

TOLD IN WASHINGTON

Interesting Between-Season Gossip of the National Capital.

PEARY'S DASH FOR THE POLE

Assistant Secretary Darling Is a Crank on the Subject and Responsible for the Expedition—Other Timely Gossip.

Washington.—Charles H. Darling, the assistant secretary of the navy, will be entitled to the credit of Commander Peary succeeding in discovering the north pole on the expedition which he is about to undertake. For Darling is altogether responsible for the expedition.



Lieut. Peary

The assistant secretary, though a hard-headed Vermont, is a "crank" on arctic exploration. He has been a student of the subject for years. He has a library which is stocked with books telling of the various attempts to reach the north pole. That big expanse of white at the flattened end of the school globes has always worried him. He wants to see it colored and he wants to see it covered with American paint.

It is his hobby and when he came into the navy department one of the things that attracted him most was the likelihood of meeting and knowing Peary, whom he regarded as the best equipped of all the arctic explorers and the one most likely to achieve what they were all seeking for. When Peary came back to duty as a civil engineer Darling began to think. He had a number of talks with the explorer and discovered that Peary still had a longing to go back to the polar seas, and that he had a new scheme which he believed would prove successful. So without consulting Peary further he proceeded to arrange for a leave of three years and then told Peary what he had done.

Of course Peary was delighted. He had not looked for so speedy an opportunity to put to rest the new plan he had outlined in his own mind. He is going to start out again. He will have to raise the money for a new ship which he will call the "Charles H. Darling," and he believes that at last he is going to succeed.

Peary's New Scheme.

Peary's new scheme certainly has the merit of novelty and it does credit to his ingenuity and to his training.

His leave begins on April 1, and he will start at once for Cape York on the coast of Greenland. There is a tribe of Eskimos, numbering about 100, with whom Peary has established friendly relations on his former expeditions. He proposes to take up this tribe bodily and carry them farther north to the north shore of Grantland, where the colony will settle and form a base of supplies for the party which will undertake to reach the pole. This base of supplies will be within 500 miles of the pole, several hundred miles nearer than the base of supplies of any previous exploring party, and thus affording just that much additional advantage. Once there, Peary will make up his party, which will consist of only one white man besides himself, the others being Eskimos. The entire party will consist of about 20 persons.

The dash for the pole over the ice will begin on February 1, 1905. Dogs will be used to haul the sledges and the party will make better time than other expeditions, as it will be small and every member of it will have been thoroughly trained in Arctic life.

The Eskimos can get over the rough ice which abounds with far greater ease than any white men, and that is the main reason for confining the party practically to them. It will not be necessary to waste time looking out for exhausted companions. Peary hopes to reach the pole and return to his base of supplies in time to get back to the United States early in the fall of 1905.

The Sherman Statue.

The equestrian statue of Gen. Sherman, which is to be unveiled in a few days, has had a checkered career.



The Statue of Gen. Sherman

In the first place the design of Carl Rohl-Smith was chosen by the commission away back when the statue was authorized, and the action of the commission aroused a storm of protest from the artists of the country who were practically unanimous in declaring that the design was inartistic and far inferior to others submitted. The members of the commission, however, who were all old friends of Sherman, declared that the facial resemblance was stronger than in any other design offered and more-

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The Friend of Woman.

It was nearly 40 years ago that Gen. Francis Spinner first opened the way for the appointment of women in the government department in Washington. It was almost as great an innovation then as would be the appointment to-day of a woman as secretary of the treasury, but the experiment was so successful that there are now several thousand women clerks in Washington, and thousands more in various public offices throughout the United States.

When he made the innovation Spinner was treasurer of the United States. He held office from 1861 to 1875, and his peculiar corkscrew signature became as universally familiar as the greenbacks to which it was affixed. He not only proposed the employment of women, but he fought for it. He was lucky in having for a superior Salmon P. Chase, who, as secretary of the treasury, had finally to pass upon the question, and Kate Chase Sprague, the secretary's brilliant daughter, was a warm champion of the proposition. Indeed, there are some who say it was her original suggestion and that Spinner only followed suit. But whoever made the suggestion Spinner will always have the credit of carrying it into effect.

