



Great "City Beautiful" Movement in Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—This city is conducting a remarkable "city beautiful" movement, initiated and encouraged by the city government, but actually carried on by the people generally. Soon after the first appeal, the boys in all parts of the city were cleaning, painting and caring for the trees and flowers and hedges. From the individual efforts of the boys the work was taken up in an organized way by the Boy Scouts. One of these companies was instrumental in calling to Birmingham Warren H. Manning, the well-known landscape architect, and as a result of his visit he was retained to draw plans for the civic improvement development of Birmingham and the country surrounding it for many miles. Large corporations and manufacturing plants caught the spirit and expended large sums in improving their properties. Miles of fences necessary at furnaces and railroad yards were whitewashed and painted; woods were cut and in their place grass was planted; ivy and vines were planted to cover brick walls and ugly buildings. The street railway system co-operated by making its right of way as clean and pretty as possible. Not only were the properties of home owners improved, but the movement spread to the improvement of vacant lots, which in Birmingham as in other cities, were an eyesore for years. Permission of the owners was secured to clean up the lots and many of them were transformed and not a few of them turned into playgrounds for the children.

George B. Ward, president of the board of city commissioners, says: "Today there are few houses in Birmingham among the white population in which there is not at least one person actively engaged in the city beautiful movement and doing something to further the work. Among the negro population the city has met with hearty and useful response. The basis of the movement is found in individual endeavor, but assistance is rendered by women's clubs, professional organizations, Boy Scouts, railroads, manufacturers and corporations."

Important emphasis is given the movement as a part of a city governmental function.

Philadelphia Cow That Knew What She Wanted

PHILADELPHIA.—Mounted Policeman William Major was at Harvey avenue and Bay Fifth street when he saw a cow standing in the middle of the avenue. Behind her stood fifteen automobiles filled with Coney Island goers. There is no record that the cow was doing anything but just standing and looking.

None of the conversation addressed to the cow by men autoists was preserved by the police, but it was said to be in a language no cow can be blamed for not understanding.

After the cow had refused to be pulled or pushed by the motorists, Major showed her his badge and asked her to move on. She tried to lap him behind the ear, but that is all the moving she did. Then a woman who had been watching from a big, dust-covered touring car bearing a Connecticut license number, said suddenly:

"Why, I know what the poor creature wants. Won't someone please get me a pail?"

Well, to make a long story short, a pail was brought and the woman, who Major said later wore diamonds and most expensive summery garments, sat down on the curb beside the cow.

She sat there twenty minutes, according to Major, and the longer she sat the fatter of milk waxed the pail and the more cheerful grew the cow. Both the cow and the woman were smiling, it was said, when those twenty minutes had elapsed, and the cow gratefully moved aside and let the waiting automobilists start again on their way—after they had cheered the woman from the Connecticut automobile.

Gotham's Costliest Apartments, \$25,000 a Year

NEW YORK.—The highwater mark in rentals in New York is reached by a suite of apartments in a Fifth avenue building that rents for \$25,000 a year. To explain how an apartment can be made worth such a sum, it may be said that the building is located on the most costly land available for such houses and that it contains every known device to render life safe and comfortable.

There are two passenger elevators to serve the tenants and these are a solid case of metal lined with French walnut exquisite in grain and finish. Stepping from the elevator one finds himself in an outer corridor or hall, from which he enters a vestibule with floor of marble, but walls paneled to the ceiling with English oak. Beyond the vestibule is a conservatory 25 by 34 feet in size. At the front of the house are living room, dining room and billiard room, with fireplaces in the first and last named. The dining room is a perfect example of the seventeenth century Adam rooms. The wall is solid paneled with five-ply veneer wood to prevent warping or splitting. The walls are painted with nine coats of paint as carefully as the work of finishing an automobile body is done.

From a private hall leading from the vestibule one enters the sleeping rooms. Most of these have private baths; all of them have closets, and in the wall of each closet is built a jewel safe. Every bit of hardware in the apartment is gold plated. All radiators are concealed inside the paneled sections below the windows, the heat escaping through grated openings.

