

# THE DIPLOMATS' BUSIEST DAY

By WALDON FAWCETT



MARQUIS DE VILLALOBAR, THE NEW SPANISH MINISTER



BARON MAJOR DES PLANCHES, DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

**T**HE first day of the year is decidedly the busiest day of the twelvemonth for the foreign diplomats stationed in America. The part of it is that the manifold duties which make January 1st the most crowded interval on the calendar are almost wholly in the nature of social obligations rather than business tasks. Moreover, the responsibilities of this busy day rest equally heavy upon the envoys of the various foreign powers—that is, the ambassadors and ministers—and upon the secretaries, counselors and attaches who make up the official staffs of these dignitaries. Even the offices of the official foreign colony—the wives and daughters of the diplomats of high and low degree—share in the feverish activity of the dawning year. Indeed, their participation begins weeks in advance with frequent visits to the dressmakers, for, one and all, these fair foreigners must have striking new gowns for the momentous occasion.

They return home for a few minutes' rest, and then a little before 12 o'clock they set out for the residence of the secretary of state. Here, at noon, an elaborate repast is served. The average American citizen would declare it a luncheon, but in social-diplomatic usage it is a breakfast. Considerably more than 200 persons are expected at this breakfast, so that it can be seen that it taxes the house-keeping arrangements even in a mansion such as the \$150,000 dwelling of Philan-



HERMAN DE LAGERCRANTZ, MINISTER OF SWEDEN AND HIS SECRETARY

## CITY OF 4000 B. C. FOUND

The vestiges of a city 6,000 years old have been found in Babylonia by the French expedition which has



SEÑOR DE LA BARRA, THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO



THE SITE OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF ERAM, SHOWING THE RUINS OF THE TEMPLE OF THE GOD SUSINAK.

been at work for several years on the site of the Roman city, the Shushan of the Bible and later the capital of the Emperors Darius and Artaxerxes.

According to details furnished to the Jewish World, a mound marking the site of the city has been excavated by M. de Morgan and was found to mark the site of the ancient Eramite acropolis of the city. The excavations have produced most astonishing results. Here the explorer found superimposed, one above the other, the remains of three cities, the oldest dating back to B. C. 4000, and below these the signs of older settlements of prehistoric ages.

The recent discoveries show that far more than a thousand years prior to B. C. 1800 the city was occupied by the Babylonians, and that most of the kings of that country set up their monuments in it. When the powerful Semitic dynasty of Babylonian kings contemporary with the Eramites regained their independence and retained it until B. C. 649, when the city was sacked by Assurbanipal, king of Assyria, who destroyed the palaces and temples.

Explorations show that the chief feature of the ancient city, as of all the other cities of the ancient east, was the temple of the city god, in this case the god Susinak, which stood upon the acropolis. An explanation of the foundations revealed the records of Gudea, king of Chaldaea, B. C. 2300. Fortunately, considerable information as to the nature of the sacred edifice and its precincts is preserved by an interesting monument, which was discovered in the ruins.

In the center of the model are the figures of two nude men, one holding a water jar. There is no doubt, the king and priest performing the ceremonies of lustration, or ceremonial purification, which are a great feature of the oriental temples and frequently mentioned in the religious inscriptions.

Primitive Mills in Brazil. Vice-Consul De Young, writing from Santos, calls attention to the small corn grinding machines in Brazil.

"In the interior of Brazil a primitive method of producing meal by pounding instead of grinding is practiced. The instrument known as a 'mojolo' works automatically, and consists of a tree trunk balanced on the bank of a stream, one end of the trunk being hollowed out to form a large cup, while the other end is in the form of a pestle. Water filling the cup depresses that end of the log, whereupon the water runs out and the other end falls back to its original position, the pestle striking the corn. Some modern corn grinders have recently been introduced, but there is a good field for a very small and inexpensive grinder to take the place of the 'mojolo' in the interior, where four mills are rare and each family grinds its own corn."

Onion as Tail-Teller. There's a divorce. 'Tis a very sad affair. An onion is at the bottom of it. Of yore hubby was fond of onions. He ate, and ate, and wifey stood it. Then he fell in love with a festive maiden. No more onions for him, much to his wife's surprise. The more she thought of it, the more she wondered at the change. Not only did he desert the odorous onions—presently he deserted altogether.

DR. JONNESCO IS COMING. Inventor of New Anesthetic to Visit Mayos. Washington, D. C.—Professor Jonnesco, the famous Romanian surgeon, called on President Taft at the White House. The professor was introduced to the president by Horace G. Knowles, who is United States minister to Roumania. Dr. Jonnesco will go from Washington to Chicago and thence to Rochester, Minn.

