

WASHINGTON LETTER

Timely and Interesting Gossip from the National Capitol.

INTEREST IN EASTERN WAR

The Hero of Chemulpo Is a Graduate of Annapolis—The Tantalus Club to Be Perpetuated—Japan Copies American Policy.

Washington.—Admiral Uriu, whose splendid victory at Chemulpo has given him a place with Dewey and Sampson among the great naval commanders of this generation, is not unknown in Washington. Like Dewey and Sampson he is a graduate of the United States naval academy at Annapolis, where he completed his course in 1881. He served there for four years and then went to the British military school at Greenwich, so that his great achievement may properly be attributed in some degree, at any rate, to his Anglo-Saxon training. His wife, who is a Japanese, is a Vassar graduate.

There are several naval officers in Washington who knew Uriu at the academy and who have run up against him on occasions since that time. A classmate of his was Joseph H. Leonard, naval constructor in the United States navy. He says that three Japanese boys entered the academy in 1877 and were graduated in 1881. They were Tasaka Serata, Sokikichi Uriu and Yosuke Inouye. All of them have made fine records in the Japanese navy. Serata died an admiral, just a year ago. Both he and Uriu distinguished themselves in the war between Japan and China. At the academy they were very religious; both of them were members of the Young Men's Christian association.

The Japanese officers were lucky enough to receive very rapid advancement when they got home and some of them were rear admirals while their American classmates were still dragging along with the single bars of lieutenants. This made it a little bit embarrassing for the American naval officers who met their old Japanese friends while touring on the Asiatic station, but they indulged freely in Saku and champagne, called each other by their old academy nicknames and lived over the old days together. Uriu was the most dignified of the lot.

Follow America's Lead.

Secretary Moody is the happiest man in Washington just at present. He is rejoiced that the Japanese navy should have won so signal a victory at the very beginning of the war with Russia. This is not because of any special sympathy for Japan, although feeling among all public men in Washington is exceedingly friendly to the island empire, but solely on professional grounds. Japan for the last few years has been pursuing a naval policy exactly in accordance with that which Secretary Moody has insisted should be pursued by the United States. The Japanese navy has spent money in maneuvers, has used up powder and has worked its officers to the limit of endurance. The result was shown at Chemulpo.

Now that is exactly what Secretary Moody has been doing with the American navy at the risk of severe criticism by the economists in congress and of some ridicule by the opposition newspapers. So he regards Japan's victory over Russia as a complete vindication of the programme which he had adopted.

Russia for the last few years has pursued a policy directly contrary to that of Japan. Its navy has been subordinated to the army, there has been an absence of discipline and general slovenliness in control. Russia has been paying only half as much for armor plate as we have been paying and the result is shown in the celerity with which its battleships yielded to the Japanese attack. Altogether the situation is one which is especially gratifying to the men who have the destinies of our navy in their keeping.

The Tantalus Club.

The Tantalus club is to be given a new lease of life. Sam Powers, its founder and president, does not intend that the organization in which he has taken such pride shall go out of existence when he leaves congress; for he has announced in advance that he will not be a candidate for reelection and that he is going home to Boston to make money while the spirit is yet strong within him. It has been a costly luxury for Powers to be a member of the house. His professional income is three or four times as great as his salary as a member of congress, and while he has been in Washington he has spent not only his \$5,000 salary, but a



Congressman Powers.

goodly proportion of the money he had saved while practicing law. But even though Powers abandons Washington, his memory will still linger. To have been the founder of the Tantalus club is in itself a distinction which raises Powers far above the level of the ordinary member of the house.

At home in Boston Powers had regarded himself as something of a man. He was popular, prosperous and was supposed to have a political future. When he was lucky enough to be elected to congress, he had glowing ideas of what he would accomplish in Washington, but he had been here only a week or two before he discovered that there is nothing of less consequence in the national capitol than a new member of the house of representatives. He talked around a little among the new men and found that many of them had come to a similar conclusion. Then he had an inspiration. He organized all the new members on the republican side into a club. The idea was to have a dinner every little while at which the youngsters who were unable to get recognition at the capitol could throw themselves a little and raise themselves out of the dull level of mediocrity.

