SKINS ARE STUFFED

Roosevelt's Trophies Are Being Prepared In Washington.

Taxidermists Are at Work With the Specimens and Carpenters Are Erecting the Mounts in the National Museum.

Washington.—In an obscure corner of the national museum, on the mall, in Washington, half a dozen men are preparing the skins of the animals killed by Theodore Roosevelt and his party in Africa. Carpenters are building the framework on which the hides of the mammals will be mounted and taxidermists are working with the skins under the supervision of government naturalists.

In the department given over to the study of comparative anatomy, where the skeletons of the largest animals are suspended from the ceiling, are two glass cases. In these are the trophies of the $250,000 Roosevelt hunt. The collection consists of the skins of a lion, cheetah, reed buck, mongoose, leopard, zebra, hyena, horse-tailed monkey, rhinoceros, Grant's gazelle, Thompson's gazelle and field mice. In another case are the skulls of a rhinoceros, giraffe, hippopotamus, wart hog, African buffalo and an antelope.

Few of the hundreds of tourists that visit the national museum each day pay much attention to the Roosevelt collection as it stands, the guards on duty say, and seldom does a sightseer ask where the Roosevelt collection may be found.

"It's a funny thing to me," remarked one of the curators of the museum, "why those skins and skulls don't make more of a hit with the public. The exhibit is labeled, as you see, and the word 'Roosevelt' in big letters on that placard yonder ought to be an attraction alone. But it is not."

A number of the skins, those of hartbeests, elephants and hippos are still packed in hogsheads in which they were shipped from Africa. Brine is the principal preservative used and the skins are in such good condition, taxidermists say, that they may be kept indefinitely. As rapidly as the skin of one animal is stuffed it is set aside, in the rough, and work is begun on another. The finishing touches are left to the naturalist and his work is important.

"Perhaps you never thought much about it," said an employe at the museum, who is a student of natural history, "but animals have a wonderful lot of expression—facial expression, I mean. They have their moods just as we do, and it is a knack coupled with a certain artistic sense, to 'build' up a skeleton, clothe it with a pelt and make it appear as it did in life. Particularly is this true of our larger wild animals, the very kind we are working with now in getting together the Roosevelt collection.

"Lower classes of animal life are not so difficult to handle, birds and reptiles being comparatively easy to stuff and mount. It is in posing the subjects that the real difficulty is encountered. There are many details to be looked after. For example, it is a good day's work to select and fit the right kind of glass eyes for just such specimens are we are now working with. It's not hard to pick out elephant eyes from those of a lion or an antelope, but it is a job to select the right shade and size and it is not altogether practicable to follow models too closely. Of course, the general contour of the specimen is the principal thing to pay attention to, but there are any number of little details to be looked after that makes the work tedious.

"The Asiatic elephant and the African elephant, while they are first cousins and in a general way look a good deal alike, have distinguishing features. Almost everyone knows that their ears vary in size and shape and that their eyes differ in shape and often in color. It rests with the naturalist to put the finishing touches to a specimen after the taxidermist has done the rough work."

The larger animals that go to make up the Roosevelt collection will have ribs of wood. By the first of the year, specimens will be on display in the national museum.

EFFICIENCY IS REQUIRED.

The order signed by President Taft placing in the classified service assistant postmasters and such clerks in certain classes of post offices as are not now within the civil service, does not take effect until December 1. An important feature of the order is that assistant postmasters who cannot present an efficiency record will not have the advantage of the order. The official text of the order is as follows:

"It is hereby ordered that the position of assistant postmaster in post offices of the first and second classes and also the position of clerk, of whatever grade, in post offices of the first and second classes, not hitherto classified, shall be included in the classified service, provided that no assistant postmaster or clerk appointed without examination prior to this examination shall be classified who fails to establish to the satisfaction of the post office department his capacity for efficient service in the position held, and Schedule A of the civil service rules is hereby amended accordingly. This order shall take effect December 1, 1910."

The civil service commission is not prepared to make a definite statement as to the number of persons who will be brought into the competitive classified service until a further analysis of the effect of the order has been made. There were on July 1, 1909, 2,105 assistant postmasters in first and second class post offices, and on the date named there were 614 second class post offices in which city free delivery had not been established, in which there were employed 1,746 clerks who were unclassified. A considerable number of these second class offices have since been classified by the establishment of city free delivery, thus reducing the number of clerks who are classified and who will be affected by the present order. It is probable, however, that the total number of persons affected will be in the neighborhood of 3,600.