Now the women in the departments are going to erect a monument to Spinner's memory. The movement was started very soon after Spinner's death, and 12 years ago those who were interested organized themselves into the "General Spinner Memorial Association." Funds have been raised, the monument has been completed—it will be of bronze and congress has given permission for its erection in the national capital.

The government departments to-day offer the most remunerative employment which is open to women anywhere in the world. The salaries paid will average almost as much as those paid to men and in many instances they are higher.

A Character Dead.

Patrick Diggins is dead. That may not be a momentous announcement, but it is interesting news for everybody who ever had anything to do with newspaper work in Washington; for Patrick, during the last 30 or 40 years—nobody knows how long—has been a character of newspaper row.

He had been connected with the New York Herald bureau in Washington ever since anybody could remember, and for the past ten years he had been one of "Bennett's pensioners," receiving his regular weekly salary just as he used to when he was young and spry, but with the understanding that he needn't do any work in return. Still even up to the end he used to come down to the office to fix the files and once a week he would distribute the pay envelopes to the office force with scrupulous regularity.

Patrick was a messenger for the Herald in his active years; but his feeling of responsibility was just as powerful as if he had been managing editor. He was a legacy from the older Bennett and from Charles Nordhoff.

Once on a time a new correspondent, who thought to effect a saving in office expenses, discharged Patrick, not knowing of his peculiar relations with the proprietor. Patrick went over to New York the next day and as soon as telegraphic connections could be established the eager young correspondent was assigned to another field of duty. Patrick held on to the very last and when he died a few days ago it was found that he had laid by over \$75,000 and had three or four fine houses out in the northwest. He was a bachelor, with no near relatives and nobody has yet been able to find a will, so there maybe rare pickings for somebody—when they come to distribute the venerable messenger boy's estate.

LOUIS E. COOLIDGE.

Remorse is memory that has terminated.—Chicago Daily News.

The Winter Modes in Furs.

FASHIONS in furs have changed considerably since last winter, but the fortunate possessors of really good skins can have them brought up to date by the leading furriers, although this is never cheap. Furs this winter will be more magnificent than ever—not only in actual value, but in the way in which they are treated. The majority of the fur garments possess quite a regal appearance, and the



The Spinner Statue

furrier of to-day is a genius. I believe he could turn a ferret or a weasel into a glorious creation! Indeed, the insignificant mole is still to the fore, and the squirrel is treated in a variety of novel ways. The latter is a beautiful fur, and it is extraordinarily how well it can look in skillful hands.

It will be good news to the possessors of sealskin that once more this fur will be very fashionable, especially in the shape of boleros with pelerine collars, and of carriage wraps, mixed with sable. Sealskin always has its price, whether it is in the fashion or not, but good furs, good lace, and good jewels are never really out of fashion. They may vary a little in the setting, but they are always pleasing to the eye, and the sensible woman will never part with such glorious possessions. It is, after all, a foolish individual who prefers an indifferent novelty, which may at any moment become vulgarized, to a genuinely good article.

It is never the fault of the leaders and designers of fashion that we sometimes discard the genuine for the indifferent imitation, and to-day the old masters are more faithfully copied than ever. From the crown of our head to the sole of our foot we show much reverence for the glorious workmanship of bygone days.

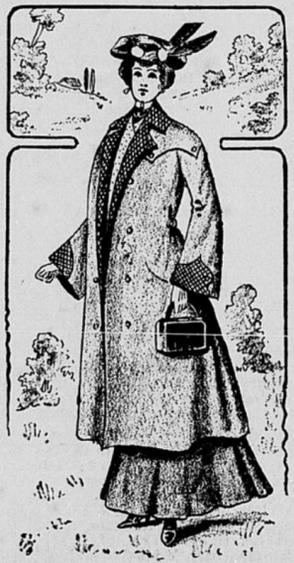
Then in furs and lace we want everything of the best. Ermine and sable, jewels and old point constitute the elements of a really wonderful carriage or opera cloak. The shape of these garments seems a compromise between the Japanese sleeve and the 1830 pelerine. The most beautiful are those of full length.

