# WASHINGTON GOSSIP

### ODOR OF MOTH-BALLS CLINGS ROUND THE UNIFORMS.

### EXECUTIVE HEADQUARTERS

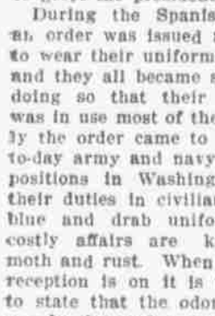
**White House Offices Uncomfortable, Unhealthful and Ugly—Representative Longworth Laboring for Needed Reform.**

WASHINGTON.—The scent of the moth ball will soon be out of Washington atmosphere. There is only one more reception at the White House and after that the majority of the young officers, and old ones, too, for that matter, in the army, navy and marine corps can put away their dress uniforms in cedar closets and chests and fortify them with camphor and moth balls. The odor of these moth destroyers and preventers is first noticed on New Year's day, when every officer of the army and navy and revenue cutter service within the city is expected to put on his finest dress uniform and repair to the White House to greet the president and his wife.

During the Spanish-American war an order was issued requiring officers to wear their uniforms while on duty, and they all became so accustomed to doing so that their official clothing was in use most of the time. Gradually the order came to be ignored, and to-day army and navy officers holding positions in Washington go about their duties in civilian dress and the blue and drab uniforms which are costly affairs are kept safe from moth and rust. When the New Year's reception is on it is no exaggeration to state that the odor of moth balls can be detected a square away from the White House. Then come the official evening receptions, which are given fortnightly, and again the officers must turn out in full regalia, so that the sweet odor of the flowers decorating the executive mansion and the delicate perfumery affected by the ladies must contend with the sharper and more insistent smell of camphor.

These official receptions are now over, and the thrifty officers can once more don civilian dress and attend evening functions in the formal black dress suit. Officers as a rule grow very tired of the color of their uniforms and are very glad to lay them aside for civilian dress.

**Reforms at the White House.**

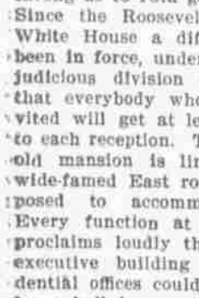


PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has worked a reform in the matter of evening receptions at the White House. In the old days the invitations issued for each reception would fill the executive mansion with such a throng as to ruin gowns and tempers. Since the Rooseveits came to the White House a different system has been in force, under which there is a judicious division of invitations, so that everybody who ought to be invited will get at least one invitation to each reception. The capacity of the old mansion is limited, despite the wide-famed East room, which is supposed to accommodate thousands. Every function at the White House proclaims loudly the necessity of an executive building where the presidential offices could be located and a large hall be provided for official receptions, leaving the present mansion exclusively for the private use of the president and his family.

The idea of a grand executive building is at present kept in the background, although the insignificant executive offices where the president does his work were erected as temporary quarters in expectation that congress would take up the matter and provide a proper place for executive headquarters. There is not a day passes that the inadequacy of the White House offices is not emphasized. There is no more beauty about the building than there is about the average country railroad station. The rooms are uncomfortable, ugly and not very healthful.

The worst feature about these temporary quarters is that the president is separated from the public by only one or two doors, and noises in the outer offices penetrate easily into the cabinet room or into his own office. The deplorable Mrs. Morris incident could not have occurred in a building that had been constructed for protection as well as use of the president. She raised a row within ten feet of the president's room, something she could not have done in a properly constructed building.

**Longworth a Man of Action.**



REPRESENTATIVE NICHOLAS LONGWORTH does not propose to go down into history merely as the husband of Alice Roosevelt. The young man has political ambition and laudable desire to accomplish something as a member of the house. He has already demonstrated on the floor that he is capable of taking good care of himself in debate and he can make an interesting and informative speech. His experience on his Philippine tour last summer was not altogether that of love-making. He studied intelligently conditions in the islands, and when the Philippine tariff bill was up in the house he had an opportunity to display his knowledge of the whole subject. He does not hesitate to speak plainly about the Philippines, and declares that the United States will be well rid of them when they can be properly governed by their own people.

