

# WASHINGTON CITY SIDELIGHTS



## No Law Forbids Spies to Sketch Our Defenses

WASHINGTON.—The United States has no law which prohibits spies of foreign countries from making sketches, photographs and plans of the appearance of fortifications and the topography of the land surrounding them, in time of peace, it was pointed out by the department of justice the other day. In time of war martial law prevails as to the treatment of foreigners or agents of foreign governments engaging in such occupations.

Any person in the government service giving out information regarding the interior of fortifications may be punished by law and any private citizen who makes drawings or pictures of the interior of fortifications may be apprehended, but so far as the outward aspects of forts are concerned, spies of any country are welcome to all the information they can get under present laws.

This state of affairs is regarded by some persons as especially dangerous with relation to aviation fields. A foreign spy could make complete plans of aviation fields of the United States government, showing where hangars and other buildings are situated without violating any existing law.

It has been suggested that congress this winter make some provision for more adequately protecting American military secrets from foreigners, and this idea may be incorporated in national defense legislation.

## Annual Animal Social Register of Washington

THE annual animal social register of the United States government has appeared. Only about fifty names were added to these bipedal and quadrupedal elite. The list forms a group as exclusive as that contained in any blue book of the genus homo, and not even the state department's diplomatic list is censored by the chief justice of the United States Supreme court, not to mention a vice president, members of the senate, and private citizens of national note.

When that grave scientific body, the Smithsonian regents, with Chief Justice White as their chancellor, assembled in Washington they received the annual report of the National Zoological park. That report contains three pages of itemized animals at the park (called by proletarian humans the "zoo"), and each animal therein is mentioned by name, and the state of health of many of them is reported upon.

The document contains much chatty comment, not to mention a birth register, of our most elite zoological families. Other mere "zoos" may get into reports, but they are not printed at the government printing office, and stamped with any such high approval as that of the Smithsonian regents.

Social affairs at the Washington zoo during the last year became vastly more cosmopolitan, it appears, though no less exclusive, because of the advent of Mrs. Diamond Rattlesnake, whose jewels dazzled the horseshoe at the Snake Cage opera. Mr. Great Horned Owl added much zest to the night life, and Miss Whistling Swan and the Misses Mocking Bird were in great demand at the afternoon musicales (given when animals are fed at 3:30).

At every first night, especially when Miss Silver Pheasant sang, was old Mr. Bald Eagle, and he caused much gossip among the older set by his attentions to the petite Miss Grass Parrakeet. Likewise there was much whispering behind fins and wings when Mr. Black Snake, a villainous-looking gentleman, arrived in company with Miss Barred Owl, a beauty of the sleepy oriental type.

Mr. Gila Monster has become quite the cock of the walk, and struts it off every sunny afternoon with Mr. Messenger. At first the three Misses Spermophile were not invited to the more exclusive red-meat affairs because their family was new to most of the older social crowd in the small animal cage.

Several deaths marred the midwinter season, the report intimates. The Misses Waterfowl, vivacious debutantes of the early autumn, suffered the ravages of aspergilliosis. The elderly Messrs. Pronghorn Antelope, who were seen much together, both died of necrotic stomatitis.

## Washington Man Owns Famous Maximilian Opal

EVER since the late Gen. Marc Antony, triumvir of Rome coveted an opal owned by a senator of that empire, who prized the stone so highly that he left Rome rather than give it to Antony to carry around to Cleopatra, opals have been more or less in the limelight of dynasties, emperors and nations.

Today there walks about the streets of Washington a man who can reach into his left-hand vest pocket, if he will, and show you the dazzling, opalescent gem, famous in Mexican history as the "Maximilian opal." The man is Herbert J. Browne, whose hobbies include sailing boats, the single tax, and collecting opals.

This particular opal came Mr. Carranza's agents in time to turn the tide in favor of the constitutional cause.

The Maximilian opal, as famous among those versed in historic gems as is the Hope diamond, was owned by Emperor Maximilian, was given to General Miramon, his chief of staff, and was found on the body of the latter after the two were executed at Queretaro, an incident that marked the final chapter in the romantic history of the empire of Mexico.

In the early summer of 1914 New York papers carried a little item to the effect that "some of the ammunition which is being supplied General Carranza is being taken out of Galveston on vessels chartered by someone who has assumed the name of Herbert J. Browne, a well-known Washington newspaper man."

Herbert J. Browne's abilities as a skipper, it would seem, were not even known to his friends in the newspaper business. But it was he who, in his own name, took out papers as captain of the vessel, gave Havana as his destination, and when he reached open water turned their bows toward Mexico. In all the Sunshine and the Wright, his two sailing vessels, carried an abundance of rifles, and about fifteen million rounds of ammunition into Tampico.

