

# WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Talk of Men and Affairs at the National Capital.

## JACOB RIIS AND THE SLUMS

Negro Hovels That Are Worse Than the Slums of New York or London—New Chaplain of the Senate.

Washington.—Jacob Riis has stirred the dry bones of local Washington as they have not been stirred in many a year before. He has brought them face to face with a condition which has prevailed for a generation to the hideousness of which long use has deadened the sensibilities.



Jacob Riis

There are in the District of Columbia 75,000 negroes, a large proportion of whom live in destitution compared with the slums of New York and London are luxurious. The extraordinary part of it is that this destitution is right in the midst of the city, within the very shadow of the white house and next door to the most costly mansions of the town.

Every square of the city is bisected by alleys, 15 or 20 feet wide, many of which are built up with miserable shanties rented at exorbitant rates to the poorer negro population. These hovels belong to some of the wealthiest citizens of Washington and in some of them, hardly big enough to shelter a family of pigs, three or four families of human beings are huddled together in indescribable filth and penury.

The death rate among these wretched creatures is simply astounding. Mr. Riis puts the mortality among infants less than a year old at almost 55 per cent. There is no death rate equal to this anywhere else in the civilized world. If it were among white people there would have been an outcry about it long before this, and the alleys would have been cleaned out like the pest they are; but the victims are negroes and in this town with its southern atmosphere and northern callousness the negro has no rights which the white man feels bound to respect.

The landlords get 25 per cent. on their investment as a rule and dividends like that close the eyes and ears to suffering.

### An Era of Reform.

Now that Riis has taken Washington to task there is bound to be a reform of this alley evil. For there are thousands of Christian people in the District who will never let the matter rest until the plague spots have been swept away. It may be that nothing will come of it until public sentiment has forced congress to take the question up and legislation is enacted which will wipe the hovels off the face of the earth. Of course the owners of the shanties will oppose the reform, for it will mean the loss of thousands of dollars to them and they will have to invest their money in some other way—which is always a nuisance—but sooner or later the change must come.

It would not be strange if the president, who is a great friend of Riis, were to call the attention of congress to the matter in a special message; for he is not accustomed to let smug respectability stand in the way of what he knows to be right.

The most astonishing thing about this whole business is that the disease and wretchedness of the alleys finds their way inevitably into the very finest homes in the city. Nine-tenths of the domestic servants of Washington are negroes and a large proportion of these come from the alleys. In many instances they drift back to the alleys hovels every night to sleep. The peril that thus creeps into the homes of the city can hardly be exaggerated.

Domestic service in Washington is less expensive than in any other city in the country. The wages that are commonly paid would not be considered for a moment in any other community, but the colored people who perform the service are alley denizens. To wipe out the alleys means an increase in the cost of living for them and an increase in the cost of living must result in a corresponding increase in wage.

### Chaplain of the Senate.

Edward Everett Hale is to be chaplain of the United States senate. For the first time in the history of that body a clergyman of really national reputation is to attend to its devotions.

There has been a long line of capable chaplains, concluding with the blind Dr. Milburn, who was led in and out of the chamber for many years, but now the place is to be filled by one who ranks in intellect and reputation with anyone of the members of the body which he serves.

Dr. Hale is now an old man, but he

is as vigorous and husky as most men of half his years. His marvelous voice, it is true, has lost a little of its strength and volume, but his shaggy leonine head is as impressive as ever.

It is understood that Dr. Hale will not hold the position long. He is to spend the winter in Washington with his son, who is a vice president of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, and he is engaged on literary work which will occupy him well into the spring; but after that is finished he will return to his beloved Boston and leave the chaplaincy open for some one of the young aspirants who have been conducting an active canvass for the place ever since Dr. Milburn died.

So long as Dr. Hale is chaplain the devotional services in the morning will attract fully as much interest as any other portion of the senate proceedings. Visitors to Washington will through the galleries at the noon hour just to hear and see the eminent Unitarian divine who is known to almost every grown person in the United States by the things he has written.

Dr. Hale and Senator Hoar have been intimate friends from boyhood and it is touching to see the two old men together. It was due to the Massachusetts senator's suggestion that his old friend was invited to become chaplain. It needed only the suggestion to induce the senate to act.

