

# WASHINGTON GOSSIP

## White House Gardeners Heave Sighs of Relief

WASHINGTON.—Some of the gardeners connected with the propagating gardens, near the old bureau of engraving and printing building, have been heaving sighs of relief over the semi-official news at the White House which has had to do with the president's plans for the summer, the understanding being that President Wilson is likely to remain at the White House for most of the heated term, although the woman members of his family are expected to go to the summer White House at Cornish, N. H.

From the propagating gardens are supplied the flowers for the White House tables, corridors and decorations of that character for friends of the family. This is in between seasons with gardeners, when they plan to get ready for next year. This is particularly true of roses. Not knowing whether the president and the members of his family have intended to remain at the White House for a part of the summer, and unaware of whether a large quantity of cut flowers would be needed for the White House throughout the summer, the gardeners had not dared to take up their established plants.

The White House depends very largely upon the propagating gardens for cut flowers, and when there was once a discussion of taking away from the Monument grounds the propagating greenhouses, near the bureau of engraving and printing, President Roosevelt put a stop to the plan for the time being by demanding to know:

"Where am I going to get my roses?" Washingtonians who were frequent dinner guests at the White House in former administrations have always been grateful to Mrs. Roosevelt for doing away with the superfluity of flowers at formal dinners and other functions there. It was the custom, one woman was recalling the other day, to bank all the mantels, mural tables, and even the window niches and other spaces that could be filled in, with masses of cut flowers and tropical plants. Mrs. Roosevelt inaugurated a more simple style of table decoration and of having vases set here and there with graceful clusters in them.

## Postage Stamps Shown in the National Museum

ONE of the finest museum collections of postage stamps in the world is owned by the United States government. The public is now, for the first time, given the privilege of viewing these stamps in tabulated and orderly form. Their arrangement in brand new mahogany cases of most modern construction has been completed by Joseph B. Leavy, the government philatelist, and they now form a permanent exhibit of the division of history of the national museum.

This \$200,000 collection is installed in the southwest corner of the old building of the museum in the finest equipment of its kind in the world.

The foreign countries are arranged in alphabetical order, and where there are colonies or possessions they are displayed in alphabetical order directly after the mother country in geographical sequence.

This collection is by no means complete; even from the United States issues a few of the stamps are missing. But even so, the history of the growth of the United States post office is practically reviewed as one examines the collection. The oldest specimens are those of the city issues of 1845—the first postmasters' provisionals in this country. These were issued five years after the birth of stamps in Great Britain. The dates bring the fact startlingly to mind that postage stamps have only been in use a little more than fifty years. The first government issues came out in 1847.

One of the gems of the collection is the display of 30-cent stamps of 1853 with inverted medallions. The 30-cent stamp is the rarest square of paper in the entire collection and is worth \$1,500.

## Dr. Carroll Fox Is Uncle Sam's Expert on Fleas

DR. CARROLL FOX of the United States public health service knows practically all there is to know about fleas. He has a full understanding of fleas' habits and characteristics and is almost able to catch the flea point of view. A flea is not always the rump, carefree individual he appears to be. Many fleas are temperamentally wicked—a great deal more wicked than an elephant for example, even though considerably smaller than an elephant in stature. A flea will move into a community that has never given it the slightest motive for revenge and begin to plot against it, spreading disease by means of germs that it carries about on its person—germs even smaller than itself. That is one of the wicked caprices of many an innocent appearing flea. It is because of these sinister traits that Doctor Fox of the health service has found it advisable to make fleas a life work. A person who knows just what line of germs a given flea carries in stock is naturally able to tell just how far one should go in shunning the society of that particular flea. The whole proposition is simply a matter of daily routine with Fox. He has little if any more regard for the average flea, personally, than you or I have. He is a serious-minded scientist.

Now, being a serious-minded scientist, Fox is not given to cracking jokes—particularly not about fleas. Yet, a while ago when Fox made the acquaintance of an entirely new genus of fleas, he gave the genus a name that is not untinted with a certain suggestion of humor. The flea was discovered in the dark interior of Africa. Fox has named it the Rooseveltiella.

Somebody asked him how he happened to pick the name of Rooseveltiella for the new brand of flea.

"Well," Fox replied, in substance, "Theodore Roosevelt did a lot of valuable work in the same locality where the flea was discovered and it seemed rather fitting that it should be named after him."

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## Moving Picture Machines Bought for the Army

THE war department, through the office of Quartermaster General Aleshire, has let a contract for 66 moving picture machines for the use of the army. This means the war department has set out on a new plan whereby Uncle Sam will endeavor to furnish amusement and instruction for his soldiers.