Mr. Longworth is now advocating a very important measure which, if it becomes a law, will distinguish him as a man who has accomplished a real reform. His bill provides for the purchase of land and the erection of embassies and legation buildings for our representatives in foreign lands. His own travel abroad in Europe and in the orient has impressed him with the very shabby showing the United States makes in the matter of homes for her diplomats. For posts in Europe very wealthy men have to be selected as ambassadors in order to do credit to the government in the matter of embassies and in entertaining. Whitelaw Reid, at London, pays $35,000 a year merely for the rental of a mansion, or twice the salary he receives from his government.

Compared with the generous salaries paid foreign ambassadors in Washington and the liberality of their home governments in purchasing for them permanent quarters here, the United States cuts a very sorry figure abroad.

**A Canadian Yankee.**

ONE of Canada's bright railroad men was observed in Washington recently, and the capital city is all the better for his visit. This is George H. Ham, a special agent of the Canadian Pacific railway, who has left a trail of "glad hands" all the way across the continent and wherever his big system of railroad goes, and who is a Canadian Yankee in with, humor and enterprise. Mr. Ham is one of those rare characters that a big corporation gets hold of sometimes, whose personality counts for more than the name of the company. He has made 29 trips from Montreal to Victoria in the interest of the Canadian Pacific railroad, and they have resulted in a wider diffusion of knowledge regarding the wonderful territory this system serves than has been accomplished by any other means.

Mr. Ham personally conducts tours of homeseekers, investigators and investors, with an occasional party of newspaper men, across the continent, and there is scarcely a mile of the 3,000-mile trip with which he is unacquainted. He can give the depths of soil in every section, and the acre of the big 1,000-mile square wheat farm in northwestern Canada, and can tell within a thousand feet of the output of the lumber in eastern Canada as well as on the Pacific slope. Wherever he goes a bright light is shown for the Canadian Pacific railroad, or, as many of the natives in Canada are in the habit of calling it, the "C. P. R. railway." While Mr. Ham was in Washington he did not neglect to call attention to the advantages of his home country of Canada as a winter resort as well as summer.

**Cheap Intoxicants.**

SELECT and common council for the District of Columbia are now in session. In other words, congress is assembled in the national capital and is for a large part of the time engaged in managing the affairs of the district. As the people in this ten-mile square territory have no franchise, they are the wards of congress. The two district committees of the house and senate look after affairs in Washington just as the branches of councils or boards of aldermen would do in any other municipality. It seems to be a rather trifling business for bodies representing the entire country to have their time occupied in discussing the opening of streets, the laying of pavements, building schoolhouses, etc. The system, however, cannot well be changed, the sad experience of a territorial form of government 20 or 25 years ago precluding the thought of changing back to that form.

Just now there is a good deal of talk concerning the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors in the district or the imposition of an extremely high license. The great capital of the nation, supposed to be the center of statemanship, art and literature, is no better off in the matter of common drunkenness than a manufacturing center. A United States official has written to the excise board stating that conditions are deplorable on account of cheap beer and the bucket trade. He declares that most of the alley fights, assaults and other violations of the law are traceable to cheap beer and to the habit of "rushing the growler." The matter will be brought up before congress and an attempt made to cut off the trade in cheap intoxicants and to do away with a multitude of low groggeries where the colored element of the city get their inspiration for all sorts of misdoings.

## AN INTERNATIONAL ZOO.

**Different Countries Which Are Pictorially Represented by Animals.**

Birds, beasts and even fish are used in various ways to pictorially represent particular nations and countries. Maybe fantastically treated, they figure, for instance, in cartoons; copied direct from nature, they appear on postage stamps, and so forth. In this way the lion, first here seen, represents Great Britain, being for this occasion supplied, we notice, with a man-o'-warsman's cap and a turn-down sailor collar, and portrayed as very much on guard on some rocky cliff of our island. We will notice some other creatures in this way which serve as emblems of countries.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Like the king of beasts, the king of birds finds a place in our gallery; indeed, he has two places. The American eagle, the emblem of the United States, is shown as having feathers growing in such a away as to form a stars and stripes pattern. He is a very fine bird, often depicted as in the act of soaring, has wings of huge extent, and plenty of talon and beak.

UNITED STATES.

The German eagle, we notice, is a somewhat different looking bird, with, in this instance, a distinctly martial appearance. He has a military helmet on his head, and wears a decoration of some kind hanging from a collar. The treatment of the bird's wings, tail and leg-feathers is quite Teutonic.

