WASHINGTON LETTER

GOSSIP OF THE CONGRESS WHICH HAS JUST CLOSED.

NOT RICH IN REPUTATIONS

But Few Men Have Developed in the Estimation of the Public—New Office Building for Senators.

Washington.—The adjournment of congress leaves Washington once more in the deserted and deadly condition which always characterizes the town when abandoned to its own devices. The hotels, which for six months have been packed to the roof, will soon resemble the barn-like inns of a summer resort during the dead days of winter.

Speaker Cannon.

There is no town on the continent which can empty itself more speedily than Washington of the transient visitors who give life to it while congress is here.

The session of congress which has just come to an end has not been rich in the making of reputations. If any one man has grown greatly in the estimation of house and senate it is Speaker Cannon, who, in a single session, has enrolled among the little group of really great speakers who have presided over the deliberations of the house. There are not many of them. Clay, Colfax, Blaine, Carlisle and Reed are the names which occur easily to anybody with a historical bent of mind, and it is a high tribute to Cannon that at the close of an unusually short and uneventful session, there should be many who are disposed to group him with the historic lights.

Both republicans and democrats unite to sing Cannon's praises. He is as highly regarded on the democratic side of the house as among his own party associates. Even the most hopeless partisans are forced to admit that they have no complaint to make against the speaker on account of his conduct in the chair. So free from partisanishp has he been that the house has been treated several times to a spectacle hitherto unprecedented since the creation of the committee on rules. That committee more than once has made reports providing special orders for legislation in which the republicans and democrats on the committee united in unanimous action. If this had happened in the administrations of Reed, or Crisp, or Henderson, it would have been thought that the heavens were about to fall.

The Democratic Leader.

Another man who has gained a reputation in John Sharp Williams, the new democratic leader of the house.

Congressman Williams.

Williams was comparatively unknown outside the house membership before the mantel of leadership fell on his shoulders at the beginning of this congress. He had been a member of the house for several terms and had made some little stir by occasional clever speeches in which he treated the republican majority without gloves. But that he had the qualities of real leadership was hardly suspected except by some of his intimates until the time came when it was necessary to pick out somebody to assume the responsibility laid down by Richardson, of Tennessee.

Williams rose to his opportunity in a way to delight his fellow democrats in the house. He has shown tact and brilliancy has kept his lance poised for any possible vulnerable spots in the republican armor, and at the same time has maintained personal relations with the republican leaders which give him influence on the majority side of the house.

Williams is a rather curious product of democratic generation. He was born in Memphis, Tenn., and his father was a confederate colonel, killed at Shiloh. Then young Williams, with his mother, moved to his mother's old family homestead in Yazoo country, Mississippi. He still maintains himself there during the recesses of congress as a lawyer and a cotton planter. He is one of the most highly educated men in either branch of congress. As he himself expresses it, he "received a fair education" at private schools.

New Offices for Senators.

The senate has made up its mind that it shall not be outdone by the house in the matter of office accommodations for its members. An appropriation has been made for a new building to be erected just across the way from the senate end of the capitol, which is to be used as an office building for senators, and which will cost, when completed, fully $3,000,000. It will be in keeping with the architecture of the capitol, and, with the new house office building, and the congressional library, will complete a group of monumental structures on Capitol hill which will not be exceeded in beauty and dignity by any other group of buildings in the world.

As the People Imagined It.

The two new buildings will transform what has hitherto been regarded as an unsightly section of the city into a spot which will be worth traveling thousands of miles to see. Each of the new structures will occupy an entire square, now filled with old houses and defaced by glaring billboards. Under the new arrangement each senator and representative will be accommodated with a fine suite of rooms, handsomely furnished and supplied with every comfort that any working statesman could desire.

It is not so many years since a great outcry went up over the country because the senators had bought an old hotel, known as the Maltby house, where those who could not be supplied with rooms in the capitol kept their secretaries and their records. Columns were written about the rugs, and sofas, and private baths with which these rooms were furnished, and many people throughout the country imagined that the senate was lavishing the money of the taxpayers in oriental luxury.

But times have changed. The Maltby building is out of date. Those senators who are condemned to occupy rooms there regard it as a hardship, and there are mutterings already about the dilapidated condition of the place. But it is seen now that a senator, or a representative, for that matter, is entitled to at least as much consideration in the choice of his working establishment as a lawyer burdened with half the business. As it is, many representatives are compelled to lease rooms outside the capitol.