A moving picture machine will be sent to the chaplain of each post and each locality where troops are stationed. Not only will each garrison have the use of a machine, but machines will be provided for troops in the field, in the large field camps, and at places like Texas City and Galveston, where large bodies are assembled for possible use in Mexico.

Army officers are convinced the moving picture machine will be well worth the money in that it will provide amusement, entertainment, and also instruction for soldiers. It will tend to make the soldiers better satisfied and to reduce desertions. Also it will tend to keep soldiers in camp at night.

There is a constantly increasing demand on the part of medical officers of the army for films which may be used in moving picture machines as an aid in lectures at army posts and camps in emphasizing the necessity of the enforcement of sanitary measures and of personal habits which shall be conducive to individual health. Sometime ago an effort was made at Fort Totten to develop a film which would illustrate the protective value of typhoid immunization, but the results were not entirely successful, and those who had arranged for the pictorial development of a demonstration were not satisfied with the results of their labors.

## WOLVES ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Hungry Animals Are Invading the Bloody Scenes of Conflict in Europe.

History tells us that on Napoleon's fatal retreat from Moscow the weary troops were constantly harassed by hungry wolf packs. Today it is said that the wolves have gathered from their fastnesses in the forests of Poland and South Russia to gorge upon the battlefields of the eastern front, London Tit-Bits remarks.

Some time ago an officer gave a graphic description of the long lines of wolves stealing from the coverts at nightfall, passing within a few feet of him as he lay wounded, and he stated that the sight of these gaunt forms, dimly lit against the dark sky, as they busied themselves with their ghastly feast, would never be effaced from his mind.

Referring to the movements of wild boars, M. Cunisset-Carnot states that by the middle of August, when heavy cannonading was proceeding along a vast front in northern France, rumors of strange occurrences began to come in. Foresters and woodmen reported that south of the lines of battle herds of wild boars began to invade country to which they were before entire strangers. So rapidly did their numbers increase that soon they were to be met with everywhere.

## PEER WHO SWAM NIAGARA

Skeptical American Not Satisfied With Desborough's Statement So His Lordship Does It Again.

Among the peerage a fine patriotism has been shown during the war, but no member of the nobility has interested himself more in patriotic causes than Lord Desborough.

He is known as one of the most remarkable sportsmen of the day, but very few people are aware that he has swum Niagara Falls on two separate occasions.

After accomplishing the feat once he was about to return to England, and before the boat sailed was discussing the subject with some friends.

An American, who was standing by, skeptically at last broke in with: "Did I hear you say you had swum Niagara?"

"Yes, I have," answered his lordship.

"That's not good enough!" laughed the Yankee. "No man could attempt it and come out alive."

Lord Desborough shrugged his shoulders.

"Then I had better go back and swim it again," he said. So, to the amazement of the American, he calmly went back and swam Niagara for the second time.

## Simple Life at St. Andrews.

The university of St. Andrews, where Professor Herkless is appointed principal in succession to Sir James Donaldson, formerly bore closer resemblance to our southern seats of learning than the other Scottish universities.

The practice of residing within the walls prevailed longer here than elsewhere, and ceased mainly because the rooms were allowed to become uninhabitable in the interest of the professors' Candelmas dividends. Andrew Lang once met an aged St. Andrews man who remembered the last undergraduate resident in college. He certainly lived "the simple life," because he cooked for himself and peeled his potatoes with a razor!

But the resident undergraduates must have been troublesome tenants, says the Westminster Gazette. They had a playful habit of breaking all the windows when they left, and one of them declared that if he did not get more drink he would burn down the college.

## Defying the Stomach.

While trying to drink a quart of whisky without taking the bottle from his lips Isaac B. Pierson of Clarksville, N. J., recently succumbed to heart trouble. He had won the whisky on the Harvard-Yale football game, and was so elated that he insisted that his stomach was as good as his judgment. He had almost accomplished the task when he dropped to the floor.

More fortunate was Willis Hunting of Milwaukee, who took to himself a short time ago the title of champion almond eater of his city. He was very fond of burnt almonds and on a wager agreed to consume a five-pound box. He performed the feat, ate half a pound more to show that he had not won by a fluke and then—took to his bed. A doctor had to be called, but with the liberal use of the stomach pump Hunting pulled through.

## Boy Sticks in Freezer.

While playing hide and seek with his companions, Rocco Mastia, aged seven, crawled into a big ice cream freezer standing in front of a fruit store at Altoona, Pa. He became wedged in the can in such a way that he could not extricate himself, and his parents were notified of his plight.

The mother fainted. The father hastened to the store, and by the time Rocco was rescued he was almost frozen, for there were ice and brine in the tub. He will recover.

## One She's Overlooked.

"Mrs. Prebcomb is engaged in all kinds of charitable work."