Chickens Are Honor Guard for Pittsburgh Man

PITTSBURGH, PA.—A flock of fine Plymouth Rock chickens, headed by their big barred lord, march from their yard every evening to meet their owner, J. L. Armstrong, a railroad conductor, when his train on the Wabash comes into Rock station, a suburb of this city. They then escort Armstrong to his home, the big rooster leading the procession, which marches by the side of their owner in single file.

Dozens of people, attracted by the remarkable intelligence of the Plymouth Rocks, watched one night to discover how the feathered tribes knew when it was time for their master to appear. At six o'clock an ear-splitting whistle sounded on the railroad. The big cock threw up his head, while the hens stood at attention. After listening a moment, the cock contentedly began scratching again. At 6:15 o'clock another long-drawn siren sent its noise down the valley. This time the cock quickly marshaled his hens about him, wended his way to the depot, met Armstrong with fluttering wings and cries of delight and proudly escorted him home.

Armstrong says: "I believe in the Darwinian theory and I know chickens have brains."

True Friendship Endures.

Friends may part, not merely in body, but in spirit, for awhile. In the bustle of business and the incidents of life they may lose sight of each other for years; they may begin to differ in their success in life, in their opinions, in their habits, and there may be for a time coldness and estrangement between them; but not forever, if each remains true and true.

Hebrew or Jew?

The name "Jew" was used originally to denote one belonging to the tribe of Judah. After the return from the Babylonian captivity any member of the new state was called a Jew. The name "Hebrew" in its widest sense includes any member of the northern branch of Semites, including the Israelites, Ammonites, Moabites, etc. It is used, however, specifically to denote an Israelite.

HUERTA CHECKED BY FEDERAL AUTHORITIES



Despite his protests that he was contemplating nothing wrong, General Huerta was twice arrested by the federal officers in Texas. The preliminary hearing in the federal building at El Paso is here pictured. Those seated include: (1) Pascual Orozco, (2) Jose Zoraya, (3) Frank Alderete, (4) L. Alderete, (5) Victoriano Huerta, (6) Marcelo Caraveo.

REALLY IS CRUISER

Latest German Submarine Is Formidable Fighter.

Carries 4-Inch Quick Firing Gun Which Fires 31-Pound Projectile Which Will Penetrate Ten Inches of Iron at Close Range.

London.—That the latest German submarines are practically submerged light cruisers and carry guns which make them fully as formidable in offensive as vessels of the latter class, is the statement made by a leading English authority on naval matters.

"When the war broke out," he said, "Germany, like the other sea powers, had a certain number of submarines that carried guns. These, however, were small weapons. The caliber of the piece and the way in which it was mounted made it ineffective for such purposes as sinking a ship. Really, these submarine weapons, whether placed outside the boat or on a rising carriage, were little more than experiments."

"Germany is now using much larger submarines, and these are armed with a four-inch quick-firing gun, which bears about the same relation to the earlier submarine weapons that the 17-inch howitzer does to the ordinary field pieces."

"In addition to introducing this big gun into their submarines, the Germans have mounted it in a very ingenious manner. Gun, platform, etc., are carried snugly inside the boat while she is cruising, and the method of bringing it into action is very quick and efficient. Two men take their seats on the elevator platform beside the gun. A pull on a lever and the platform shoots up, carrying the gun with it."

"As it rises from the boat the gun lifts off a hatchway, which automatically forms a protective shield for the gun and the men who work it. One of these men trains the weapon around to whatever direction is required, while the other elevates or depresses, and also fires it. Another pull of the lever, and down drops the gun again, the hatchway closes automatically above it, and the submarine is ready to dive."

"For attacking merchant vessels this four-inch gun comes much cheaper than torpedoes would, and in some ways it is more effective. A torpedo costs thousands of dollars, and it may miss its mark. Scores of German tor-

pedoes have done so. But a round for a four-inch gun costs little and if the first shot fails a second can be sent quickly after it.

