

Gossip of Washington

Little Tales of People and Events from the Capital of the Nation.

Washington.—A young man who has made a great reputation for himself and who in the making of it has done the administration a service is James M. Beck, the assistant attorney general, who successfully argued the case against the Northern merger and who has just resigned from the Department of Justice in order to become a member of a New York law firm whose principal business is the instruction of trusts in the methods of evading the law.

Beck is a wonderfully bright young fellow—hardly 40; and he is regarded here as one of the most promising lawyers of his day. The argument he made in the Northern merger case and the equally strong argument he made for the government in the lottery cases decided a few weeks ago by the supreme court are in themselves sufficient to establish his reputation. No more important and far-reaching suits have been tried in the federal courts in a generation and it was a great tribute to young Beck, first that he should have been chosen to handle them and second that he should have won out.

But the thing that has most attracted lawyers to him is the originality of his treatment, the freshness, clearness, and homeliness of his pleas, making the law plain even to the layman.

Beck was formerly a law partner of William F. Harris, of Philadelphia, at one time chairman of the democratic national committee. Cleveland made him United States attorney at Philadelphia. In 1896 he became a republican and has remained one ever since.

Now that he is going to join the ranks of trust lawyers it will be interesting to see how he squares his new arguments with his old.

The Post-Office Scandal.

Another man who has made a reputation that is likely to stick is Robert J. Wynne, the first assistant postmaster general.

Wynne is a newspaper correspondent who began life as a telegraph operator. He had the reputation 25 years ago of being the fastest operator in Washington. Gen. H. V. Boynton was then the Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, and Wynne handled the special wire that came into the office. One day Wynne was rash enough to get married. A few weeks later while he was busily ticking off a dispatch his fingers suddenly refused to work. He recognized the deadly telegraphers' cramp. "I'm all in," he said gloomily as he rose from the ticker. "My operating days are over."

It was a pretty tough outlook for a struggling fellow with a young wife. But Boynton had been watching him and saw that he had good stuff. He told Wynne that he needed an assistant in his newspaper work, and that was the way Wynne entered the profession which he adorned for 20 years. His latest newspaper work was as Washington correspondent for the New York Press.

He was president of the world famous Gridiron club a year ago when Postmaster General Payne decided that he was the man needed to fill the vacant place of first assistant postmaster general. When he entered the department he found a queer state of affairs. Subordinates who had been in office for years had built up a machine that enabled them to control the department. They were strong with Congressmen for whom they had done favors and nobody cared to interfere with them. Wynne would not stand for that. He undertook to take the reins in his own hands. The subordinates resented it and tried to oust him. But Wynne is an Irishman and a fighter. He determined to turn the spotlight on the department, and the Postmaster General stood by him. The result is the investigation that promises to bring about a complete reorganization of the postal service.

A White House Summer Garden.

The white house is to have a roof garden. The terraces which stretch away from the old historic mansion to the east and west are adorned with green bay and box trees and palms which will furnish during the hot summer months a refreshing shade far more restful and attractive than the conservatory which disappeared in the renovation of the white house and the loss of which has been an object of regret to the romantically inclined.

The effect is of two miniature groves

flanking the mansion into which one can step from the broad windows of the East room and the state dining room respectively. Electric light stands have been placed at intervals along the terraces so that at night when all is illuminated the effect is beautiful.

The roof gardens are intended for the use of the president's family and their guests and as soon as the warm weather arrives they will be delightful retreats with the cool breezes floating up from the Potomac. The terraces are far enough removed from the street to afford absolute privacy, and they will be admirably adapted for garden parties and for evening entertainments during the open air season.

For the first time in a generation the white house is at last adapted for the home of the family whose head happens to be the president of the United States. They can live at last in great comfort as other American families, and will no longer be crowded and buffeted by the hordes of politicians, office seekers and sightseers who used to sweep over every available portion of the white house. At the same time there is even more for a visitor to the white house to see than in the old days.

The Blind Chaplain Gone.

The blind chaplain of the senate is no more. In his death disappears one of the most interesting figures of the national capital.

