makes a note of it.

Recently Mrs. Longworth went to a luncheon in Washington, which was one of the big affairs for society reporters. She took her place at the table, and with a sweeping gesture removed her hat. Every society column in Washington made a feature of her act the following day.

At 1916 Convention

At the Republican convention in Chicago in 1916 Alice Roosevelt Longworth was one of the women in the audience. There the matter of her removing her hat was commented upon. That time it really was a subject of real importance, the men in the convention no doubt wishing heartily that the other women in the audience would follow her example.

From her place in the Senate gallery she is usually seen without her hat. And to return to the irreconcilables in the gallery.

Mrs. Longworth began to appear in the gallery early last spring. Whenever it was announced that one of the Senators was to attack the league she was in what has since become her accustomed place. Usually Nicholas Longworth was noticed on the floor at the same time that Alice Longworth was in the gallery.

As the fight on the league waxed in strength and became a daily affair Alice Longworth became a constant visitor in the gallery. Visitors from out of town, herded into the ladies' gallery, would no doubt overlook her if she were not pointed out to them. Those who are informed or have the inquisitiveness to ask who the important women are in the Senate gallery may go away with the curiosity of a lifetime satisfied by one glimpse of the fairy princess.

Sits in Front Row

Her place in the gallery is usually in the front row. She sits bareheaded, often leaning forward, elbows on knees and hands clasped under her chin. She wears a dark, short sleeved frock. Mr. Lodge makes some particularly telling thrust at the opposition and she throws herself back with a little jerk of amusement and smiles a covered smile.

Upon the occasion of Senator James A. Reed's set speech against the league of nations, in September, the Senate galleries and the Senate itself made the greatest demonstration the Senate had ever known. Mrs. Longworth, from her place in the front row, applauded vigorously. She had listened intently to the entire four hours' speech.

Other women in the family gallery followed her lead; in the cheering, Mrs. Kenyon, wife of the Senator from Iowa, even leaping to her feet, the galleries' occupants, almost en masse, following her example.

Resembles Her Father

Many of the ways of her father are noticeable in Alice Roosevelt. She is vital in every move she makes, and wherever she goes her personality centers all attention. As one of her friends put it:

"To be with Alice Roosevelt is like standing in the spotlight before a darkened house."

The saying of a well known Senator in regard to Alice Longworth has become famous in Washington circles. This gentleman and his wife are among Mrs. Longworth's friends. Upon the occasion when Alice Roosevelt Longworth recommended that the Senator speak at one of the Roosevelt memorial services affairs in the Senate were in the precarious state where every vote counted. Those who were enlisting the Senator's time for the speech out of town told him that Alice Longworth had told them to get him.

"Well," was his reply, "I would be glad to if I could get away. I love Alice Roosevelt, but I obey Senator Lodge."

Just how much influence Alice Longworth has had in the treaty fight is a matter of estimate that varies with the person. She is interested in affairs at the Capitol and studies them simply because she is interested. Personally, there is nothing to be gained. Her evident interest makes it a matter of speculation as to what stand she will take on every question of public interest, and there is always hope that she will depart from her rule of not giving out statements. In the coming convention in Chicago she will no doubt be one of the powerful personalities.

Last year Mrs. Longworth became active in the conferences of Republican women when the national conference of men and women was held in Washington. She attended the meetings, which were held behind closed doors for the most part, and was unofficially part of the conferences. She was the one person every one wanted to see, and she was on the alert for every move that was planned.

ALICE ROOSEVELT LONGWORTH in a simple costume of the kind she usually wears when occupying her seat in the Senate gallery

Her Presence During the Treaty Fight a Sure Indication of an Exciting Session

FROM an unpublished photograph of Mrs. Longworth taken with a kodak in a Washington garden

Her Husband's Career

The recognition of Alice Roosevelt Longworth as a figure in the political world throws a new light upon the career of Nicholas Longworth.

After two years in the Ohio State Senate Mr. Longworth was sent to Congress in 1902. He has served from the 1st Ohio District since that time, with the exception of a term in the 63d Congress. Last year at the opening of the session he made a fight on Representative Mann. He was outspoken in criticism of the proposed organization of the House as drafted by the Mann controlled committee on committees. He proposed to increase the Republican steering committee.

The feeling against Mr. Mann ran high and a split was feared. Mr. Longworth was mentioned for the place of Speaker. He had been for a long time a member of the House Ways and Means Committee and was a valid member of the committee.

Longworth "Insurged"

The House was organized with Mr. Gillett as Speaker and Mr. Mondell as floor leader for the Republicans. At the close of the day when organization of the House took place Representative Longworth referred to the net result of the committee action as "the most complete triumph for reactionism."

