

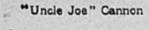
"UNCLE JOE" CANNON

Personality of the Man Who Wields the Congressional Gavel.

THIRTY YEARS IN THE HOUSE

He Has Not Been Spoiled by Promotion—His Private Room and His Secretary—The New Democratic Leader.

Washington.—"Uncle Joe" Cannon works into the speakership as naturally as if he had been wielding the gavel all his life. It hasn't changed him a bit to become the second most important official of the government. He is just the same "Uncle Joe" who for 30 years has been talking common sense on the floor of the house, uttering homely truths in a homely way and leading "the boys" through the gentle art of being one of them. It has not spoiled him to give him the added dignity of his new position. He will not follow in the steps of some of his predecessors, whose transformation from the floor to the chair was as striking as that of Prince Hal to Henry V.—without Prince Hal's excuse.



"Uncle Joe" Cannon

There is nothing of the humbug about "Uncle Joe." He never shows a false front. Right at the beginning of his career as speaker he showed that he could not be anything but himself. After the republican caucus had nominated him unanimously and he had been led in to accept the nomination, he stood up with a manuscript carefully spread before him on the desk and proceeded to read his speech. He floundered through it, fumbled the sheets, adjusted his glasses, took them off, changed them, and finally managed to stumble to the end. Then with a characteristic gesture of impatience he threw the manuscript down on the desk. "They told me," he said, slowly, looking round over the house, "that my speech to-night would be sent out by the Associated Press, and that I ought to be careful of what I said. So they advised me to write it out and read it. Well, there it is; and now I'm going to talk to you."

Then he gave a straight out old-fashioned talk, such as the republicans of the house have been in the habit of listening to for years.

Appointing Committees.

Just at present the speaker is engaged in figuring out his committees. He established a new precedent and saved himself a lot of trouble by turning over to the democratic leader, Williams, the task of picking out the democratic members of committees; but even with the democratic problem eliminated he is kept busy enough.



They Filed Gravely In

The other members of the house haven't quite begun to appreciate the fact that the speaker is still as democratically inclined as ever, and they approach him in presenting their requests for positions with a certain amount of awe.

A day or two ago the Michigan delegation made a formal call on the speaker to tell him what places their state would like to have. Headed by William Alden Smith, they filed solemnly in, attired in silk hats and frock coats. The 11 stood in line while Smith, as spokesman, detailed at length with ceremonial emphasis what was in their minds. As he came to a close Speaker Cannon bowed low. He began to reply with equal formality. He said he was aware of the important business interests of Michigan and realized that those interests should be fully protected in the assignment of committee places. He was about to proceed in the same stilted fashion, when suddenly he paused.

"Oh, boys," he blurted out, after a moment, "I can't go on with this. I'm glad to see you. I know all of you older men. I'll try to keep from getting the names of the younger ones mixed. If I fail, just remind me, and remember that it is due to the old man's senility."

The Speaker's Room.

The speaker's room is about the most democratic place about the capitol. It is a standing wonder that successive speakers have put up with it for so many years. It is small, crowded with desks and book cases, with a wash basin in one corner behind a screen. The speaker has a flat desk in the middle of the room right athwart the door as one enters.

You can't go in at all without running plumb against him. Henry Neal, the colored messenger, who has stood at the door ever since Randall's day, is the only indication of formality about the

place, and he exercises a mild supervision of those who seek to enter. Admission is denied to few. The speaker is always accessible to members of the house, and generally to anybody else who wishes to see him. But it is impossible for him to get a minute's privacy unless he locks the door. There is not even the suggestion of an ante-room or a retiring-room. The nearest approach to it is the recess of the window. Frequently there will be a dozen people in the room at once, waiting to catch the speaker's ear. Confidential conversation is out of the question.

