WASHINGTON LETTER

NEW AND OLD POLITICAL CAMPAIGN METHODS COMPARED.

GROWTH OF PRESS BUREAU

Days of Spellbinder Not Yet Passed—Magnificent Driveway Proposed to Mount Vernon—Question of Drinking Water.

Washington.—One thing seems to have been developed in this year's campaign, and that is a change in electioneering methods. This change has been gradual during the past dozen years, but in this national campaign is more marked than ever before. The old brass band, torchlight processions, and barbecue style of campaign is not followed, as it formerly was, but the excitement and hurrah of such demonstrations are reserved for the last few weeks or days before the election. Twenty or 30 years ago, and even before the war, there were months of campaign excitement, and political gatherings were held throughout the country, where issues were fought over, presented and refuted, and the voters talked to for the purpose of conversion.

To Excite Public Interest.

So far this year it has been demonstrated that the voters of the country take little interest in the public addresses, and in the old-style "joint debates," by means of which political doctrines were formerly disseminated. It has been demonstrated that these only attended public meetings who are interested in sending noted men, and hearing the oratory of noted speakers. They do not attend to hear arguments, and care little for what is presented on either side. They go to public meetings to be entertained and diverted. This change has been fully grasped by the political managers of the two great parties, and they are directing their efforts to educate the people by other means. They have not abandoned altogether the public gatherings, the barbecues, marching clubs and torch-light processions, but provide for them more as a means of exciting public interest than making political converts.

Chairman Babcock, of the republican congressional campaign committee, declares that the most effective work is now done on election day, not illegally, in the way of bribery or any fraudulent work, but by persistent personal efforts in getting out individual voters.

The Political Press Bureau.

Political managers of the republican and democratic headquarters believe that the highwater mark in campaign expenditures has been passed. Neither party expects to spend so much this year as in former national campaigns. This is due largely to the change in the public mind regarding politics. It is not necessary to spend so much money in the spectacular as formerly, and while a corps of spell-binders will traverse the country from one end to the other, there will not be so much dependence placed upon their efforts.

The New Political Educator.

The national managers have learned that the establishment of rural free delivery and the extension of suburban trolley systems have been the greatest aids in the dissemination of general knowledge in the past ten years. They have aided in the political education of the country by giving the rural population daily mails, and of this the national committees have taken due advantage. They send out daily brief pamphlets on political topics, which the farmer and workmen can read in a few minutes. They have a corps of newspaper writers at headquarters, who furnish to the smaller daily newspapers editorial matter and news letters of a political character, so that the claims of each party are constantly before the eyes of the public. The public is a closer reader than ever before, and for this reason has about made up its mind on political questions before the campaign orators swing around the circle with their speeches.

Spellbinder Still with Us.

It is too much to say that the day of spellbinders has passed, especially when the array of oratorical talent, most of which is produced from official circles in Washington, is considered. Congress furnishes the largest corps from which these public speakers are drawn. The cabinet circle contributes a number, and other branches of the government furnish some eloquent speaking. The democrats draw from congress, as well as do the republicans, and rely to a great extent upon ex-office holders for their debaters. Wherever these men go, whose names are household words on account of their prominence in public life, there is sure to be an interested audience to listen to them. Speaker Cannon, of the house, draws immense throngs, as does Bourke Cockran, easily the first orator on the democratic side of the house. Senator Fairbanks, vice presidential candidate on the republican ticket, and ex-Senator Davis, the vice presidential candidate on the democratic ticket, are always sure of a hearing.

The Spellbinder Plys His Trade.

When it comes down to a heart-to-heart talk with the horny-handed sons of the soil, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson takes the prize. His value as a campaigner is so well established that he was one of the very first to receive assignment for work in the field. The old gentleman is a Scotchman by birth, and he has never lost the burr from his tongue. He speaks with a broad accent, and is possessed of plenty of quaint Scotch humor, that is keenly appreciated by the people. He draws his illustrations from nature, and when he gets right down to an earnest talk with his audience he comes nearer making votes than any other speaker on the political platform. He is a good mixer, and when he goes around among his audience after the speaking is over, shakes hands with the farmers, and asks about their crops, at the same time giving some shrewd suggestions regarding the same, he just about captures the rural crowd.

National Avenue to Mount Vernon.

