

WASHINGTON STORIES

People and Scenes Met With in the Nation's Capital.

NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR

Comes to America and Discovers Himself an Orator—Senator Hoar and His Unique Position—Washington's Markets.

Washington.—Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, the new British ambassador, is an orator without knowing it. How he acquired the gift probably he could not say, for he has lived all his life among people with whom much speaking in public is not thought of and he says himself that he has never been on his feet to talk but four times in his life of 55 years. The fourth time was at the last gridiron dinner, when he made one



Sir Henry Mortimer Durand

of the happiest responses imaginable, catching his auditors, who included the leaders of congress and other prominent men, with the aptness and thorough good feeling of his remarks. He had been in the United States less than a week and he had hardly freed himself of his sea legs. He knew nothing about American habits and traditions except what he had read in the somewhat ungenial atmosphere of Persia, India and Madrid. Yet he showed an appreciation of American ways that some foreign representatives spend years in Washington without acquiring. It is a little of a puzzle to the new ambassador that so many Americans seem to have the faculty of public speech. In his own country it is not nearly so frequently found as here, and the readiness and aptness of the average Yankee on his feet are a source of continual amazement to him. Probably after he has been here awhile and has made a few after dinner speeches in his own tactful vein he will be less at a loss to account for the universality of a talent which he has possessed unconsciously all these years. Sir Mortimer is assured already of great popularity in Washington, and from present prospects he will occupy worthily the place left vacant by the demise of Pauncefoot and Herbert, two of the most attractive personalities who have ever graced the Washington diplomatic colony.

A Venerable Derelict.

An interesting reminder of a bygone day is to be seen daily while congress is in session haunting the corridors of the capitol. This is a man who at one time was a member of congress and an American minister abroad, who acted as a pall bearer at Abraham Lincoln's funeral and who played a conspicuous part in the political affairs of his time, but who now is thrown upon the beach by the tide. Ex-Congressman Worthington was made a representative from Nevada near the close of the civil war and he arrived in Washington just in time to take part in the proceedings necessary to the adoption of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to secure which Nevada was made a state. Afterwards he represented the United States in Uruguay and the Argentine Republic. He was selected to serve as a pallbearer for Abraham Lincoln during the brief time of his service in the house. He is to-day the sole survivor of those who bore the body of the martyred president to his grave. There is little left for the old man now. He is poverty stricken and ill and yet he continues to hold the regard of those members of congress who remember what he was and who help him to eke out a scanty existence by giving odd jobs about the capitol. In all his misfortune this venerable derelict has kept up his good spirits and has not lost the power to entertain. He has seen many interesting men and scenes and he knows how to tell about them. In his earlier days he was said to be strikingly handsome and extremely popular. That may be easily imagined by one who sees him now, for he has the fading memory of such things in his face.



Thrown Upon the Beach

The Sage of the Senate.

Senator Hoar has stirred the animals once more with his speech on Panama, and has set his brother senators wondering just what he is likely to do next. The senior Massachusetts senator is a law unto himself. He has been such for 70 years and such he must continue to the end. At heart he is the most rigid of party men. In fact partisanship for many years was regarded as perhaps his most pronounced characteristic. But he has a way of speaking his mind on all sorts of occasions which sometimes makes it very trying for his party associates. It is safe to say that when Senator Hoar finally takes his departure



Senator Hoar

from public life he will be missed more generally than any other man now in the senate, for his are the qualities which always attract attention and when he is in business the rest of the senate are kept busy guessing. He is one of the most delightful men in public life. In conversation he is fascinating. Anecdote, witticisms and literary allusions fall from his lips in a continuous stream. Scores of vastly entertaining volumes might be compiled by one who would follow the Massachusetts senator about and take down his daily gossipings. A part of his memories he has compiled himself in the random autobiography which has just been published, but they are only a fraction of the interesting things he could tell. Curiously enough, Senator Hoar has never been quite on the "inside" of national politics, great as is his prestige in the senate. He has never been one of the managing men of congress, but has rather been regarded as a sage. He likes to talk of himself as an old man, yet his mind is as clear and vigorous as it ever was and age has only ripened and enriched it. He is as quick in repartee as any man in the senate and he does not fear anybody in debate. That he may live long to enjoy his honors and has prestige is the wish even of those who lose patience with him at times.

Passing of the Executive Session.