And yet every speaker, from Blaine through the list, has put up with it. Tom Reed used to say that he liked it better than if it were more conveniently arranged. He said it was impossible for anybody to hold him up there or force him to listen to a long line of unnecessary conversation. There was always somebody waiting to hurry the interviewer along. The presence of a crowd of listeners likewise saved him from many an embarrassing question or appeal. But there is a lack of formality about it which is very puzzling to the occasional foreigner who ventures to visit the capitol.

Cannon's Private Secretary.

The speaker has been lucky enough to find a private secretary who supplements his admirably. L. W. Busbey, who for many years has been the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Inter Ocean, has long been Mr. Cannon's closest friend, his confidant and adviser. When Cannon became speaker he naturally asked Busbey to become his secretary and Busbey consented. It is a happy arrangement all around. Mr. Busbey knows the house of representatives like a book. He is familiar with the records and characteristics of all the old members and from numerous political trips through the country he knows something about most of the new members.

There is probably no other man in Washington whose relations have been so close with so many politicians of high and low degree. He was a warm friend of Speaker Reed and he was intimate with President McKinley, with whom he had traveled thousands of miles during the latter's campaigns as congressman and governor. He has been regarded always as one in whom it was safe to put absolute trust; and there was a general feeling of satisfaction when it was announced that he was to continue in an official capacity the confidential relations he had always maintained toward the speaker.

The speaker's secretary has it in his power to influence legislation and shape careers if he pleases, and members of the house entertain for him a wholesome respect.

Busbey is very close to the men who control republican politics. He was associated last year with the republican congressional committee, and prepared the republican campaign book for 1902. He is a hard student, an effective writer, a man of sound judgment and honest to the core.

The Democratic Leader.

If the republican majority has been fortunate in selecting a speaker the democratic minority has been equally fortunate in choosing a leader. John Sharpe Williams, of Mississippi, is easily the best man on the democratic side for that responsible position, as he is showing almost daily by his conduct on the floor.

It is a long time since the democrats in the house had a leader who was at all effective. Crisp was the last one who had the faculty of uniting the party, and he has been dead now for several years. Bailey was antagonized because he was young and because he stood in the way of others' ambitions. Richardson did not undertake aggressive leadership at all, but contented himself with seeing that the roll was properly called and that the party occasionally placed itself on record.

Williams has set out to formulate policies and to cut out a programme for the minority with an intelligent view to the future. Williams has the fighting edge, and he likes a scrap. He is a clever debater and is witty in retort. He is likable personally and has the knack of getting his political associates to do what he suggests. Williams is somewhat of a rhymer. In almost every important speech he has made in the house he has introduced doggerel of his own, sometimes with telling effect. Physically he is not imposing, but mentally he seems to be all right. He is one of the scholars of congress. He was graduated at Heidelberg, after completing the course at a southern university, and he is something more than a perfunctory student. He will play the democratic minority this session for all it is worth.

A Synonym.

"Being a printer, Mr. Dash," said the hotel proprietor, "maybe you can advise me. I want to get a sign painted: 'Writing-room free to our patrons,' or something like that."

"I don't like 'patrons,'" said Mr. Dash.

"No? Maybe that doesn't sound just right. What would you suggest?"

"Victims.'"—Philadelphia Ledger



L. W. Busbey



Congressman Williams

Separate Waists Still in Vogue



WOULD-BE prophets continue to predict the death of the separate waist. In connection with this prophecy I said to a fashionable shopkeeper but a few days ago that complete suits seemed to be in vogue, much to the disadvantage of the woman of limited means who had found in the separate waist a way of making a limited wardrobe appear to best advantage.

"The separate waist is by no means out," he replied, "nor do I imagine that it soon will be. We have never carried so large and varied a stock of these garments as we have this winter, nor have they ever been more elaborate."

And then as proof of his assertions he proceeded to display for my benefit a seemingly countless number of those in his stock. First he showed me a filmy structure of chiffon which forms the foundation on which much beautiful elaboration is built, by transparent lace insertions or incrustations, on which graduated horizontal tucks of palest mauve sole de chine, which entirely compose it, sleeve and all, are hemstitched on to the cream chiffon by large lace stitches in white linen thread. It is both a pretty and dainty conceit. The yoke is applied, and composed of bands and wee gaugings in line treatment, connected by fine lace stitchings, and here and there enriched by a mauve glaze motif inserted. The cuff is also of this up-to-date lace work, and cut into a cup-like point to hold the fullness of the tucked sleeve. Bretteilles of fine ecru lace complete charmingly an already charming confection.

