

SEEING THE SIGHTS

Rubberneck Men Have Fun With Visitors in Washington.

Are a Great Lot of "Kidders," and Tell All Kinds of Fairy Tales—Vocalists of Cabinet Members.

Washington.—Those who attempt to see Washington from the rubberneck wagons have their own trials and tribulations. The rubberneck conductors are the most imaginative citizens left in the capital this summer. One of their favorite stunts is to indicate as the home of Senator Aldrich the magnificent new building just finished at DuPont circle, between Connecticut avenue and Nineteenth street. The Aldrich home is a very modern semi-colonial affair further down in Massachusetts avenue, not far from the home of Senator Lodge. Another trick is to make sure that the tourist sees the house given to Admiral Dewey by the American people, whether the car goes anywhere near it or not. The "right" that cannot be produced on demand by the modern rubberneck conductor is not worth seeing.

These are the days when the wandering tourist is able to see more of the interior of the White House than



"Rubbernecking" in Washington.

at any other season. True, all the furniture is neatly covered and the pictures are screened, but the entire first floor is open to visitors and they may look in over nearly any corner of the most interesting building in the country. The beautiful old-fashioned garden, just outside the long, glass-enclosed east corridor, is at its prettiest now, with a fine high hedge running around it on three sides.

Offices Are Closed. Its appearance is not improved by the presence of two great starting wood settees at either end. The White House offices are closed to the public. Secretary Norton's room is being lengthened by the use of space formerly given over to the telegraph operators. Mr. Norton is accustomed to rather his important callers in his own office, where he can be seen upon them and keep them feeling good during their sometimes long waits for the president. Room to stow an extra dozen will be appreciated, and no doubt will keep many distinguished men from sitting on the secretary's desk.

Getting back to the main building again, the curiosity of visitors is excited more than anything else by two of the most important objects in the whole collection of bric-a-brac. These are apparently a pair of sarcophagi, which lie in dignified impotence upon either side the main entrance between the reception hall and the long corridor which extends east and west from the east room to the state dining room.

"Is that where presidents lie in state when they die?" inquired a busy old woman as she peered about wondering through the spacious corridors.

"No, madam, those are jardinières. We use them for plants during the winter," was the courteous response. These jardinières, by the way, are carved in the severest style and doubtless are replicas of better known art objects abroad. They are of a texture not unlike soapstone, and from a glance at their sculptured sides might be mistaken for plaster. They are said, however, to be made of an exceedingly rare marble, and they are so brittle that an Italian workman, knowing their value, fled in terror and never returned again when he happened to push over and break one of the faces, some time ago.

Different Kinds of Visitors. Summer visitors to the White House are of a totally different character from the throngs which swarm in and about the majestic building during the congressional session. They are chiefly men, women and children from humble homes who are more interested to learn "how Mrs. Taft keeps house" than the spot where the president stands and shakes hands with the people. The guards have the hardest kind of times keeping them downstairs, for the women especially are crazy to go up and look over the bedrooms. About one out of every ten puts up the argument that "I pay taxes and this house is mine and I have a right to go all over it," but so far no administration has been able to see it that way. It may be said, however, for the benefit of the disappointed, that the second floor of the White House is as spacious and beautiful as a human being could desire for a residence, and if all a president and his family cared to do in summer was to keep cool, they might do this on the hottest day without leaving the executive mansion. The building is now being fitted with lightning rods, to the open-mouthed surprise of hundreds of farmer visitors, who have been taught by costly experience that the promise of the lightning rod agent are a delusion and a snare.

There's Always a Goat. "I was just thinking." "What?" "Why, when it is possible to fly from here to New York some one will probably be fool enough to do it."

CABINET IS SCATTERED.

The nation's capital has been such only in name during the hot weather, for activity has given way to the quietude of a country village. Not a department head is to be found in Washington. President Taft's cabinet members are scattered from the middle of the Atlantic to the middle of the Pacific. The most important official in Washington is Assistant Secretary of State Huntington Wilson, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Charles B. Hilles might be ranked as the next most important.

It is interesting to note how widely department heads have separated themselves, some seeking pleasure and recreation and others conducting investigations in their departments.