## White House Collection of China Is Notable

ONE of the most interesting pieces in the White House collection of presidential china is an old plate recently given by Miss Mary Custis Lee, daughter of Robert E. Lee. This plate is one that was used by George Washington, and aside from being of inestimable value historically, is of greater age than any other piece in the whole collection. It is a dinner plate of the well-known and famous set usually referred to as the Cincinnati china.

Miss Lee came into possession of it through her maternal grandfather, George Washington Parke Custis, whose grandmother, Martha Washington, willed it to him. The presentation of this historic piece was made to Miss Margaret Wilson for the collection.

The White House collection of presidential ware is one of the most interesting historical collections in the country, and an interesting story is attached to the acquisition of every piece of it.

The collection was begun with pairs of sets of dinner services found in the White House used by seven presidents. It was placed in two cabinets in the lower east corridor of the mansion, which were designed by Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt.

Eight shelves were filled with china used during the Lincoln, Grant, Hayes, Arthur, Harrison, Cleveland, McKinley and Roosevelt administrations. This original collection has been augmented by gifts from descendants or friends of the various presidents until it now fills four cabinets and approaches completion.

One shelf is filled with pieces from the state dinner set which Mrs. Roosevelt ordered, and which is still used as the state set. It is of beautiful Wedgwood, decorated with a simple colonial pattern in gold and the obverse of the great seal of the United States enameled in colors on each plate. This set contains more than twelve hundred pieces, and from these were selected a dinner plate, dinner, breakfast, tea and soup plates, with a tea and coffee cup and their saucers, for the collection.

## THE EUROPEAN WAR A YEAR AGO THIS WEEK

Jan. 10, 1915.  
French cut German railway lines to prevent relief of Altkirch. Turks marched on Egypt. Turkish army of reserves, trying to save Erzerum, repulsed at frontier. German aviators threw thirty bombs on Dunkirk. French aviators defeated German airmen in battle at great altitude. Abbas Hilmi, deposed khedive, called on Egyptians and Sudanese to rise against England.

Jan. 11, 1915.  
Allies, attacking from Perthes, tried to cut German rail communications. Russian lines greatly reinforced. Military authorities took over all blankets in Berlin and Brandenburg. Italy sent garrisons to her islands in the Aegean. American party on way to relieve German and Austrian prisoners in Russia halted temporarily by Russian government.

Jan. 12, 1915.  
French attempted offensive near Perthes and Soissons. Germans repulsed French in Alsace. Russians pressed the Austrians back near the Nida river. Austrians were fleeing from Bukovina. Turks and Russians fought for the Erzerum road; Noury Bey taken by Russians. British government asked women to persuade men to enlist. Remains of Turkish Tenth army corps routed at Kara Ordan.

Jan. 13, 1915.  
Germans victorious at Soissons, forcing French to abandon five miles of trenches and cross the Aisne, leaving guns and wounded. Kaiser watched Germans take the heights of Vregny. Russians occupied villages in Mazurian lake region and threatened Mlawa. Turks occupied Tabriz and reported Arab victory over British on lower Tigris. Dover forts drove off two German submarines. Dardanelles bombarded by allied fleet.

Jan. 14, 1915.  
Germans took 3,150 prisoners and 14 guns in two days' battle at Soissons. Russian invasion of East Prussia by new force of 800,000 men begun. Germans retook several positions on the Bzura. Turkish invasion of Persia continued. Armenian refugees fled into Russia.

Jan. 15, 1915.  
British made gains near La Bassee. New Russian army marched north in Poland. Von Hindenburg's forces declared to be in peril. British took Swakopmund, Africa. American Red Cross sent supplies to Saloniki and Virginia and Maryland sent relief ships to Belgium.

## POSTSCRIPTS

The change to electric power on Sweden's most northerly railroad in the world has increased the train capacity 40 per cent and the speed 50 per cent over steam operation.

A telephone which is claimed to be explosion proof and flame proof has been invented in England for use in mines or anywhere that explosive gases or liquids are present.

For peeling potatoes in quantities a carburendum lined metal cylinder has been invented, against the sides of which the tubers are whirled by a revolving bottom plate.

After a lengthy investigation the United States bureau of standards has decided that the lightning rod, when properly installed, is a trustworthy means of protecting property.

The entire body of a new automobile headlight is made of glass, a vacuum between the reflector and the outside protecting the finish of the exterior and keeping it cool.

Sacks made of a fabric woven from paper strips that are twisted with a short vegetable fiber are being successfully used for transporting ore in Chile.

