

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Low Slums Near the Nation's Capitol



WASHINGTON.—Washington is not one grand succession of marble structures and beautiful parks. There are slums under the shadow of the capitol that compare in squalor with the East side in New York. The capital slums have the advantage over those in New York in being less extensive and in being composed of small houses instead of lofty tenements.

The Washington refuge of the very poor is sufficiently bad to have attracted the attention of sociologists and philanthropists and to have caused President Taft to demand their improvement in a message to congress.

This district is within ten minutes' walk of the United States capitol and has for one of its boundaries the botanical gardens with their wealth of exotics. President Taft, in his message, made particular mention of Willow Tree alley, but it is no better and no worse than the others. Possibly the president mentioned only Willow

Tree alley because it was the only one bearing a name that comports well with a state document. The other four are Pigtail alley, Tincup alley, Louse alley and Hell's Half Acre alley. These names, with the exception of Willow Tree alley, have the virtue of making any other description unnecessary. Why Willow Tree alley was so named nobody remembers. There may have been a willow tree there once.

The district is hard to find. It is within the outer crust of a block which has a rather fair exterior. A stranger, after fruitless search, appealed to a policeman. The officer pointed to a narrow opening between two buildings. "Go on in there, and you'll see all you want of it," he said. "It's a pest hole, it is. I'd go with you, but it's off my beat."

The officer was lucky. What the visitor found after he passed the portal of the slums would not be pleasant adjuncts to any beat. The buildings appeared to be ages old. Stables adjoined homes. Piles of stable refuse gave forth offensive odors and drew clouds of flies. Negroes and whites were mixed in one inextricable confusion. Puny, sickly children rolled about on the ground. Slatternly, discouraged women sat on the steps or in rooms which spoke eloquently of the most abject poverty.

Uncle Sam Gives Facts About Fleas

HERE may be those who imagine it is an easy thing to kill a flea. But if they will read certain facts reported by the United States public health and marine service their minds will be disabused of the notion. The information is given in a pamphlet entitled "Notes on Agents for Flea Destruction." Fleas, it appears from these notes, survive all the usual means of insect assassination and others less common.

But how to kill the flea is not the only problem before the investigators. It is quite as much of a puzzle to know when he is dead.

It was found that when it comes to death by drowning a flea has more lives than a cat. That is to say when the medium is water. But fleas left swimming over night in a mixture of glycerin and water are dead the following morning.

Obviously the flea is a hobo among insects, for one of his deadliest enemies is green soap. A flea dipped entirely in a tincture of green soap succumbed beyond resuscitation in two minutes; another ceased his movements in forty seconds and was dead in ten minutes; no fleas of any of the species examined survived the soap.

In a humane attempt to suit the tastes of the flea in the manner of

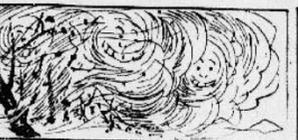
Facts About Fleas



dying the investigators tried oil of pennyroyal, oil of peppermint, kerosene, miscible oil, the refuse from the Pintsch gas tanks and many other chemicals. A flea left to swim in formalin, a powerful germicide and insecticide, was "apparently dead in 12 hours," but "revived," another kept for 20 minutes in a mixture of creosote, soap and water was still alive after fifteen minutes, but died five minutes after that.

It took 100 per cent. carbolic acid more than one minute to kill a flea; of two fleas that were made to swim in a one-thousandth mercury chloride solution, a powerful germicide, one was alive after ten hours, the other after eighteen hours; powdered sulphur was practically inert and useless for killing fleas. Hydrocyanic acid is among the most powerful poisons, yet five fleas exposed for 45 minutes to hydrocyanic gas were alive at the end of the test.

Cranks Offer Forest Fire Remedies



WHILE the field officers of the U. S. Forestry service are taking precautions against fire in the great national forests of the west, the forestry bureau is besieged constantly by "cranks" and real inventors, chiefly the former, who propose all sorts of ridiculous plans for coping with the flames. One of the most novel of these recently came from an eastern man who proposed that an artillery organization be formed in the forest service and equipped with huge mortar batteries, which would shoot grenades filled with chemicals.