### Death of Proctor.

There is something peculiarly pathetic in the sudden taking off of John R. Proctor just at this time. Of all men in Washington he was the one whom most people would have set down for long years of vigorous old manhood. He was only 59 years of age and looked at least 15 years younger. He seemed to be physically perfect with the well-knit muscles of an athlete and a face that betokened perfect health.

Yet after his sudden death it developed that he had been a sick man for years, and that he was a victim of organic disease.

Proctor was a wonderfully active man. He was ever on the go. It was impossible for him to keep still for a minute. In conversation he would jump up from his chair and pace up and down the room gesticulating vehemently.

Only a few days before he died he had received a loving cup from the president and a few chosen friends who were wont to gather with him at the white house; for democrat though he was, Proctor was very close to the president's heart.

He was a chivalrous southerner who, as a boy, rode out to the war even when the cause of the confederacy was known to be lost, and his chivalrous spirit did not grow dim. He was as full of hope and of lofty ideals the day he died as he was the day he enlisted in the lost cause.

Proctor was poor almost to the limit of poverty. He has given his life to the public service, doing work in which he took an absorbing interest. His salary as civil service commissioner was one of the smallest on the government pay roll, but small as it was it was the only income he had and for ten years he had denied himself ordinary comforts in order to make both ends meet. The only legacy he left was two boys—one in the army and other in the navy—of whom he was proud and fond. His active mind was never at rest. His courage never failed.

Proctor's Successor. The president's selection of John C. Black as Proctor's successor on the civil service commission was one which will appeal to the heart of every veteran of the civil war. There is a touch of pathos in that, too. A generous share of the credit for his appointment should be given to Mrs. John A. Logan.

Gen. Black, since his retirement from the pension office, has been in constantly failing health, and when he went back to his law practice in Chicago he found to his dismay that the threads had slipped away from him and that his place at the bar had been taken by younger and stronger men. The time came when he was practically dependent upon his pension and that was nearly eaten up with the expenses of medical attendance, for he is a sad sufferer from the wounds which he received in the war.

When he was in Washington last October at the time of the unveiling of the Sherman monument he was taken down from the results of exposure and was carried to the hospital, where for days he lay between life and death. It was then that Mrs. Logan took his case in hand. She went to the president and made a fervid personal appeal for the gallant old veteran. She urged that something be done to rouse his courage and give him renewed hope. The president listened with deep sympathy and he promised Mrs. Logan then and there that at the very first opportunity something should be done for Gen. Black. The word was carried to the invalid veteran. It had the desired effect. He soon regained his courage, and now the president seizes the first opportunity to carry his promise into effect.

Gen. Black, with all his physical infirmity, will be an effective member of the civil service commission.

Sweden's Army. Sweden's regular army of 38,000 men and officers comprises 1,665 musicians.

# Winter MILLINERY Modes



IT rank heresy to say, when writing on the fashions of the hour, that the styles are not always beautiful? What we can truthfully say about the modes of the day is that it is a foolish woman who cannot find something exactly suited to her individual style and requirements.

As for fur hats, they mostly consist of two contrasting furs. Mole skin, for instance, is often mixed with what appears to be white rabbit, or with caracul. Seal and sable, seal and chinchilla, broadtail and chinchilla, and ermine and caracul, all make up into admirable fur toques of the elongated shape and tilted backwards. The quaint touches of gold in the form of cockades, etc., are effective trimmings to the fur toques.

But unless very carefully treated, I never think fur is very becoming worn on the head. Toques of fur and beaver mixed, trimmed with Parma violets and roses, are smart with some of the tailor-made costumes.

Here are descriptions of some of those in the illustrations: That charming Marquise hat, which is carried out in soft white felt, has the brim caught up in the most becoming fashion imaginable, and trimmed underneath with a wide band of old silver gait, laid flatly along the felt. A few folds of white tulle lift the shape off the hair, while on one side under the brim, there is also a long ostrich feather, shading from brown to black, and drooping gracefully over the hair. This way of trimming the underneath brim of the hat, while the crown and the upper brim are left entirely unadorned, may be noted as a characteristic feature of forthcoming millinery fashions.