With the increase in population of the country, the statesman in Washington finds his work and responsibility thrice or four times as great as in the days of the seventies.

Ire of the Clerks.

Representative Gillett, of Massachusetts, who got all Washington about his ears when he caused an increase of the hours of labor to the government clerks, has made more trouble for himself. He is chairman of the house committee on reform in the civil service committee, which ordinarily has very little to do, and he has devoted himself this winter to making a record for a hitherto innocuous body.

Aroused the Ire of the Clerks.

He has reported a bill by which it is proposed that after the 30th day of June, 1907, every office in the classified service held by a person who is then over 70 years of age shall become vacant, and that after the 30th day of June, 1907, every office in the classified service shall become vacant when the person holding it becomes 70 years old.

As if to add insult to injury, Gillett has also reported it as the opinion of the committee that such retired clerks should not be pensioned.

To show the injustice of it, some of them have prepared a list of members of the house and senate who will be over 70 years of age on June 30, 1907. That list includes the name of Speaker Cannon, whom nobody would accuse of being superannuated. In it, also, are the names of the following United States senators: Morgan and Pettus, of Alabama; Teller, of Colorado; Platt and Hawley, of Connecticut; Cullom, of Illinois; Allison, of Iowa; McEnery, of Louisiana; Hale and Frye, of Maine; Hoar, of Massachusetts; Burrows and Alger, of Michigan; Cockrell, of Missouri; Gibson, of Montana; Millard, of Nebraska; Gallinger, of New Hampshire; Platt and Depew, of New York; Mitchell, of Oregon; Quay, of Pennsylvania; Bate, of Tennessee; Proctor, of Vermont, and Foster, of Washington—24 in all, nearly one-third of the senate.

The Price of Land.

Thomas F. Walsh, the Colorado millionaire, has just bought for $250,000 three lots of land two blocks from the white house, which sold 100 years ago for $700, and which up to the middle of the century were valued at less than $10,000. So great has been the increase in value in real estate in the District of Columbia — an increase which many real estate experts believe is only just begun.

Society After Capitol Lots.

The city of Washington is growing to the northwest with a rapidity which attracts the attention of all observers. Fifteen years ago the business center was on Pennsylvania avenue, between Ninth and Fourteenth streets. At that time F street, two blocks to the north, was chiefly occupied by residences. Ten years ago the center of business had been shifted from the avenue to F street, and almost every residence had been transformed into a shop.

F street is still the center, but within another five years it will have lost its prestige, for places of business are encroaching almost daily on the streets farther north and west. Within ten years the business center will be H street, and Connecticut avenue, from Fourteenth street west to Seventeenth, a neighborhood which until within the last three years was regarded as the swell residence section of the town.

LOUIS A. COOLIDGE.

FOR MADEMOISELLE

DAINTY AND SEASONABLE FASHIONS FOR THE YOUNG MISSES.

PRETTY SUMMER FABRICS.

Out of Them the Bright Girl May Construct Attractive Garments for Her Own Wear—About Hats.

MANY chances of making dainty little garments for herself fall to the lot of the modern girl, now that really pretty materials are obtainable so cheaply, and now also that fashion seems to look so kindly upon the many charming modes which are eminently suitable from the very fact of their simplicity, to the special requirements of mademoiselle. Just now, when the summer season is almost upon us with its wealth of light and dainty materials for charming and inexpensive gowns, seems an appropriate time to say something to the girls along that line.

To the girl who is going away for the summer to the seashore or lake or mountain resort, or the girl who is to spend the months at home, something quite new and very pretty in the way of a dainty dressing jacket should prove specially interesting. It is just such a jacket as this which our artist has illustrated in one of the accompanying sketches, and although the design is an exceptionally pretty one, the jacket might nevertheless be very successfully attempted by a clever home dressmaker, such as many of the girls of the present day have proved themselves to be.

The material suggested for the dressing jacket in question is one of the new patterns in Viyella, with little bunches of flowers in pale shades of pink and green, scattered over an ivory-white background. The jacket is prettily gathered on cords all the way round, the cords going across the back and front, and also along the top of the sleeve. The collar is of fine muslin or lawn, with white embroideries. It is, of course, detachable, as it will probably need to be washed more often than the jacket itself. If embroidered lawn is not forthcoming the collar might be made out of two embroidered handkerchiefs, cut across diagonally, so that they make four points. This collar is finished in front in quite a new way, with large buttons covered with ribbon, and sewn in the center of ribbon rosettes, which are then finished with loops and ends. The sleeves are drawn into a band of embroidered lawn, and finished with kilted lawn frills, and rosettes and loops of ribbon to match the trimming in front.