This man's plan was to have a battery of these mortars hauled to a suitable hill near a forest fire, from which the grenades would be discharged rapidly into the fire and, bursting, would smother the flames. Admitting that chemicals will extinguish a small blaze, the forestry people told this inventor to move on, as all the chemicals in the world would hardly extinguish

a forest fire with a front of ten miles. Another "crank's" plan was to construct huge screens of asbestos, which could be placed around trees near a fire and thus prevent them igniting. Of course this way did not attempt to explain how the problem of transporting these screens through rough mountainous country could be solved.

A third plan was to locate a number of huge sprinkling carts in each forest and drive them to a fire, turn on the water and, presto! your fire would be out—the inventor said. He was told to go to, unless he could provide a sprinkling cart big enough to tackle a fire such as raged last fall in Idaho, the flames of which mounted over 200 feet in the air and burned the ties off a railroad bridge, and at another point jumped clear across a valley half a mile wide, converting streams in its path into steam and cooking the fish therein.

The forest fire fighters do not reject all novel suggestions. In fact, they have adopted a chemical equipment for use in putting out small ground fires in the Arkansas National forest. Some of the rangers are equipped with rubber muzzles containing sponges to be wet and put over the nose.

Inoculate Soldiers Against Typhoid

THE entire army of the United States is to be inoculated against typhoid fever, officers and privates alike. An order has been issued by Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, chief of staff, making it compulsory for every officer and enlisted man in the army under forty-five years of age to subject himself to the typhoid fever vaccine. This order applies to all those who have not heretofore had typhoid fever or who have not been inoculated with the germ. Heretofore it has been voluntary on the part of an officer or private in the army whether he should subject himself to the experiment, but from this time every one serving in Uncle Sam's fighting force must undergo the experience.

Estimates compiled at the war department show that up to the present time about 17,000 inoculations for typhoid have been made. Of the troops who were sent to the Mexican border nearly 12,000 had been inoculated. The



total strength of the army at present is 75,000 so there will be plenty of work for the surgeons of the army to perform before each one has undergone treatment.

The "typhoid prophylactic," as it is called, has been prepared by Major Russell of the medical corps, stationed at the army medical school in this city, and will be distributed to the various forts and posts throughout the country. It is estimated that in about a month's time every officer and man in the army will have been inoculated. Very little if any inconvenience as a result of the inoculation is felt by the patient.

NEW ROAD TO WEALTH

WOMAN MARRIES SEVEN MEN BUT NEGLECTS DIVORCES.

Got Presents and Money From Each and Then Disappeared—Husbands Exchange Experiences and Call the Police.

New York.—Standing more than six feet, with shoulders broad in proportion and wearing a great picture hat, a gown of many colors and large jewels, a woman was led into police court in Brooklyn, between two policemen. As she approached Magistrate Naumer, Charles Sigalov, a small, determined-looking man, stepped forward, saying:

"So you have my wife, Julia, at last, have you? I'm very glad. I imagine other husbands will be glad, too."

The woman gave Sigalov a glance of scorn.

"Rave on," she replied in a deep voice. "Rave on, little one," she repeated, and then she laughed.

"I charge this woman with bigamy," said Sigalov, when his wife was brought to the bar. Sigalov then told how on April 17, 1910, he had married the woman at his residence. She left two weeks later.

Then another man stepped forward. He was Marcus Weiss of New York. Weiss swore he married the same woman in April, 1905, and had given her handsome presents and money. Then about two weeks after the wedding day she disappeared.

Sigalov then told how he was searching through upper Manhattan for his wife when he stumbled over Weiss, who told him how his wife had also disappeared. After this testimony, Albert Kintle, counsel for Sigalov, said:

"If you will postpone this hearing I'll have seven men in court who have married this woman, and she is not divorced from any of them. Her scheme was to marry a man, get money and presents from him, and then disappear. She would then get some rabbi to give her a divorce, go forth and get a new husband."

"I'll hold you in \$1,000 bail for examination," said the court.

"Let 'em all rave; let 'em all rave!" spoke up Mrs. Sigalov, as she shook the feathers on her hat and started for jail.

MAIL ORDER WIFE AND CASH

Farmer Advertised That He Was Poor, But Applicant "Looked Him Up."

