

WASHINGTON LETTER

SUMMER DAY GOSSIP OF NATIONAL CAPITAL.

KEEPING BACHELOR'S HALL

How the President Lives When His Family Is Away—Secretary of the Democratic Congressional Committee—Other Items.

Washington—President Roosevelt is back in Washington hard at work. His stay at Oyster Bay has been regarded in the light of a vacation. It has been as much of a vacation as a president of the United States can take. The truth is that the highest officer in the land gets no real vacation. Wherever he may be he has to attend to a certain amount of routine official business. The only way he can entirely separate himself from work is to get out of reach of railroads, telegraphs and telephones. This Mr. Roosevelt did last year on his big western tour when he escaped into the Yellowstone park for a week and got out of communication with his secretary and the rest of the world.

At Oyster Bay the president enjoys many personal privileges that are denied him in Washington. He is permitted to spend more time with his family and can indulge in sports and pastimes of which he is fond to a greater extent than when in the white house. At the same time he devotes a good portion of each day to the transaction of official business. He signs papers and listens to official business just as faithfully as he does in Washington, so that his vacation at his summer home is largely in name only. Now that he is back in Washington he will feel the full pressure of official life. Scores and hundreds of politicians have been waiting for his return to discuss with him the situation and to press requests for appointments and if possible to secure promises to be used in the campaign.

Keeping Bachelor's Quarters.

When the president is in Washington and his family at his Oyster Bay home the white house is turned into a sort of bachelors' hall. A free and easy life is led, no formality being exacted, but everything conspiring to comfort and good fellowship. The corps of servants is limited, some being on their vacation and others at Oyster Bay, but enough are on duty to attend to the president's wants and to the comfort of the guests whom he always has with him. It is during periods of this kind that the president delights in entertaining little "stag" parties. He surrounds himself with his bachelor friends or those who are in temporary widowhood on account of the absence of their wives and families and a jolly party sits down to the table morning, noon and evening.

Any of the president's friends who happen to be in the city are captured and brought into the bachelor circle. The president is famous for discussing matters of state and politics at his table, and it is a common practice for him to invite statesmen and politicians to luncheon or dinner for the express purpose of discussing public issues with them. When he is alone in the white house this custom is followed very generally as a stag party about the table can then devote their attention exclusively to politics or statesmanship, no ladies being present to require attentions and courtesies or to divert the drift of conversation to other subjects.

Among those whom the president delights in having at the white house are Attorney General Moody, a bachelor of the cabinet; Commissioner of Corporations Garfield, familiarly known as "Jimmy;" special council in the post office investigations, Holmes Conrad; Secretary of War Taft and half a dozen other men in official life noted for good fellowship and for their sympathy with the president's policies and purposes.

Quaint Charley Edwards.

The democratic congressional campaign committee has as its secretary a newspaper man of most unique and original character. He is Charlie Edwards, who came to Washington from Texas several years ago, and was at once placed in the same class with that inimitable Texas philosopher Col. William Greene Sterrett, whose fame has spread all over the country between Washington and the Lone Star state. Both these newspaper men are renowned for their originality, quaintness of expression, blunt honesty and the habit of speaking their own minds. Edwards has been a rampant, shout-

ing Hearst man but accepted the result at St. Louis with his usual complacency, although he has sacrificed none of his opinions regarding the issues the party stood for in 1900 and 1896. He was asked the other day whether the proceedings of the St. Louis convention really committed the party to the gold standard. "Well now," said Edwards, "I think I can best illustrate the situation by relating a little story of the experience of a traveling man, a friend of mine.

"This drummer on his return from his first trip on the road turned in an expense account in which was such items as a pair of shoes, \$3.50; one shirt, 99 cents; hat, \$3.00; and a few other things of the same nature.

"Here, what does this mean?" said the head of the house, "we don't mind being liberal in expense allowances, but we are not buying wearing apparel for our agents. You've got to fix up a different expense account."

"The next trip my friend turned in his expenses, which footed up a larger amount than on his first trip, but it was paid without a murmur. 'That's something like an expense account,' said the head of the firm. 'You don't see any overcoats mentioned among the items?' asked my friend. 'No, I do not,' was the answer. 'Well, the overcoat is in there all the same,' responded my friend with a grin.