That was the origin of the Tantalus club. Powers was made president by unanimous consent, for there has never been anything like the formality of an election. It goes without saying that the dinners of the Tantalus club were a tremendous success.

Now, in order to perpetuate it, Powers has maneuvered so that all the republican members of the house new to the present congress shall be eligible to membership. They have all filed applications and there will be a dinner pretty soon at which all of them will be present and duly initiated. Thus the club will be in a position to perpetuate itself through succeeding congresses.

Question of Precedence.

The society expects who have the social doings of the white house in their charge have at last come to an understanding on the burning question of precedence. Mr. Ade, the assistant secretary of state who has devoted a long life to the study of questions of this kind, and Maj. McCawley, the social side of the president, whose main business at present is to wrestle with the question of who shall go in first to dinner, have put their heads together and have arrived at a very gratifying conclusion.

It seemed a little hard that such distinguished dignitaries as the chief justice of the supreme court, the speaker of the house of representatives, the admiral of the navy and the lieutenant general of the army should be compelled by the rules of social precedence to wait in line at the white house reception until a miscellaneous collection of ambassadors and diplomats had been ushered into the presence. It is no wonder that the supreme court justices who were the first to run up against the edict of the social arbiters should file an indignant protest. So Ade and McCawley got into conjunction and evolved a scheme by which everybody will be satisfied.

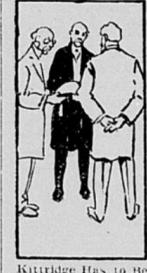
At the reception given in honor of the diplomatic corps, the diplomats will head the line. Nobody objects to that. At the other three receptions, that to the judiciary, to congress and to the army and navy, the diplomats will not be in line at all. They will form a little group by themselves in the oval of the blue room in front of the door, where the president stands and they will watch the procession go by. Thus they will be honored spectators and they will not interfere with anybody. Everybody will be satisfied and the game can go on.

Senator Kittridge.

Senator Kittridge, of South Dakota, is one of the most promising of the men who have come into congress in several years. There is no man in the senate, no matter how long he may have been in congress, who has a shrewder understanding of the ways of legislation than Kittridge, who has been up against it for only a single congress. He is always in his seat in the senate; he watches every play and knows the reason for every move. He is popular and strong and has already arrived at that enviable stage in a senator's career where he has to be consulted with regard to the adoption of any important party policy.

Kittridge is one of the youngsters, although he seems older than he is. He was graduated at Yale in 1882 and is only 42 years of age. He is a great friend of John Kean, who left Yale 15 years before. He is noted in the senate for his good nature, for his imperturbability and an inscrutable face, which would be a money-maker at a poker table.

He has an idea that so long as South Dakota remains a republican state he can remain in congress as a South Dakota senator and he intends to make the most of that possibility. There are too few senators nowadays who come to Washington with the idea of making this their permanent career. Kittridge is one of them. There is not one chance in a hundred that he will not win out. LOUIS A. COOLIDGE.



Kittridge Has to Be Consulted.

The Red Cross and Russian-Japanese War

Something of the History of This Remarkable Organization Instituted During Our Civil War.

THE dogs of war have slipped their leashes, and Gen. Sherman's declaration that "war is hell," is again to spell its awful truth out before the world. The boom of cannon, the roar of musketry, the clashing of saber and bayonet, will be followed by the scenes of agony and death. The raging, merciless monster of war presses on in relentless pursuit of his human victims, and leaves behind the hundreds and thousands of wounded, and dying and dead, and then along this bloody path comes the gentle tread of the messengers of mercy, as they seek to undo as far as possible the awful destruction wrought, to alleviate the suffering, and to sweeten the dying moments of the fatally wounded. As modern invention and ingenuity have increased the terribleness of war there has been a corresponding advance made in the organization, equipment and drill of the hospital and ambulance corps of the armies of the various countries.