Oklahoma City, Okla.—J. W. Stephens of Howe, Okla., a wealthy farmer, advertised for a wife and the advertisement was answered by Mrs. Hattie Johnson of Clinton, Okla. Stephens stated in the advertisement that he was a poor man. When they met Mrs. Johnson said she, too, was poor, but after an acquaintance of two weeks she said she was willing to marry Stephens. After they were married Stephens discovered that his wife owns a large farm.

"But I had looked up your financial standing," said his wife, "and know you were not poor."

Water-Drinking Contest.

St. Louis.—Earl McDow is the proud victor of a water-drinking contest among five seniors of Shurtleff college, in Upper Alton, but the defeated four declare he won on a technicality. The cup was passed 30 times.

Estimating that the cup held one-third of a pint, each man drank five quarts of water. McDow was the man to start the thirty-first round of water. He raised the cup and almost emptied it; then was overcome. He couldn't swallow another drop, and he fell ill. So he threw the cup into the well.

The defeated contestants rolled themselves about the campus and aided artificial respiration movements for one another in order to find relief. They practiced about all the first-aid-to-the-drowning remedies they knew before they were fully resuscitated. Shurtleff is a Baptist institution.

Pray for Man's Death.

Quitman, Ga.—The entire congregation of the "sanctified" negro church here is fervently preparing for the death of Oscar Davis, one of the wealthiest citizens of this place, and expect him to die in three months.

The negroes allege that Davis has been persecuting their church since he complained to the authorities that the meetings held by the negroes were a nuisance. The church is about five hundred yards from the Davis home. Davis complained that the negroes were so noisy in their devotions that he and his family could not sleep. The authorities forced the negroes to be quiet at the meetings and ever since they have been praying for Davis' death.

Oranges Save Life of Tramp.

Neenah, Wis.—After being locked in a refrigerator car for five days a man claiming to be John Williams of Ely, Minn., was released by a brakeman who heard him pounding. The man said he was on his way from the west. He kept alive by eating oranges, which were part of the freight.

Bullet Gives Woman Hydrophobia.

Newark, N. J.—Mrs. Pasquale Pastine is suffering in a hospital from rabies, the result of a slight bullet wound in the head. The bullet, fired by a policeman at a mad dog, passed through the dog's head before it grazed Mrs. Pastine's forehead.

MANY BENEFITS ARE DERIVED FROM MUCH ABUSED FOREST

From Every Point of View it is One of the Most Helpful Friends of Man—Its Influence Upon Streams Alone Makes Farming Possible in Many Regions—Other Advantages.

(By GIFFORD PINCHOT.)

The object of forestry is to discover and apply the principles according to which forests are best managed. It is distinct from arboriculture, which deals with individual trees.

Forestry has to do with single trees only as they stand together on some large area whose principal crop is trees, and which therefore forms part of a forest. The forest is the most highly organized portion of the vegetable world. It takes its importance less from the individual trees which help to form it than from the qualities which belong to it as a whole.

Although it is composed of trees, the forest is far more than a collection of trees standing in one place. It has a population of animals and plants peculiar to itself, a soil largely of its own making, and a climate different in many ways from that of the open country. Its influence upon the streams alone makes farming possible in many regions, and everywhere it tends to prevent floods and droughts. It supplies fuel, one of the first necessities of life, and lumber, the raw material, without which cities, railroads, and all the great achievements of material progress would have been either long delayed or wholly impossible.

The forest is as beautiful as it is useful. The old fairy tales which spoke of it as a terrible place are wrong. No one can really know the forest without feeling the gentle influence of one of the kindest and strongest parts of nature. From every point of view it is one of the most helpful friends of man. Perhaps no other natural agent has done so much for the human race and has been so recklessly used and so little understood.