"That is the way with the St. Louis platform and convention," laughed Edwards, "you may not find the gold standard among the items, but it is in there all the same."

Old White House Servant.

Old Jerry Smith is dying. For a third of a century he has been the man of all work and general factotum about the white house. A few months ago failing health compelled him to leave the old mansion, where he had served so faithfully since President Grant's first administration. One of his duties was the running up of the American flag on the white house every morning. Just before he had to give up work he made a blunder that betrayed his failing faculties. He ran up the flag Union Jack down, the signal of distress. The mistake was quickly discovered and rectified, but Uncle Jerry never got over this blunder. He took it as a sign that he was failing and the time had come to give up work. He was relieved from duty and soon took to his bed, where he now lies slowly passing away with cancer of the stomach. In his modest little home he has not been forgotten, as President Roosevelt, National Chairman Cortelyou and many high officials have called to inquire after the old man and to let him know that he is well remembered.

Expensive Dove Cot.

A flock of Washington pigeons have preempted the gold dome of the library of congress for a mating and nesting place. This is probably the most ornate and expensive dove cot or pigeon roost in the world. A few weeks ago a pair of birds entered one of the ventilators of the rotunda and flying around surveyed the gorgeous fresco work, beautiful statuary and profusion of gold paint, with evident satisfaction for they concluded to locate there permanently. They selected a cornice, in which they placed a nest made of excelsior, which has for its background the gilded dome on which \$40,000 worth of gold leaf was used. The example of this pair of pigeons has been followed until now quite a little flock gathers daily on the gold dome and their crooning can be distinctly heard in the reading room below. The birds fly through the ventilators every day in search of food and are very much at home in the beautiful building. The library authorities do not know how to get rid of them without closing the ventilators, which would not be comfortable in the present summer temperature. The pigeons are of the "tumbler" variety and in flying about the rotunda they sometimes strike the readers at the public desks.

Pigeons in the Library Dome.

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Late Summer Modes for Girls

IT IS with late summer fashions for mademoiselle that we must chiefly concern ourselves just now. In the accompanying illustrations our artist offers some useful solutions of the problem. To consider first the pretty frock which is shown in one of our illustrations, and which might be made either in striped lawn or batiste, or in striped Vieyella, if preferred. The skirt, which, of course, should be made without a lining, is perfectly plain, except for a few rows of tailor stitching at the hem. It is very fully gathered into the waist band, and finished with a deep belt of soft Louisiana silk ribbon, in some suitable shade, el-



ther to contrast or harmonize with the stripe in the material.

The smart little coat is cut in that semifitting square bolero shape which is always so particularly becoming to a youthful figure. It is trimmed on either side in front and also on the sleeves, with large round rosettes of silk ribbon to match the waist belt, but in a narrower width. The full sleeves to the elbow are cool and comfortable, and sufficiently wide to admit of wearing a blouse sleeve underneath, if necessary. The coat sleeves are turned back with gauntlet cuffs of the same material, and finished with double frills of soft cream lawn, finely accordion plaited. Under the coat a little vest of lawn with a yoke of embroidery may be seen, but of course the coat could be worn over a blouse if preferred.

The hat to be worn with this pretty frock is of soft white Manilla straw, with a fairly high crown, and a wide, shady brim. It is quite simply trimmed with a broad scarf of soft silk ribbon to match the waist belt, draped round the crown, caught up into a big chou at the side of the crown, and then finished with ends which droop over the hair at the back. This sketch might be carried out very successfully also in any of those delightful Harris linens, which can be obtained this year in so many lovely colors, and which always wash and wear so wonderfully well. For those who prefer something even more simple than I have already suggested, the same idea might be expressed in holland, in crash or in drill, with round medallion motifs of embroidered lawn, or washing braid, in place of the ribbon rosettes, and a waist band made in the same material as the frock itself.