In the recent agitation for improving and beautifying Washington and surrounding historic territory, the attention of many patriotic organizations has been called to a scheme for the construction of a national avenue connecting the Arlington cemetery with Mount Vernon, the home of the immortal Washington. This idea was first suggested by Gen. Corbin two or three years ago, and has been discussed to some extent since. It is just 13 miles from the boundary lines of Arlington national cemetery to the old Mount Vernon mansion. The way lies along an elevated ridge, bordering the Potomac, from which a beautiful view of that noble river and surrounding country can be had. The idea as it has been discussed is for the states now representing the 13 original colonies each to take in charge one mile of this avenue, build the road, and suitably beautify it.

Proposed Road to Mt. Vernon.

Such a project, if carried to completion, would mean a perfect and handsome driveway from Washington City to Mount Vernon, and it is believed would become exceedingly popular in addition to its historic significance. There is now a splendid road from the limits of the city to Arlington cemetery, the ancient home of the Custises and the Lees. Adjoining Arlington is the military reservation of Fort Myer, now one of the best-appointed military posts in the country. If the avenue of the 13 original states were built, it is suggested tht memorial arches and other means of perpetuating the history of the first confederation could be built, and the driveway be lined with shade trees representative of the various latitudes, as nearly every form of tree will flourish in these parts.

The Question of Drinking Water.

The city of Washington has been greatly stirred this summer on the question of wholesome, healthful drinking water. Epidemics of typhoid fever in various parts of the country have called the attention of the people to methods of purifying water supplies. In the agricultural department are noted scientists, whose business it is to study means of conserving the public health. These learned gentlemen have experimented a great deal, and are satisfied that they have discovered a safe and cheap method in the use of copper sulphate. They do not want to force their remedy upon the people, but they have been hinting very strongly that the District of Columbia offers a field for a trial of their discovery. They want to put this copper sulphate in the city reservoirs, and they also recommend that for simple drinking purposes water be placed in copper vessels and allowed to stand a few hours.

How Washington Is Threatened.

The district authorities, however, do not take kindly to the suggestions of the government experts. They declined to allow the copper sulphate experiment to be "tried on the dog." They have ignored the recommendation regarding the use of copper vessels, and when the public schools opened a few days ago they insisted that the children be irrigated with boiled water. This, they claim, is the only practical method so far found of exterminating germs. They have supplied the schoolhouses with old-fashioned tin wash boilers, in which the water to be used by the children is boiled. Now come the government experts with a cry of horror that water boiled in these tin vessels, containing a large percentage of lead, is poisonous, and so the controversy goes on.

Fashions for Mademoiselle

WITH the gaieties of the early winter season in view, any new and pretty suggestions for evening blouses are naturally most welcome to Mademoiselle, as she probably knows by experience that one or two of these dainty blouses will be simply invaluable to her between now and Christmas. Last year's skirts in soft white silk, perhaps, or even in voile or alpaca, where economy is an object, can easily be pressed into the service, and will not need much in the way of renovation beyond perhaps a visit to the cleaners. With a choice of one or two dainty waist belts, and those charming blouses which our artist has specially designed and which may be seen in the accompanying illustration, Mademoiselle should be well equipped for concerts or theater-going, as well as for quiet evenings at home.

TWO DAINTY WAISTS.

Of the two blouses shown in our sketch, the one on the left is the more suitable for smart occasions, since in addition to its elbow sleeves, it is cut a little low in the neck in that pretty, round shape which is always so becoming to a young girl's figure. This blouse should be made either in white or in cream soft satin, according to whether it will be worn with a white or a cream-colored skirt. The satin is cut as if for a low bodice, and then arranged with gathers and box pleats upon a lining of soft batiste, covered with Valenciennes lace and insertion.

From under the lace, round the upper part of the bodice, the lining is cut away, so that the lace is left transparent, but if the wearer should be at all susceptible to cold this need not be done, as the bodice is quite sufficiently smart if the lining reaches all the way up. A pretty arrangement consisting of small straps of stitched satin, fastened with tiny gold buttons should be noted, as it helps to hold the box pleats in place. The elbow sleeves are box pleated in the same way as the bodice itself and finished very prettily with frills of Valenciennes lace. The deep waist belt should be of Louisine silk ribbon, and can be either white or colored as preferred.