United States senators who still respect the ancient traditions are shocked almost daily nowadays by the indifference shown by some of their associates to the sacredness of the executive session. The careless way in which Senators Hoar, Morgan and Daniel have ventured to discuss the Panama treaty and other diplomatic questions while the doors of the senate are open to the public has startled some of the sticklers for form, like Spooner and Platt. If Senator Edmunds were still in the senate it is safe to say that these violations of the spirit of the executive session rule would be cut off abruptly, for Edmunds never hesitated to call a brother senator down when things seemed to be going contrary to established precedents. Just now there is nobody in the senate with quite Edmunds's sublime indifference to the feelings of his neighbor, so the violators of tradition go merrily on and will continue to do so until it may be that the executive session will have become a thing of memory. This development is after all only a natural outcome of the newspaper enterprise which for years has made the executive session something of a farce. Not within recent memory has an executive session been held about which the newspaper men did not learn sooner or later and the proceedings have been regularly published as a matter of course. There are some senators naturally who think it just as well that what they say should be formally reported and officially disseminated since the substance of it is sure to get into the newspapers. If the executive session were to be abolished altogether it would save a good many white lies on the part of senators. There never yet was a secret session the proceedings of which it was not to the personal interest of some senator to make public.

The Markets of Washington.

Just about this time in the year the markets of Washington assume their most interesting phase. And Washington enjoys the reputation of having the finest and best markets in the world. The rich truck farms of Maryland and Virginia near by afford a never exhausted supply of the finest of edibles and the capitol is within easy distance of the oyster beds of the Chesapeake and the game and vegetables of the eastern shore. The biggest of the markets is the Center market, which occupies two of the most stately squares in the center of the city not far from the Pennsylvania railroad station and which pays the District of Columbia a yearly rental of \$7,000 for the plot under a 99-year lease. That is about as profitable a proposition as anybody could ask for. A rental of \$100,000 for those particular squares would not be an unreasonable price, but the District has to grin and bear it. At the time the Center market was established it was really something of an achievement for the District to lease the land at all, so that perhaps nobody after all has been seriously wronged. An interesting feature of the market is here, not only the Center market, but the others, is the great number of typical southern darkies who have stands on the streets adjoining. These sable vendors have occupied their stands, coming in from the country early in the morning year in and year out, until they have a proscription right and nobody would ever think of ousting them. They form a picturesque body which makes it well worth the while of a northern visitor to stroll about the markets along about daybreak, before the business of the streets has begun to rush. It is about the only survival we have of the old southern customs and ways. For Washington is rapidly becoming a northern town in all its habits.

LOUIS A. COOLIDGE.

Could Not.

Hilary—You can't tell whether you want to marry her or not?
Rupert—No; I've tried 50 times to tell her, but she won't let me.—Chicago Tribune.

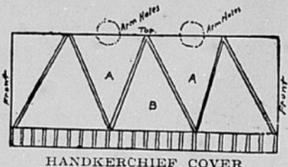


PRETTY CORSET COVER.

It is Made of Handkerchiefs and Described as Being Cheap as Well as Dainty.

While on a visit to a friend I saw a very pretty and simple corset cover, and on my return home succeeded in making one for myself. It is certainly a novelty and cheap as well as very pretty and dainty. Buy three common-sized ladies' handkerchiefs and cut them in two diagonally, making six equal pieces. Cut one of these halves in two again, leaving you five large pieces and two smaller ones. Narrow lace insertion about one-inch wide is sewed between all these pieces without cutting the insertion, but doubling it over diagonally at the corners between, in order to turn the corners. The arrangement of the pieces is shown in the cut, which shows how the cover will look when sewed together. Pieces a are cut out just a trifle where the dotted lines are shown, to form the under arm portions of the cover. Piece b is the back, the point at the top of b coming directly in the center of the back.

After getting thus far, begin at corner x and sew the same kind of insertion along the two front edges, which



HANDKERCHIEF COVER.

have been previously hemmed with the narrowest of hems, and also sew it across the top cover, which has been hemmed, leaving the loops as shown in the drawing for the armholes, which with the part cut out in a will make all the armholes needed. You can measure an old cover for this measurement, being sure to get it large enough so it will not draw or be tight, and allow a little for shrinkage. Then sew narrow beading across the top of insertion, but not down the front edges. (By beading, I mean lace or insertion with holes in, so that you can run ribbon through). Edge the beading with lace edging, and the top of the cover is finished, except to run in the beading any desired color of baby ribbon. Around the armholes put a row of beading edged with lace and run in ribbons, finishing the armholes.