This delightful little jacket for smart occasions, but for those who prefer something of a simpler kind the same idea might be carried out very successfully in floral Viyella, without any ribbon trimming, and with collar and cuffs of plain cream Viyella, outlined with feather-stitching or narrow cream silk washing braid. The petticoat which has been sketched with this dressing jacket would be very suitable for early summer wear, made in fine white alpaca, a material which is not used as

A DAINTY DRESSING JACKET.

often as it might be, I think, for smart but useful summer petticoats. The three full flounces, at the hem, are sewn on to a deeper flounce, which should be protected underneath by a second thickness of the material simply hemmed. These flounces might have three little tucks to border the hem of each, or, if a still smarter effect is aimed at, each flounce might be adorned with three rows of white satin baby ribbon.

An idea which might appeal to some girls would be to have the petticoat itself of white alpaca, and then arrange the deep flounce and the three small frills in white glace silk, so that the effect is that of a silk skirt, while the cost is considerably less, and the durability considerably greater. This idea might be carried out, of course, equally well in colors, as in white, with the advantage that the colors, unless very pale shades were chosen, would be far more economical than white.

Our other illustration represents one of the latest and prettiest versions of the coat and skirt costume, a simple, but becoming style, which is likely to be worn all the summer through, since there can be no longer any doubt that the neat, semi-fitting, and occasionally even light-fitting Eton coats and boleros will quite take the place of the loose Russian blouses and pouched fronts, which have been popular now for such a long time. This pretty dress should be made in a fine smooth cloth or soft tweed in a pale shade of pastel green, the coat arranged with an applique and strappings of white boxcloth, and further adorned with small dull gold buttons arranged in groups of three.

The coat is cut with the prevailing slope on the shoulder, where the seam is hidden under a strapping of white standing cloth, and at the wrists there are those full ruffles of fine lawn, which are also to be seen on most of the new walking costumes for the late spring and early summer. Deep ruffles of lawn or lace, chiffon or mousseline de soie, are everywhere asserting themselves, and mademoiselle may be glad to know of this fact, so that she may provide herself beforehand with a goodly

THE LATEST COAT AND SKIRT COSTUME.

stock of these dainty dress accessories. These lace ruffles, by the way, are most satisfactory when they are made up on special little bands of their own into which they can be gathered or folded, so that they are complete in themselves. The band can then be tacked quite lightly into the sleeves and the whole thing can be easily removed to be washed or cleaned. Girls who may chance to have nice little pieces of real lace given to them, from time to time, as some lucky girls do, should make a point of collecting and saving them carefully, with a view to the manufacture of these dainty ruffles in the immediate future.

But to return once more to our sketch, whence I have wandered to give this little disquisition on the subject of ruffles, the style of the graceful walking skirt is well worth noticing carefully. The wide flat pleats, which are outlined with tailor-stitching, run downwards from the waist, and give the effect of an overskirt, bordered along the edges by lines of stitching and groups of dull gold buttons. These pleats come only at the sides and back, leaving a plain panel down the center of the front, and the skirt is finished near the hem with double box-pleats to form a flounce. At the waist there is a wide rucking belt of white soft kid, drawn through a large buckle of dull gold.

In the matter of hats, mademoiselle will have a wide choice this summer, and she must indeed be very difficult to suit if she is not able to find something that will be specially becoming to her. The hats with turn-down mushroom brims are not to be despised by any means for country wear, since they give a good shade to the eyes, while to the average girl they are quite surprisingly becoming. For morning wear they are pretty trimmed either with a very wide frayed-out ruche of glace silk or else with choux of soft satin ribbon, arranged round the crown in graduated sizes. For morning wear, also, the straw hats, trimmed only with straw, are very appropriate. Sometimes the straw is arranged in the form of loops and bows, rosettes, or buckles. In other cases the straw is worked up into the close semblance of bunches of small flowers, tiny roses and rose-buds, for example, tinted in various colors to match the straw hats upon which they will be used for trimmings.

ELLEN OSMONDE.

The Important Comma.

A Philadelphia business man thinks he has an exceedingly bright office boy, and nothing pleases him better than to tell how he acquired the youngster's services. A short time ago he posted in his shop window a notice which read as follows: "Boy wanted about 14 years." A lad of that age, with little that was prepossessing in his appearance, came into the office and stated that he had read the notice.