One of the points of deepest interest to the forester is the reproductive power of his trees. Except in the case of sprouts and other growth fed by old roots, this depends first of all on the quantity of the seed which each tree bears; but so many other considerations affect the result that a

tree which bears seed abundantly may not reproduce itself very well. A part of the seed is always unsound, and sometimes much the larger part. But even a great abundance of sound seed does not always insure good reproduction. The seeds may not find the right surroundings for successful germination, or the infant trees may perish for want of water, light, or suitable soil. Where there is a thick layer of dry leaves or needles on the ground, seedlings often perish in great numbers because their delicate rootlets cannot reach the fertile soil beneath. The same thing happens when there is no humus at all and the surface is hard and dry. The weight of the seed also has a powerful influence



Winged Seeds: 1, Basswood; 2, Boxelder; 3, Elm; 4, Fir; 5 to 8, Pine.

on the character of reproduction. Trees with heavy seeds, live oaks, hickories, and chestnuts, can sow them only in their own neighborhood, except when they stand on steep hillsides or on the banks of streams, or when birds and squirrels carry the nuts and acorns to a distance. Trees with light, winged seeds like the poplars, birches, and pines, have a great advantage over the others, because they can drop their seeds a long way off. The wind is the means by which this is brought about, and the adaptation of the seeds themselves is often very curious and interesting.

TO FERTILIZE YOUNG PLANTS

Liquid Manure, Usually Wasted, Contains All Elements of Commercial Fertilizer.

(By W. MILTON KELLY.)

We frequently read or hear of the relative merits of liquid and solid manures discussed. Some make the assertion that liquid manure is the best and base their claims upon the fact that it promotes more rapid growth to plants when young than the solid manure.

On the other hand it is claimed by a number of excellent authorities that the solid manure is the best on account of its lasting benefits by supplying humus, or partially decomposed vegetable matter, to the soil, which increase the capacity of conserving moisture and also improves the texture.

We believe that the best and most satisfactory results are made when both liquids and solids are used in the same relative proportions as when made.

According to our best informed men in soil culture and fertilizers, liquid manure contains approximately the same amount of fertilizing material as the solid, but the fertilizing elements present in the liquid portion are in condition to render them immediately ready for the growing plants.

The liquid portion of manure which is usually lost, or rather wasted, through imperfect methods of handling and saving, contains the same expensive fertilizing elements that

cost a farmer from \$20 to \$40 per ton when purchased from the commercial fertilizer agents.

It seems to be a pet fancy with many farmers that commercial fertilizer will make quicker growth when used to fertilize young plants than ordinary barnyard manure on account of being more available for the young plants to feed upon.

The above claim may be right to a certain extent if the best quality of commercial fertilizer is used on one plot and barnyard manure on another.

But when we speak or write of the ordinary barnyard manure we must consider the fact that it is not as valuable as when fresh from the stable and contains the full amount of plant food, both liquids and solids, that it contained at the time it was made.

Thus, many make the mistake of losing the most valuable fertilizing elements from their manure and then claiming it inferior to the commercial fertilizers for promoting a rapid growth of the young plants.

We do not think that better results can be made by using commercial fertilizers for a number of years than can be made by using stable, not barnyard, manure, when care has been exercised in saving and preserving all of the fertilizing elements that it originally contained.

Whenever I see or hear the term barnyard manure used it calls to my mind a certain class of farmers who allow their manure to remain under the stable eaves all winter to ferment and wash away and who the next spring pay commercial fertilizer agents a whole hatful of money for the very elements that he has allowed to wash away and then says that the feeding of livestock and dairying does not pay.

RUNS FOUR FAMILIES

THREE SISTERS IN SEPARATE HOMES AND A REAL WIFE.

Man Has 21 Offspring by Four Women, and Seems Proud of It—Affair Goes 18 Years Without Discovery.

Meridian, Miss.—How a man maintained four households for 18 years, three in addition to that of his legal wife, was revealed when F. L. Deason, who lives near Collinsville, was tried in the circuit court before Judge Buckley.

Three of the women in the case were sisters—Cricket, Dorsh and Ellen Cochran—and they were shown to be the mothers of 16 of his children. Deason also has five children by his wife.

How Deason was able to maintain these four families during the period of 18 years without action having been taken against him does not appear from the record, but his neighbors profess they knew nothing about the conditions existing.

When the three women and Deason faced Judge Buckley they were accompanied by their children, and admitted their guilt. The women were sentenced to one day each on the provision that they leave the county in 60 days. Deason was given 60 days in jail in one case and three sentences of \$500 fines and 60 days were suspended.

The trial of the case brought into the courtroom an unusually large crowd. Deason appeared calm and unmoved. An effort was made to show he was a Mormon, but this failed. Asked if he believed in polygamy, he replied he did not.

