

# WASHINGTON LETTER

What the Diplomats, Politicians and Society People Talk About at the National Capital.

Washington.—The reclamation service of the United States geological survey is engaged upon investigation of irrigation possibilities in the majority of the states and territories of the arid region.



Arthur Powell Davis.

In connection with these investigations it is, of course, necessary to make extensive surveys, borings and investigations to determine the magnitude, feasibility and cost of proposed irrigation systems. This engineering work is under the supervision of Arthur Powell Davis, Esq., principal engineer, who has long been a hydrographer of the geological survey. He was chief hydrographer for the isthmian canal commission.

Since the passage of the reclamation act, June 17, 1902, field work has been vigorously pushed, and it is expected that investigations will be made the coming summer in all the states and territories of the arid region, \$450,000 being set aside for that purpose. Over a hundred engineers and engineering assistants are already employed.

The reclamation act provides that all the receipts from the sale of public lands in the 13 states and three territories of the arid region, after July 1, 1900, shall be set aside for the survey and construction of irrigation works in that section, and provides that the cost is to be returned to the fund by the lands benefited.

There are at present about \$10,000,000 in the fund, which is constantly growing, and construction will begin at an early date in several localities. Steps have already been taken in some cases to acquire necessary right of way, settle conflicting water rights and other private claims.

The projects which are farthest advanced follow: Arizona, Salt river reservoir; Colorado, Gunnison tunnel; Montana, Milk river project; Nevada, Truckee river project; Wyoming, Sweetwater reservoir.

Several other projects in other states are in an advanced state of investigation, and it is expected that some of them will soon be ready for construction.

Mr. Davis and his uncle, the late Maj. Powell, are among the pioneers in the plan to irrigate and thus reclaim the vast arid territory in the United States. He is a son of ex-Congressman Davis, of Kansas.

## Social Precedence.

Among the handsomest of the new senatorial matrons who are now residents of Washington is the wife of Senator Russell A. Alger.



Mrs. Russell A. Alger.

In one sense she is not "new," for she made many friends here while her husband was secretary of war. The Algeres were installed in their elegant home here on Sixteenth street last January. In her dual duties as wife of a cabinet officer and then as wife of a senator, Mrs. Alger probably recalls a momentous question of etiquette which threatened to disrupt the friendship of all upper tendom at one time. Society had been proceeding in an informal, republican way when all at once some smart Aleck suggested that there should be rules of precedence for the wives of the supreme court, the senate, the cabinet and the house to follow.

The women caught onto the idea, approved it, and a war of words waged a whole season. They say the mistress of the white house even took a hand in it. There were several first-class rows before this question of social precedence was settled in the order which I have given above. The senate wives won precedence over the cabinet wives because the senate had to confirm the members of the cabinet! The senatorial phalanx tried the same game on the judiciary, but it did not work, for one clever wife of a justice of the supreme court reminded the senatorial women that the justices held on for life, while the senators were safe for only six years! The argument was unanswerable, and the wives of the senators yielded the point.

## Curios from the Orient.

The wife of Gen. Nelson A. Miles, commander in chief of the army, brought back to Washington a rare collection of curios picked up during her recent trip around the world with her husband.



Dowager Empress of China.

Among the most treasured are several gifts from the empress dowager of China. Mrs. Miles met this famous old autocrat and tells some interesting stories of her. She says the empress impresses her as a brave-hearted, lonely woman, with ideas far in advance of her time. Imbued by nature with a

keen appreciation of life and interested in the progress of the times, she is yet compelled by the unchanging laws of her country to spend her days in a monotonous routine of wearing duties—her only diversion an annual journey from the winter to the summer palace. She said to Mrs. Miles:

"Oh, if I could only see the world!" She takes a keen interest in America and American customs. She had a long private talk with Mrs. Miles and invited her to luncheon. Afterwards she presented Mrs. Miles with two large squares of gold embroidered crimson silk, her own handiwork.

Another personal gift of the empress which Mrs. Miles values highly is a brass incense vessel of ancient days, long used in one of the most famous temples destroyed during the siege. It is globe-shaped and is perforated with holes for the escape of the fumes generated in a small lamp attached to the bottom. The workmanship is elaborate and the design artistic.