Boy Perishes in Flames; Another Perishes Seriously Burned. Eli—A candle set fire to the funeral hangings in the home of Joseph Prefontaine, where the body of his mother was laid out. A large number of guests escaped, panic-stricken, and a 7-year-old boy, who was asleep upstairs, was burned to death. George Prefontaine was seriously and perhaps fatally burned while trying to save the body.

MINNEAPOLIS. Wholesale District Has Fifty Thousand Dollar Loss. Minneapolis.—It took the firemen fully 16 hours to extinguish the fire which started in the five-story brick building occupied by the M. K. S. & Co., wholesale confectioners. It has not yet been determined how the fire originated. It spread so rapidly that the building, including a similar structure at right angles to it and facing Third Street, owned by the Standard-Dayton company, of Dayton, Ohio, was a mass of flames before the firemen were able to get down to work.

Not accurate estimate of the total loss has yet been made, but it is believed that it will not exceed \$50,000. Most of this is covered by insurance.

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# News of Scandinavia

## Principal Happenings of the Week in the Scandinavian Countries.

**SWEDEN.** A valuable piece of work is being done in Stockholm, in getting detailed expense statements from 500 families, which will be carried up to the end of the year and then tabulated. A preliminary statement has already been issued. It shows that in families with incomes under 2,000 kronor a year, the expense for each person averages 174 kronor. For incomes from 2,000 to 3,000 kronor, it averages 503 kronor or each, and for those over 3,000 kronor, the average is 695 each. A percentage table has been made up, showing what proportion of income is spent in different directions. It is made up from seventy-five Stockholm families for 1907 and 1908. It is as follows:

Incomes.	Food.	Lodging.	Exp.
Kr. 1,382 to 1,500.....	45.56	21.93	21.93
Kr. 1,500 to 2,000.....	43.25	19.85	19.85
Kr. 2,000 to 3,000.....	42.97	19.94	19.94

Percentages:  
Incomes. Food. Lodging. Exp.  
Kr. 1,382 to 1,500..... 8.33 24.98  
Kr. 1,500 to 2,000..... 9.13 27.66  
Kr. 2,000 to 3,000..... 10.66 27.33

A table showing the wages in some of the leading trades and the prices of some of the staple food stuffs makes it plain why the common Swedish laborer should be inclined to emigrate no matter how dearly he loves his country. In reading the following statement the reader should bear in mind that a krona is 27 cents, and is divided into 100 ore. Day labor on farms in southern Sweden is paid about 25 ore an hour. Flour mill employees in Stockholm get 95 kronor a month, minimum wage for skilled men and in southern Sweden, 90 kronor. Bakers in Stockholm, minimum wage per week, \$5.40. Sugar refiners, Stockholm, 40 ore an hour; in the country, 35 ore. Brewery workers, Stockholm, 45 to 100 kronor a month; outside, 30 kronor. Taxicab workers, of southern Sweden, 30 ore an hour for men and up to 20 ore for women. Tailors, Stockholm, 22 to 25 kronor a week; outside, 16 to 18 kronor. In nearly all trades fifty-five hours makes a week's work, with ten hours a day and five on Saturday. Shoemakers, hand work, receive 20 kronor a week in the country districts. Machine workers in shoe factories get 40 ore an hour in Stockholm, and 35 ore in the country. Carpenters' wages are about 50 ore an hour in Stockholm and 35 to 40 ore in outside places. Stonemasons and bricklayers make 60 to 65 ore an hour in Stockholm, but outside wages are much lower, and vary greatly. Painters get 64 ore an hour in Stockholm, and 55 ore in other places. Unskilled labor on buildings will receive 50 to 55 ore an hour, and up to 40 ore elsewhere. Day labor in the woodwork establishments of northern Sweden is paid 25 to 30 ore an hour. In the wood-pulp mills the men average 3 kronor a day for a shift that is eight hours in some plants, but 10 to 12 hours in most of them. Minimum wages for skilled labor in the iron rolling mills and in machine shops are 28 to 30 ore an hour. Bookbinders' pay runs about 20 kronor for a week of 55 hours. On the other hand, the prices of many necessities are up to the American scale. Milk costs about 4 cents a quart, skimmed milk a little less than 2 cents. Butter of first quality costs 26 cents a pound, and second quality 24 cents. Most working men use margarin at 20 cents a lb., or 15 cents for second quality. Eggs are about 24 cents a dozen. Beef of the ordinary quality for roasting is 13½ cents a pound, and boiling beef 12 cents a pound. Fresh pork costs 15½ cents a pound. Fresh herring is to be had at 3½ cents.