President Taft has been on a sea trip with members of his immediate official family, coasting along the New England states. During this time he was the guest of honor and made the address at the unveiling of the big monument erected by Massachusetts in memory of the Pilgrim Fathers at Provincetown, just inside the hook of Cape Cod.

Secretary Knox of the state department is quietly cooling himself at Valley Forge, Pa., while Japan, Russia, Germany and Nicaragua are showing unusual activities in their own state departments.

Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh is seeking rest and recreation at Dublin, N. H., in an effort to stave off heat prostration.

Secretary of War Dickson has gone to the Philippines, combining in his trip work and pleasure. Although no authoritative statement was given out before he left, it is generally understood his trip is in order to give him a personal knowledge of fortifications and war conditions generally in the Philippines and Hawaiian Islands.

Attorney General Wickersham has devoted little of his summer to recreation. Early in the season he dodged in and out of Chicago, Washington and Beverly, keeping in touch continually with the various federal prosecutions which are now under way or about to be started. Then he and Secretary of Commerce Nagel started for a month's stay in Alaska to study the Alaskan situation, as it may be termed.

Postmaster General Hitchcock has returned after a short time in Europe, combining a brief period of rest with a thorough investigation of postal services abroad at first hand.

The only member of the cabinet who is seeking recreation by going back to nature in her most attractive form is Secretary of the Navy Von L. Meyer. Up in Canada, past the outskirts of civilization, he is enjoying a fishing trip with a number of friends at the Redoubt Fishing Club.

Secretary of the Interior Ballinger is spending the summer in his home city of Seattle, Wash.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson is on his low farm in Tama county.

POSTAL DEFICIT IS REDUCED. Postmaster General Hitchcock was gratified when he returned from Europe to learn of the fulfillment of his prediction of a \$10,000,000 reduction in the yearly postal deficit. The report of the auditor of the department showed the saving for the fiscal year to be \$11,573,000. The total amount of

the deficiency for the 12 months ending June 30 was \$5,979,000, as against \$7,480,000 for the preceding fiscal year. The savings for the year averaged nearly \$1,000,000 a month, a record never before attained. The postmaster general said that during the coming year he hoped to make such further reductions in the cost of the postal service as will wipe out entirely the annual deficit and place the department on a self-supporting basis.

The extent of the postal savings bank institution which the government will have to build up to meet the demand, is just beginning to dawn on the officials of the post office department. At present the trustees have only designated a commission of subordinate post office department officials to devise rules and regulations for the new banks and have chosen Chief Clerk Wood as secretary. The correspondence has reached 200 letters a day on this one subject and it is believed that the trustees will have to select a secretary who can give his time exclusively to this work.

Smokeless Frying Pan. A frying pan said to prevent smoke and odors from emanating from the food being cooked, even onions being included, is described in Popular Mechanics. One side of the wall of the pan has an extra section of wall attached. At this point the inner wall is cut low, and between the two is an opening. With the cover in position on the pan the natural draft of the cooking range starts a circulation through the pan and over the food being cooked, this circulation drawing all smoke and odors down into the fire chamber.

Sugar for Horses. Good results are said to have been obtained in France from the feeding of sugar to overworked horses. Excessive strain and constant exhaustion as a result of slippery roads were lessened in those animals which were fed sugar daily. Some horses rendered unfit for service by overwork were restored to normal strength by a liberal mixture of sugar with their feed.—Our Dumb Animals Magazine.

FRANK H. HITCHCOCK.

ALL USE ALCOHOL

Snakebite Remedy in North Carolina Mountains.

Flask of "Mountain Dew" Considered an Indispensable Part of Man's Equipment—Not Always Available to Save Victim.

Recent experiments with a serum to cure rattlesnake bites have called to mind the old-time remedy used by those whose way be along the paths of the mountain reptiles. Since the first mountaineer was bitten by the first man-hating rattler alcoholic stimulant has been the antidote, and the only one so far as the backwoodsman's knowledge was concerned.