## May Change Senate Rules.

The agitation to change the rules of the senate so as to give the minority less power to obstruct legislation, began anew during the recent special session. The reason for this is that during the regular session the statehood bill was talked to death by a determined minority. The Panama canal treaty was not ratified because Senator Morgan was prepared to discuss it to the end of the session, and Senator Tillman threatened to prevent the final enactment of an appropriation bill if it did not contain a paragraph of interest to South Carolina. These facts, and others, are fresh in the minds of the senators.



Senator Frye.

Senator Frye, although an experienced parliamentarian, and the majority of the senate could do nothing to force a vote. However, there are two sides to the controversy, and the change might not be wise. George Washington is said to have remarked that the senate is the saucer into which the hot tea of the house is poured to cool! The simile, whether it originated with Washington or not, is an expressive one. Many able statesmen believe it a good thing to have in our government a brake upon the wheels of hasty legislation. They say the good that is done by the senate's slow and conservative methods is incalculable, while the harm is inconsiderable.

Talk of an extra session next fall had the effect of hurrying matters up in the special session of the senate somewhat. As a presidential nomination draws near, senators have extra work to do at home, and it was not possible, even though the session had not completed the work for which it was called, to remain in Washington for a much longer time than they stayed. Many senators were unwilling to remain here long and then return in October or November to attend to certain business which Mr. Roosevelt wants out of the way before the regular time for meeting in December.

## Consular Reform.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge is called the "Administration senator" because of his personal popularity and intimacy at the white house. His tastes are literary and his views in the main coincide with those of the president, on most public questions. Just now Senator Lodge has two or three favorite projects on foot. As chairman of the Philippine committee, he has given a great deal of attention to the betterment of the people of our newly acquired islands. He is an expansionist, and favors keeping all we have acquired.

Another plan of his is to reconstruct and reform our consular and diplomatic service. It needs reconstructing and reforming, badly. Senator Lodge thinks native-born Americans alone should represent us abroad, men of education and character whose patriotism and loyalty are above reproach. The salaries are small in most cases, it is true—but the Lodge bill will remedy this if it ever passes both houses in the shape approved by its author.

We are represented in many places in the east, for example, by Arabs, Turks, Greeks, Englishmen, Germans and Frenchmen. An American traveler happened to be in Luxor one Christmas day and wanted some reminder of home. She hunted up the consular agent and asked to see the stars and stripes. That official barely understood English, but when he got at her meaning he told her he had never seen the United States flag! During a recent trip down the Nile, I met a number of Arabs and other foreigners who misrepresent us.

CHARLES EDWARD LLOYD

## An Idle Brain.

An idle brain is the devil's scheme factory.—Chicago Daily News.

## RUDOLPH FORSTER.



Mr. Rudolph Forster, who has just been appointed assistant private secretary to President Roosevelt, was born in Washington in October, 1872. He was educated in the public schools of that city, and is a graduate of Columbia university law school. He was appointed from Virginia as a clerk in the United States commission of fish and fisheries in 1894, and in March, 1897, was detailed for duty at the white house. He was appointed to a clerkship in the executive mansion May, 1897, and promoted to executive clerk in May, 1900. He is personally very agreeable to President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

## THE AZTEC CALENDAR.

Curious Relic in the City of Mexico That Was Carved Over Four Centuries Ago.

One of the curiosities of all ages is built in the wall of the cathedral in the City of Mexico. It is the Aztec calendar, carved in 1512. While being carted to its destination it broke down a bridge and fell to the bottom of the lake in which the city was built, killing priests and people. With great difficulty it was raised out of the water. With other objects of heathen worship it was afterward buried in the marsh, as the best way to get rid of it, and there it lay hidden for two centuries. In 1700 the Spanish viceroys allowed it to be built into the cathedral on condition that it should be preserved and exposed always in a public place. It is now, however, held as the property of the National museum, says the New York Press.