GERMANY.

The bear, big, shaggy and flat-footed, stands for Russia, having in that respect quite ousted the wolf, once sometimes so used. A wolf may, on occasion, look like a dog, or something like a large fox; but a bear is a bear always. The cap that the bear is wearing, from its shape, insists on the fact that this bear is a Russian one.

RUSSIA.

It may, by the way, be mentioned that the want of what we term a national animal to be taken as representative of Japan has been much felt by artists called upon in recent times to draw fancy pictures of affairs relating to the Japanese nation.

FRANCE.

France, next on our list, has the "Gallic fowl," a sprightly looking cockbird from the farmyard. He wears wooden sabots on his feet, has a Cap of Liberty set jauntily on his head, and has slung round his neck a medal bearing the initials of the French republic.

Canada is here doubly represented by us. The picture shows the Canadian beaver holding between its teeth a maple-leaf, which as regards Canada is equivalent to the English rose, Scottish thistle, or Irish shamrock.

CANADA.

Of course, when it is said that, for instance, a lion represents Great Britain, a tiger India, and so forth, no law is laid down as to the attitude that the animal is to adopt. There are, therefore, any number of varieties of each of our examples; which, indeed, are offered as typical of pictorial treatment in each instance.

Newfoundland is sometimes represented by a dog of that breed; by a ptarmigan, a caribou, or American reindeer, or by a seal, but on account of the great fishing industry of Newfoundland, the natural history emblem more often chosen for that country is a codfish.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Holland has the quaint bird, the stork—in the picture, rendered still more quaint by being depicted as wearing a Dutch cap, and smoking a long tobacco pipe.

HOLLAND.

Among more ponderous quadrupeds that are taken as emblems, the Republic of Liberia has the hippopotamus, just as we here perceive the Congo Free State has the elephant. The particular elephant selected by that state is, of course, a very large "tusker," which is usually depicted as being in a rather truculent mood.

CONGO FREE STATE.

**Probably.**

"Do you know the young woman whom you just spoke to very well?"

"Mere calling acquaintance."

"Oh! Telephone girl?"—Cleveland Leader.

## THE MOCKING BIRD.

**Very Graceful in Its Movements—How It Alights and Performs Other Maneuvers.**

"The mocking bird's movements," says an observant writer, in the St. Louis Globe Democrat, "excepting in flight, are the perfection of grace; not even the cat bird can rival him in airy lightness, in easy elegance of motion.

"In alighting on a fence, he does not merely come down upon it; his manner is fairly poetical. He flies a little too high, drops like a feather, touches the perch lightly with his feet, balances and tosses upward his tail, often quickly running over the tips of half a dozen pickets before he rests. Passing across the yard, he turns not to avoid a taller tree or shrub, nor does he go through it; he simply bounds over, almost touching it, as if for pure sport.

"In the matter of bounds, the mocker is without a peer. The upward spring while singing is an ecstatic action, that must be seen to be appreciated; he rises into the air as though too happy to remain on earth, and, opening his wings, floats down, singing all the while.

"It is indescribable, but enchanting to see. In courtship, too, he makes effective use of this exquisite movement. In simple food-hunting on the ground—a most prosaic occupation truly—on approaching a hummock of grass, he bounds over it, instead of going around. In alighting on a tree, he does not pounce upon the twig he has selected, but upon a lower one, and passes quickly up through the branches, as lithe as a serpent.

"So fond is he of this exercise that one which I watched amused himself half an hour at a time in a pile of brush; starting from the ground, slipping easily through up to the top, standing there a moment, then flying back and repeating the performance.

"Should the goal of his journey be a fence picket, he alights on the beam which supports it, and hops gracefully to the top.

"Like the robin, the mocking-bird seeks his food from the earth, sometimes digging it, but often picking it up. His manner on the ground is much like the robin's; he lowers the head, runs a few steps rapidly, then erects himself very straight for a moment. But he adds to this familiar performance a peculiar and beautiful movement, the object of which I have been unable to discover.