Another is a pretty toque of white Volga fur, trimmed with a long white ostrich feather, and having a wide band of mink inserted into the brim all the way round. With this toque, our artist has sketched a beautiful mink stole cut in a plain straight shape and lined with white Volga.

A beautiful picture hat may be seen in another sketch, carried out in green short-haired beaver, with a very becoming brim lined underneath with green velvet. Round the crown there is a wreath of roses in soft shades of red, mauve and green.

Yet another beaver hat, which we illustrate, is made in that shade which is known in Paris as violine, and which is really something between petunia and the old-time shade that was known as magenta. This hat has a wreath of small petunia shaded roses arranged round the crown, and then apparently drawn through the

brim on one side and continued underneath the shape until they rest upon the hair at the back. A few soft folds of violine velvet also trim this pretty hat.

Another hat shown is the latest shape of turban. This hat is made in black beaver and bordered along the upper edge of the brim with two flat rows of silk braid, one being black and the other emerald green. Two smart black quills with silver stems complete the trimming, each quill painted with a peacock's eye in shades of green and white.

How cleverly are furriers manipulating furs. It must be rather aggravating to the possessors of really good sable to see that an indifferent Russian one. But those of us who cannot afford the genuine article are not complaining on this account.

Cords and tassels, like braid, still continue to be a very favorite trimming. Cloth dresses also show garnitures of gace applique and velvet pipings.

I do not think, however, that trimmings are used very plentifully over here, though they give a finishing touch of chic to all the dresses.

Bands and sashes play an important part on many a toilette. We are still wearing a great number of wide kid bands, boned at the back and cleverly contrived to come down small in the front. All the details and little accessories of the toilette have to be bien chic to be tolerated here. We easily tire of everything which can be copied cheaply.

Purses studded with precious stones still hold their own, and so indeed does gold metal, studded with other gems than baroque pearls.

Curious flat gold purses, combining card cases, are carried, having the name traced in colored stones. Old watch medallions and miniatures are used as ornaments.

Some of the buckles worn at the back of the new Louis XVI. waistbands are perfectly beautiful. Emeralds and rubies seem the favorite colored stones here, though diamonds and pearls are still as popular as ever.

Afternoon reception frocks appear to be made in all the lighter and softly clinging fabrics, with tiny little gauzings, platings and ruchings, and entredeux or medallions of lace.

Now that the 1830 effects prevail, where mantles and furs are concerned, it is necessary to wear something extra round the throat, and the most attractive little ties are being composed of ermine and sable, with cravats of cream, plaited chiffon.

ELLEN OSMONDE.

# Charming NEGLIGE Costumes



THE artistic negligé has steadily been gaining ground among American women; and this season the exquisite softness of the materials and the growing liking for long lines and graceful folds open the way for new developments in this attractive garment.

That word negligé covers a wide range of garments and includes everything from the severest and most unpretentious of wrappers to the most costly and elaborate tea gowns, but there is surely no excuse to-day for ugliness in any form of negligé, and while the expensive and gorgeous tea gowns are for the few, there is no reason why every woman of very moderate means may not possess a tea gown both artistic and becoming.

The crinkled silks with wadding back are the most beautiful of the very warm lounging robe materials, and while more expensive than the wadded and quilted Japanese silk robes, are a better investment, because the silk in the latter is likely to be flimsy and wear badly.

Soft broadcloth in one of the innumerable beautiful shades in which this material is offered is a delightful stuff for the negligé robe. It falls in graceful folds, has a beautiful finish, wears well, will clean perfectly and is very warm. The cloth robes do not need lining, but are often lined with China or India silk.

Braiding, ribbon bands or quillings, appliques of velvet, silk or contrasting cloth, bands of lace or embroidery—all these trimmings and many more are in order for such a robe; but as a rule a somewhat plain and severe style of trimming serves for the robe of cloth or other wool, while the dainty furbelows and frills and lace effects are reserved for the boudoir robes of silk, crepe, etc.

Velveteen and the Liberty velveteen in particular is practical for a very simple lounging robe, as for a handsome tea gown; for its wearing qualities are beyond criticism. It falls gracefully, and it is eminently becoming.

Her Chief Aim.

"What are your chief objects in life?"