One I have recently seen is a long cape of sable, made more truly regal by a lining of ermine, which falls into a point

on the frock at the back, and dips low down in the front, with a hood of ermine draped across the shoulders and mingled with some beautiful old Brussels point, held in place by wonderful old enamel and paste buckles. The ermine lining is turned outwards all down the front to form stoles, and also appears as a trimming on the quaint Japanese sleeves. The price of this cape runs into four figures, and high ones at that. But it shows how glorious a thing real lace and perfect fur may become in skillful hands, while the shape is indicative of the best mode in evening wraps at the moment.

Ermine will be used both as a lining and as a trimming, but not so much on coats or for street wear in general. Sable never seems to come amiss on any garment, while a favorite trimming for skating frocks later on will be golden otter or mink. I am told on good authority that fur edging will be seen on many of the cloth and velvet frocks. This is good news to people who have had yards and yards of narrow fur trimmings laid by for years.

There is a great liking for purple velvet, mixed with ermine, for evening wear. Imitation ermine can be used to advantage for girls' evening wraps. Let me tell you of one I have seen. Of course, I do not compare it for a moment with the genuine article, but at the same time it was very effective. It was a three-quarter cape in purple velvet, cut with a shawl point at the back, and a draped hood of imitation ermine across the shoulders, mixed with some very pretty imitation Bruges lace and chiffon voile in a paler shade of purple. The lining was of the ermine turned back



in front to form double revers. The whole effect was really very good.

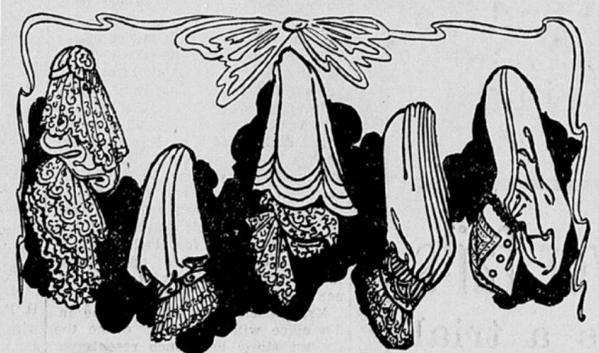
Velvet and panne are often used with fur and some furriers are using two furs together, inserting one with another; but I do not like it.

For ordinary, smart street wear nothing seems to me to take the place of the neat fur bolero, with its voluminous collar, and shorter, fuller, cloth walking skirt. In cloth the new mushroom shade goes admirably with moleskin or squirrel, while brown, in a variety of shades, is worn with the brown furs.

I have not seen many fur toques at present. Most of the toques worn with furs are of velvet to tone, with a chenille fringe.

ELLEN OSMONDE.

An Infinite Variety in Sleeves



NEVER was there a season when sleeve models showed more diversity; and, though certain general lines are imposed, there is infinite variety of detail. The sleeve with an immense pouch, drooping above a narrow wristband, has practically disappeared. The fulness has crept up the arm to the neighborhood of the elbow, and a decided well or balloon line at this point is imperative. Beyond that construction is left to the fancy of the designer.

The fulness may begin at the shoulder, being plaited in there and unstayed, or the upper part of the sleeve may be comparatively close fitting and swell into fulness near the elbow. In a majority of instances, even with the sleeves full from the shoulder, the effect of a close can is given by a pelerine yoke, a close clinging bertha or cape; but this is not always the case.

Lingerie frills are the most original note in the season's cloth sleeves, and, though they bid fair to be overdone, as is ever the case with a mode readily imitated, they are unquestionably charming and give a most feminine and dainty touch to a dark wool gown. They

are made of finest lawn plaited in tiny plaits and are put in double, one falling well below the other and coming down at least to the wrist on the inner seam, with a deeper drop at the outer seam.

In one form or another the full cloth sleeve with frills appears again and again among the imported models.

Even more numerous than the frilled sleeves are the sleeves with close fitting cuffs reaching almost to the elbow and great fulness above. Here there is more of room for variety of detail and there are innumerable ways of trimming the long cuff.