In our other illustration may be seen a most attractive trio of hats, which should serve thoroughly to equip Mademoiselle with becoming head-gear for all late summer occasions. The large hat on the left side of the picture would be suitable for a girl about 14 or 15 years of age, and is intended naturally only for Sunday best. It is made in fine white chip, in quite newest shape, with a very high crown, and a wide, shady brim, just lightly wired underneath at

the extreme edge, so that it can be bent about in any shape to suit the face of the wearer. Draped round the crown, and tied in a smart windmill bow on one side, there is a wide scarf of soft satin ribbon which should be arranged, so far as color goes, in some shade to match the frock with which the hat will be worn. White ribbon would perhaps be safest, as the hat would then look well with any frock. A long white ostrich feather, drooping over on one side of the crown, gives a finishing touch to this pretty hat.

The hat sketched at the top right-hand corner of the picture is intended for a younger girl, say, about 11 or 12 years of age. It should be made with a crown of plain white muslin and a wide brim, formed of a very full frill of embroidered muslin. Or it might be arranged with a crown of ecru esprit net, and a gathered frill of lace, in the same shade of ecru. A band of ribbon, about an inch and a half wide, is folded round the crown, and tied with long loops that fall over the hair at the back. The pretty hat shown in our remaining illustration is intended for rather an older girl, and might be worn at the seaside or on the river, or for any of those garden parties to which the young girls of the family are sometimes invited, before they are actually out. This hat is made in a fine sun-burnt straw of a soft and pliable kind, with a wide brim bound at the edge with a very narrow border of black velvet ribbon. The crown is almost hidden under a giant rose which is made of very soft pale pink satin ribbon, folded and wired into the shape of the flower. The pale green leaves, which form quite a mass of foliage, surrounding the rose, are made also of satin ribbon in the same way.

It is almost impossible, speaking generally, to improve upon the time-honored arrangement of coat, skirt and washing blouse, for mademoiselle's summer outfits. In light-in-weight serges, either navy, electric blue, or white, nothing can be neater or better for a young girl than a reefer coat and a short walking skirt, fairly full, but made without any heavy plaits or tucks to add to its weight and to inconvenience the wearer, should she feel inclined to undertake walking or even climbing expeditions.

As far as the blouses are concerned to be worn with these coats and skirts, there is simply an endless variety this season from which to choose. Prettiest of all perhaps among those which are specially suitable for girls are the blouses in white, Irish linen, worked with hand embroideries in dainty floral designs carried out entirely in soft white thread. These blouses can be bought quite cheaply, unmade, and with pieces of the embroidery for the collar and cuffs, as well as for the fronts of the blouse. Once bought, they will prove an excellent investment, as they will wash and wear literally for years. Dainty blouses can be made too in floral muslins and in mercerized silks, as well



as delaines, and in those pretty Tussore silks, with colored embroidered silk spots, which are enjoying so much favor at the moment.

For the trimming of these blouses various insertion laces are being sold, some of the patterns in Valenciennes, in Torchon and in Cluny being particularly effective. There are also certain laces in a mixture of white with a color, which look very well when they are used to trim those pretty Irish linens, which are made to imitate the appearance of tweeds, and arranged in various pale shades of color, lightly flecked with white.

ELEN OSMONDE.

The Modish Wraps of Paris

PARIS.—A French journalist has recently been holding forth upon the interrelation of fashion and feminine pose. That the changing modes are a product of woman's restless vanity is a proposition brooking no denial, though the masculine love of money getting, strong in the manufacturer who supplies the materials for woman's attire, is no inconsiderable factor in the changes. But it seems, says the critic that the modes react upon the nature that called them into being, and that women are prone to live up to their clothes, to adopt mental and moral attitudes harmonizing with the frocks and hats and furbelows of the day.

And, by logical process of reasoning, we find a monumental burst of feminine coquetry and frivolity bearing down upon us. The modish costume of the season is the eminently coquettish costume. Now is the day of flirting trills and fluttering ribbons, of saucily tilted hats in daring shapes, of demure fichus and tuckers, of brave waistcoats and audacious Directoire or Louis XV. coats, of rose wreaths and flower filled baskets and ribbon festoons, and now is the day of the scarf and the little wrap.

Not one woman in a hundred handles a scarf skillfully. When one does, she works wonders with the filmy things. All last season Parisiennes were having scarfs of lace, chiffon, tulle, crepe, etc.,

made for wear with their elaborate afternoon and evening gowns, and the fancy gowns prestige instead of losing it.