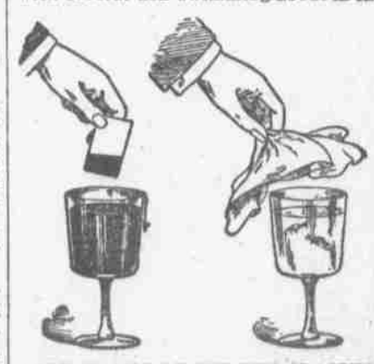
"At the end of a run he lifts his wings, opening them wide, displaying their whole breadth, which makes him look like a gigantic butterfly, then instantly lowers his head and runs again, generally picking up something as he stops.

"A gentleman in South Carolina, familiar with the ways of the bird, suggests that his object is to startle the grasshopper, or, as he expresses it, to 'flush his game.'"

## THE INK AQUARIUM.

**Brilliant Sleight-of-Hand Performance Which Any Boy Can Learn to Do.**

Present a glass full of ink to the view of the spectators, then prove that it is ink by dipping a visiting card in it and showing the card. Now announce that there are live fish in the tumbler that just thrive on ink, and you will prove they are there by changing the ink to water, so that the onlookers may see them. Throw a handkerchief over the glass so as to entirely envelop it, repeat an incantation and then suddenly whisk the handkerchief away. The audience will be very much astonished to find the glass filled with water, clear as crystal, with several fish swimming about in it.



APPEARANCE OF THE TWO GLASSES.

The trick, explains Good Literature, is performed in this way: Get a piece of thin black rubber cloth and line the insides of the glass with it; then tie a black thread to the upper edge of the cloth. Attach a little button or bit of cork to the end of the thread overhanging the tumbler, as shown in the drawing. Fill the glass with clear water, and introduce several fish, live ones if you can possibly procure them, but if not, toy fish will serve, though the trick will hardly be so effective. The ink test with the visiting card is accomplished by means of a confederate who is in the audience and who hands you a card which is marked with ink on one side. As you dip the card into the tumbler you contrive to turn it around, and the audience then sees the black side, thinking naturally that it has just been immersed in the ink. The startling change from ink to water is effected by pulling out the rubber cloth by means of the attached thread and button when the handkerchief is whisked away. Some practice is needed first in order to do this without spilling the water in the glass.

**A Boy Hero.**

A boy of 13 went into the jail at Jacksonville, Fla., and asked the authorities to allow him to serve out the sentence of a boy who had been imprisoned for vagrancy. The justice who sentenced the boy was appealed to, and was so affected by the lad's devotion that he ordered his young friend's release.—Detroit Free Press.


**Southern Bank of Mexico**

**Mexico, Mo.**

Capital stock all paid up .....$150,000.00
Surplus .....$25,000.00

Interest paid on all deposits

J. A. Guthrie, President; C. F. Clark Vice President; A. D. Jackson, Cashier

Directors: W. W. Harper, J. T. Johnson, J. A. Guthrie, C. W. Lewis, and C. F. Clark.

Dr. W. F. Traughber, osteopathic, will be found in his office, east of postoffice, every day except Monday and Friday afternoons. Treats acute and chronic cases. Calls answered day or night. Office hours 8 a. m. to 5. p. m. Phon 355.

**C. A. WITHERSPOON,**

ABSTRACTOR OF

**LAND TITLES,**

MEXICO - MO.

Office: South side fo Square.

**Monuments!**

It will be to your interest to see me before placing an order for monument or anything in the monumental line. Yard and office, Glandon B'ld'g, Mexico, Mo. Branch office, Vandalia, Mo.

JAMES W. GALLAHER.

**A. K. LUCKIE**

—DEALER IN—

GRANITE, MARBLE, CUTSTONE, HARD WOOD MANTELS, GRATES, TILES, ETC.

MEXICO, MISSOURI.

**CLARENCE A. BARNES**

Attorney-At-Law

Mexico, . Mo

Southern Bank Building.

**A. C. WHITSON**

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Will practice in all courts, both State and Federal. Bonds executed. Patents procured. Notary in office.

113 E. Monroe St. Mexico, Mo

60 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

**PATENTS**

TRADE MARKS
DESIGNS
COPYRIGHTS &C.

Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain our opinion free whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. HANDBOOK on Patents sent free. Oldest agency for securing patents.

Patents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notice, without charge, in the

**Scientific American.**

A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any scientific journal. Terms, $3 a year; four months, $1. Sold by all newsdealers.