A new German machine cleans and sorts medicinal tablets, rejecting broken ones, and packs them in boxes or tubes at a rate of from 150,000 to 200,000 a day.

A new device to prevent an automobile headlight throwing rays that dazzle consists of a series of concentric metal rings, to be mounted behind the lens to reflect all the light along parallel lines.

Oatmeal is generally adulterated with barley flour to give it a whiter appearance.

It is interesting to note at the present time that when the war broke out with Turkey in 1878, Carmen Sylvia, the "poet queen" of Roumania, was the first to volunteer as a nurse. She worked night and day in the hospitals and after the war was ended the soldiers among themselves collected enough of the small coinage of the country to raise a national monument to "Mama Rantola"—"the mother of the wounded"—of which the queen was extremely proud.

## HAPPENINGS of the week IN MISSOURI

More than two hundred children were in the school building at Kearney when a fire starting from the furnace threatened the building, but they were marched out without injury to anyone. The fire was extinguished without much damage.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, seeking a shorter and faster route between Chicago and Kansas City, is believed to be making plans to build a line from Monroe City to Moberly, thus affording a more direct route.

Harriet Webster, a negro who died recently at Hannibal, is said by relatives to have been 110 years old at the time of his death. He was a slave in Kentucky when negroes obtained their freedom.

Henry Marquette, 68 years old, was burned to death recently in a fire that destroyed his home near Fulton. Marquette was a bachelor and lived alone. Circumstances indicated that Marquette had got out of bed but had been overcome while trying to find his way out of the house.

Eight hundred employees in the locomotive department of the Missouri Pacific shops at Sedalia, who are working eight hours a day, will work only seven hours a day, beginning January 3.

The county court at Bowling Green ordered a special election to vote on two court houses, one at Louisiana and one at Bowling Green, February 4.

Frank M. Brown of Jefferson City, former clerk of the Missouri supreme court, died at the state hospital at Fulton recently.

William C. Ross, 52 years old, is dead at his home in Pilot Grove. He had served as city councilman and as mayor.

St. Joseph had its first fatal coasting accident of the winter the other afternoon when Johnny Davis, 14 years old, coasted into a motor car.

Ephraim Craig, 60, died recently at Carthage of injuries received twenty-eight years ago, when a handful of priming caps which had been placed in kindling paper exploded as he was building a fire. A charge of copper and coke entered his right side, penetrating his lungs, and causing wounds which, after many years, are blamed for his death.

In the old plant of the Stafford Motor Company at Kansas City, a munitions factory will start soon, to make shrapnel and cartridges for the allies. The plant was leased in October by L. A. Sherman, vice president of the Sportsman's Cartridge Company, but the plans for the use of the property were kept secret.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson Mayer celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home in Rich Hill recently. Their seven surviving children were among the guests. They were married in Rock Island, Ill. Mr. Mayer is a Union veteran of the Civil war.

Mrs. Marie Reine Tschaeen Fust celebrated her 100th birthday in St. Louis recently by an after dinner speech to fifty of her descendants and near relatives.

Impressive ceremonies marked the dedication of the new \$50,000 Odd Fellows' Home at Hannibal. James P. Boyd of Paris, grand master for Missouri, presided.

John Eldson, a fireman of Hannibal, was killed, E. C. Roby, an engineer, was dangerously scalded and another member of the crew was injured when train No. 8 on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway, bound for St. Louis from Oklahoma and Texas points, collided with a switch engine near New Franklin.

Mrs. Henry W. White is dead at her home in Montgomery at the age of about 80 years. She is survived by her husband and one brother.

Thirty men employed in the city hall at St. Louis, were showered by broken glass and snow recently when a skylight gave way under the weight of a foot of snow. None of the men were injured severely, though several suffered cuts and bruises.

E. D. Seamans, formerly president of the Blain-Seamans Grocery Company of Springfield, received a fracture of the skull which resulted in instant death when he slipped and fell on an ice-covered sidewalk in the business district. He was 60 years old.

Missouri, outside of metropolitan cities, has given \$250,000 toward the men and millions movement, it was unofficially stated recently at a meeting in St. Louis of leading churchmen of the Disciples of Christ. It was also announced that one Missourian gave \$50,000. No clue to his identity was given, but he is believed to live in Kansas City.

Mrs. Emma A. Eaton, a widow, 53 years old, died in a hospital at Springfield recently, as a result of an overdose of a poisonous drug.

Acting on orders from the department at Washington, John H. Bowen, register of the government land office at Springfield, added to the public domain a 40-acre tract of land in Washington county. This is the only tract in Washington county subject to entry, as all government land there was entered many years ago.

