

BUSY TIMES FOR NEWS GATHERERS

HOW THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS DO THEIR WORK IN DAYS OF WAR.

MUST "COVER" MANY PLACES

Call on Secretary Tumulty at White House Daily, Including Sunday—Baker, Daniels and Lansing See the Press Every Morning.

By EDWARD B. CLARK.

Washington.—Washington newspaper men talk a lot of "shop" among themselves just as it is more than suspected men of other callings talk of their professional or mercantile doings when they get together, but with the mass of public information material in Washington which must be gathered it can be said for the newspaper men that they rarely write "shop."

Here is a "shop" story, however, and the thought which prompts its writing is that perhaps some American readers may want to know just what the routine of news gathering is in this city when war is on, and when the activities of government have increased many hundredfold.

Every department of government now is a source of daily news gathering and moreover virtually every subdivision of the department is turning out matter not daily perhaps, but certainly weekly, which has in it something of interest for the readers of the country. This necessitates the "covering" by newspaper men of literally hundreds of sources of information at least twice every day in the year, barring Sunday, when even with smashing things doing there is a little let-up, because man must rest if he intends to work.

The press associations have correspondents stationed at every post of news vantage in this city, the army, the navy and the state departments and at all the other departments down through the list. Moreover, until congress adjourned, both houses and all the committee rooms of each were followed in their proceedings by representatives of the various press associations, and of course by the special correspondents of the different papers of the country who write their own stories of those things which are moving.

Cover the White House Daily.

Every day of the year, Sunday included, representatives of the press associations and a considerable number of special correspondents call on Secretary Tumulty at the White House. It is always possible to get reflex opinions of administration matters at the White House. Of course certain things cannot be given out even by reflex action in information form until the time has become ripe for disclosures, but newspaper correspondents save themselves from going wrong on many subjects by reading the signs of the times every day in the offices of the White House.

No one who is not directly connected with the work can appreciate the rush of things and the order in seeming disorder in the departments of the war and the navy in these days of strife. The two departments have "overflowed" until bases of operations are in a dozen different places, but of course the chief base is in the war department building where the secretary of war, Newton D. Baker, has his desk within little more than arm's length of the office of the chief of staff of the United States army.

In the navy department the condition is as it is in the war department. Secretary Josephus Daniels rules and directs close to his advisory board of officers of the navy. Mr. Daniels sees the newspaper men every morning at 10:30 o'clock, while Mr. Baker also tries to see the correspondents once a day. Owing to the fact that the pressure of army business actually is greater than that of the navy, Mr. Baker does not always meet the writers, but if he does not he has his authorized spokesman at the appointed place.

Public Information Office.

The committee of public information, of which George Creel is the direct managing head, is at 10 Jackson place, a short thoroughfare which skirts the west side of Lafayette square. It is within point blank pistol shot of the state, war and navy departments. There the correspondents go daily to get the authorized official material which the government has sanctioned for publication. A vast deal of this matter is what might be called seminews as some of it is material intended solely to clear up matters concerning which the American people seem to have certain misinformation.

The public information office is a busy place. It is open all the time, the men working in relief, and so a correspondent wishing to catch a late edition of his morning paper can telephone 10 Jackson place at two o'clock in the morning and be sure of a response from the news sentinel on duty in the wee small hours.

Robert Lansing, secretary of state, leaves his desk in his private office every morning at 11 o'clock sharp to go to the public reception room of the state department. There he meets the authorized special correspondents of the daily press and of the press associations. When he has some news of importance which he wishes to give out he goes straight to the subject and crisply tells his tale. Then he is ready to answer questions or to say that a question cannot be answered because under existing conditions an answer may not properly be given.

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1½ teaspoons salt
1½ cups milk and water
½ cup sugar or corn syrup
1 cup chopped nuts (not too fine) or 1 cup raisins, washed and floured

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