MUNN & Co. 361 Broadway, New York
Branch Office, 625 F St., Washington, D. C.

**B. A. SHANNON**

**LAWYER-NOTARY PUBLIC**

MEXICO, : MISSOURI

Will give all business prompt attention. See him when you want Notary work done.

**A. M. PATTERSON.**

Physician and Druggist, northwest corner Public Square, Mexico, Mo.

Full line of Staple Drugs and Druggist's Sundries, Patent Medicines, Dye Stuffs, Etc.

A full assortment of Homoepathic Medicines always on hand. These remedies sent by mail when ordered.

Will do strictly an office practice.

— ADVICE FREE.


**A Family Affair.**

Othello had just smothered Desdemona.

"She had wakened him twice to walk the baby, three times to hunt burglars in the cellar and twice to close the back parlor windows so the rain wouldn't come in," explained his friends.

Fearing, however, to make the tragedy too somber, Shakespeare wrote up a different version.—N. Y. Sun.

**Keen Observer.**

Bessie—Oh, Tommy! My new baby dolly is almost human! When I squeeze her she begins to cry, and when I put her up to bed she closes her eyes!

Tommy—Huh! She'd be more human if she closed her eyes when you walk the floor with her, and began to cry when you put her to bed!—Puck.

**War Notes.**

"That young Mrs. Potter has a queer hobby," said Mrs. Henpeck. "Whenever she sees a wedding notice in the paper she clips it out. I wonder what she wants with them?"

"Probably," replied her husband, half-hoping, half-fearing she'd catch his meaning, "probably she puts them in a scrapbook."—Philadelphia Press.

**A Bride's Sad Fate.**

Mrs. Blifkins—I am afraid my darter is awful unhappy with that new husband of hers.

Mrs. Gab—Do tell! Have you heard so?

"No; but I've seen him on the street every day since he got married, and he walks along just as chippy and independent as ever. He doesn't look subdued a bit."—N. Y. Weekly.

**The Mystery of Life.**

"The Millyards keep house on $10 a week."

"That's very different. The Millyards can afford to be beggarly. They've got money to burn. We are poor, and if we try to live on less than $50 a week, we shall certainly be ruined."—Puck.

**Appropriate.**

The bright clerk was tacking up the new calendar.

"It's right pretty," commented the boss, "but you have it crooked."

"Oh, that's all right," laughed the bright clerk. "It was given out by a crooked insurance company."—Chicago Daily News.

**Striving to Please.**

"It grieves me to find that you prefer saying disagreeable things about people," said the considerate woman.

"Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, "and it grieves me to find such a universal preference for hearing disagreeable things."—Washington Star.

**Grown Wise.**

"Is yoh husban' lookin' foh work?"

"Yes," answered Mrs. Pinkley. "He's done foun' out dat its less work to go out lookin' foh work dan it is to stay home an' chop wood an' carry water foh de wash tubs."—Washington Star.

**The Danger.**

"Why didn't you permit your client to testify; didn't you think he would acquit himself well?"

"He might've acquitted himself well, but the jury would have convicted him as sure as preaching."—Houston Post.

**Honest Confession.**

"At any rate," said the woman who sneers, "I am not a parvenue."

"Neither am I," answered Miss Cayenne. "But I hate to think of the foolish investments I have made trying to become one."—Washington Star.

**The Theorist.**

My duty 'tis the world to teach
Just how things should be run.
I go ahead and make a speech
And feel my duty's done.
—Washington Star.

**DECLINED WITH THANKS.**

Cannibal Chief—Won't you stay and take pot-luck with us?

**Miss Sweetie's Suitor.**

He wooed with the dash of a meteor
He said: : "You will wed me, Miss Sweteor,
You are due to find out
I will marry Miss Stout,
She's not sweet as you, but she's meteor."
—Houston Post.

**Thoroughly Broken.**

"Is the new cook at your house broken in yet?"

"Thoroughly. She's broken into every set of china we've got."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

**Disappointed.**

First Millionaire—How is your machine working?

Second Millionaire—Very poorly. Haven't paid a fine for over three days. —Life.

**A Remnant.**

Knicker—Has he an auto face?

Booker—Not all of it; he left four teeth, two ears and one eye in various accidents.—N. Y. Sun.