Fanciful sleeves play a mighty part in the effectiveness of the dressy blouses, which are lovelier than ever, despite the oft-repeated cry that the separate blouse is out of style. A full blouse, depending for cachet upon a picturesque and somewhat exaggerated sleeve and a beautifully wrought yoke, or yoke and bertha, is a description that will apply to almost any of the beautiful blouses in the fashion show collection.

Next Thing to It.

He—Don't worry if I haven't much, dear. Money doesn't buy happiness.
She—But it buys clothes.—Town Topics.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

STABLE CONVENIENCES.

How to Build a Manure Carrier to Be Used on Cable Rope or Steel Track.

In the illustration Fig. 1, is shown a desirable carrier to be used on wire cable or rope or wooden or steel track for removing manure from the shed or for other uses around the stable, that will suggest themselves to the thoughtful farmer. It may be made of the size thought best suited for the use it will be put to, and, according to size and weight, may be pushed or drawn by hand or a singletree may be attached to the front end and a horse be used to draw it along.

Four inch boards make a box one to

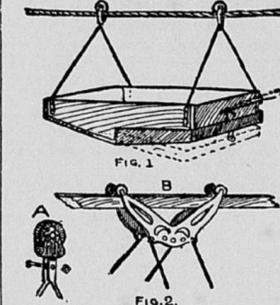


Fig. 1

two feet in depth, about three feet wide and four feet long, although as before mentioned, the size is optional with the maker. The front floor of the box should cover a little less than the bottom surface and be slanted somewhat as in the illustration the rear floor consists of a hinged bottom which can be dropped down to empty the box. This hinged bottom may be attached to the solid floor by a strap or T hinges or by a light iron rod run beneath it and turning in simple bearings at side of box. It should have low side-boards. To hold it shut when necessary and still allow it to be easily dropped when ready, a lever device may be arranged as illustrated. An iron rod about 1/2-inch in diameter can be bent into the required form by any blacksmith. At the point where the lever forms the main right angle, the rod, or rather rods, for there are two at this point, should be heated and flattened out so as to allow of a hole being made to receive the bolt that holds the lever on the box. On the hinged bottom an iron clip is attached and twisted 1/4 way around in such a manner that a hole in the small clip receives the bent end of the rod or lever so as to complete a latch. As the dotted lines show, by raising the lever the latch is disengaged and the bottom of the box drops down, thus almost completely

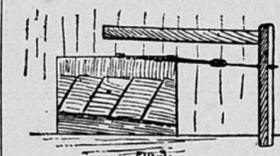


Fig. 2

emptying the box of its contents. The lever must be hung so that the resistance will come beneath the points of support or it will not hold the box closed. Instead of this device, a hasp and staple and wooden pin may be used if it is not thought worth while to construct the lever latch. To suspend the box to the cable or track, use four 1/2-inch iron rods at the corners of the box. Flatten the ends of the rods and bolt one end of each to the side of the box. Bend each two of the rods near together, and, in the case of using a wire cable or rope, bolt to the socket of an ordinary iron pulley of a size to suit the rope used. If there is much sag in the cable, it will be best to put a brace across from one set of rods to the other set so as to keep them from bending out of position. This completes the carrier for use on wire rope.

A subscriber who has a stable 75 feet long and who has a sufficient amount of 1/2-inch wire rope, wishes to know if he could use the rope to run a manure car-

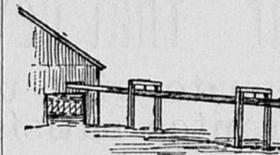


Fig. 3

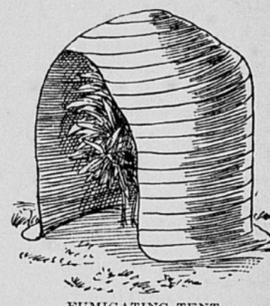
rier to a distance of 100 feet away from the stable. It does not seem to the writer that a cable 175 feet in length anchored only at the two ends could be drawn tight enough to remove the sagging effect, and an arrangement of this kind would probably not be practicable on a line of that length. The inquirer, however, can easily accomplish his object by making use of a wooden track, which may be supported along its length as often as necessary. The track may be 2x4 or 4x4-inch stuff, and may be suspended behind the stalls in the stable by rods running to the loft. Steel track may be used in the same manner. When wood or steel track is employed for the manure carrier, the rods that reach from the box are bolted to a hay carrier which runs on the solid track as the rope pulleys do on the cable. In Fig. 2, A shows the manner of bolting the rods to the ordinary pulley when wire rope is used, and B shows how the rods may be bolted to a hay carrier by removing the two rope pulleys of the hay carrier and putting the rods in place.