Japan, who has amazed the world in the last dozen years by her remarkable development and splendid advance along commercial, industrial, educational lines, has at the same time been perfecting her army and creating a navy that is her pride and boast, and the dread of her present foe. And perhaps the most striking feature and efficient branch of Japan's army organization, splendid as it is, is the hospital and medical service. Japan is credited with having the model field and military hospital service of all modern armies. At Tientsin and Peking in 1900 it is said that it proved its efficiency and practical superiority when working side by side with the same



A RED CROSS NURSE ON A CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD.

service of the American, English, French, Russian, German, Austrian and Italian forces. The American and English official reports of that campaign frankly concede this fact. And in the Japanese-Chinese war in 1894-95, it was almost as smooth working and efficient, and did not break down during the rapid marches up the Korean peninsula and across Manchuria to Port Arthur and Newchwang.

And an efficient auxiliary of the army hospital service is the Red Cross society. In every large city in Japan there are schools for training nurses. At Tokio the empress, who is the special patroness of the Red Cross hospital and school, always presides at the annual graduation exercises, and with her own hands distributes the diplomas to the white-capped graduates. The fact that one of the imperial princesses has taken the full course of training, and other of the court ladies have followed her example, has proved a powerful incentive to the young women of Japan to enter these training schools.

Every province in Japan has a branch of the Red Cross and each year a union meeting of all these branches is held at Tokio. Often as many as 10,000 members gather in the great outdoor session in Ueno park. The insignia of the order is seen everywhere at this time, and there seems immediate prospect that this important auxiliary to the hospital and medical service will have plenty to do. Preparations for the war which was believed to be coming have been going on for months, and the local Red Cross societies are in shape to render even more efficient service than in the north China campaign of 1900. Every year has brought some flood, earthquake or other disaster which has called forth the efforts of the society, and the prompt relief which has always been extended is evidence of its preparedness for service at all times. Baron Hashinoko is at the head of the Red Cross in Japan.

It may not be generally known that a prominent physician of Chicago, Dr. Nicholas Senn, helped to organize the Japanese Red Cross society, and is also one of its directors. Dr. Senn has just returned home from Japan, and it is altogether likely that he will be summoned to go back.

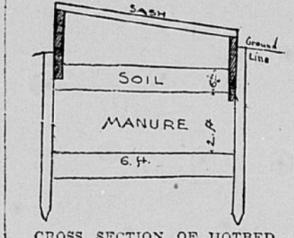
Russia, as well as all the other principal powers of the world, has a Red Cross society, to supplement and strengthen the work of the hospital and medical service of the army, and while it is not as well organized and ready for work as the society of Japan, and those of other countries, still it is

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

TALK ABOUT HOTBEDS. They Enable Gardeners to Raise Earlier Vegetables at But Slightly Higher Cost.

Hotbeds are frames covered with glass and heated by some artificial means, usually by fermenting manure placed under the whole structure. They are used for several purposes, but mainly for the purpose of starting plants for transplanting earlier than they could be started out of doors, and for the forcing, on a small scale, of some of the more common and hardy vegetables, such as radishes. As a result, it is but natural that they should be made and used largely in the late winter and early spring months.

The frames may be made of various materials, but when they are to be used for several years, they should be made of two-inch stuff so fitted together as to be easily taken apart for convenient storage. These frames are commonly made 6 by 12 feet, so as to give room for four sash, each of which is 3 by 6 feet. The south side of the frame is usually made 4 to six inches lower than the north, thus giving drainage from rain water as well as a better exposure to the sun.



CROSS SECTION OF HOTBED.

Frames should be planned so that the glass is as close as possible to the plants, without crowding them—about a foot or a foot and a half above the soil on the average. The sash is so placed upon these frames that the lower end may be raised for ventilation and for whatever work and care may be necessary. They should also be so arranged that they can be completely removed in hot weather.