Dempsey Brown, born in North Carolina seventy-three years ago, who served in the Confederate army and had lived in Pettis county since 1866, died recently in Houston.

Consideration.  
"How is your boy Josh getting on at college?"  
"First rate," replied Farmer Corn-tassel. "He writes long letters about how well he's doin' in his studies."  
"Do you really think he is a good scholar?"  
"I've my doubts. But, anyhow, his disposition's improvin'. His letters show he's tryin' to be considerate an' avoid hurtin' our feelin's."

## ALWAYS LOOK YOUR BEST

As to Your Hair and Skin by Using Cuticura. Trial Free.

The Soap to cleanse and purify, the Ointment to soothe and heal. These fragrant, super-creamy emollients preserve the natural purity and beauty of the skin under conditions which, if neglected, tend to produce a state of irritation and disfigurement.

Free sample each by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

## CAN LAUGH AT TORPEDOES

Peculiarly-Constructed Ship That Has Proved Itself to Be of Real Value in Warfare.

Monitors of a very queer sort were introduced not long ago at the Dardanelles by the allies. Amusing descriptions of these craft have been printed in London, but in spite of their ludicrous appearance it seems that they are real factors. Some time ago when one of the boats first put in at Kephala harbor in the Aegean it caused consternation. Instead of steaming in like an ordinary war vessel, it seemed to waddle through the water like a huge goose, and from a distance looked as if it were showing its bow to the stern. A large turret is carried on a high, flat deck. This mounts two 14-inch rifles. Just below the surface of the water the sides of the monitor bulge out about ten feet and then curve down. This peculiar hull construction accounts for the clumsy movements of the vessel, but it is said to make it proof against torpedoes. The ship is large and roomy. The only armament it carries in addition to the heavy guns are aerial rifles.—Popular Mechanics.

## TRAVELING WITH A CELLO

Instrument Declared to Be Almost as Troublesome as a Baby or a Donkey.

Traveling with a cello is almost as good—and almost as bad—as traveling with a child. It helps you, for example, in cultivating friendly relations with fellow passengers. Suppose there is a broken wheel, or the engineer is waiting for No. 26 to pass, or you are stalled for three days in a blizzard—what's more jolly than to undress your cello and play each of those present the tune he would like to hear, and lead the congregational singing of "Dixie," "Tipperary" and "Home, Sweet Home"? A fiddle may even render tenable one of those railway junctions which Stevenson cursed as the nadir of intrinsic uninterestingness, and which Mr. Clayton Hamilton has recently glorified with such brio in the "Unpopular Review." Robert Haven Schauflier writes in the Atlantic.

But this is only the bright side. In some ways traveling with a cello is as uncomfortable as traveling, not only with a baby, but with a donkey. Unless, indeed you have an instrument with a convenient hinged door in the back so that you may back it full of pajamas, collars, brushes, MSS., and so forth, thus dispensing with a bag; or unless you can calk up its F holes and use the instrument as a canoe on occasion, a cello is about as inconvenient a traveling companion as the corpse in Stevenson's tale, which would insist on getting into the wrong box.

## SOLDIERS WELL FED

France Takes Care of Her Sons in the Field.

Their Welfare is Considered as Matters of Moment by the Highest Authorities—Cook Called Upon to Undergo Grave Danger.

As far as food goes, the French soldier lives well, if the ordinary program of the French common people is taken as a standard. His menu is based on two solid meals a day, with a breakfast of bread and coffee. There is nothing the French soldier appreciates so much as his morning coffee. It is brought to him in canvas buckets, sugared, but without milk, and, like all French coffee, it is excellent. If the weather is bad, there is usually a sip of rum from the company rations to go with the coffee and bread.

For dinner and supper the two great staple dishes are ragout and pot-au-feu. The ragout is made of stewed meat, preferably mutton, highly seasoned. The pot-au-feu is boiled beef and soup. The stew is generally thickened with dried beans or rice, but the pot-au-feu receives as many varieties of vegetables as ingenious foraging can muster, with always a plentiful basis of potatoes.

Occasionally the French cooks even close to the firing line vary the menu with special dishes such as steaks, brains, hearts and the like, which they carry out to the men in the trenches. It is a current remark in France that the cook is the bravest man in the regiment, and this is generally a tribute to the danger that he sometimes has to undergo to carry his dainties to the appreciative poilus who awaits his coming at the very apex of the battle line.