In the North Carolina mountains, where rattlers are as plentiful as long-legged niggers, the man considers a flask of "mountain dew" a necessary companion at all times, even if he is not a habitual drinker. Look into any log hut and you will find (unless the owner mistakes you for a revenue officer) at least one keg of the powerful corn whiskey stillied by some moonshiner back in the woods. It is well that the whitish beverage is uncommonly strong, since only a small quantity has to be carried about for safety against snake bites.

When a rattler hits you, as the mountaineer knows, you must drink enough alcohol to become intoxicated. As soon as you feel "lit," the poison has been counteracted; if you have not enough liquor to affect you the only thing to do is to lie down and say your prayers.

The amount of whiskey needed to offset the poison depends, according to rural belief, upon the spot where the snake imbeds its fang. A bite on the body, in the region near the heart, is considered so surely fatal that the amount of spirits consumed, as the poison has only a brief distance to travel through the veins before it stops the heart's beating. If the bite is on the leg or arm, however, the whiskey has plenty of time to get in its work. Fortunately most bites are on the limbs.

The most frequent encounter with a rattler is beside some rotten log on the mountainside, when the climber unexpectedly puts his hand or foot on one of the creatures lying asleep. August is the rattler's sleeping month, and a majority of the bites are recorded then. The reptile awakes is likely to run as fast as he can to avoid a man; he only uses his fangs when his enemy is too close to be dodged.

On account of the rattlesnakes trout fishing along the North Carolina brooks is not the least handicapped outdoor sport in the world. The angler who leaves behind his whiskey is regarded as positively foolhardy. That there are few bites recorded by the fishermen is largely due to the rattler's fondness for high places; the snake does not come down to the brookside for water unless a long drought has dried all the springs high up, and hence it is only in the driest season that one has to be careful when in the bottom of a valley. The streams are so rough, however, that it is often necessary to skirt a mountainside rather than risk one's neck wading or swimming through walled crevices, and the rattlers have their dens in rocky caves half way up the scree, almost overhanging the brook, at an elevation of a few hundred feet.

"Grouch Germ" Discovered. Scientists have found the "grouch germ," according to reports from Kansas City. This germ, it is believed, thrives particularly in the vicinity of phonographs and in neighborhoods where a great many young porch parties celebrate until the small hours of the morning. These "grouch germs" are great travelers and are carried about from place to place. They are spread by bill collectors, book agents and persons who go from house to house selling potato peelers and glass cutters. Those who go about with subscription lists seeking donations are also responsible for the spreading of the little microbe which produces peevishness in hot weather. With these pointers one may know how to avoid giving the pest a chance to carry on its fiendish work.

Odd Cures for Seasickness. Among curious remedies for seasickness is that which is popular among the mariners in the Levant—the daily swallowing of iron rust, which is obtained by the simple process of scraping it off the anchor or anchor chain. But this is only part of the treatment, for a small pouch containing roasted salt and flowers of thyme must be tied upon the abdomen as firmly as can be borne, this being considered to counteract the effect of the internal disturbances caused by the rolling of the vessel. Known to the ancient Greeks as "thymus salt," the preparation has at least the authority of old age, while its efficacy is not without modern testimony. And the belt is better than the salt, and the faith better than the belt.

Too Sunny. James H. Scarr of the New York weather bureau said on a hot and blinding day: "I overheard a timely dialogue this morning between two women. 'Your husband,' said the first, 'has such a sunny disposition, hasn't he?' 'Yes, regular July sunny,' was the reply. 'You're really no idea how hot he makes it for me.'"

The Age of the Weak. This is the Age of the Triumph of the Weak; the Jiu-jitsu system of wrestling has its equivalent in every direction. Popular education is the intellectual Jiu-jitsu; the extended franchise the political, and modern enlightenment the spiritual, which enables the many to discern the folly of the attitude of superiority assumed by the few.—London Truth.

Since She Asked. Sue—Don't you know, George kissed me at the door last night twice before I could stop him! Mae—Gracious! What cheek! Sue—Both.—Smart Set.

FLOORS FOR POULTRY HOUSE

These Made of Lumber Are Deemed the Best Despite the Cost—Cement Type Good.

(By I. J. GOODE.)