The Aztec calendar is a solid piece of stone, 12 feet in diameter. It divides time into cycles, years and days. Fifty-

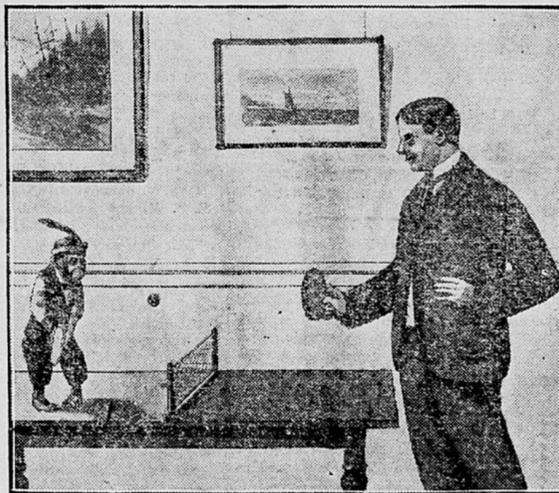
## A SILENT MOURNER.

Dog in a Scotland Town That Makes a Practice of Attending Funerals.

There is to be seen in Campbelltown, Argyleshire, at almost every funeral which passes on its way to the cemetery a silent mourner in the form of a retriever dog, which takes up its place alongside the front row of mourners immediately behind the hearse and accompanies the funeral party to the churchyard, only taking its departure when the last rites have been performed. It seems to know by instinct when and where a funeral is to take place, and it has become such a regular attendant that its presence is looked for as a matter of course at each of these solemn processions in the burgh, says the Scottish American.

It was formerly chased away from the open grave time and again, to no purpose; it found its way within the walls notwithstanding the most vigilant oversight, and has now overcome all opposition. Only once has it been

## MISS DARWIN PLAYING PING-PONG.



Recently we gave a picture of Esau, the monkey typewriter. Herewith we present a likeness of an accomplished Bengal monkey, known as Miss Darwin, in her great act of playing ping-pong. She was trained in this game by her present owner, Mr. Quinlan. So expert is she that she usually wins, being quicker by far than the average human player. Do not suppose, however, that all is joy in this ping-pong's life. Miss Darwin is a widow, her accomplished husband having recently died. Our picture and description are borrowed from the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Two years constitute a cycle; the year 365 days, with five intercalary days wholly devoted to human sacrifices. Each year had 18 months of 20 days each, and each month four weeks of five days each. The days had such names as Sea Animal, Small Bird, Monkey, Rain, etc., and each of the 20 days had a different name. The points of the compass were named Reed, House, Flint and Rabbit, instead of east, west, north and south. When an Aztec said: "I am going House on Sea Animal," he meant that he was starting west on Monday. The month of March was called Victims Flayed Alive, while July's title was Garlands of Corn on the necks of Idols.

## New Electrical Novelty.

The game of sylphs is the most recently devised form of amusement; it is in reality electric battledore and shuttlecock. The two players hold a wand each, these wands having been electrified by friction. The shuttlecock is represented by a butterfly made of collodion. The butterfly is thrown into the air, and one or other player approaches the tip of his wand to the so-called sylph; the electrified wand repels the butterfly, which skims away as the wand draws near. In this way the butterfly is sent flying hither and thither without being touched. A very good game, with the proper rules, is made from this idea.

## Gatling Farm Machinery.

The late Dr. Gatling, who insisted that his famous rapid-fire gun was influential in shortening, if not in preventing war, was also interested in rapid-fire agricultural machinery. In his youth he invented drills for sowing cottonseed and grain.

known to turn back before reaching the cemetery, and that was when the mourners were all traveling in close carriages. But the strangest incident in his career occurred quite recently. A special steamer arrived in the harbor with a funeral party on board, and was met by the retriever, which took its accustomed place and accompanied it to the graveyard with the members of the public who joined it.

## World's Most Eminent Persons.

The thousand esteemed and most eminent persons of the world—eminence being determined by the prominence given them in encyclopedias—are grouped according to nativity by Prof. Cattell in Popular Science Monthly. France leads, followed closely by Great Britain. Then there is considerable fall to Germany and Italy. Greece has produced more prominent great men than Germany. Of the 18 greatest composers of music, Germany produced 12 and Italy six. Russia has to her credit but nine men who are eminent. In the 1,000 but 32 are women.