Gather the bottom of the cover to fit the waist, having the center of piece b in the center of the back. Sew wide beading at the bottom, fixing the gathers firm and stationary, and running wider ribbon through the beading for the belt. The sewing with the exception of the belt and the hemming is all over and over. The insertion and lace are about an inch wide, and the beading about half an inch or little wider. This makes a very full cover and a very pretty and dainty one. It takes five and a half yards of both lace and insertion, two and a quarter yards of narrow beading, three-quarters of a yard beading for belt, five yards narrow ribbon and one yard wider ribbon for belt.—C. B. Morse, in Farm and Home.

LEMON HAS MANY USES.

It is Good for the Stomach, the Throat, the Hands, Finger Nails and the Complexion.

The usefulness of the lemon begins in the morning, even before you are out of bed. The juice of half a lemon squeezed into a glass of water and drunk unsweetened the first thing in the morning is an excellent remedy for bilious disorders.

If girls appreciated the lemon's usefulness as a beautifier, they would always have one at hand. The fingers or finger nails may have stains that refuse to yield to soap and water, in which case a little lemon juice will usually prove successful. Before manicuring the nails you should always soak them for at least five minutes in a basin of water in which are a few drops of lemon juice. The skin which grows so offensively around the nails is pushed back by orange wood sticks first dipped in lemon juice; and as for the teeth, no more effective cleanser or purer mouth wash can be found than a half dozen drops of lemon juice in a wineglass of water.

After washing the hands, lemon-juice and water makes a splendid bleach, but one curious thing should be remembered. Lemon juice pure darkens the skin, so do not make the mistake of rubbing in plain lemon-juice, instead of diluting it with water.

Lemon juice and glycerine is good for chapped hands. If you have a hoarse voice in the morning, lemon-juice, squeezed on to soft sugar till it is like a sirup, and a few drops of glycerine added, relieves the hoarseness at once, while a cold on the chest, or consumption itself, finds a formidable enemy in the following prescription:

Squeeze the juice of three lemons over three whole eggs, shell and all. In two or three days time the shell will have softened because of the effect of the lemon's acid on the lime composition of the shell. Then add a pint of rum and a pound of pulverized brown sugar candy. You can bottle this, and take a spoonful every morning before rising. It is simply wonderful as a tonic.—Chicago American.

Brown Hairpins.

After many failures, brown hairpins that will retain their color are now on the market

ABOUT ENGAGEMENTS.

If a Girl Really Loves a Man She Will Wait for Him Patiently and Without Doubt.

It is one thing to fall in love and another to propose marriage. Men may be wise and cautious; they may have most sensibly made up their minds that it would be neither right nor fair for them to speak, and they may have definitely resolved not to say a word on the subject of marriage till they have, at least, a prospect of making a home for a wife.

Then there comes an accidental upset to their calculations—a word, a look, a blush, a smile. All these fine reasonings are thrown to the winds; they have blurted out the love they meant to keep concealed till the correct moment of avowal came. Araminta has confessed she reciprocates the devotion she is told of, and nothing remains but to ask papa's consent, and visit a jeweler's.

But then comes the side that is not all rapture. At first, to be engaged is enough to send any two adoring people up into a seventh heaven of bliss; but by and by that ceases entirely to satisfy. They would like to marry, to belong entirely to each other; to set up house-keeping, and know all the delights of a home which the other shares. The true test of love is not in the proposing and accepting, neither is it in the buying and wearing the ring; it is in the waiting with patience and indefinite time for the fulfillment of a hope of which the proposal and the engagement ring were merely a pledge.

The question again and again arises: "How long is it reasonable for a man to ask a girl to wait for him?" If it is a year, or even two, or three, he may be justified; for, after all, there is a definite end to the waiting, which draws nearer every day. But if after five years, say, the end looks no nearer—if he is still just as unlikely to be able to support a wife—should he still expect a girl to go on wasting the best years of her life on his behalf?

If she really loves him, it will not matter to her though she waited for him 20 years. It will be such an utter impossibility for her to think of any other man than himself that she will not feel her chances in other directions are being spoiled, for if she may not marry him, she would rather not marry anyone else while the world lasts. She will count any waiting short and light that has the hope of being his wife at the end of it, and she will wait without a desire to be free. If she does not love him—why, that is a different matter, and she had better not undertake at all a waiting which she will find intolerable.—Chicago American.

THE MISSION LAMP.

Latest Development of a Fad That Seems to Have Taken the Entire Country by Storm.