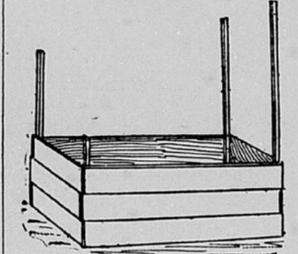
"Well to manage my own affairs and let other people manage theirs."—Detroit Free Press

# AGRICULTURAL HINTS

## WELLS IN QUICKSAND.

Will Last for Years and Are Easily Kept Clean, If Built According to These Instructions.

Have ready a supply of four-by-four scantling, one-inch foot-wide boards four feet long, and plenty of stout four-inch wire nail spikes. The scantling and boards will cut to best advantage if 20 feet long. At the start, saw two of the scantlings so as to make lengths of 4, 8, 12 and 16 feet. Upon two of these nail a board, making it flush with the edge at one, but overlapping the other by one inch, as shown. Place the end of the next board against the projection, nail and let its other end overlap the third scantling, and so on with the fourth. Now nail on a second tier, making the boards break joints with the



SUBSTANTIAL WELL BOX.

first tier. Continue in this way, making tiers of board, break joints, and make the scantling do the same when their turn comes. Thus the scantling will need no further cutting if they be all of the same length and the start be made as suggested.

Now begin to dig the hole square and slightly larger than the box just constructed. When about ten feet deep, or sooner if necessary, drop the box into the hole, make a temporary platform around it and nail on two boards eight or ten feet long upon opposite sides of the box, and resting upon the platform. Nail on other tiers of boards as before as high as can be reached and continue digging. When a clear space of about six to ten feet is obtained below, knock off the side supporting boards, and let the box-tube drop. Its own weight will be sufficient. Proceed as before with the putting on of pieces until water is reached.

Such wells last for years without repair, and if properly crowned and covered are as free from danger of contamination as any others. The matter of cleaning is equally simple.—M. G. Kains, in Ohio Farmer.

## FOR NATIONAL AID.

Col. Brownlow Talks About His Road Bill Which He Has Reintroduced in House.

Congressman W. P. Brownlow, of Tennessee, has introduced in the house his well-known roads bill. Acting on the criticisms of opponents and the suggestions of friends, Col. Brownlow has revised the bill somewhat, but all important features have been preserved. The new bill appropriates \$24,000,000 to be used as a fund for national aid in the improvement of highways. This sum is made available during the next three years, at a rate of \$8,000,000 annually. No state or subdivision thereof can secure any part of this fund without raising an amount equal to the share received. The distribution among the several states and territories is to be made on an equitable basis so as to leave no room for "log rolling." In reference to the bill, Col. Brownlow said the other day:

"I think my good roads measure has made wonderful progress during the past year. Conventions all over the country have endorsed it, and a number of state legislatures have adopted resolutions in favor of it. The number of public men who have come out for it has exceeded my highest expectations. In the west and south the sentiment for the bill is especially strong. A large number of senators and members from those sections have assured me of their willingness to support the measure, and it will also have some strong support from the eastern states, where state aid has paved the way for national aid. I can't see how any man representing a rural constituency can vote for a river and harbor bill and refuse to vote for my bill. And I don't see how anyone who wants the rural free mail delivery extended in his state or district can refuse to support a measure to aid in improving the roads, for bad roads are almost the sole obstacle to such extensions. I am hopeful of getting the bill up for discussion in the house early in the regular session."

## Swindles in Binder Twine.

The Dominion government maintains an inspector of binder twine, whose business it is to detect frauds in the length and grade of the balls of binder twine sold in that country. Frauds of this kind are punishable by fines of from \$1 to \$25 per ball. It is quite a common thing for makers of cheap twine to reduce the length of the ball in order to make up for the lower prices they charge. During a recent visit to Winnipeg, Manitoba, the inspector condemned 12 lots of twine, the fines on which aggregated \$500. The twine was of different Canadian and American makes and of several grades. Some balls of twine supposed to measure 600 feet were found to contain only 428 feet.

## VALUE OF DAIRY COWS.

In Computing It the Net Results and Not the Gross Income is to Be Considered.