Edward Wavrinsky, the leading Good Templar of Sweden, recently said about this order: "The International Order of Good Templars now has 670,000 members in the world, and of these 200,000 are in Sweden, where we have made great growth. We cannot forget to be grateful to America for the idea which gave birth to our order, and are very sorry it has declined there in strength. It think that is because the Templars in America have not tried to do things, but have been too contented to make fine speeches, and then go away and forget them. There are some good workers in America, but most of them seem indifferent. Here in Sweden we have worked hard for social progress, and in many ways. We give courses of study, and help members to build their homes. In Stockholm seven lodges with 300 members have built and sold until they now own a building worth a million kroner, in which is our principal hall."

**DENMARK.** The explorer, Knud Rasmussen, Knud Rasmussen, during the course of a lecture on "Arctic Expeditions and Eskimos," referred to the little Eskimo tribe at Cape York and said that Commander Peary, whose severity was accompanied by many good qualities, had done much to strengthen the Eskimos' struggle for existence. The North Polar observations of Dr. Frederick A. Cook were carried to Copenhagen on board the steamer United States. Extraordinary precautions were taken to make sure that the long-harassed report was delivered safely to the university authorities. As soon as the United States was tied up at her pier, an iron box containing Dr. Cook's report and the diaries in which his original entries were made, was brought ashore. The box was closely followed by Walter Lonsdale, Dr. Cook's secretary, who had stood guard over its contents since they left the hands of the explorer. Upon the pier Lonsdale and two detectives bundled the iron box into a motor car, and jumping in themselves were driven hastily to the University. Their car was followed by a second automobile. At the university the papers were formally turned over to the authorities there, and placed in a strong room, where they will be guarded closely, until the committee appointed to examine them is ready to begin. The personnel of the examining committee, as now formed, is Professor Stromgren, president; Commodore Gustav Holm, an explorer; Commander A. B. Jensen, director of the school of navigation; Dr. Hechnal, director of the meteorological office; Dr. Rydner and Dr. Bergstrom, both of Lund's observatory. This committee will take every precaution to escape either being deceived or becoming involved in a scientific scandal. The Politiken asserts the supporters of Commander Peary are trying to enlist the services of Greenland explorers in organizing an anti-Cook press campaign. The sessions of the committee will be private. While the committee derives its powers from the university and the latter will assume the responsibility for the committee's verdict, it is to be noted that the present heads of the university are disassociating themselves as far as possible from the body of which Professor Stromgren is president. The present rector, Professor Salomonson, inherited from his predecessor, Torp, a legacy which he would undoubtedly have preferred to be without. He almost theoretically declares that he is a doctor of medicine, and knows no more about polar exploration than he does about the canals on Mars. Several members of the various faculties of the university regard the task of sitting upon Dr. Cook's claims as a white elephant.

**NORWAY.** As far as known, Bjornson is still in Paris. He is improving. The Socialists will occupy the same number of seats in the new storting as in the last one, namely 11. But this does not correspond to their strength at the polls. At the main elections, which are a true index, the Rightists and the Liberal Leftists pulled 176,600 votes; the Consolidated Leftists and Castberg's Labor Party 145,200; and the Socialists, 87,900. In proportion to the votes cast, these first mentioned were entitled to 53 seats in the storting; the Consolidated, to 43½; and the Socialists, to 26½. But after all the supplementary elections had been held the three parties obtained 69, 47, and 11 seats, respectively, and two of those elected are independent. This shows that the Socialists obtained only 11 out of the 26½ seats, which their voting strength at the main elections entitled them to.

The hotels of Sarpsborg have again been deprived of the privilege of serving beer and wine to traveling and regular customers. The chief of police recommended that licenses be granted to them. The city council voted for prohibition by a vote of 19 to 15. The former consisted of 12 Socialists, 5 Abstainers and 2 Leftists.

There was a grand blowout in Kristiania on the occasion of the formal opening of the Bergen railway. The king made a fine little speech, referring to Bjornson, the bed-ridden poet, in tender terms.

A few days ago the snow melted very suddenly in Sondmore, and the water rushed into the sheep stable of Elias O. Storaaer, Ellingso. When he came to look after them they were all dead, and their bodies were floating on the water.