Fig. 3 shows a satisfactory method of anchoring the wire cable. A post is set in front of the door and a brace run from top of the post to the door sill. An iron rod with a long thread on it is run through a hole in the post and the cable is attached to this rod. A nut and washer on the rod enable the cable to be kept tightly stretched. A slot should be made above the door to allow the cable to go high enough not to prevent closing the door. Fig. 4 shows the way wooden or steel track may be supported outside the shed, by setting posts and suspending the track to crossing posts.—J. G. Allshouse, in Ohio Farmer.

TREE FUMIGATING SCREEN.

Description of a Device Recently Patented by a Progressive California Fruit Grower.

Farming a century ago consisted principally of planting the seed, keeping out the weeds and waiting for the harvest, with little or no conception of the chemical processes through which the soil induced the plant growth, and, consequently, no knowledge of how the plant growth could be forced by the addition to the soil of the chemical constituents which were lacking. Likewise the apples and small fruits were looked upon as a side issue, which must be left largely to chance in producing profitable crops. Gradually, however, a change has come about, until now the farmer performs his labor as a scientist with the aid of the agricultural college and government and state experiment stations and agricultural institutes. With this knowledge has come the necessity of better appliances for inducing healthy plant growths and guarding against diseases, both in fruits and vegetables. A century ago the idea of



FUMIGATING TENT.

smudging a tree to rid it of insects or worms might have been scoffed at, but now the need for an apparatus like the one we illustrate can be easily comprehended. This tent-like device is intended to inclose completely trees of considerable size, and is constructed of a series of overlapping sections, which can be placed in position while folded, and allowed to fall down all around the tree until the lowest section reaches the ground. With the tree thus inclosed, it is an easy matter to build a fire inside the tent and apply the chemicals which will fumigate the foliage or rid the limbs and trunk of any fungus growths detrimental to its health.—Chicago News.

SUB-EARTH FACTORIES.

How Roots of Leguminous Plants Change Free Nitrogen of the Air into Soil Nitrates.

The farmer is not generally looked upon as a manufacturer. Yet on his lands and under them, on the roots of all leguminous plants, there are at work the microscopic creations that labor in changing the free nitrogen of the air into soil nitrates that may be used by the plants. Every nodule on the root of a plant is an immense factory. It may be smaller than a pea, yet in it are multitudes of the little workers. They existed from the beginning of the development of leguminosae on the earth; but man has only recently discovered them. Before he understood that they were the friends of man, he regarded these factories as symptoms of plant diseases, and various remedies were invented for the cure of the said diseases. But later such efforts were found to be misplaced, and it was recognized that these same tubercles were part of the machinery of Mother Nature, by which she kept the soil supplied with the so-readily soluble forms of nitrogen, which alone can be taken up by the roots of plants. In the woods and on the prairies there are numerous forms of leguminosae, which help to keep up the balance required. There are the wild peas, the beggar weeds, the vetches and their relatives. On all of their roots are the little nitrogen factories crowded with workers. Man is able to assist these laborers and make it possible for them to increase their product. This is a manufacture in which there is no danger of over production.—Farmers' Review.

POULTRY YARD PICKINGS.

Do not allow litter in coops to become damp during a rainy season. Fowls must have dry houses.

If you have any old, spoiled messes, bury them in the compost heap; don't feed them to the poultry.

Utilize the wastes about the farm and economize in salable foods, but never feed poultry on offensive offal.

Many a person puts the money into fancy buildings and furnishings for his hen-house that ought to go into the poultry.

Keeping up the feed and keeping down the lice will go a long way toward keeping up the profits from the poultry end of the farm.

Anything that will gladden in the sun as it swings about will frighten hawks and crows. Suspend glass, tin or mica on poles about the poultry runs.—Farm Journal.