Since the opening of Congress last year Mr. Longworth has not made any moves of spectacular effect. But his statements at that time and his moves since have shown that he is inclined to be among the more progressive thinkers in the Republican party. There was the opinion at the time of his marriage that he belonged pretty much to the Old Guard of "standpatters."

And Alice Longworth, whatever her potentialities in politics, wields a tremendous influence. She cannot hide her personality, and the American public will always watch its real fairy princess.

Making Easter Toys for Children Affords Pleasant Work for Infirm Hands

WHO said there were no toy artists in America? At the Crawford Shops, 505 East Sixteenth Street, a band of bearded toymakers are pegging and sawing and painting away upon hordes of Easter rabbits and chickens.

It was the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor that brought about the existence of this miniature factory of old men workers. They saw that there was little or no opportunity in a city where youth is at a premium for an old, bearded and slightly decrepit man to find employment for his hands and mind. They saw, too, the lamentable number of oldish men who not only needed work to do, but who were well or nearly well fitted to do it.

Fascinating Work

Then some one had a bright idea and promptly put forward the plan of gathering them together and putting them to work at the making of wooden toys. They had to face all sorts of discouraging remarks about how it could not be done in America, that we were not artistic by nature, that we had not sufficient patience and a thousand and one other objections more or less well founded. But in spite of verbal and other difficulties thrown in their path, they bravely stuck to their theory, and they have worked it out in a manner that amply proves they are right.

The old men are fascinated with their work. With every turn of their saws and every swish of their brushes they prove their wholesouled interest and their keen desire to turn out finished products which are perfect from the standpoint of workmanship and artistically somewhat worth while. They may not call it artistic—they probably never have guessed that the word has anything to do with their efforts—but the fact remains that they are plainly accomplishing the work of artisans, and one does not need to look twice into their contented and pleasant faces to be sure that they are reaping the stimulus and joy from their work that we are always led to believe artists find there. In other words, through the medium of their newly acquired knowledge and their conscientious labors they are managing to rejuvenate their own lives—a feat that not many of them had looked forward to.

A Shop of Their Own

The scope of the toys that are turned out from this unusual workshop is large and varied. The workers make all sorts of wooden playthings for little girls and little boys, and some that are versatile enough to be adapted to the entertainment of either sex. They turn out wonderful modernistic Noah's Arks—modern in that they are not arks at all but just plain wooden boxes with all the animal stuff done in vivid paintings around the outside—rows of fierce animals, positively funny in their mock bravery. There are boxes of tame animals and boxes devoted exclusively to wild animals; and all of the animals, no matter what their natures may be, are painted in the most inspirational of stripes and spots on backgrounds as futurist in tone as are the exteriors of their receptacles.

Then, when all the toys are finished, carefully and glowingly painted, they are transported to 28 West Fifty-first Street, where they live in a shop all their own and where any one can come in to admire them, to buy them if he feels so inclined, and so help along the industry which is not only helping to keep the old men of our city happy and alive, but which is also adding its quota of effort to creating an artistic trend in the toys of our own country and our own generation.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR has established a shop at 505 East Sixteenth Street, where elderly men are employed in making toys. Old men, such as the above, find the work not only profitable but fascinating

Chinese Buglers

THE rank and file of the Chinese army can outbugle any army of the world. Nathaniel Peffner, in "The Home Sector," the ex-soldiers' magazine conducted by the former editorial council of "The Stars and Stripes," in writing of the two buglers to every squad system of China's doughty fighters, says:

"One thing the Chinese soldier does do. He bugles. The one great, insatiable, unconquerable passion of the Chinese army is bugling. I have never investigated, but I venture that one out of every three men has a bugle, that one out of every two hours he blows it, and that not one time in three thousand does he blow it to the resemblance of any recognizable call or tune.

"He begins at 3:30 a. m., he being now used collectively. He plays the same note, he now being used individually and each he playing a different note, till 6 a. m. Then he switches to another. He stops for meals and for a few hours of sleep—that is all.

"When a regiment moves into a town foreigners living in it resign themselves to insomnia. The Chinese don't. Noise to them is one of the normal and pleasurable phenomena of existence, the more deafening the more pleasurable.

"But don't jump to conclusions. The Chinese is no coward. He has proved again and again in his long history that he can fight, and he will so prove again. Even the professional soldiers are not cowards. They are only the victims of a rotten system, a system that has corrupted the whole army down to the lowest private, exactly as it has the rest of the Chinese government and everything else it has touched. Of some units this is not true; these are the 'show' units stationed in Peking and other big cities where foreigners can see them."