Dr. Milburn has been the religious mentor of congress for many years. He was at first chaplain of the house of representatives and later was transferred to the senate, where the prayers he offered at the beginning of each daily session were always delicately attuned to the topic of the time. It was a pretty sight to watch him as he came slowly into the chamber guided by a page and as he strolled about the chamber during the session still leaning on the shoulder of the boy, stopping as occasion offered to speak a pleasant word to this senator or that.

It was Dr. Milburn's boast that he had met personally every man of great prominence during the last half century—he was four score when he died—and it is certain that he had some acquaintance with every man of consequence who has held office in Washington during that period. His recollections went back to the days of Webster, Clay, and Calhoun, and he delighted to relate his reminiscences of those times. Webster was his particular admiration. He resented the stories which have almost come to be accepted as historical truth in regard to Webster's personal habits. He declared emphatically that Webster never indulged to excess in alcoholic liquors.

He had known more senators and representatives in the last half century than any other man. He used to say that the house of representatives had improved in recent years. He would not say as much for the senate.

The Supreme Court.

Only two members of the supreme court date back to the time when Grover Cleveland was first president of the United States. One of these is Chief Justice Fuller, whom Cleveland appointed to the bench. The other is Justice Harlan, who was named by Hayes. In this comparatively short time the personnel of the court has been almost entirely changed, by death or retirement—chiefly by death—and yet the former president is still an active factor in politics.

Chief Justice Fuller was appointed in the last year of Cleveland's first term, and he is now eligible to retirement under the provision which enables a justice to retire on full pay after reaching the age of 70.

There has been some talk about the chief justice's retiring, but it is hardly likely that he will do so.

In all the years that justices have had this privilege very few have taken advantage of it. They cling to the dignity and honor until death claims them. In Chief Justice Fuller's case there is no more reason now for his retirement than at any time since he was first appointed. He is to all appearances as young in mind and body as when he took the oath of office. His delicately cut face, his flowing white hair and his striking white mustache, are the same as fifteen years ago. He is easily the most picturesque figure on the bench, and so he is likely to remain for some time. He was appointed as a democrat and when he was appointed there was only one other democrat on the bench—Justice Field—who was even then beginning to fail. Now there are two others, White and Peckham, both appointed by Cleveland in his second term.

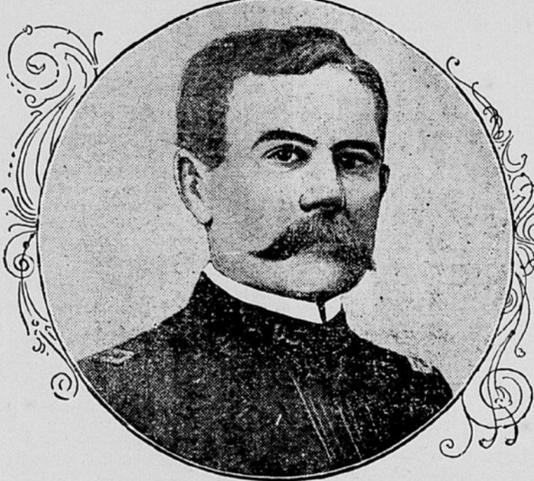
Something Left to Do.

Although a number of bureaus of the treasury department have been transferred to the new department of commerce, the secretary of the treasury is not without duties. He raises and distributes \$1,000,000,000 of government revenue; he supervises the system of national banks; he is custodian of \$800,000,000 of coin in the treasury vaults; he is responsible for the cash balance; he controls the mints, directs 3,000 persons in printing money and securities, and is head of the biggest auditing office in the world.

"Not Guilty."

Since President Roosevelt deplored the lack of children in American families he has received a photograph from Bucyrus, O., showing a sturdy-looking couple surrounded by their 12 children. Below was written: "Not guilty."

GEN. GEORGE H. BURTON, INSPECTOR GENERAL, U. S. A.



Among the staff officers recently promoted none deserved his advancement more than Gen. Burton, who has just succeeded Gen. Breckinridge as inspector general of the army. Gen. Burton was born in Delaware and was graduated from the West Point academy in the class of 1885. He served three years in the south during the reconstruction period and later gained distinction as an Indian fighter. He did especially meritorious service at the battles of the north fork of the Clear Water, Idaho, and at Capt. Jack's caves in the lava beds of northern California. His last active service was in Cuba.