With the constant increase in the price of lumber there is a growing tendency to use something else than boards in the construction of floors of poultry houses. There are many people who consider the board floor the best. It must be agreed, however, that there is a point in the advancing cost of lumber at which the use of boards will have to be dispensed with.

Most people that construct poultry houses are not so rich that they can afford to pay out large sums of money for any part of the structures.

The board floor is without doubt the warmest kind of floor, and that is why the writer favors it. The ideal way of building such a floor is to use matched lumber for the top and rough boards for the bottom with tarred paper between.

The thick, heavy tarred paper is the kind that should be used. Much of the tarred paper being used in house construction is of very little value.

It simply answers to fulfill the promise of the contractor to put tarred paper in the walls. The heavy paper costs more, but it is worth more than it costs.

A floor that is thoroughly well put together will be quite warm, provided that the space under it is kept tight. A floor of wood should stand a foot or so above the ground, so that rats cannot get a chance to gnaw it.

The trouble about the space under the floor is that it is quite commonly left open to the weather, and the floor above the space becomes very cold in the winter time.

Some builders say that this space should be left open to the air, so that dry rot will not attack the wood, but there is no reason why the outside should not be tight and the openings for ventilation be made in the floor, thus letting the air from the poultry house pass into the space instead of the frigid air from out of doors.

Earth floors are becoming quite common, but they are difficult to keep clean. Sometimes they are too wet and sometimes too dry, and if the location of the poultry house is low they become damp, which is very detrimental to the health of poultry.

An earth floor, to be kept in good shape, would have to be kept covered with a litter of coal ashes. As a matter of fact, the ordinary farmer seldom does this; ideal conditions for fowls are usually found only in the institution that is devoted entirely to the raising of poultry.

Ideal care cannot then be depended on to give us results, and the dirt floor will become damp, which is a very unhygienic condition.

Sometimes in winter it freezes hard and is a poor substitute for a wooden floor.

The cement floor is coming to be quite popular in some localities, but has the disadvantage of being cold. Also it will not entirely prevent the entrance of moisture.

A cement floor, like an earth floor, has to be kept covered with something in the winter time. It is, however, sanitary and easy to clean when it has become dirty.

Water can be used upon it without any injurious results. It will not become the harboring place for lice and rodents do not try to gnaw through it.

IS SILAGE GOOD FOR SWINE? Testimony on Its Value Conflicting, Both Favorable and Unfavorable Reports Made. The testimony concerning the value of silage as a food for swine is conflicting, both favorable and unfavorable reports being at hand. Many farmers have tried feeding it to their hogs, but without success.

EMILY

By STEPHEN INNES

It was seven years ago that Emily came to our house in Philadelphia. Emily was an orphan whose father, a distant friend of our family, had been unfortunate enough to die in Africa without leaving anything behind him except a few debts and a daughter of seventeen. We were all on the tip-toe of expectation, when it was decided that Emily was to live with us, to see what kind of a person she might be.

She was a pretty and vivacious girl, yet quiet enough in her way, too. And we knew we would like her from the first.

A few days after her arrival a cousin of ours, Jack Holleran—a young fellow, big and broad and strong, but, according to our way of thinking, of far too "sporty" a disposition, even leaning to dissipation, came over from Germantown to call.

Up to the present time he had not honored our family with frequent calls; we were too quiet for him. But now he began to come regularly at least three times every week. And it was evident that Emily was the drawing card.

We didn't care much for Jack. Yet we treated him civilly, of course, when he came to see us, because he was our cousin. And on all occasions we tried to make his welcome as warm as the relationship would naturally demand.

But we didn't like the way he hung around Emily. Not that he was excessive or impertinent in his behavior. He was polite, in fact that was his very trouble. He was too polite—and Jack was secretly engaged to a girl in Germantown named Annabel Lee. He and Annabel were expecting to make a public announcement of their engagement in a few months.

It never occurred to us at first that anything really serious with Emily was taking place, but little by little,



"All Right," He Said, "I'll Marry Annabel, Lee."

scandalous to say, Jack was making an inroad on her inexperienced susceptibilities, and we thought we ought to tell her of his engagement to Annabel.