The floating scarf effects in millinery have already been referred to. The long streamers of gauze or tulle are drawn over the left shoulder and cleverly manipulated, but the shoulder scarfs are more pretentious and beautiful. Possibly the loveliest are the wide straight lengths of silk mousseline gauze or chiffon, exquisitely hand-painted in shadowy designs of blossom and inset with cobwebby lace, while lace with scalloped or irregular edge is applied or inset as a flat border.

Crepe de chine and the very soft light silks and satins, which drape as gracefully as chiffon, are also treated in this way; and, in some cases, delicate hand embroidery takes the place of the brush work and weaves in and out among the laces.

All lace scarfs are greatly liked, provided always that the lace is of beautiful quality. The old-time favorite Spanish lace makes perhaps the least expensive of the really good lace scarfs, and while a trifle heavy is effective. Its effectiveness is enhanced wonderfully by touching its design lightly with water color shadings, and any woman clever with her brush can treat a creamy Spanish lace scarf in this manner with most artistic results.

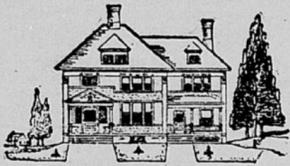
ANNETTE GIRVY.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

A CONVENIENT FARMHOUSE.

Arranged and Divided So That It Will Satisfy the Most Exacting Housewife.

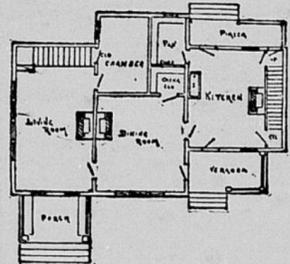
The elevation and floor plans convey the general features of the design so fully that little need be said by way of explanation. The hired man has a good-sized bedroom directly over the kitchen and so isolated with a night door at the foot of the stairs on the piazza, that he can retire early or late without disturbing the household. This arrangement should satisfy the most exacting housewife, as it keeps the help out of the kitchen, and no door need be left open at



CONVENIENT FARM HOUSE.

night or until morning for the hired man. The living room on the first floor has an open fire place for wood fire during the cold months. A room with a fireplace will change its air three times an hour. The dining room adjoining the living room also contains a fireplace and it should be used for ventilation alone.

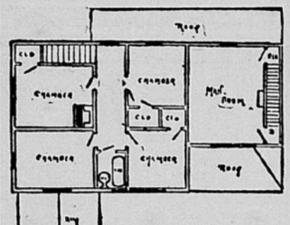
The kitchen is connected with the cellar by inside stairs, and also has stairs from the entry to man's room. Adjoin-



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.

ing the living room is a commodious bedroom which would be convenient for old people or during sickness. This floor also contains a large pantry and china closet.

The second story contains four bedrooms, three with closets, and bath room. The first story is nine feet in the clear, the second eight feet. The walls outside are sheathed and papered and finished with pine siding and shingles, as is also the roof. The studding, joists and rafters are spaced 16 inches from center and all joists are well bridged. All window sashes are 1 1/2 inches thick, glazed as



PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR.

shown, and hung to balance weights with good cord.

The porch and veranda floors are narrow tongued and grooved pine, carefully nailed and closely laid. The closets and pantry are all properly shelved and hooked. The interior finish is of good grade cypress wood, oiled and varnished. The cellar, which extends under the whole house, is six feet six inches in the clear, and laid up with field stone and cement. The exterior wood work has three coats of white lead and linseed oil in combination colors, with moss green roof and dark brown chimneys. This farm house can be built as described in almost any section of the country for \$3,000.—John F. Lape, in Ohio Farmer.

HAS MUCH RESPONSIBILITY

The Man Who Milks Cows Can Be Either a Protector or an Enemy of His Fellows.

When a man is milking he should bear in mind that he is handling a food product which will undoubtedly be placed on the tables of many people in essentially the same condition that it is obtained from him, says Prof. E. H. Farrington. He should be just as particular and as careful when milking to supply his customers or for a factory as he is when filling the glass pitcher which his wife or child brings him when milking and asks to have it filled for his own supper table.

Milk and its products are, as a rule, used raw with all the impurities that may have got into them on the way from the cow to the table and the consumer does not like to be reminded of these possibilities of contamination by the appearance of the milk when he gets it. Milk is sometimes a source of positive danger to a community, as it has been demonstrated that diseases may be spread by this food product from one farm to many households. When such contagious diseases as typhoid fever, diphtheria and scarlet fever occur in a family selling milk, the fact should at once be made known to the proper authorities.