TOO MUCH SWEARING.

Repetition of Oaths Installing Officials Diminishes the Sense of Obligation.

Some people who took the trouble to read the oath of office administered to the newly elected senators at the opening of the extraordinary session must have been struck by the contrast between the solemn language prescribed by the statute and the reputation which some of the senators have managed to acquire in the matter of fidelity to the discharge of the duties of the office, says the New York Times. The constitution requires that each member of either house of congress shall take an oath to support the constitution, but it goes no further. This was expanded to include support and defense against "all enemies, domestic and foreign," in 1868, at the close of the war for the union, and the clause was inserted as to mental reservation or purpose of evasion. It was natural enough at the time, but we do not suppose that anyone has ever changed his conduct in consequence of taking the oath.

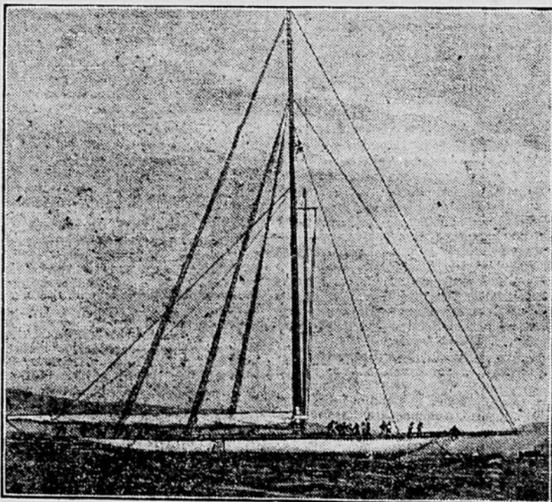
This is one of many instances in which the amplification and multipli-

TEXAS "TURNIP KRAUT."

A Dish That is Common Upon the Tables of the Farmers of the Lone Star State.

In many parts of Texas the question in the fall is: What can we do with our superabundance of turnips? In south Texas a discussion is going on in regard to this vegetable which may be of interest to the people who do not know what to do with turnips when they have more than they can use, says the Galveston News. The Hallettsville Herald has this to say: "The Herald clipped an item from the La Grange Journal last week relative to 'turnip kraut,' which that paper stated was something previously unknown in this section. The editor acknowledges that he had never heard of turnip kraut before, but he has since been informed by several parties in Hallettsville that it is nothing new. There are many families in this city who make it every year, and one informant tells us that every German farmer in Lavaca county either makes it or knows of it. Turnip kraut is different from other kraut, but is equally as palatable. The turnips are cut with either a cabbage or a potato cutter and made with salt and vinegar. It is heavier and has more substance

LIPTON'S NEW YACHT, SHAMROCK III.



Herewith we give an authentic picture of the new racing yacht built by Sir Thomas Lipton for the purpose of securing the famous America's cup next August. The new yacht, like its two Lipton predecessors, is called Shamrock. It was recently launched with impressive ceremonies, and hope runs high in the British breast that the third Shamrock will take back the trophy. The new American yacht, the Reliance, also is nearing completion, and experts in marine architecture believe that the Yankee boat will have an easy time in beating its English opponent. Both of the new yachts are marvels of skill.

cation of oaths tend rather to diminish than to enforce the sense of obligation assumed. In such swearing familiarity unquestionably does help to breed contempt. The lawyer who would make an affidavit to a statement of fact, but would not bet on its accuracy, is the traditional example of the working of this well-known rule. It is hardly practicable to go to the extreme simplicity of the Society of Friends and refrain from all swearing, but the nearer we can come to it the less we shall incur the risk of encouraging perjury.

than plain kraut, and has a firm, white appearance. A day never passes but what one learns something new, and we have added turnip kraut to our department of knowledge."

Lakes Always Frozen.