The second blouse, of which we give an illustration, is a most successful example of a young girl's evening bodice, which is quite high to the throat, but which is nevertheless smart enough for almost any occasion. The blouse in question is made in soft white muslin, embroidered in white, with little sprigs of flowers. The muslin is so arranged that the embroidered edge (which is worked in the same way as the fashionable broderie anglaise), comes down the front on either side of the center, so that it borders a little inner vest of mirror velvet. This can be arranged in any color that happens to suit the wearer, but I would suggest a deep orange for a dark girl, and rather a bright, real turquoise blue for a fair girl, as being shades that are sure to be becoming, and also to look well at night.

The little space left open at the neck, above the vest of mirror velvet, is filled in by a transparent chemisette of finely-tucked white silk muslin. This blouse is arranged in quite a new way, with a number of flat pleats on the shoulders, the sleeves being draped round the arm, and reaching only to the elbows, where they are finished with kilted frills of plain white silk muslin to match the chemisette. A pretty waist belt of soft white satin completes this blouse, drawn down to a long point in front and fastened on one side with small rosettes, made to imitate the leaves of flowers, and wired invisibly to keep each separate piece in shape.

An embroidered silk frock for a small girl about nine or ten years of age may be seen in our other illustration. In white silk, with the rounds of embroidery worked in pale shades of blue or pink, this would make a nice little party dress, or even a rather uncommon kind of frock for a small bridesmaid. The same idea might also be expressed very successfully in soft cashmere, for a winter best dress, with the rounds of trimming carried out in silk braid, and matching exactly the color of the cashmere. In this latter case, the lace yoke might be replaced by a tucked or gathered chemisette of soft silk, arranged in the same shade of color as the waist belt, which might either contrast with the cashmere, or match it, as preferred.

Among the prettiest of the new hats for girls, suitable for every day wear, there are some particularly pretty French sailor shapes, made in rough hairy felt with white crowns and brims in various colors, trimmed quite simply with knots and folds of velvet, and one or two quills. Very suitable also for the same purpose are the hats in smooth felt, with the brims turned up all the way round, and the crowns draped with folds of silk or velvet, which are drawn up into two big choux, one on each side of the front. The three-cornered Marquise hats in felt will also be very much worn by girls this winter.

AN EMBROIDERED SILK FROCK.

ELLEN OSMONDE.

Prevailing Fashions in Furs

PARIS.—What strikes one about the fashions of the coming winter is the extraordinary amount of trimming used; one also notes the prevalence of three-quarter and Directoire coats, and the astute mixing of totally different furs with excellent results.

Those who invest in really good furs of three-quarter length get value for their money, and do not pay more for style than for the skin, as is the case sometimes when but little fur is used in a model. The warmth and comfort of three-quarter coats will be appreciated in the days to come. The amount of fulness in these basques and the trimming of the same, show the vogue of the later Empire. Many trimmings, apart from furs, are used, such as silk, embroideries, encrustations of velvet, beautiful laces and all kinds of buttons and clasps.

A BOLERO IN SEALSKIN AND CHINCHILLA, WITH MUFF TO MATCH.

The sleeve of the Directoire coat fits rather voluminous cuffs, turned back or falling over the hands; these cuffs are generally of contrasting fur or embroidery of some bright color. The much-trimmed fur coat is a notable feature of the early autumn fashions.

And now to tell you of the favorite skins. Chinchilla almost threatens to outrival Russian sable, so popular has it become; but we may put these two furs first on the list. Caracul in black, white and gray will struggle for popularity, all black and all white being the most popular. Moleskin is somewhat at a discount, though it is still used for beautiful coats, lined or trimmed with ermine. The latter fur will be almost as much used as chinchilla as a trimming for glorious opera wraps, and mink, too, will be used for the same purpose, as well as for day wear.

Among the lesser furs, musquash is being dressed in a new way to resemble sealskin, and Russian fox is wonderfully imitated. Bear, too, I hear, will be used in various forms, and pony skin, for motor coats, has been brought to perfection by means of dyeing and dressing. We now have it in lovely soft tones of brown and gray, and it is cosy to the touch—very different from the ugly whitey-brown color and harsh texture of the motor coats of two or three winters ago. In fact, so beautiful has pony skin become that it may be made into delightful three-quarter coats and worn with plain cloth skirts of the same shade.