## Mexican Tortillas.

Tortillas, the Mexican substitute for wheat bread, are made from selected corn. The kernels are boiled soft in lime water, and after being thoroughly washed are rubbed between the hands to remove the outer husk. They are then ground, while wet, to a soft mass with stones or a peanut butter mill, patted into thin cakes, baked on a dry griddle and eaten while still hot.

## "Tommy Atkins" Pay.

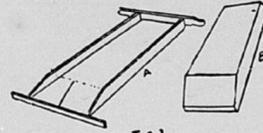
The English soldier's pay is \$7.50 a month. The soldier of no other country, except the United States gets so much.

# AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

## STANDS FOR BEEHIVES.

Those Made of Concrete Are Durable, Do Not Shrink and Harbor No Noxious Vermin.

Durable stands for beehives are made of concrete and described by Albert Gale in the Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales. They harbor no vermin or insects, do not shrink or warp, never require painting and being considerably larger than the hive there is always a clear space around it and easy entrance for the bees when coming from the fields loaded with honey. The bee entrance can be contracted to nil or expanded to 2 1/2 inches, so that the bees can fly directly in among the combs if it be so desired. The entrance has a fall of 2 1/2

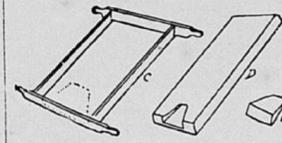


PLAIN CONCRETE FLOOR.

inches in 9 inches, so no rain can beat therein.

The diagrams are lettered A to E. A is the frame in which B was molded. The level of it is 9x18 inches. It gives a full width entrance to an eight or a ten-frame hive. D was molded in the frame C and differs from B in having a shoulder on each side the entrance for the hive to rest on. At the same time it gives protection from cold currents of air sweeping underneath the hive. E is the tongue which forms the entrance. In making these floors proceed thus:

Select the site, place the molding frame thereon, first ramming the soil firmly down, and true the frame with a spirit level. Fill in about 1 inch thick the full width of the frame, and about 10 inches on the end where the shoulders of the floor are, with concrete made of two parts sand and one of cement. Insert the tongue, as shown in C, then fill in the remaining



CONCRETE FLOOR WITH ENTRANCE.

portion of the frame with concrete, level with the top of the frame. Leave all to stand for 24 hours or more. Take out the tongue E and lift the frame C by the handles, as shown.

The block will appear very rough, but finish it off with a thin coating of a mixture of two parts clean, fine sand and one of cement. The more cement is used in this final coating the more impervious to dampness will the block be. Put this final coating on with a trowel. When the whole block is coated, if it be rubbed over with a piece of old bagging made very wet, there will be a very good smooth surface. The concrete can be formed with gravel, sand and cement, one part of the latter to two of the former; or fill in the frame with broken bricks, stones, etc., and pour in the mixture of sand and cement until the frame is full, when the whole mass may be gently rammed together.

## HELPFUL FARM HINTS.

Success to the jolly old farmer who sings as he follows his plow.

The manure wagon is a necessary evil; don't let it be more evil than necessary.

Cutting wood when your corn needs plowing? A cog is slipped somewhere in your anatomy.

A hole in the feed bin big enough to admit a rat should be enlarged to admit a cat. A tin lining is better.

Nothing new can be said of the flaxseed market, which has been practically lifeless for two months, under one of fair steadiness.

To renovate a prairie pasture, take off the stock, scratch the surface early in spring with a disk or other harrow, and leave to itself for the season.

Soaking seed oats one hour in a solution of four and one-half ounces commercial formalin to ten gallons of water, has uniformly prevented loss from this disease in experiment station tests.

Cutworms cannot endure freezing and thawing. Plow any infested ground just as soon as the plow can be got into the soil. Subsequent freezing and thawing will fix 'em.—Farm and Home.

## The Form of Beef Cattle.

There is no other one feature of the business of beef production quite so important as to have the right kind of an animal, an animal possessing the desired form combined with plenty of quality. Bear in mind that width of back, loin and hindquarters are indispensable in the good steer. The three factors which determine the selling price of the steer on any of our leading markets are percentage, that is, per cent. of dressed weight to live weight; quality, that is thick covering of good flesh over back and loin, and proportion, which means as much weight as possible in the back, loin and hindquarters. Where the high-priced cuts are to be found.—Midland Farmer.