"There are in the state of Oregon two lakes that are frozen stiff from one year's end to another," said F. G. Harper, of Portland. "They were discovered in Baker county not very long ago by a party on a hunting and fishing trip in the mountains of the Panhandle district. After passing through a particularly wild stretch of country the party discovered the lakes on the north summit of one of the mountains in the neighborhood. The lakes are both small, one of them barely 150 feet across, while the other is less than 1,000 feet in diameter. Both are covered with a heavy coating of ice, as clear as crystal and as smooth as glass, and of such strength that it held several members of the party who rode across on horseback. It is believed the ice never melts, because the lakes are so situated behind two peaks that the rays of the sun never strike them for sufficient length of time to make any impression."

Newly Coined Word.

"Magasinitis" is a new word coined by a French physician to describe the state of mind, similar to intoxication, produced in kleptomaniacs when they see the tempting display of seemingly unguarded articles in department stores.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

MODERN CORN BREEDING.

It is an Important Practical Science with Which Every Farmer Should Be Familiar.

That great results may be attained in plant breeding may be easily seen by comparing some of our house plants and cultivated flowers with the wild flowers from which they were developed. The same laws hold good in the breeding of corn that are recognized by the live stock breeder, of which the two most important are—"Like produces like under like conditions," and "Improvement is made by selection and culture."

In selecting the ear of corn the cob should be comparatively small, the stem small and the ear should taper as little as possible and still retain its cylindrical form. That is, the smaller

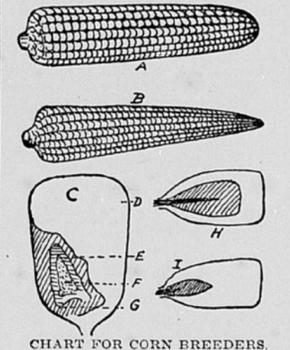


CHART FOR CORN BREEDERS.

(A, good ear; B, faulty ear; C, section of kernel; D, endo sperm; E, plumule; F, embryo; G, radicle; H, kernel rich in protein; I, kernel deficient in protein.)

end should not be large enough to be flat. It should be well filled out with kernels both at base and point of cob, see Figs. A and B. The grains should be long and thick, spreading out well at the outer end, so that there will not be deep fissures between the rows. A thick grain contains more nutritive in proportion to the hull than a thin, flat grain does.

Corn, as every feeder knows, has a very wide nutritive ratio. This may be narrowed considerably by selecting grains with large germs, Fig. H and I. The protein lies in the germ. By germ I mean the part a mouse gnaws out of the grain. The endosperm, Fig. C, is principally starch.

Corn for seed should always be selected from the most fertile portions of the field, for there the plant has formed the habit of appropriating more plant food than has that grown on thin land. This may be demonstrated by planting seed from a rich river bottom by the side of the same kind of seed grown for a few years on a thin clay farm.—F. C. Murphy, in Ohio Farmer.

POINTS TO REMEMBER.

No class of grains will bear pasturing closer than rye.

Send the corn to market by way of the fat hog or steer.

The good farm horse is of medium size, well muscled, active and of good disposition.

It is not what is eaten, but what is digested that furnishes the strength and muscle.

Growing animals especially like a variety and do better thus than to be fed on one kind of grain.

Most farmers can raise young colts and develop them into mature and thoroughly broken horses.

If a hog is worth keeping at all it is worth keeping well; therefore it should be well fed and cared for.

The man who raises hogs for a profit should raise good hogs, so as to have the largest profit possible.

Don't get the idea into your head that anything is good enough for a hog. The hog is a good friend, and should be treated as such.—Prairie Farmer.

Alfalfa's Worst Enemy.

Alfalfa is not without its enemies, insects and weeds being the worst and dodder the most persistent. Dodder is a parasite incapable of producing its own food, and thus depends upon some other plant to elaborate its food supply. The alfalfa dodder or love-vine has seeds that from their small size can readily be distinguished from alfalfa seed and great care should be taken to purchase clean, pure clover and alfalfa seed. A few cents extra will pay for re-cleaned seed, but years of toil will not eliminate the tares from the field if they once gain a foothold. No one should sow alfalfa seed without first re-cleaning through a sieve of 20 meshes to the inch.

Beware the Floating Egg.