The three sisters reside close together, and at one time, at least, during their relations with Deason, two of them were under the same roof. Deason is a farmer, apparently modest and retiring.

The section around Collinsville is sparsely settled with whites, and to this fact is ascribed the ignorance professed by his neighbors as to his relations with his wife and the three other women. Deason appears to be about fifty years old; his wife seems close to the same age, and all three of the sisters might pass for forty.

SLAYS LION WITH A KNIFE

Farmer Kills Beast That Devoured Son but Loses Right Arm in the Fight.

Brownsville, Tex.—Maddened at the sight of a huge mountain lion standing over the dead body of his three-year-old son, Juan Morales, a farmer living seven miles from here, killed the beast with a knife thrust in the heart after a 15-minute struggle, in which he sustained injuries which will cost him the loss of his right arm at the shoulder. After killing the lion he walked to the city to be treated by a physician.

Morales had left home to visit a neighbor. When he returned he heard the screams of his children and then caught a glimpse of a huge mountain lion, weighing probably 400 pounds, standing over the almost headless body of his son. The beast sprang at Morales and the desperate fight began.

Morales was almost exhausted when he succeeded in driving the big blade of the knife into the heart of the animal and staggered from its grasp as it fell dead at his feet. Morales fainted and his two little girls revived him with cold water and then helped him to bandage the wounds.

"CEMETERY CURE" EFFECTIVE

Drunks of Illinois Town Are Now Crowded into Straight and Narrow Paths.

Springfield, Ill.—Illinois has a brand-new and original plan to cure the liquor habit. It was devised by citizens of New Douglas. It is called the cemetery cure, but that does not mean for the patients the usual trimmings of drapery and florists' emblems, nor is the trip to the graveyard accompanied by a string of cabs at four dollars per.

The situation handled otherwise, in the early evening the patients are carted to the city cemetery and while the late moon looks down on the strange task they are bound with ropes to upright monuments, while others are laid in graves which have sunk in through years of stormy stress. New Douglas people solemnly aver that since the cemetery cure has been put into effect the straight and narrow path is becoming crowded.

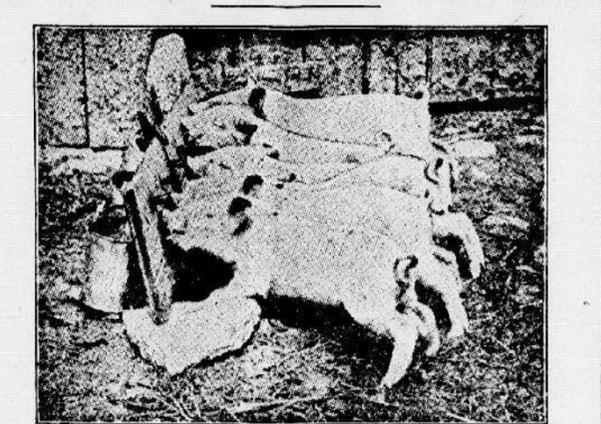
BIRDS STEAL FAMILY WASH

Linen Handkerchiefs Carried Away by Sparrows and Used to Make Comfy Nests.

Gary, Ind.—Mrs. William Parry of Crown Point placed four handkerchiefs on a high bush to dry. An hour later two of them were gone. Mrs. Parry placed two other handkerchiefs on the bush several days later, and from the window in her kitchen awaited developments.

The handkerchiefs had not been on the bush five minutes when two English sparrows flew down from a nearby apple tree and bore the linen away. When Mrs. Parry's son climbed into the tree he found the four handkerchiefs fashioned into a cozy nest.

ARTIFICIAL MOTHER FOR PIGS



The illustration shows an artificial sow as arranged by an Englishman. The pigs belong to Mr. Bert Crook, Broughton Road, Melksham, by whom the feeding apparatus was designed and made. The mother sow died the day after giving birth, and the pigs have been successfully reared on cows' milk (diluted). They were 26

days old when photographed. The apparatus consists of ordinary rubber teats fixed through a board, and connected by rubber and glass tubing to the cans of milk behind.

Beware of Filth. Keep the chickens away from filth of all kinds.