Mission furniture has become something more than a fad, and its availability for country and city home use has been demonstrated by the many articles modeled on mission lines that have been brought out by the manufacturers during the past year or so, and which have met with the approval of those who seek for chairs, tables, cabinets and the like that differ from conventional productions. The mission lamp is the latest manifestation of the tendency for furniture of this sort, and is portrayed above. In a den or a hall



*ARTISTIC MISSION LAMP.

or any room where mission furniture predominates, such a lamp would add to the effect and the original is considerably more attractive than the picture might imply. As a novelty in the lamp line, the mission model calls for recognition, and, as has been said, it is particularly adapted to an apartment where in the mission idea is the ruling one in furniture.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Hygienic Value of Fruit.

Hygienists all agree in telling us that we do not eat sufficient fruit, which is infinitely more productive of health and beauty than candy and pastry. Ripe apples are especially healthy, and children may eat them without danger. Some doctors say that an apple at bedtime produces sleep. Pears are more tasty than apples, but not so healthy unless cooked. Prunes have medicinal qualities which cannot be denied. They are better cooked, however. Apricots are also more healthy cooked than raw. Peaches are very healthy. The most healthy of all fruit, however, are grapes. Gooseberries and currants are best cooked. Figs are also excellent; they were in great favor with ancient Roman ladies, who always ate them for breakfast. Pineapples are said to be the best cure for dyspepsia yet known. Nuts of all kinds are indigestible. Oranges are also excellent as a cure for dyspepsia. Lemons produce cheerfulness and prolong life.

One-Cent Pieces.

Between July 1, 1902, and June 1, 1903, 89,600,000 cents were coined.

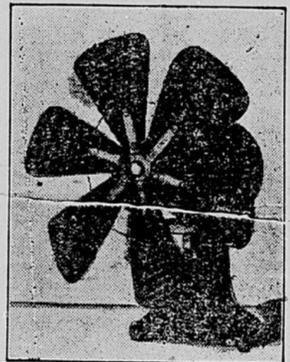


ELECTRO-THERMIC FAN.

It Beats the Air Current It Delivers to Any Degree the Operator May Desire.

An electric fan that heats the air-current that it delivers has been devised by M. de Mare, a Belgian electrician. The device, which is termed by its inventor the "electrothermic fan," is thus described by Emile Guarini in the Scientific American Supplement: "The apparatus consists of an electric motor and rotating fan, the blades of which are of mica. Upon these mica blades are fastened resistance-coils, which are heated by the passage through them of a current of electricity."

In order to heat the air to a high temperature by means of these coils, without melting the wire or even producing light, which would waste the energy, M. de Mare incloses his fan in



ELECTRO-THERMIC FAN.

a case, in which its action compresses the air. The compressed air rapidly absorbs the heat from the wire coils and prevents the wire from reaching the fusing-point. M. Guarini concludes:

"The pressure of the air upon the resistance coils revolving in it is almost uniform at every point. When the fan turns and a current of electricity is passed through the coils, a very lively heat, an insupportable heat, issues from the mouth of the casing. In the experiments made before me Mr. De Mare allowed the revolving fan to attain a satisfactory speed before turning the electric current through the resistance-coils. The wire, which while the fan was in motion glowed but dimly, was, in fact, so thin that the current employed—20 amperes—would readily have caused it to melt at the ordinary air-pressure."

Many Dealers in Dry Goods.

In the United States there are 97,671 dry goods merchants.

TOBACCO BLINDNESS.

Chief Trouble in This Disease Is Traceable to the Stomach as the Primary Source.

A British oculist has called attention to a new and indirect method of treating tobacco blindness, and notes the extraordinary fact that the chief trouble in this disease is traceable to the stomach as the primary source. Excessive smoking, as is well known, causes in many individuals partial and sometimes total blindness. Tobacco blindness (and also the failure of vision which comes from the excessive use of alcoholic beverages) is remarkable because of the absence of any change in the structure of the eye itself.

Microscopic examination in these cases has disclosed peculiar alterations in the ganglion cells of the retina, and these changes were formerly believed to have been produced by the poison of the tobacco itself. Three years ago a Philadelphia physician published the opinion that the alteration in the cells, followed by failing vision; was not produced by the nicotine itself, but by poisons which the nicotine created in the system. These secondary poisons, finding their way to the eye, modified the cells in the retina, this modification being followed by inadequate power of vision or by loss of vision altogether.