There will be the usual rage for white fox, which is so extraordinarily becoming to some people. Sealskin, mixed with ermine, will have a certain share of popularity.

Fur edgings will be a great deal used—ermine, chinchilla and sable edgings on velvet gowns and coats and mink, astrachan and caracul on cloth and practical frocks. Many Americans are favoring these edgings and boleros of gray Persian lamb.

ANNETTE GIRVY

AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

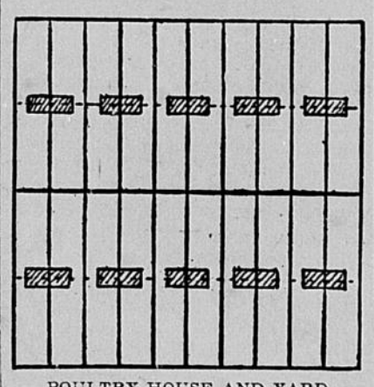
ADVICE FOR A BEGINNER.

Everything in the Poultry Business Depends on Getting a Successful Start.

"I am starting a poultry business here and I have sufficient ground to raise all my feed (excepting fresh meat), and wish some suggestions as to what is best to raise. I have corn, oats, Kaffir corn, sweet corn and sorghum planted; I have 2½ acres of tillable land. Also, how many hens per rooster for breeding purposes give best results? Also, how much fresh meat per 100 fowls, and how often should it be fed? How shall I divide my running yards? Also, would it be advisable to place house and running yards in an old orchard?"

To the above inquirer Mr. L. E. Keyser replies in the Ohio Farmer as follows:

You have a sufficient variety of foods when the grains are supplemented with meat and green food. Wheat and buckwheat are superior to sweet corn and sorghum, if as easily grown. Cabbage, mangel-wurzels, etc., should be grown for green food in winter. I prefers mangels, as they are less difficult to handle and store. A ration composed of a mixture of the grains named, with green food and meat, should be divided about as follows: Whole and ground grain, 55 per cent.; green food, 30 per cent.; animal food, 15 per cent. It is best to feed meat every day, giving about four and one-half pounds to each 100 fowls. If you can secure fresh bones from the butcher and have a bone cutter, this is probably the best meat supply. If bones are difficult to secure, feed a good grade of beef scraps.


POULTRY HOUSE AND YARD.

The number of females to one male varies with the different breeds. For the lighter and more active breeds, such as Leghorns, 20; Plymouth Rocks, 15 to 20; Brahmas, 10 or 12 are safe numbers.

In locating a poultry plant it is a great advantage to have the houses all face the south or southeast. House room 12x14 is sufficient for 25 fowls, and the yards 24x100 feet are also about right for this number. Your plan is good if the houses all face the south. The runs may extend from the north side if desired. An old orchard is an ideal place for locating a poultry plant, and is especially valuable as a run for growing stock. Another excellent plan is to have houses in the middle of the runs, making them 50 feet deep on each side of house.

The accompanying plan is a good one. Houses are 10x32 feet, divided into two pens each 10x16, holding 25 fowls each. Yards, 22x50; two to each pen; one in front and one in rear of house. The hens can be allowed to occupy both yards, or may be confined to one yard while a forage crop is growing in the other. Portable fence may be moved from one side to the other, thus saving half the cost of fence and leaving the ground on one side of the houses clear for cultivation. The houses all face the south. This plan may be extended to accommodate any number of fowls.

HELPFUL POULTRY HINTS.

Disinfectants are better than disease.

A boiled egg which is done will dry quickly on the shell when taken from the kettle.

Wooden floors close to the ground attract the damp from the earth, and are always moist.

The dust heap aids materially to cleanse the feathers and skin from vermin and inpurities.

The eggs from hens by themselves will keep good three times as long as those that are fertile.

Sell off the surplus cockerels and do not retain the late-hatched pullets, as they will not lay until spring.

In feeding fowls at any time, whether in confinement or not, give only so much as they will eat up clean.—American Tribune.

More Yard Room for Hens.

Where fowls are kept yarded they do not often have the amount of yard room that should be given them. On our farms restrictions of this kind are not necessary, as land is worth too small a price to make it necessary to lessen the amount the fowls should have. The small amount allotted to the poultry is often due to the cost of fencing. But the larger the yard the less the cost of fencing. If no top rail is used, four feet will be found high enough for a wire fence, if the yard is of good size. The smaller the yard the higher will the fence have to be, as the smaller the yard the more strenuously will the fowls try to get out of it.—Farmers' Review.