"A busy woman, I dare say."

"Yes, indeed. She's so busy finding homes for the homeless that Mr. Prebcomb, one of the most conspicuous examples of the sort I ever saw, spends most of the time at his club."

# STORIES from the BIG CITIES



## School Whose Pupils Speak Eleven Languages

NEW YORK.—Uncle Sam conducts in New York a school for little folk, the like of which will be found in no other place in the world. It is a school of all nations. Do not judge by this that it is big, for it is not. Sometimes there are as many as 50 pupils there, but usually the average is 25. The sessions are held in a long, bright and sunny corridor on Ellis Island, where emigrants are landed.

Sometimes you will find at study "the whole world in children," as a deeply impressed visitor recently observed. A photograph taken at a time when the school was not particularly well attended, shows kids who are Bohemian, Italian, Polish, Russian, Hungarian, Danish, Slav, Roumanian, German, Bulgarian and Yiddish. Each morning the mothers come with their children and sit at the farther end of the big room sewing and knitting for the soldiers. For it is all in the same building that they eat, sleep and live.

The little pupils can see from their windows the tall buildings of the city across the bay. What they do not know is that for some reason their parents have been forbidden to land and as soon as the terrible war is over they all will be sent back to their old homes.

The ladies of the International Institute learned about these children and knew that it might be many months before they could be deported, so they suggested the school and in December last sent Miss U. L. Poinkalsky to take charge of it. Some of the youngsters have been there since last summer. When the school was started they were very much happier, and already they understand enough English to talk to each other and some can even write little letters.

Their teacher is a very wonderful lady and can understand anything they ask her, no matter what the language. But very soon they will all be able to talk "United States," as a little boy from Denmark said.

Every morning they copy in letters and figures many times, as they repeat after the teacher their names. Then she writes words on the blackboard and they learn these, also. They are given prints of animals and flowers and these they color with crayon pencils. Next they have a gymnasium lesson, drilling with swordlike sticks, marching and learning how to breathe properly.

After luncheon they play all manner of games and have lots of fun. A little girl from far away Russia, for instance, tells how she used to play at home and the rest will all join her.

Before long most of these children will be promoted to a higher class; then they will have another teacher. But whether these little friends are allowed to land in this country or are obliged to return to their own, it is safe to say that never will they forget each other, or the things they have learned, or the fun they had through the kindness and patience of their Hungarian teacher.

## Madison Students Like Malted Milk and "Cigs"

MADISON, WIS.—About 141,200 malted milks are consumed annually by the students of the University of Wisconsin, at a cost of \$14,120, enough money to buy a good meal for 56,480 people. This is not a mere guess, but carefully compiled figures submitted by dealers in the university district.

The straws used in the malted milks if placed in a direct line would reach 13 miles. The malted milk consumed would fill a reservoir of 13,000 gallons. Over three tons of the dry powder is consumed a year.

Figures show that 1,040,000 cigarettes are consumed annually by students, at a cost of \$7,800. The cigarettes, if placed in a direct line, would reach around Lake Mendota twice. There is enough paper in the cigarettes consumed to make 1,300 library books of 100 pages each. There are enough cigarettes consumed to supply every one of the 6,900 students with 179 cigarettes a year.

Uncle Sam's share of the tax which the student pays amounts to about \$1,250. If one man smoked the cigarettes continually for 18 hours a day it would take him six years to smoke all the cigarettes consumed by the students in one year.

The total cost of the malted milks and cigarettes amounts to \$21,920, enough to put 73 students through one year of the university. The total amount spent for these luxuries would buy libraries of the best literature for 300 families, supplying 100 books to each family.

## Atlanta Thief Specializes in Electric Lights

ATLANTA.—The Fulton county, Alabama, courthouse has been invaded recently by a mysterious burglar. His operations are the most daring recorded in Atlanta in a long while. Officials are stirred up, also sorely perplexed. The burglar's specialty is electric lights. While two "eagle-eyed" officers mingled with the crowds in the courthouse and with officials in the various offices and courtroom, watching for the thief, the latter made a raid on the seventh floor and stole 21 globes, leaving the private offices and courtrooms of Judge T. O. Hathcock and L. Z. Rosser, Jr., of the municipal court bare of lights.

A day or two before the thief cleared the courtroom of Judge H. M. Reid on the sixth floor, of its lights, taking 12 globes. Judge Reid saw the thief—a well-dressed young white man—at work in the courtroom, and, when discovered, the latter posed as an electrician.

Judge Reid asked the stranger to place a light in one of his anterooms, and the "electrician" obligingly promised to do so. A few minutes later Judge Reid found all of his electric lights gone.