One afternoon in particular, after talking it over together, we couldn't help seeing the waves of crimson that Jack's speeches and looks and acts were frequently bringing to Emily's face. We were horrified!

We looked daggers at Jack, but he continued with his pleasant, evidently not being Emily's confusion with delight, and finally something had to be done.

"Jack Holleran," protested my mother in surprised alarm, "you're engaged to a girl in Germantown, Annabel Lee!"

Emily started, and Jack noticing her movement interrupted my mother in a most surprising manner.

"By Heavens, it's untrue!" he shouted, and he smote the arm of his chair with his clenched fist. "It's untrue, I say!"

"Untrue?" we repeated in astonishment.

"It's untrue," he cried ignoring the rest of us and seemingly only hungry and thirsty for the love-light that he evidently imagined he discovered in Emily's half-shamed eyes.

BIRDS WILL PROTECT FRUIT

By Planting Early Wild Varieties Growers May Be Coaxed Away From Cultivated Trees.

(By W. L. MATEL.)

Birds play a very important part in the economy of nature and by their destruction of insects lend material aid in keeping the balance true. Both the farmer and the orchardist are greatly indebted to birds for the destruction of insects and weed seed. Both for practical and esthetic reasons, there is a demand for information as to the best method of increasing the bird population in restricted areas, particularly on the farms and about homes. There is a demand also for the provisioning of large preserves for both and water-terrace birds and the protection of crops by cultivating seed and fruit bearing plants more useful to birds than to man.

Various other factors may be made to contribute to the success of efforts to attract birds, such as a supply of water for drinking and bathing, nesting boxes, protection from enemies, and winter feeding; but the main purpose is to call attention to the plants which best serve to provide food for birds and to draw their attention to them from cultivated crops.

Our native shrubs should be utilized as far as possible, especially as many of them are not exceeded in beauty or interest by foreign plants. Furthermore, as a rule they are more attractive to birds than exotics. It should be borne in mind also that smoothly trimmed hedges and the stiff trees of a formal garden are not nearly so attractive to birds as untrained bushes and tangled thickets. Shrubs of sterile varieties or those closely pruned after blooming are not sought by birds, while those allowed to ripen fruit are often crowded with feathered visitors.

The best shrubs and trees for attracting birds are those most resorted to for food, and the extensive records of bird food in the biological survey make their selection an easy task. The berries of elders are eaten by the largest number of species of birds, namely, 67. Raspberries and blackberries are known to be eaten by 50 species, mulberries by 48, dogwood fruits by 47, those of the nonpoisonous sumachs by 44, the various wild cherries by 39, and blueberries by 37.

A great many other varieties which grow in localities where there are not plentiful are also very attractive to birds.

Nothing surpasses mulberries for alluring birds away from the early orchard fruits. Early bearing varieties should be planted in numbers and some should be selected for the length of the fruiting season.

Where it is desired to attract birds and afford them a sanctuary at all seasons, a large variety of plants must be used. For this purpose thickets of shrubs and other low growths are better than trees, since tangles of bushes and vines afford a more secure retreat from bird enemies and are the favorite cover of many species.

FOE OF INDIGESTION FOUND Physician Asserts That Pineapple Is the Long-Looked For Friend of Human Race. The late lobster supper has been robbed of its terrors at last. Even hot mince pie over which a Welsh rarebit has been poured can be safely eaten at midnight and no wild nightmare will follow. All that is required of you is that after eating a heavy, indigestible meal you eat for dessert a small piece of fresh pineapple.

For this information late diners, and all others who are subject to acute indigestion, are indebted to Dr. B. G. R. Williams of Paris, Ill., who has prepared for a recent number of the Medical Record an exceedingly interesting article on the therapeutic possibilities of the Juice of the fresh pineapple.

"It seems to me," says Doctor Williams, "that the stomach can use pineapple juice under certain conditions. And this I would point out to be a prevention rather than a relief of symptoms. Pineapple juice can quickly neutralize an acute indigestion, but it may prevent one.