With this original suggestion for a starting point, other observers took up the investigation, with the result that the seat of the trouble has been located. This is found to lie in the stomach. Nicotine disturbs the normal function of the stomach, and instead of a healthy digestion, the smoker has a veritable poison factory in his gastric region. Instead of treating the eye, therefore, the new method goes at once to the stomach and attempts to stop the manufacture of poisons in that important organ.

Several interesting cases are reported of complete cures by this method. One patient, an excessive smoker, whose eyes were rapidly failing, was treated for indigestion. The stomach was pumped out and found to contain evidences of gastritis. The man's diet was corrected, his tobacco cut off, and other remedies of a hygienic kind were applied. In a few weeks the blindness had disappeared.

These facts seem to clear up the mystery attaching in general to tobacco blindness. Some men can smoke to excess without impairing the eyes, while others are affected in that way by a much smaller quantity of smoking. This anomaly can be understood when it is remembered that it is the stomach and not the eyes upon which the nicotine acts directly. Some stomachs can resist the poison-making force of the tobacco; others cannot, and it is those whose stomachs are affected by the use of the weed that suffer blindness. Smokers should therefore have an eye to their digestion.

Immense Waste of Fuel.

With the methods now in use sevenths of the force in coal is wasted. A few years ago the waste was ninetenths. Mr. Edison declares that a bucketful of coal should drive an express train from New York to Philadelphia, and a few tons be sufficient for the largest ocean steamship, whose bunkers must now hold thousands.

Low Cost Modern Farm House

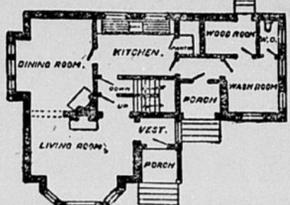
FARMHOUSES with modern conveniences, such as hot and cold water, water closet, bath room, sink rack and wood and fuel room, are the exception. Those who have resided in a city for any length of time, even



MODERN FARM HOUSE.

a few weeks, will see the contrast between the comforts of the average city dwelling to that of the average farm dwelling. The farmer, however, in most cases does not realize this contrast, and hence so-called modern conveniences are the exception in the farmhouse. This is not as it should be. A farmer in moderate circumstances should and could very easily have these conveniences, and probably would have did he realize their advantages and comforts. These modern conveniences are sold cheaply.

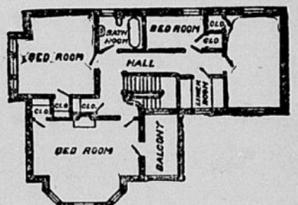
The accompanying plans are intended for a farmhouse of this kind.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

suitable for a farm of 100 acres or less. I give detail plans of the two floors and front elevation, and bill of timber, so that the reader needs but submit the plans to a building contractor for estimates. The home is two stories high, built of brick or wood, 48 feet long at the back, 37 feet wide at the left end, and 19½ feet at the right end, outside

measurement. The basement walls are of stone, and the cellar extends beneath the whole house. The roof is shingled and stained. All of the rooms are of good size and nicely finished. The dining room, living room and vestibule, hall and stairs, may be finished in oak or a cheaper material if one's purse does not permit. The floor in the kitchen should be of maple or similar hard wood, but throughout the remainder of the house the floors may be of spruce or pine. There are mantels in the living room, dining room and front bedroom, and there are closets off each of the bedrooms. There is a large linen closet and storeroom off the hall upstairs, which the women will appreciate. The bathroom is of good size and fitted with good modern



SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

plumbing fixtures. The front bedroom may be finished white, the remaining rooms natural wood. There is a balcony connected with the front of the house and front bedroom.

Estimate material needed to build: 580 feet 2x6 inches for plates; 20½ squares (100 square feet); 2x12 inch for joists, placed 16 inches on centers; 19 squares 2x6 inches for rafters, 16 inches on centers; 20½ squares seven-eighths-inch matched spruce or pine flooring; 19 squares one-inch rough boards for roof sheathing; lath and plaster, 600 square yards; 28 inch rough boards for roof sheathing; box frame windows, 23 doors. First floor or ground plan, dimensions, living room, 16x19 feet, dining room 11½ x17½ feet, kitchen 14x11 feet; wash room, 10x10 feet; second floor plan front bedroom, 15½x20 feet; back bedroom, 14½x10½ feet; bath-room, 7x8 feet; small bedroom, 7x11 feet; end bedroom, 10x7½ feet.—J. A. MacDonaid, in Orange Judd Farmer.