"Besides this, the gun has a long range. It fires a 31-pound projectile with sufficient velocity to penetrate ten inches of iron at close range, which means that the shell will carry a long way, and it is more difficult for a ship to escape from a submarine thus armed than from one using torpedoes only, particularly so as the Germans have adopted for use in their submarines a torpedo that has a short range, but carries an unusually powerful charge of explosive."

COULDN'T SWEAR TO A LIE

So Indiana Woman Was Unable to Get a License to Get Married.

Columbus, Ind.—"I'll not swear to a lie," declared Mrs. Bertha M. Blume, who lives a short distance north of here, when her daughter, Miss Iona K. Blume, begged her to sign an affidavit that she (the girl) was old enough to get married. Mrs. Blume, her daughter, and Thomas V. Hobbs, a farmer, had gone to the county clerk's office to obtain a marriage license.

The girl appeared to be young and I. J. Cox, county clerk, asked her age. She replied that she was over sixteen. "The law is pretty strict about such matters as this," the clerk said, "and I will just write out a blank affidavit here for Mrs. Blume to sign, showing that you are sixteen years old."

"I'm not going to swear to a lie about her age," the mother declared. "Please go on and sign it," the girl begged. But the mother would not do it.

The girl was sobbing when she left the clerk's office after a license was refused.

FORCEPS SURGERY SAVES M. D.

Dressing Operation Wound, Wife Finds Towel Sewed in Seven Months Previously.

Toms River, N. J.—Dr. J. Edgar Todd was operated on December 7 for kidney trouble at the Long Island Medical college.

The other day Mrs. Todd was dressing the wound, which had never healed, when she saw something white protruding. She took hold of it with a pair of forceps, and after an hour and a half extracted a surgeon's towel, about ten inches square. It had been left in the body at the time of the operation.

Since the removal of the towel Doctor Todd has shown improvement.

GIRL OF 19 WEDS MAN OF 89

Then Happy Couple Start on Their Wedding Trip in an Automobile.

Greenfield, Mo.—"Uncle Matt" McPherson, eighty-nine years old and one of the pioneer citizens of Dade county, and Miss Clara Burns, nineteen years old, of Higginsville, Mo., were married at the courthouse here recently. The ceremony was performed by Rev. William Shaw of this city.

The young bride arrived at Lockwood, where the bridegroom lives, on a train. "Uncle Matt" was at the station to meet her. Within a few hours "Uncle Matt" had donned a new suit of clothes and, engaging an automobile, set out for Greenfield.

POLICE DOG MAKES ARREST

Gets Vagrant While on Nightly Stroll and Proves Right to Be on Payroll.

Detroit.—Franz, the police dog, earned his right to be on the payroll a few days ago when he arrested one Dave McCarthy, a vagrant, who sought refuge from the traveling men emerging from the Pontchartrain hotel.

Dave's appearance and the smell of his breath did not appeal to Franz, so he backed the derelict up against the wall and barked for his attendant, Patrolman Thomas Hudson, who had Franz out for an airing.

On Franz's complaint Dave was taken to central headquarters, where he was registered as a vagrant.

SHE TAUGHT 70 YEARS AGO

Oldest Among Teachers at Connecticut Is in Her Eighty-Fifth Year.

Franklin, Conn.—At the Old School week in Williamstown the oldest among the teachers who returned for the reunion was Mrs. Julia Ayer Verplanck, in her eighty-fifth year, mother of Superintendent of Schools Frederick A. Verplanck of South Manchester. She was a Franklin girl, who, nearly sev-

enty years ago, taught in Windham, South Windham and Norwich. Her first salary was \$12 a month "and board around." She taught in all 13 years, her highest salary being \$325 a year. She thinks that teachers of today may well be content with comfortable school buildings and good wages.

The first winter she taught, she says, the "ventilation was quite modern—air currents from the baseboard, under which one could pass a hand on foot."

SEEKS FAME ON THE STAGE

Chinese Girl Aspires to Be the Sarah Bernhardt of the Oriental Race.