In a general way the wide, the extremely wide, tuck is in highest favor. As a rule this three or four inch tuck is diagonal, sometimes it is united to the main edifice of the blouse. This is the treatment of the first one shown me.

Another horizontal treatment is of palest azure sole de chine, and practically fashioned in a double tier of widely tucked filmy frills, united by a transparent heading of pointed medallion ecru lace, the points drooping over the flounces. The yoke is again formed of transparent designs, composed of wee bands of the material and lace stitchings enriched with guipure and French dots.

Still another is decollete and also of palest blue, though this time crepe de chine is the chosen fabric. The fringed shawl bertha is its leading note, and the union of Valenciennes lace with the fringe is a singularly happy one, and likely to be lasting, I fancy. The elbow sleeves have inner ones of accordion plaited and lace edged blue chiffon.

As to the pretty little slips that came tripping out to greet me and show how entirely desirable and suitable they were for table d'hote and home occasions, they were many and alluring. Par example, a vivid accordion plaited geranium brillante had a transparent ecru lace yoke garnished with wee bands of graduated black velvet. Ivory point d'esprit or Paris nets embellished most charmingly with d'Alencon lace, all silk openworked and motif enhanced. A sunray plaited mauve soft silk of old Nippon had a plaited, pointed, shawl-like yoke extension, inserted with a very pretty imitation Maltese lace.

The Fashionable Skirt

SKIRTS are becoming more voluminous and bouffante, until one is forced to wonder whether the fashion makers will cry Halt! before the woman of small stature is quite lost amid their ample folds. I inspected a lace evening toilette the other day, where the skirt was adorned with five graduated volants of lace, beneath each of which were further disposed a supplementary lace and two chiffon flounces. To accentuate the width yet more, numerous fussy little net frills were sewn into the lining from hem to knee, imparting an early Victorian outline to the whole.

Then the latest versions of the short jupe for morning and country wear, aided by the introduction of a stiffened lining at the hem, stand well away from the feet all around. Hitherto they have erred in the opposite direction, by looking rather "mean," on account of their marked propensity for clinging about the heels of the wearers. Some people still affect to be nervously apprehensive of the crinolines' resurrection, but these fearful ones chiefly belong, I fancy, to the not-known few who rather enjoy giving themselves and their friends a small fright occasionally for the sake of variety.

The triple or three-tiered skirts are being made in many cases with plain tabliers to preserve the straight-fronted aspect, which is at once abolished by the application of circular volants. A close row of cloth or silk buttons forms a nice finish for the side seams of the tablier, which are apt to look a little abrupt and hard if left quite unadorned.

While stitched tabs are often requisitioned for the same purpose on the more habilite costumes. Frocks of the princess genre are being revived for afternoon and evening wear in Paris, and Paris-



A CERISE CLOTH COSTUME. Showing One of the New Skirts.

ennes, who seem to be specially gifted with the art of wearing this exacting style of dress, have taken advantage of Mme. La Mode's encouragement of this vogue to adopt them with immense ardour.

The Mode of the Veil



IN the matter of fashions we by no means always follow either Paris or London. More than six months ago we discarded the tight veil, but Paris and London are just now beginning to realize the added attractiveness of the loose veil, and it is being rapidly adopted by fashion's devotees in both places, and in fact all over the continent.

We trimmed the majority of our summer hats with the loose veil, and we are following much the same style in regard to our winter millinery. The illustration shows the two approved modes of wearing the beautiful filmy lace veils, now so essentially a part of every wardrobe.