DAIRY FARM MANAGEMENT

Some Things That Are Absolutely Necessary to Make the Business a Success.

There are several things essential to success in dairying: First, good cows; second, good utensils; third, good milkers and careful handling of the cows with a balanced ration. As to cows, from my limited experience in dairying, I consider a cross between a Holstein and a Shorthorn a very good cow if she is raised right.

By good utensils I mean a good separator. Now, I am not advocating any particular separator, but think that the kind that separates is the one for me. I do not like those that are called "separators," but are only cream raisers, because the milk is comparatively worthless when mixed with water, as it has to be in some of these so-called separators.

Ice should always be provided in proportion to the number of cows one intends to milk. I had a house 10x12x10 and found it large enough to supply a big refrigerator and give us all the ice we wanted in caring for the milk from 16 cows.

Above everything else, be always clean in your milking, and have everything clean and sweet that in any way comes in contact with milk or cream or butter.

Cows should be carefully handled always. A cow that is giving milk should never be made to run or be in any way worried. The better care a cow has, all things considered, the more profitable she will be. Have a good barn for both winter and summer. The barn that is good for winter is all right to milk in in summer.

Now as to feed. A good pasture in summer, with a little dry feed, gives a balanced ration near enough for good results. I use now corn and oats, together with shorts and bran, for the grain part, and clover hay for the balance. I know this is good, for I have tried it and made butter for market and sold it cream to creameries. The amount depends largely upon the cow, and upon the manner in which she assimilates her feed.—J. C. Murdock, in Prairie Farmer.

SYSTEM IN COOLING MILK

Upon the Proper Performance of This Task Depends the Success of the Butter Makers.

If the shallow, or open system, as it is called, is used, strain the milk as soon as it is drawn, first through a wire strainer and then through a thin cloth or muslin. The amount of sediment that adheres to the cloth will be a surprise, unless the milkers have been unusually careful. Milk should not be covered for at least half an hour in summer and ten minutes in winter, thus allowing all animal matter to escape. If the habit has been to cover the vessels immediately after the milk is strained, where wooden covers are used, unless they are cleaned daily, they become dark and discolored by absorption of vapors, and an unpleasant smell or odor is imparted to the milk and cream.

The temperature at which milk is kept should be as uniform as possible. A stone dairy house is better than any other. Milk should be kept at as low a temperature as is possible during warm weather. If ice cannot be had, then the vessels should be immersed to at least half their depth, in cold water, which should be changed twice a day, or oftener if the weather is excessively hot.

A long wooden box or trench of stone or cement is best adapted for this purpose, where one does not possess a creamer. The water is drawn off through an orifice at one end of the box. If the water can be led into it by a pipe from a spring, and a constant current kept up, an ideal creamer will be the result. Trenches should be cleaned occasionally with washing soda or lye, and afterward scalded. Milk should be skimmed when the first sign of acidity is detected, and not left until thick or clabbered.—Orange Judd Farmer.

BUTTER BOX FOR SUMMER

How One Dairyman Manages to Carry His Wares to Town in Excellent Condition.

A refrigerator that I take butter in to town nine miles away in hot weather is made thus: Get two clean, tight boxes of some odorless wood, one 12x15x13 inches deep, and the other 9x12x10 inches deep. Slip the one inside the other with a notched block, b, in each corner, to hold inside box in place. Fasten the covers, c, together, so as to leave an air space of about one inch between them all around. This size box will hold 26 pounds butter nicely. It will carry butter solid in wagon all day in 90 degrees weather.—Farm and Home.

Advantages of Irrigation.

The irrigated area is growing larger rapidly. This is so particularly in the arid regions. In time the enlargement will become general. Irrigation is necessary where there is little or no rainfall, but that does not argue that it should not be provided for even in sections in which the rainfall is fairly reliable. It costs less to provide irrigation where rains are abundant because smaller supplies of water need to be stored. When water is needed, even within the rain belt, it must be provided or the crops are lost. There is a drought now and then in the best watered sections of the country. In time, in these places, there will be no such calamity as a failure of crops.