For all of her Irish name, Peggy O'Wing has never seen Ireland, nor, for that matter, have her father and mother had any Irish ancestry. Peg is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wing Bock of Newark, N. J. Of course one wonders why, if her father's name is Bock, she is called O'Wing. The Chinese do things which we Americans seem to be puzzled over. It is because her father and mother are Chinese that her name is O'Wing. That signifies daughter of Wing, Wing being Mr. Bock's surname. Though she is thoroughly Americanized, some of the oriental ways which she has not forsaken added charm to the fair Celestial



Would Be Bernhardt of Race.

maiden who is seeking a husband. Peg is, according to the manner of Chinese reckoning, eighteen years old, but only seventeen according to the American method. Now eighteen in China is considered an old age for an unmarried girl, and her father has endeavored in every possible way to aid Dan Cupid. Chinamen by the scores have come to the Bock home and have been captivated by the charm of the fair maid, but she would have none of them, because she has made up her mind to have none but an American husband. Her charming features resemble those of a Spanish beauty, and that is saying something, for when a Spanish girl is a beauty she is "some pippin." Peg O'Wing has other aspirations besides securing an American husband, for she aspires to be the Sarah Bernhardt of her own race. It was against the wishes of her father, who is a prominent merchant, that she studied for the stage, for in China the parent of a girl frowns on any attempt of his child disporting herself for the admiration of the crowd. Consequently a stage life for the Chinese woman is never encouraged. So rare is the Chinese actress in China that men often play the roles of women. Miss O'Wing will be the only Chinese actress in the United States. Her three sisters are praying that she will meet with the success she deserves on her initial appearance in New York. She speaks Italian, Chinese, German and French as well as English, and she feels that an American of her ideal type will appreciate her more as a wife, than a Chinaman.

Veteran, 120, Wants Pension.

Frankfort, Ky.—Alexander Bates of Bolivar, Mo., who alleges he is one hundred and twenty years old. His made application for a pension. His application states that he is a Mexican war veteran and that he enlisted in Lexington in 1845. He says he came to America in 1812.

When she taught at Windham Center most boys as well as girls brought handiwork from the homes to do when not studying their books; it was the forerunner of the modern system of manual training.

It is believed that Mrs. Verplanck is the oldest living teacher in Connecticut.

And the Upkeep Is Less. The boy who owns a dog is happier than most men who own automobiles. —Laporte Herald.

NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON



Forty Kinds of Snakes in District of Columbia

WASHINGTON.—A propaganda for the preservation of snakes may be one of the reform movements of the future. There are certain signs in the times today to support the suggestion that another generation may be taught to understand that the nonvenomous snake is the friend and not the enemy of mankind. One of the great economic values of the snake is that he is an active and industrious destroyer of rats and mice.



In the District of Columbia and those parts of Maryland and Virginia adjacent to the District about forty species and subspecies of reptilia have been observed. The copperhead is the snake most thought of by Washington trappers, campers and picnickers in the country along both sides of the upper Potomac. A good many are killed every year, but mishaps because of them have been exceedingly rare.

A not uncommon snake in the District and adjacent territory is the hog-nose snake, or spreading adder. He is also called the black adder and the blowing viper. He is a "bad acting" snake, but perfectly harmless. If disturbed and cornered he will seek to terrify you by contortions and hissing, but that is all.

The Allegheny black snake, a slender, quick and active fellow, who sometimes grows to the length of eight feet, is a common snake around Washington. The black snake, or the "blue racer," is common in undergrowth near streams and the edges of woods.

The fancy-marked house snake, milk snake and chicken snake are sometimes seen; the brown snake is quite common, and so also are the chain snake or king snake, the smooth green snake or the grass snake, the keeled green snake, the short ground snake, the ring-neck snake, the riband snake, the common garter snake, the short red-bellied snake and Valeria's snake, which frequents thick woods.

Beautiful Statue, Mutilated in the Civil War

TALES of the destruction of many of the priceless statues of Europe during the current war is recalling to a number of Washingtonians the fact that in this city is to be found a statue which lived through centuries of cruder civilization only to be partially damaged during the Civil War in this country. That statue, nameless, and since it was injured by soldiers during the great civil conflict, headless and armless, stands today opposite the United States capitol, in the yard of Lot Flannery, sculptor, who owns it.