It was left for Paris, however, to name the hours at which the two styles should be worn. The round veil is considered the appropriate one for afternoon wear. For this chiffon is the approved material, and to arrange it satisfactorily it should be run on a thread, and then fixed around the brim of the hat in the manner shown, taking care that it is of sufficient length to fall quite free and away from the face.

According to Paris we should not adopt the style of wearing the veil thrown back over the hat, as shown in the other sketch, except for morning wear. For this mode a veil of more texture and elaborateness may be used, and it may be quite lacey in appearance.

ELLEN ORMONDE.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

FARMER WAS NO FOOL.

He Frenched a New Kind of Reciprocity to the Reporter Who Came to Interview Him.

A Washington correspondent of one of the great dailies, feeling "all run down" as a result of vain attempts to manufacture news about Prof. Langley's "buzzard" recently concluded to go back into the rural districts of Maryland to recuperate. After a few days of rest, his journalistic instinct reasserted itself, and he decided it would be an amusing experience to go out and interview some of the farmers. Securing a pad he started up the road sharpening his pencil and whistling one of Sousa's latest marches. Before long he saw a farmer cutting corn in a field alongside of the road. Climbing the rail fence, he hailed the farm-



TALKING THINGS OVER.

er pleasantly, and after a few remarks about the weather and the crops, explained his errand.

"Want to interview me, eh?" said the farmer, "I never had any experience givin' interviews, but if your heart is set on it, go ahead. What do you want me to talk about?"

"Well," said the reporter, scratching his nose, reflectively, "suppose you give me your views on reciprocity."

"Couldn't have suited me better for a subject, mister. The fact is I've been thinkin' a good deal about reciprocity lately. I believe in it. I don't mean reciprocity with Cuba nor Canada, although that may be all very well in its place. What I want to see is reciprocity right here in the United States. I think reciprocity like charity should begin at home. I want the fellows who have been enjoying the blessings of protection for a good many years to reciprocate a little with the farmers."

"What do you propose?" asked the wielder of the pencil, who began to see that he was getting more than he expected.

"Well," said the farmer, "I want some plan adopted by which a part of the tariff collected will get back to the rural districts. I understand there's a fellow down there in congress who has introduced a bill that will do the business. I mean that bill providin' for the government to aid in improvin' the roads in the rural districts. That would be a great blessing not only to the farmers, but to everybody. Talk about developin' resources! I'd like to know what would do more to develop this country than buildin' good roads. If this plan was adopted a few millions of the taxes the farmers pay would come back to them, and there couldn't be no charge of special privilege, either, for the money would be spent for public improvement and would benefit all sections and all classes. Now I want to see the city people who have been protected so long turn in and help the farmers get that law passed. That's the kind of reciprocity I believe in."

How much more the farmer might have said the reporter will never know, for the interview was just then interrupted by a blast from the dinner horn.

Grain Feed for Cows.

While there is considerable difference of opinion as to the advisability of grinding grain for some farm animals, it is generally conceded that it pays to grind for the dairy herd. A cow giving a large flow of milk needs all her energy to secrete the milk and to digest the large amount of feed which must be used for that purpose. It is for this reason important to make the process of digestion as easy and rapid as possible. A good grinder, with suitable power to run it, should be part of the equipment of every well conducted dairy farm.—C. H. Eckles, Missouri Experiment Station.

Making Use of Skimmilk.

I think farmers at the present time can get the most out of their skimmilk by feeding it on the farm. There has not been a time for several years when more could be realized by the judicious use of skimmilk on account of the high price of pork, pigs and all kinds of farm stock. I believe skimmilk is worth one-half cent per quart over and above the expense of handling.—E. A. Russell, in Orange Judd Farmer.

Sisal Hemp.

Not more than 350 square miles of territory are under cultivation in henequin or sisal hemp, yet on this small area is produced the fiber that literally binds the wheat harvests of the world. It is used alike in Minnesota and Argentina, in Siberia and Egypt.

DIFFERENCE IN MILK.

Method of Selling by Measure Alone, Regardless of Value, is Radically Wrong.