## How Chicago Nearly Had the Laugh on St. Louis

CHICAGO.—For a few minutes the other day Chicago had the laugh on St. Louis and then John Musertis of 2722 Emerald avenue had to come along and spill the beans. Tony Bardos started things when he appeared before Judge Caverly along with 25 other panhandlers picked up in West Madison street. That is, Tony appeared disguised behind a blanket of soot and grime. He admitted an antipathy to soap and asserted water, even as a beverage, was poor stuff.

"I just blew in from St. Louis," he said.

"Well, you can't mix with our bums without first taking a bath—\$5," said the court.

It was only a few minutes later that Mrs. Annie Musertis faced her husband in the court of domestic relations.

"I couldn't stand to live with him any longer," she said. "He has not taken a bath in seven months."

"Go home and bathe daily, and if you miss one day during the next month the bridewell will be your bathhouse," was the court's warning.

## Caricature.

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, the suffragist leader, was praising in New York the recruiting work of the English suffragists.

"Englishmen now," she said, "have a better understanding of their suffragist sisters. The average Englishman's idea of a suffragist in the past is well illustrated in an anecdote."

"Dear me," said one woman to another, "here's a wife just been arrested for horsewhipping her husband in a public theater!"

"Quite right," the other woman, a suffragist answered firmly. "Quite right, too, to arrest her. These painful duties should never be performed in public, but only on the sacred privacy of the home."

## Finger-Print Love.

"Why do you think you'll be happy if you marry that young man, daughter?" asked the father.

"Because, father, we've had our finger-prints examined and they almost match," was the sweet young thing's reply.

## SAME OLD HEN EVERYWHERE

Roosters Have Often Saved the Traveler in Foreign Lands From Homesickness.

The efforts of the California poultrymen to prove that eggs laid by Chinese hens are not sanitary are amusing. If these California hen owners had ever traveled a bit they would have found out that the hen is the same old hen wherever it scratches and cackles.

It is a homesick feeling that comes over the sojourner in a foreign land, who does not understand a word of the language spoken around him, to hear a rooster crow, says the Hartford Courant. It is the same old crow and is like a voice from home. So of the dog's bark, the horse's neigh, the mosquito's hum, the fly's buzz, the pig's squeal. They are the same thing in every land and in all climates.

The birds in different lands vary somewhat in what they have to say, but the barnyard and household creatures speak their same old language everywhere and at all times. They are the true world inhabitants; and the notion that an egg laid in China is any different from an egg laid by a hen in Connecticut or in California is the fanciful and selfish production of those who have never heard the friendly greeting of the hen in strange lands.

## RADIUM AS CANCER CURE

Is Especially Useful in Healing Superficial Cancers of Skin and Other Cases.

Of 746 cases of cancer treated in the Radium Institute of London last year there were 69 apparent cures, while 328 were reported improved. Many of the cases came to the attention of the institute in too advanced a stage to be remedied.

The comparatively new curative known as radium is especially useful in dealing with superficial cancers of the skin and with cases that are not easily operable. Conveniently handled, it gets at growths which cannot be reached by means of the X-rays. Because the patient can take radium in the mouth, cancer of the mouth, or palate, for instance, can be readily dealt with by radium.

Those birthmarks commonly known as "port wine stains" seem to be effectively treated with radium. A porter suffering from this disfigurement had repeatedly been refused employment. He went to the institute and after a time the mark was entirely eradicated.

## "Knitters' Neuritis."

Too much wartime knitting and sewing is responsible for the appearance in England of a malady which may be compared with writers' cramp or tennis elbow. The physicians call it "knitters' neuritis." The only treatment is to give up knitting indefinitely.

"When any untrained set of muscles is suddenly called upon to repeat indefinitely a complex and unaccustomed sequence of movements," says a London physician, "a spasmodic paralysis is very likely to develop. Knitters' neuritis begins with the worker feeling that the usual wrist and finger movements cannot be followed with the customary ease. Then the muscles get stiff, and in the later stage develop a spasmodic cramp as soon as the knitting needles are taken into the fingers. Although the fingers are thus affected whenever an attempt is made to knit, there is no interference with other varieties of finger movement."

## More Oil Wells in Argentina.

Nine new wells are now producing in the Argentina oil fields, making the total number of wells 23. These wells, it is calculated, should give a total monthly production of 12,000 tons, for which the state expects to receive about \$955,000 during the year. Up to December 31 last proceeds of sales had brought in \$340,000. Even assuming that the results anticipated above are realized during the current year, the supply will be inadequate to justify many big firms in adopting oil fuel instead of coal, unless they can make formal contracts for the quantities they require. In the meantime, the Anglo-Mexican Petroleum Products company finds a more than ready market to absorb its large shipments, amounting to 10,000 to 16,000 tons monthly.

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