The Norwegian storting has awarded the Nobel peace prize of 1909, dividing it equally between Baron d'Estourmelles de Constant, president of the French parliamentary group for international arbitration, and M. Bernaert, former minister of state of Belgium and Belgian representative.

**FINLAND.** Finnish statesmen look upon the appointment of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicolaevitch, a cousin of the czar, as governor general of Finland as the most overt action yet taken by Russia in her scheme of crushing out the last vestige of Finnish autonomy and of "Russifying the grand duchy." The Finns now realize that unless pressure from other powers is brought to bear there will be no way of checking Russia's plan and they have about given up hope of European intervention.

The explanation of this display of energy on the part of a class of people who ordinarily lead the most leisurely existence imaginable is found in the fact that New Year's day of each year marks the opening of the official social season at Washington. It is a day of receiving and calling and dining (all in the most formal way), for everybody in national official circles from the president down to the least important public official, but the social merry-go-round, spins at a more lively gait for the diplomats than for any of the other participants in Uncle Sam's great annual dress parade. Not only do they have to go more different places in carrying out this program, but they have to do more dressing than any of the other celebrities, not even excepting the high officers of the United States army and navy, who don their full dress uniforms for this occasion.

Indeed, it is the chore of getting togged out in their gaudiest raiment that compels the diplomats to arise somewhat earlier than usual on New Year morning. Official etiquette prescribes that each foreign representative shall appear in full diplomatic uniform or court dress on this significant occasion. Now, he it known, it is no slight undertaking to put on such garb. The average diplomat, accustomed as he is to fastidious dressing, finds it pretty nearly as formidable a job as the average American workman or farmer regards the donning of a dress suit. The diplomat's viewpoint will be the better appreciated when it is explained that not a few heavily encrusted with gold and other ornaments that they are well nigh stiff enough to stand alone. It is a twentieth century armor, go to speak. In many instances high boots are an item of the court dress and usually a heavy helmet or fur turban and a long cloak that reaches to the feet are included in the costume. Finally, the diplomat, of any standing, covers the entire front of his coat with the glittering insignia of royal orders and awarded decorations—each several times as large as the ordinary badge, and adding in the aggregate, considerable weight to the trappings of state.

With the time-consuming prelude of dressing out of the way, the diplomats more gorgeously garbed than any operative chorus are ready for the first formal function of the day. This is the president's reception at the White House. The foreigners, all of whom have carriages or automobiles (rented for this busy day, if they do not already possess them), must leave home for the presidential mansion about 10:30 o'clock, for they are to have the honor of being the first persons received by the president after he has greeted his cabinet, and they must be in their duly assigned places in the waiting line for the presidential party at 11 o'clock sharp, descends the grand stairway and takes station in the Blue parlor for the reception. Head and fast rules must be observed as to the order in which the diplomats file past the president. There are two divisions. First the ambassadors, each accompanied by all the members of his staff and their wives, and then the ministers, each similarly attended. Places in each division are assigned in accordance with the length of time each envoy has represented his government at Washington. That is, statesmen who have been here for years take precedence over the newcomers.

At the head of the line walks the ambassador who by virtue of the most lengthy service in Washington is the dean of the diplomatic corps. This post of prestige is now held by Baron Mayor des Planches of Italy. The foreigners are introduced to the president by the secretary of state, who has the best of his cabinet colleagues in that he is thus temporarily in the limelight.

After the White House reception the diplomats return home for a few minutes' rest, and then a little before 12 o'clock they set out for the residence of the secretary of state. Here, at noon, an elaborate repast is served. The average American citizen would declare it a luncheon, but in social-diplomatic usage it is a breakfast. Considerably more than 200 persons are expected at this breakfast, so that it can be seen that it taxes the house-keeping arrangements even in a mansion such as the \$150,000 dwelling of Philan-

der Knox. Then, too, the same importance attaches as at the White House, to who goes first, so that servants have to be carefully drilled and the utmost care exercised lest some lesser diplomat receive more honor than is his due, while some greater luminary is correspondingly slighted.

The entire afternoon of New Year's day the diplomats devote to making ceremonial calls. Almost all the prominent hostesses in Washington, except the wife of the president, hold receptions on this eventful afternoon. Most of the diplomats go first to the home of the vice-president, then "down the line" of cabinet homes in the order of their official standing; after which they pay their respects at the residence of the speaker of the house of representatives, and then follows indiscriminate calling upon the wives of senators, representatives, army and navy officers and other official hostesses who are keeping open house. Everywhere they meet other diplomats and public officials of all grades, for calling is general at the seat of government on the first day of the year. In accordance with the Yankee idea, only the men of the American households go calling on New Year's afternoon, but the diplomats are in almost every instance accompanied by the ladies of their households. It is past sundown when this round of calling is concluded, but that does not end the day for the tired diplomats. Most of them have been invited to the ceremonial dinners that, in great numbers, close the day in Washington, hence they must hurry home and change to evening attire in order to greet yet another hostess before 8 o'clock.