The meat in its raw state is brought up on the hoof to a point as near the lines as is conveniently safe, and there slaughtered. Typical French economy is shown in this operation, for use is made of every possible fragment of the carcass. The side, bones, and uneatable portions are carefully collected and sent back to the base to be otherwise turned to advantage. The cook of each mess sends his assistant each morning for the squad's share of the butcher's stores, and the assistant receives promptly a great piece of beef or mutton corresponding to the number of men to be fed.

The operation of carving the meat is generally a matter of great interest to soldiers who happen to be off duty. They gather in the vicinity of the cook's tent or hut and admire or criticize the skill with which he undertakes the operation. Although some of the best cuts are often used in the pot, there is an opportunity for the exercise of considerable skill in trimming off an occasional supply of steaks or chops for treatment in some other manner.

The meat dishes by no means complete the soldier's dinner. There is the bread—and French bread is proverbially excellent. It is baked in loaves like a small millstone, and before being served the crust is carefully cut away, because in transportation and handling a certain amount of dirt is bound to gather there.

Each man is allowed a half pint of red wine with each meal, and the individual may provide himself with fruit.

## But Will They "Stick"?

It is said that an organization of women in Japan numbers 10,000 members, who have sworn never to marry unless their prospective husbands agree to support a movement for obtaining for them equal treatment with men and an improved economic position.

## Hopes Women Will Adopt This Habit As Well As Men

Glass of hot water each morning helps us look and feel clean, sweet, fresh.

Happy, bright, alert—vigorous and vivacious—a good clear skin; a natural, rosy complexion and freedom from illness are assured only by clean, healthy blood. If only every woman and likewise every man could realize the wonders of drinking phosphated hot water each morning, what a gratifying change would take place.

Instead of the thousands of sickly, anaemic-looking men, women and girls with pasty or muddy complexions; instead of the multitudes of "nerve wrecks," "rundowns," "brain fags" and pessimists we should see a virile, optimistic throng of rosy-cheeked people everywhere.

An inside bath is had by drinking each morning before breakfast, a glass of real hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it to wash from the stomach, liver, kidneys and ten yards of bowels the previous day's indigestible waste, sour fermentations and poisons, thus cleansing, sweetening and freshening the entire alimentary canal before putting more food into the stomach.

Those subject to sick headache, biliousness, nasty breath, rheumatism, colds; and particularly those who have a pallid, sallow complexion and who are constipated very often, are urged to obtain a quarter pound of limestone phosphate from any drug-gist or at the store which will cost but a trifle but is sufficient to demonstrate the quick and remarkable change in both health and appearance awaiting those who practice internal sanitation. We must remember that inside cleanliness is more important than outside, because the skin does not absorb impurities to contaminate the blood, while the pores in the thirty feet of bowels do.—Adv.

## "Reasonable Doubt."

Ordinarily everybody knows what "reasonable doubt" means, and what the law means when it says that the prisoner cannot be convicted if the jury has a reasonable doubt of his innocence. But when the judge gives a dozen instructions on reasonable doubt it is clear that nobody could understand what it meant.

Saint Augustine, when questioned about a doctrine of the church, said: "If you ask me, I don't know; but if you don't ask me, I know very well."

The result is, in any important case, that the confused jury goes out to find a verdict, taking with them an armful of instructions. Half of these instructions will tell them that if they believe certain things, they must find the prisoner guilty, and the other half will tell them that if they believe other things, they must acquit the prisoner; and sometimes these instructions will be so drawn that, upon the statement of the same beliefs, one instruction tells them to acquit the prisoner and the other tells them to convict him. So they do not know what to do and probably toss up a penny on the verdict.—Melville Davisson Post, in Saturday Evening Post.

## Accounted For.

"As a single man he was noted for his brilliancy."  
"Yes, I remember."  
"But now that he is married he seems positively dull."  
"Yes, that's the domestic finish."

It's easy to see through people who are always making spectacles of themselves.



## Swamped

When a man's efficiency is on the decline—when after a long day of effort the mass of work still stares him in the face—it's time to find out what's wrong.

Frequently a lack of certain necessary nutritive elements, in the daily diet, lessens mental and physical activity. A prime factor in efficiency is right feeding.

No food supplies, in such splendid proportion, all the rich nourishment of the field grains, for keeping the mental and physical forces upbuilt and in trim, as

# Grape-Nuts

Made of whole wheat and malted barley, this famous pure food supplies the vital mineral salts, often lacking in the ordinary daily diet, but imperative in building sturdy mental, physical and nervous energy.

Then, too, there's a wonderful return of power for the small effort required in the digestion of Grape-Nuts, which, with cream or good milk, supplies complete nourishment.

"There's a Reason" for Grape-Nuts  
Sold by Grocers everywhere.