According to a bulletin of the United States department of agriculture, nearly all milk used for direct consumption is sold by measure alone, regardless of value. This method is unjust to both consumer and producer. The majority of people seem to think that milk is much as another, so long as it is sweet milk. The reason for this is partly a lack of knowledge as to what constitutes good milk and partly because milk is an opaque liquid, and it is difficult to judge its composition or food value by appearance. Milk containing a high per cent. of fat is not only worth more for food, but it costs more to produce than milk containing a low per cent. of fat, and its price should be governed by food values. Frequently one quart of milk contains twice as much fat as another, yet both sell for the same price.

No other commodity is bought or sold with such disregard of food value. All milk should be sold according to its composition, and not only should its exact composition be known, but definite grades should be established with corresponding value. Milk for direct consumption should not only have a standard of values, but of cleanliness as well, and should be produced under inspection.

It would be as reasonable to expect to purchase three pounds of round steak for the price of one as to buy milk with eight per cent. fat and that with two per cent. fat at the same price a quart. Most of the states and some of the cities have passed laws which make it unlawful to sell milk below a certain standard. This makes the sale of milk coming direct from individual cows, that give milk low in fat, unlawful, while it is good, wholesome milk and a perfectly legitimate product when sold at its proper price. But what is even worse, this system prevents the man who produces rich milk from getting the price he should according to its food value and cost of production. Milk containing a high per cent. of fat is not only worth more for food, but costs more to produce than milk containing a low per cent. of fat, and the price should be governed by its composition and food value, and not by its bulk.

One hundred pounds of good milk contains 87 pounds of water, four pounds of fat, five pounds of milk sugar, 3.3 pounds of casein and albumen and 0.7 pound of mineral matter or salts. Most of the states and many cities require 3 or 3.5 per cent. of fat and 9 or 9.5 per cent. of "solids not fat." The "total solids" required thus vary from 12 to 13 per cent., according to different laws.

THISTLES MAKE GOOD FEED.

On Discovery of This Fact Obnoxious Weed Ceased to Grow in Kansas.

F. D. Coburn, secretary of the Kansas state board of agriculture, issued a bulletin two years ago in which he declared that the Russian thistle, when properly cured, made excellent feed for stock. Since then the thistle has ceased to grow wild in the northwestern part of the state, where it was most plentiful at that time. In many counties where it was common a few years ago it has become extinct. The Russian thistle a few years ago was the most dreaded weed pest known to farmers. It was said that if it once started it would drive out all other vegetables. Notwithstanding all precautions, the seed was brought into northwestern Kansas with other seed and the plant gained a firm foothold in several counties. The papers printed columns about the necessity of uprooting it and the legislature passed a law on the subject, but the thistle continued to thrive.

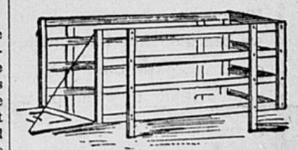
Then cattlemen in the northwest discovered that cattle eat it and they tried putting up some as hay. The experiment was a success, as the cattle would eat it in preference to most other kinds of hay, and it produced good results. Now it seems that the weed is dying out, since it has been discovered to have merits.

A report from Wyoming says that an attempt to cultivate the plant there as a forage crop was a failure owing to the wet season. It is said that in ordinary years this weed can be raised in large quantities on the Laramie plains, as it flourishes on extremely dry ground. Cattle devour it eagerly.

CRATE FOR WAGON BOX.

Convenient for Hauling Pigs and Calves as Well as Loose Material of Any Sort.

This crate should be about three feet high, and fitted with side pieces extending below it that will just fit into the side irons of the wagon body. It can thus be



WAGON BOX CRATE.

set upon the wagon bed in an instant, and will be found most useful in moving calves, sheep, pigs or other stock. It will fit onto a sled in the same way, for winter use. It is also convenient when hauling loose material. It is long the rear gate can be hinged to let down, as shown. It can also be hinged to open at the side. The slats should be of hard wood, three-quarters of an inch thick.—Farm Journal