TIME FOR WEANING COLTS.

How to Bring the Foals Through a Serious Period of Existence with Perfect Success.

The season for weaning foals is at hand and it is time to make preparation therefor, if such preparation has not already been made. The colt should be taught to eat grain and be fed regularly so that it will learn to depend upon the feed rather than upon its mother's milk. Under such conditions there will be much less fuss on the part of both mare and colt when the latter is finally removed, and the change will have less effect upon the growth and condition of the colt, as it is extended over a long period and effected gradually, says the Prairie Farmer.

It will be well, too, to have the colt halter-broken before it is taken away from its mother. At no time can it be more readily taught to stand tied or to lead than when by the side of the dam. Even if the colt is to run loose in a shed or box during the winters until it is old enough to work, the halter-breaking at this time should not be neglected. The colt will never forget it and when ready to go into harness will be much more tractable because of the early lessons.

Again, it is often necessary to handle the colts during their growing period for the purpose of trimming the feet or dressing wounds that have been accidentally inflicted and in such cases it is a very great advantage to have them well halter-broken.

The colt should be liberally fed on nourishing, growing food during its first winter, as its development the first year determines largely the kind of a horse it will make. After the first year it will get along very well on coarser and cheaper feed than some other kinds of stock, but it should have of the best during the first year.

While it should have a liberal grain ration the colt should not be fed too much corn. Muscle and bone making feeds such as oats and bran are better suited to its needs. A mixture of corn, oats and bran make an excellent grain ration for the colt. With good clover or alfalfa hay for roughage, the bran may be dispensed with, and a larger proportion of corn used with satisfactory results.

HORSES THRIVE ON SILAGE

But, Says an Indiana Man, It Must Be Fed Judiciously and with Some Care.

When silage was first introduced many cases of sickness in horses were reported, and it was then thought silage was not suited for horses; under proper care, however, good silage is a safe and valuable food for horses. When beginning to feed silage, allow the animal to become accustomed to the food by degrees, as this is as important as when changing from old to new corn or from hay to grass. At the first feed give a small amount, and increase gradually as the animal's appetite and condition of bowels may indicate. Silage makes a good roughage for horses when used in connection with hay or stover and grain. Silage is also a good feed for hogs and has been found to be economical to use in conjunction with corn as a maintenance ration, but not so if used alone. All good silage contains a large amount of corn and if a large ration of corn is given besides, it often proves dangerous and gives bowel trouble. Hogs fed from 28 to 35 popnds of silage and 14 to 21 pounds of corn on the cob per week can be kept in good condition through the severe winter. By using silage the feeder saves one-third in the cost of feed. Silage is considered a cheap maintenance ration for carrying brood sows over winter, and not for fattening.—Agricultural Epitomist.

CONVENIENT HOG TROUGH.

Arrangement That Is Handy Because It Can Be Cleaned Without the Pigs Interfering.

Make a common V shaped trough of heavy solid lumber. Make a swing gate of 2x4 timber and one inch boards. Take 2 1-4 inch boards 12 inches wide by 4 feet long and bore 2 inch holes in 3 inches from ends. Hang the gate by nailing boards to each end of trough. Attach a latch so that the gate can be held on either side of trough. Place the trough in hog lot fence. When you go to feed, push the gate from you and latch it. Clean out the trough and put in the feed. Now pull the gate to you so hogs can eat. This arrangement is handy, for the trough can be cleaned or feed mixed without hogs interfering.—C. B. Robinson.

Windmill Made at Home.

It may be built by setting an upright post, supporting an upright shaft, having a hub on top, carrying three horizontal arms, to each of which are hinged light rectangular frames, covered with heavy muslin or light canvas, regulated to swing in one direction only, from horizontal to perpendicular. The sails are carried with wind at right angles to it, and return edgewise against the wind. The post may lean two feet at the top, so as to shorten the connection of the upper box with it. The lower bearing may be in a post set even with the ground, under the upper bearing. The pulley, four feet in diameter, secured near the bottom of the shaft, may have a smooth, true groove for rope band burned into its circumference by a crowbar, its one end resting in a hole in a post, the other in hand, while the middle, in contact with the wheel, is red hot.—Albert Daily, in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.