Hundreds of persons daily pass the statue, partially hidden by trees, and scores who travel that way frequently stop to comment and wonder.

Even without its head and arms the statue presents a graceful appearance. The statue was brought from Athens before the Civil war by Commodore Boyle of the United States navy, who presented it to his brother, Doctor Boyle, who at that time kept a watering place at White Sulphur Springs, Wt. Doctor Boyle placed the statue, still in its entirety, above the entrance to his hotel.

During the Civil war Union soldiers were encamped in the vicinity of the hotel. A number of them, in a spirit of mischief, pulled the work of art to the ground by means of a rope. It was at this time the head and arms were broken. Then the soldiers set up the statue and used it as a target.

Asked if he had ever thought of trying to restore the head and arms, Mr. Flannery answered, "No, no. That would be cruel."

So it is probable that the headless, armless and yet interesting piece of work will remain without change, continuing to attract the attention and curiosity of passers-by.

Alarm Clock of the Nation's Chief Executive

THERE are four Patrick McKennas in the government service, and yet there is only one Patrick E. McKenna—friends say the middle initial stands for Efficiency. He is the official reminder of the president, and the fact that he has held this responsible position for an even dozen years is proof enough that he is "on to his job."



The president has no need of a watch when McKenna is on duty. He knows by experience that his official reminder will see to it that no caller will be permitted to overstay his appointment.

Bright and early every morning Chief Clerk Brahman takes out his "callers' book" and makes up a list of those persons that are to see the president during the day and the time allotted to each.

McKenna carries a split second watch that is as accurate as the naval observatory scientists can make it. When the times comes for the president to receive his first visitor McKenna announces the fact to the person at the head of the waiting list. Then the president's reminder ushers the caller into the president's office.

When this task is completed McKenna returns to his desk with watch in hand. Two seconds before the allotted time expires, McKenna gently opens the door leading from the corridor to the president's office. This is the signal to the chief executive that his visitor's time is up and that the next caller on the list is waiting to see him.

This procedure is continued, in the same punctual manner, until all the appointments are taken care of.

President Wilson May Have to Plant New Elm

THE suggestion is impressing itself that Mr. Wilson will have to try his hand again at tree planting on the White House grounds if he is to be represented in the presidential dendrology there. The elm he planted is doing so poorly that its end seems nigh and, of course, it will be replaced and presumably under the auspices of Mr. Wilson, spade in hand. The Wilson elm took the place of the elm planted by President Hayes, which was a magnificent tree shading the easterly portion of the White House. An incipient tornado uprooted it, and it left such a void that it was determined to replace the tree by as large an elm as could be conveniently transplanted. This was done with the help of President Wilson and considerable ceremony. The new tree was shapely, suggesting that in time it would provide another perfect elm for the White House grounds, and while it did well in the first year, this summer it has presented a drooping appearance, withering in the top limbs. Despite the best of care its future is not encouraging. It had been better to have started with a vigorous sapling.



It is not often that the tree planters of the government in Washington fare badly. They have made the city attractive by the shady streets they have provided. Sick trees are not tolerated and the government has no patience with trees that have no lasting life or that require an extraordinary degree of care. The elm has proved such a care and it is being removed from the streets of Washington proper whole streets at a time. The treatment seems ruthless; only in individual cases is the elm planted.

Generalization Impossible.

The truth is that age and power of achievement cannot be linked in sweeping generalities. It all depends upon the individual. One man may reach his highest mental powers before thirty and then decline, just as one man will reach his greatest physical strength before forty and then begin going downhill, while the mind of another may be most active at sixty or seventy.

Satisfied Where He Was.

While calling on a young woman for the first time, we noticed the portieres moved every few minutes. The hostess went to investigate and discovered her small brother behind them. She said to him: "Come in, Herbert, and meet the gentleman." Edging back and drawing the portieres closer, he said: "Oh, no, I don't wanna come in; I just wanna peek."