"I recall at least one patient who, though sound physically in every respect, knows that when he sits down to a heavy dinner a most poignant sick stomach is certain to follow. There could be no better addition to the meal than a piece of pineapple eaten now and then. To be brief, I convinced myself long ago that pineapple is a godsend to the one who is indisposed. The midnight chop-suey and lobster lose their terrors, and he retires confident of dreamless sleep, even after mince pie or fruit cake, where once he would not have dared.

"Possibly no encouragement of this kind should be given to such habit; nevertheless, such knowledge is of value to the medical man in his consultation with the one with whom the ordinary meal is as much a distraction as the midnight banquet."

What Can City Boys Do? City boys get no chance at all in the trades. The argument of the unions is that they are being constantly subjected to the pressure from the trades, where the boys learn the trades, and then come to the city. But what are our city boys to do? Shall they all grow up to be cigarette-smoking clerks and loafers? I would like to see some practical use made of the manual training facilities in the schools for which the city has put out so much money. Teach the boys in the schools the useful trades. We can't all be clerks or bookkeepers or lecturers. Some must work.—Leslie's.

Enthus, Viscount read Greek, Latin and Italian before he was four years old, while Montcalm, when a child in arms, could translate the most difficult Latin authors. At six he could read Greek and Hebrew, and possessed considerable knowledge of arithmetic, history, geography and metallurgy. At seven he had read all the chief poets, orators, historians, philosophers, grammarians, etc., but died before he was eight.

Honest Officials. What we have to demand in ourselves and in our public servants is honesty—honesty to all men; and if we condone dishonesty because we think it is exercised in the interests of the people, we may rest assured that the man thus showing it lacks only the opportunity to exercise it against the interests of the people.—Theodore Roosevelt.

Making Home Beautiful. "I think I will beautify my back yard a bit." "Going to plant flowers?" "No, I won't go to all that trouble. But I think I'll arrange the tin cans in a tasteful design around the tin barrel."

GREAT CROPS FOR DAIRYMEN

Alfalfa and Corn Furnish Nutrients, When Rightly Combined, That Are Excellent.

When we find a dairyman that is growing alfalfa and corn he is invariably a successful farmer, says Hurd's Dairyman. These two plants furnish nutrients, when rightly combined, that give excellent results. Prof. W. J. Frazer, in commenting upon them and the use of the silo says:

The summer silo gives the best and most economical protection of all against drought.

One of the very greatest crops for the dairyman, and one which is now being successfully grown on thousands of farms in Illinois, is alfalfa. Every dairyman should have a patch of alfalfa, and this will supply the finest of feed when the drought has ruined ordinary pastures. The alfalfa at the university yielded more than six tons of air dry hay per acre last year.

The great advantage of corn in the silo and alfalfa is that they not only produce the largest yield of nutrients per acre of any crops, but are in the best condition for feeding at what ever date the pasture may fall, while it is difficult to have a constant supply of other silage crops in the right stage of maturity at and during the uncertain time of the drought.

Never, under any conditions, allow the cows to go hungry and suffer loss of milk during the summer drought which for several reasons is the most trying season for the dairy herd.

Cultivating Phloxes. Cut the fading, bloom stalks from the phloxes, work the soil, dig some fertilizer about the roots, water well, and induce new growth, when they should bloom until frost cuts them down.

Corn Fodder for Cows. The feeding of the late corn fodder to dairy cows should be continued just as long as the corn is at all green. It is a splendid supplementary feed with the short autumn pasture grass.

Cultivation vs. Sprinkling. Don't waste much time trying to water a garden with a sprinkling pot. Keep the soil fine and free from weeds and let the watering go.

If you think watering does much good, give a bed in the garden a good watering and then dig down to find how deep the water went. You will be surprised to find how much water is required to dampen the top inch of soil, and water never goes down in the soil until the point of saturation is reached.

You can do more good in an hour with a hoe than you can in a day with a sprinkling pot.

The Cow in Winter. The cow has every chance to do her best in winter when she is not bothered with fighting flies. At this season there is more time to give her regular attention, and make the business count.

Good Horses Scarce. Good horses are mighty scarce and very high in price. There are plenty of plugs yet, always will be we presume. So long as poor stallions are used any