In a recent exchange Prof. A. H. Wheaton furnishes the following table for determining the value of a dairy cow:

Cows that make 300 lbs. of butter or less, beef value.	20
Cows that make 325 lbs. of butter.	25
Cows that make 350 lbs. of butter.	30
Cows that make 375 lbs. of butter.	40
Cows that make 400 lbs. of butter.	50
Cows that make 425 lbs. of butter.	55
Cows that make 450 lbs. of butter.	65
Cows that make 475 lbs. of butter.	110
Cows that make 500 lbs. of butter.	150
Cows that make 550 lbs. of butter.	200
Cows that make 600 lbs. of butter.	275
Cows that make 650 lbs. of butter.	375
Cows that make 700 lbs. of butter.	500
Cows that make 750 lbs. of butter.	650
Cows that make 800 lbs. of butter.	825
Cows that make 850 lbs. of butter.	1,400
Cows that make 900 lbs. of butter.	2,000

Prof. Wheaton sets a fairly high standard for the cow that possesses no value aside from her beef qualifications. A few years ago some of our foremost Jersey breeders thought they were setting themselves a very high mark when they aspired to bring the average of their herds up to that point. We fear a very large percentage of the Jerseys of the country would fail to come up to that standard, and their beef value would be small recompense for milking them two or three years at a loss while determining what they were going to do. We are afraid Prof. Wheaton has overlooked one very important point in determining the value of a cow for strictly dairy purposes. Gross returns are one thing, but net return is sometimes quite a different proposition, and the latter is what determines finally the value of the animal. For example, in the recent report of the Wisconsin dairy herd we find one cow standing fourteenth as regards value of total products, but thirtieth as regards net returns or returns above cost of feed consumed. Another cow of the same breed with \$15.71 less total product to her credit returned a larger net profit by \$7.39. The first mentioned cow stood second in cost of food consumed, the feed bill being \$9.87 more than for the largest butter producer in the herd, and six dollars more than for the cow yielding the greatest value of total products. In figuring above total products the calf is not considered.—Prairie Farmer.

## THE FARM TELEPHONE.

It is a Potent Factor in Making Rural Life Attractive to Old as Well as Young.

Have you ever thought how many hours out of every week can be saved for yourself, your family and your teams by the assistance of the telephone? Have you ever calculated the minutes that can be gained in case of sickness or business emergencies? Have you thought of the dollars you might gain were you only in close touch with the markets? Can you conceive the pleasures to be derived from having in your homes means of immediate communication with relations, neighbors, or friends, though situated miles away?

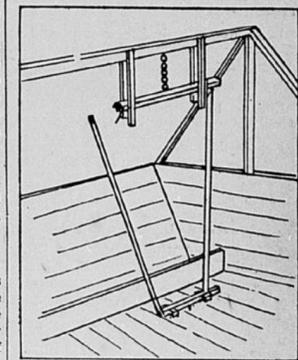
The telephone will pay for itself by getting better market prices. It will save several dollars every month by avoiding needless trips to town. It will deliver and receive telegrams and important messages immediately and without extra expense. It will inform you on weather predictions. It will order repairs instantly when a machine breaks down. It will do visiting and make social calls without the work of "dressing up" and making a dusty, sultry or freezing ride. It will get a doctor on a moment's notice and maybe save a loved one's life. It will get election returns as soon as they are in. It will keep away insolent tramps and prowling burglars. It will keep the boys on the farm and also the girls. It will make home happier, brighter and better, and more delightful in a thousand different ways.

Progressive farmers throughout the country are installing telephones in their homes, and in the near future every agriculturist will have a direct means of communication with the outside world. Speed the day!—Midland Farmer.

## A SWING STANCHION.

Many Stockmen Like This Contrivance, Although It Seems Clumsy and Complicated.

A stanchion which will swing sideways and not forward and back has been asked for by a subscriber. The accompanying illustration shows how it can



SWINGING STANCHION AND STALL.

be made. This is an ordinary chain hanging swing stanchion, with blocks on the floor and from the crosspiece above on each side, to prevent the forward and back swing. This will allow it to move sideways. Rather than go to this trouble, why not tie the cattle by the neck?—Farm and Home.

To keep butter from sticking to the churn scald the churn thoroughly.