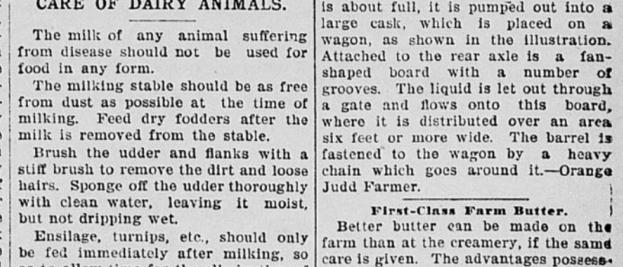
Having prepared the frames and the sash, the next thing is to find a location and to furnish the heat. Preferably hotbeds should be located in some place sheltered from winds and slightly sloping to the south, where they will receive the full benefit of the sun's rays. Convenience is another thing which should not be overlooked, for the beds require considerable care and so should be handy to the house and to the water supply. Having chosen our location we should dig the pit which is to contain the manure for heating. This should be done in the fall before freezing weather. By filling this pit with some manure or rubbish the ground may be kept from freezing, so that it is warmer and more easily worked when ready for use in the spring.

The best manure for heating is fresh horse manure containing about half straw or litter. This should be piled so as to allow heating for about two or three weeks before ready for use. At first the manure ferments unevenly, and so it must be piled several times, taking care to distribute the heating manure evenly throughout the pile. When it has heated evenly throughout it is ready for the hotbed. Care should be taken to have the manure firmly and evenly packed in the pit, and to get it in this condition it is best to put it in layers and allow each to settle somewhat before the next is put in. When the manure is all in, level off the top and place about six inches of rich, light loamy soil, preferably with considerable humus, upon it.

After the manure has been placed in the bed the temperature will rise very rapidly for several days until it reaches a maximum temperature, after which the temperature gradually recedes. When it has fallen to about 80 or 90 degrees it is ready for the seed. The depth of manure depends upon the climate, purpose for which it is to be used, and the length of time heat is required. L. H. Bailey says: "Hot beds which are supposed to hold two months should have about 2 1/2 feet of manure. For a light hotbed, to be used late in the season, 6 or 8 inches may be sufficient."

By bearing in mind these general directions and the cross-section shown here, one may easily construct a hotbed that will make possible earlier and better vegetables at but very slightly increased cost and trouble.—M. L. Merritt, in Prairie Farmer.

LIQUID MANURE TANK.
A Method of Saving and Distributing Liquid Fertilizer That Is Highly Recommended.
A large cistern is used by George L. Clemece, of Worcester county, Mass., to catch and hold the liquid manure from his cow stable. When the cistern



THE BARREL ON THE WAGON.

is about full, it is pumped out into a large cask, which is placed on a wagon, as shown in the illustration. Attached to the rear axle is a fan-shaped board with a number of grooves. The liquid is let out through a gate and flows onto this board, where it is distributed over an area six feet or more wide. The barrel is fastened to the wagon by a heavy chain which goes around it.—Orange Judd Farmer.

First-Class Farm Butter.
Better butter can be made on the farm than at the creamery, if the same care is given. The advantages possessed by the farmer who makes dairy butter are that he can feed his cows on the best foods, use more care, and work with cleaner surroundings. A large proportion of creamery butter is not uniform, as the milk comes from many sources; but dairy-butter is injured in the churning and manipulation of the product by inexperienced persons.—Midland Farmer.

CARE OF DAIRY ANIMALS.

The milk of any animal suffering from disease should not be used for food in any form.
The milking stable should be as free from dust as possible at the time of milking. Feed dry fidders after the milk is removed from the stable.
Brush the udder and flanks with a stiff brush to remove the dirt and loose hairs. Sponge off the udder thoroughly with clean water, leaving it moist, but not dripping wet.
Ensilage, turnips, etc., should only be fed immediately after milking, so as to allow time for the elimination of the volatile products of these feeds from the system of the animal.
Use only clean tin milk pails. Reject all rusty or patched tinware in the milk business. Unless seams and joints are extra well soldered, it will pay to have an extra coating over all the seams, and the joints well flushed.—Farm and Fireside.