"Well, do you think you would like to have the position, my boy?" asked the merchant, gazing patronizingly over the rims of his spectacles at the unabashed youth.

"Yes," came the prompt response, "I want the job, but I don't know that I can promise to keep it for the full 14 years."

Then the merchant remembered that he had left out a comma on his sign; but he told the boy he might have the position.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Just Before the Battle.

"This bread isn't fit for a dog to eat," growled the husband.

"Very well, my dear," replied his wife, "don't eat it, then."—Chicago Daily News.

THE FARMING WORLD

MODERN FEEDING METHODS

They Cannot Be Put Into Practice Without the Use of an Up-to-Date Self-Feeder.

I have found a self-feeder almost indispensable to the best results in finishing steers. Fig. 1 shows the framework of the one I use. It is boarded horizontally with matched drop siding. Feeder is filled at d. The corn enters feeding trough through slot 1¼ inches wide and 10 or 12 feet long at floor line

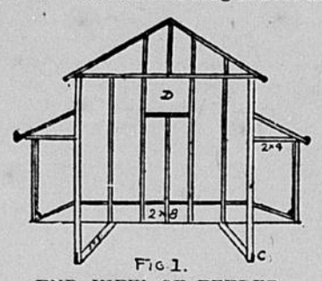


FIG. 1.
END VIEW OF FEEDER.

between studding on sides, which are 2 feet apart. These slots have drop boards to close when necessary (see Fig. 2) as a new lot of cattle must not be put on full feed at once. Trough, which is open entire length building, is built on ends of floor joist, having no other support.

Trough is slanted from building to edge, as shown at b, with beveled strip on angle next outer side to avoid sharp corner and collection of slobbered feed to sour and mold. Sufficient incline is

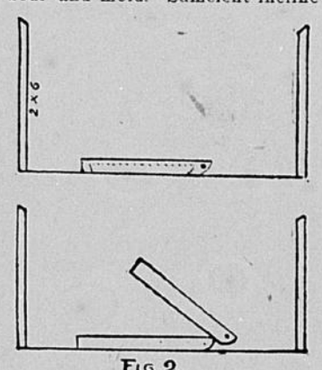


FIG. 2.
THE FEED GATE.

given lengthwise of trough to quickly drain. This feeder may be readily moved by team from place to place, runners shown at c, substantially braced by 2x6-inch pieces to 2x8-inch floor joist Small door may be provided in end for removing any left-over supply at end of feeding season.—J. D. Gayle, in Farm and Home.

NOTES FOR BUTTER MAKERS

To Secure Satisfactory Results Cows Must Be Well Fed and Utensils Kept Clean.

Keep dairy cows in a good pasture; give them plenty of pure water to drink; give them plenty of pea vine and other nutritious hays, and about five pounds of cottonseed meal per day.

Keep the cow and everything used in the dairy clean.

Strain the milk through two thicknesses of cheese cloth as soon as milked. Skim by means of a separator. Put the cream into a refrigerator where the temperature is 45 degrees. When the cream is sufficiently sour, strain through a wire-gauze strainer into a barrel or box churn. Add sufficient butter color to give the butter a nice straw color. Use a dairy thermometer at all times and have the temperature of the cream at about 56 degrees in the summer and 60 degrees in the winter. Do not fill the churn over one-third full. Revolve the churn crank just fast enough to cause the cream to fall from one side of the churn to the other with full force. Stop the churn as soon as the butter particles are about the size of wheat kernels. Draw off the butter milk and wash the butter first in cold brine and then in cold clear water. Remove the butter from the churn, add an ounce of salt for every pound and work until the salt is evenly distributed.—Southern Farm Gazette.

Cost of an Improved Road.

Replying to an inquiry in the Gazette as to the cost per mile of six-inch gravel road surface laid with roller, S. C. Lancaster, of Madison county, Tenn., referring to some road laid in that locality, says: Part of the material used comes from southern Illinois, and part of it has been obtained on the Tennessee river, about 50 miles east of us. A 12-foot road, with gravel laid six inches in the center and four inches on the side, after rolling complete, costs, approximately, $3,000 per mile. This varies somewhat with the nature of the grading and the distance the material is hauled by wagons. This season we are arranging to haul our material from the cars to the roads with traction engines and especially constructed steel cars, and we expect to reduce the cost considerably over team hauling, and hope to be able to build a 12-foot road for approximately $2,800 where the grading does not exceed $500 per mile.