## A RUSKIN STORY

In 1858, when Ruskin was in his fortieth year, he was asked by a friend to give some lessons in drawing to a child named Rose La Touche—whose name indeed was French, but whose family were Irish. There sprang up between Ruskin and this young girl a very charming friendship, which, of course, at the time could be nothing but friendship. They wrote each other letters and exchanged drawings and then for awhile they did not meet.

Ten years passed by before they saw each other. Meanwhile the child whom he had remembered as a blue-eyed, saucy, clever little blonde with ripe, red lips and hair like fine spun gold, had become a very lovely young

woman of 19 years. They resumed their old acquaintance, but in a very different way. Though Ruskin was nearly 60, he gave to Rose La Touche an adoration and a passion such as he had never felt before. On her side she no longer thought of him as "very ugly," but was singularly drawn to him, despite the difference in their years.

The two met often. They took long strolls together in the pleasant fields of Surrey, and at last Ruskin begged her to make him happy and to be his wife. Oddly enough, however, she hesitated, not because he was so much older than herself, but because he had ceased to be what she regarded as "a true believer." Some of the things that he had written shocked her as being almost atheistic. She was herself, underneath all her gayety of manner, a rigid and uncompromising Protestant. She used phrases from the Bible in her ordinary talk and when she spoke of marriage with John Ruskin she said that she could not endure to be "yoked with an unbeliever."

Yet her heart was torn at the thought of sending him away; and so for several years their intimacy continued, he pleading with love and striving hard to make her see that love was everything. She, on the other hand, read over those passages of the Old Testament which seemed to bar all compromise.

At last, in 1872, when she was 24 and he was 53, she gave him her final answer. She would not marry him unless he could believe as she did. His honesty forbade him to deceive her by a pretended conversion, and so they parted, never to see each other again. How deeply she was affected is shown by the fact that she soon fell ill. She grew worse and worse, until at last it was quite certain that she could not live. Then Ruskin wrote to her and begged that he might see her. She answered with a note in which she feebly traced the words:

"You may come if you can tell me that you love God more than you love me."

When Ruskin read this his very soul was racked with agony and he cried out:

"No, no—then I cannot come to her; for I love her even more than God!"

When she died, as she did soon after, the light of his life went out for Ruskin.—Munsey's.

## HABITS OF THE HEDGEHOG

Known as a Destroyer of Cockroaches—How He Gets the Better of Adders.

The hedgehog, that butt of juvenile justice horseplay, is the possessor of a class which, like Sam Weller's knowledge of London, is "extensive and peculiar." Scarcely a fastidious insect can make a hearty meal on nearly any insect and is one of the few verte-

brates which can tackle the repulsive cockroach. For effective extermination of beetles and crickets it is as useful as a mongoose among the rats, but it is not generally known that it has a partiality toward snakes and adders. The methods it employs for attacking are interesting.

Having come upon the adder it goes that reptile to the offensive, and at the first dart immediately rolls

into a ball. The adder is then left to attack the spines, in which encounter it naturally comes off second best. After a little, when the hedgehog feels that his antagonist has exhausted his power, it once more opens out and makes a bite at the adder's spine. It then proceeds to crunch the whole of the reptile's body by means of its powerful jaws, and after that it is said to start at the tail and devour its prey. Of eggs the hedgehog is also very fond, thereby giving just cause to keepers

and farmers to destroy it on sight. Cases have been known where hedgehogs actually forced the hen pheasant off her nest and then proceeded to demolish the contents. There is a tradition among country people to the effect that the hedgehog will show the milk from cows, who certainly show strong aversion to the hedgehog, but eminent naturalists scout the idea, their explanation being that it is the heat of the cow which attracts the hedgehog, the cow's dislike being no doubt caused by unpleasant

contact with the prickly spines. Hedgehogs are invulnerable to most of their enemies except man, although the wily fox has been known to get the better of them occasionally.

Nature's Gift to the Eel. The eel has a singular formation by which it is enabled to retain life longer than any other fish. This is a bladder at the back of its upper fin, which it fills with water and is thereby enabled to moisten its gills for a considerable time when out of water,

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