A new method of testing eggs for their freshness has been communicated to the Agricultural Society of Saxony. An egg plunged in water tends to rise with more buoyancy, according to its age, owing to the enlargement of the empty space at the thick end by evaporation of water from the white. Hence the egg takes a different position in the water. Fresh eggs remain horizontal, an egg three to five days old makes an angle of 20 degrees with the horizon, one eight days gives an angle over 45 degrees, and at the end of 14 days the angle is 60 degrees. An egg three weeks old lies at 70 degrees. One three months remains vertical, and when it is older still it floats.

Hint for Angora Breeders.

One of the principal troubles to which Angora goats are subjected is sore feet. The remedy is simple. About once in three weeks dust their hoofs, one by one, with powdered blue vitriol, if the flock is small. For a large flock make a large, shallow trough and set it between two gates, where they must enter in reaching their shelter. Dissolve enough blue vitriol in sufficient amount of water to reach over their hoofs when stepping into the trough and there will be no trouble with sore feet.—Practical Fruit Grower.

Overfeeding will likely produce diarrhoea, especially in warm weather. A few drops of camphorated spirits of opium in every pint of drinking water will usually effect a cure.

RAISE GOOD TURKEYS.

Quality Controls the Market to a Greater Extent Than Most Poultrymen Suppose.

But few have any conception of the number of fowls consumed in a large city during Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks. For Thanksgiving week there were sold in New York city over 325,000 turkeys. In former years there has been sold a fourth more than this, and as many as 425,000 have been sold in one week, according to the New York Herald. This season turkeys have been scarce, not well finished and high in price. This is the explanation for the falling off in sales. Last year turkeys sold at from four to five cents per pound lower in price than this year. The same is true of chickens, ducks and geese, and even guinea fowls sell higher than ever before. All this should prove of advantage to the grower.

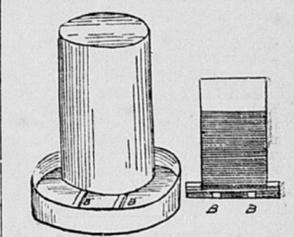
The day has about gone by for low prices for poultry and eggs. All that is needed now is for us to have good quality in our poultry and eggs for market, and they will sell well. Now is the time to begin to plan for living better than ever before. Pull away from old-time methods of poor quality market poultry and work to have the very best. For example, turkeys sold in the New York market all the way from 16 cents per pound to 28 and 30 cents per pound. Now, it did not cost one more cent per pound to grow the higher priced ones than the cheaper ones. It is simply a question of care and feeding. Those who feed properly and well have the finer quality and the greater size or weight, while those who do not feed properly and well have the lesser weight and the lower price. Quality controls the market to a greater extent than is generally supposed.

It is all very well to allow the growing turkeys to hunt for bugs and grasshoppers so long as they are plentiful, but so soon as this kind of food dwindles we must supply its place with other food as good, for two reasons—to give them a full food supply and to prevent them from walking the flesh from their bodies going about in an aimless way in search of food they will not find. Just as soon as the cool or cold nights begin to lessen the supply of wild food of all kinds then we must feed the stronger. Always see to it that they have all the good, wholesome food they will eat at all times. That is the way to grow turkeys. If there are not plenty of bugs, worms, grasshoppers, berries and nuts for them, give them all the corn they will eat every night and also a good, strong feed of it in the morning.

FOUNTAIN FOR CHICKS.

Handy Form of Drinking Arrangement Which May Also Be Used as a Feed Trough.

The illustration shows a very handy form of drinking fountain for young chicks. This may also be used as a feed trough, for which



it has no equal. In order to use it fill a small tin can with water or food, lay on it two pieces, B B, one-half-inch thick, and on these put a lid of a larger can. Invert the whole quickly and the lid will remain filled with water till the can is empty.—Richard Scheiderer, in Orange Judd Farmer.

Chicks Killed by Heat.

A great many chicks die from being kept too warm during the night in brooders. They get so warm they fairly steam, and when let out in the morning they get chilled, and this brings on bowel troubles. We are certain this is true from several experiences of our own and this agrees with what others say. On the other hand, a brooder can be kept too cool. We believe very few take into account the temperature of a chick's blood. A bunch of chicks can keep comfortable where a man would feel cold. When the chicks spread out on the floor of the brooder to sleep they are in a temperature that is just suited to them. If too cold they bunch up, and if too warm they are restless.—Commercial Poultry.

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