The Chinese are perhaps the most lightly taxed people in the world. In China all the land belongs to the state, and a trifling sum per acre—never altered through long centuries—is paid as rent. This is the only tax in the country, and it amounts to about 2s. 6d. per head yearly.

A MIGHTY STEP FORWARD.

The General Introduction of the Telephone Has Proved of Considerable Profit to Farmers.

The time is not far distant when nearly every farmer will have a telephone in his house, to be used, not only in his business, but for convenience and pleasure as well. About five years ago the wholesale introduction of the 'phone in the agricultural district commenced, and now it is considered an essential part of farm equipment by at least a half-million farmers. It is particularly useful to large farms and cattle ranges and to the truck farmers near the large cities and in the south. The advantages are many, and the cost is slight. The telephone enables the farmer to keep in closer touch with the markets than even the daily papers permit. He is thus able to take advantage of a rising market and send on his produce or stock, or hold off in the face of declining prices. Out in Illinois last year buyers from outside began to clean up the broom corn at $60 a ton, when a telephone manager called up the farmers on his line and told them the market was rising rapidly. The result was that before the season ended they got $240 per ton for their crop. The telephone is of great benefit in time of danger from frost, as it enables the farmer to receive the frost warnings disseminated by the weather bureau from 12 to 36 hours in advance of the threatened freeze. Information of this kind to be of value must be received at the earliest practicable moment, as it takes time to prepare to fight frost, and a few hours' delay may mean the loss of an entire season's profits. The telephone on the American farm has come to stay, and its advent marks a distinct step forward.—Midland Farmer.

VOTED FOR NATIONAL AID.

Senate Committee Will Report in Favor of Uncle Sam Helping Improve the Highways.

The friends of national aid to road improvements have achieved their first general victory in congress. The senate committee on agriculture has decided to report favorably on the Gallinger-Latimer bill, which is a duplicate of the bill introduced in the house by Representative Brownlow. The vote is reported to have stood six to one in favor of the measure. Four democratic senators, Bate, of Tennessee; Money, of Mississippi; Simmons, of North Carolina, and Latimer, of South Carolina, and two republicans, Foster, of Washington, and Quay, of Pennsylvania, voted for a favorable report. The only vote in opposition was that of Senator Proctor, of Vermont.

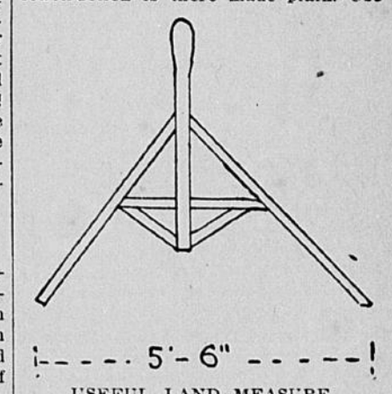
Before voting on the bill the committee adopted several amendments affecting the distribution of the road improvement fund among the states. One, which was insisted upon by Senator Foster, of Washington, provides that $100,000 is to go to each state, and that the balance is to be divided in proportion to population. Another amendment provides that in making the distribution according to population the cities of over 10,000 shall not be counted. This amendment is likely to provoke strong opposition, on the ground of injustice to those states which contain large cities. It will be charged that this provision amounts to very much the same thing as "taxation without representation."

On the whole, however, this report must be considered as a great forward step, and an indication that ultimate success will be achieved in the near future.

ACCURATE LAND MEASURE.

It Is Quite Easy to Make and More Effective Than the "Stepping-Off" Method.

Having much land measuring to do requiring greater accuracy than just "stepping it off," I made the simple affair shown in cut. The manner of construction is there made plain. Use



USEFUL LAND MEASURE.

hard wood pieces; five-eighth or three-fourth by one inch is heavy enough. Have lower points exactly five feet six inches apart. Round head of handle. Grasp top lightly in hand, holding at side, whirl handle to bring rear point to front, moving off in direction to be measured. Continue to revolve measure, changing points in advancing. It takes three lengths to the rod.—Robert Fredericks, in Farm and Home.

Feeding Cows in Summer.

For summer feedng, while a complete system of soiling would be profitable, still with the present scarcity, inefficiency and high price of labor, most of us will pasture our cows in summer. We all ought to prepare for a drought by having on hand plenty of soiling crops to supplement the pasture. For this purpose nothing is as cheap as corn silage, but even with this, a succession of other soiling crops will pay well. Rye, clover, peas and oats, sorghum and corn make a good succession.—Farmers' Review.