## CLOVER IS VALUABLE.

It is Not Only an Excellent Food for Swine But Also the Best of Land Feeders.

One of the grasses that will prove beneficial and profitable to every farmer who can grow it is clover. It is not only an excellent food for swine for both health and growth, but it is a land feeder or fertilizer, says a writer in American Swineherd. But few farmers understand the advantages that come from growing clover outside of its feeding value. The productiveness of the farm can be maintained or improved by the growing of clover. Every farmer should exert himself to provide fields of clover. It is not only a good hog feed, but it is equally as good for sheep and cattle, and the very best hay for young calves. A good many farmers have used clover hay for feeding hogs in winter season, running it through a cutter and mixing it into a thick slop as a balancer of the ration and distender of the stomach, preventing compacting of the concentrated feeds. The advantages of clover as a food are that they give the pigs that succulence that is so desirable to provide the smooth coats and rapid growth that come from feeding it. It is a balancer of the ration of grain, which cheapens the feed and lessens the cost of producing pork. It is not only good for the feed value, but because of the advantages in combining it with a grain ration which enables more to be got from the grain than otherwise would. Besides the growth and gain that comes from feeding it, is the fact that it is highly relished by the swine and productive of better health. It keeps the bowels in good order, prevents constipation, and is, therefore, a very valuable hog feed.

## ALWAYS BE REGULAR.

A Point in Hog Feeding Whose Importance Is Not as Well Understood as It Should Be.

To be most successful at raising hogs we should feed regularly, not one day early in the morning and the next day in the middle of the forenoon. No matter how many times a day or how we feed, let it be at the same hours every day. It is natural for a hog to rest at night time, and digestion and assimilation of food will go on better if they are fed regularly and before dark.

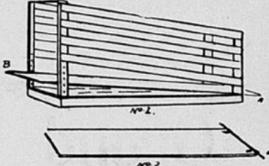
There are a great many farmers who think "a hog is a hog" and of little consequence as far as profit is concerned, hence they let him "root hog or die," and if he does not do as well as they expect, or as well as the hogs of their neighbors, they blame the breed or the one who sold them; the pigs, never taking into consideration that, if they had given the hog a show, fed him with some regularity and on such food as would have kept his system in good condition, he would have been a profitable animal. As a hog grows older and heavier, it requires not only more food to make a pound of gain, but more to sustain the weight that it already has. So, if not gaining you would better get them off your hands as soon as possible.

In feeding hogs the important point is to give just enough and no more. This sometimes may be a little difficult to do. What is eaten up clean, with indication that, if more were given, it would be eaten, is the test of what is just the right quantity. A little careful observation will soon make the test easily understood.—Midland Farmer.

## CONVENIENT HOG CHUTE.

Entrance Plank Is Adjustable So as to Meet All Variations in Height of Wagons.

This chute is 8 feet long and 2 feet and 4 inches wide. The posts at the low end are 3 feet long and at high end 5 feet and 6 inches long. Bottom is entirely surrounded with a belt of 6-inch boards, while top is confined as shown in illustration.



DETAILS OF HOG CHUTE.

In illustration, Posts are of 2x4 stuff and ribs on side are 1x4. Tall posts have holes bored every 6 inches from bottom up to one-half their height. These holes should be 1/2 inch. Holes a, No. 1, should be bored about 4 inches from bottom for cross bolt. Bottom plank is a foot long and 2 feet wide and should be 2 inches thick at one end; a, No. 2, straps of iron pass around the end, just leaving loop enough to take cross bolt, a, No. 2. Put plank inside, insert the bolt as in a, No. 1. Insert cross bolt at other end at any desired height. Wagons are not all the same in height, so the plank being adjustable will nicely meet the variations.—Farm and Home.

## Buy Superior Bees Only.

There are many breeders who breed superior stock in the way of queens, and if we are careful to buy from such breeders we get quite an improvement on our present stock. Those who breed in a careless manner charge about as much for queens as the first-class breeder, so that nothing is saved, and much is lost by not getting the best of stock. On the improved methods of introducing queens we seldom lose a queen, and the amateur can succeed as well as any. If bees are kept at all it will pay to thus keep them right, and keep only good stock, just as our breeders would do with ordinary stock.—Farmer's Tribune.