Some regret is being expressed by civil service reformers that the president did not accompany this new order with one covering all the fourth class postmasters in the country into the classified service. At present the fourth class postmasters of 14 states—the territory east of the Mississippi river and north of the Ohio river—are in the classified service. The number of fourth class postmasters in these 12 states is about 24,000. The total number of fourth class postmasters in the country is 52,942, so as will be seen, not quite half the postmasters in this class are in the classified service.

It was said at the civil service commission recently that the policy will undoubtedly be to fill the places of assistant postmasters by the promotion of postoffice employes already in the classified service. Postmaster General Hitchcock desires that this policy shall be pursued rather than a policy under which men unfamiliar with the duties of the office would be brought in through competitive examinations, and the civil service commission supports the postmaster general's views.

WANT U. S. TO BOOST GOOD ROADS

Secretary Wilson of the department of agriculture has received a petition signed by eight American delegates who attended the recent international road congress at Brussels requesting that his department consider the advisability of the United States government becoming a member of the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses. The office of public roads is a part of the department of agriculture, and for this reason the matter was put up to the secretary for his consideration.

The special significance of the petition is that it discloses the fact that the United States, which has the most extensive system of roads of any country in the world, has been one of the three slowest nations to join the International Road association now formally adhered to by 26 governments. Italy and England are the only other large countries which have not joined.

The nations of Europe have gone a long way ahead of the United States in road work, particularly in the matter of administration and road maintenance, and experts say that for this reason this country will benefit immensely in the advantage of collaboration made possible by membership in the international congress. France, for instance, with its almost perfect system of roads, sends one and one-third times as much freight over her public highways as is carried by the railroads. The freight traffic on the roads of other European countries is almost as heavy. In this country conditions are reversed and it is estimated that the railroads carry nearly four times as much freight as the public roads. Yet railroad development depends, engineers say, on the good roads which open up and make accessible the country adjacent to the lines.

The department of agriculture now has the petition under consideration and, if approval is given, congress will be asked this coming winter for the small appropriation necessary for this country's membership dues.

RENOVATING THE CAPITOL.

The capitol has recently undergone a thorough house cleaning and renovating. Over 200 workmen have been laboring with paint brush, mallet and chisel for months to improve the building. Among the numerous big changes is that of using the power plant of southeast Washington, which will transmit heat and light through more than a mile of tunnel to the capitol, the office building and the congressional library.

All the rooms, stairways, etc., have been painted and varnished. For year after year paint and varnish have been put on the walls and stairways until it will no longer stick, but peels off, leaving unsightly spots. This year the cleaning went so deep that all of the old paint was sandpapered off and the new coats put directly on the walls. The painting of the dome and capitol combined has been an enormous task. It has been estimated that if one man only were to tackle the job it would take him about five years to complete it.

MOONSHINERS IN THE CAPITAL.

An illicit whisky still almost in the heart of the national capital! Now, what do you think of that? The revenue officers made the discovery a few days ago that in the southwest section of the city is an illicit still with a capacity of 100 gallons of whisky a day, and it has been there for nearly a year. Some important arrests have been made, and it has been discovered that several of the wholesale liquor houses in this city were getting their supply of whisky from this still

WOMAN BOTH TRUANT AND HUMANE OFFICER

Cruelty to animals may serve as an inspiration to the painter's brush in Paris, but it never can in Sapulpa, Okla.—not, at least, so long as Mrs. Mabel Bassett is on the job as humane officer of the new state city. She is the only woman humane officer in the state of Oklahoma.

Time was, not many months ago, when Sapulpa's teamster's mistreated their horses at will, left them in the hot streets for hours without food or water and inflicted all sorts of cruelty, thoughtless or otherwise, upon the dumb brutes of the vicinity. But last March the women of Sapulpa, aided by a few of the men, organized a humane society, and determined to stamp out these abuses. So limited were the finances of the new society that it could not afford to employ an officer to look after the work.

Then into the breach stepped Mrs. Bassett, who volunteered to fill the office until a regular officer could be employed. So well did she accomplish her task that the city council agreed to pay a salary and appoint as humane officer anyone the society might select. Mrs. Bassett was urged to take place, and when her name was placed before the councilmen they were delighted to make the appointment. And they went even further. They named her city truant officer as well.

Before she entered upon her duties it was a frequent occurrence for teamsters to work horses with sore shoulders day in and day out. Mrs. Bassett has rapidly remedied that condition, and the practise has been almost wholly discontinued. Most of the horses in Sapulpa have been provided with hats this summer and have been fed and watered with greater regularity, while drinking fountains have been erected in many places over the city.

Stray dogs without friends to prolong their lives by means of the brass tax tag are no longer killed by the bullet of a policeman. In its stead gas is used, as Mrs. Bassett believes it to be practically painless.

Due to this woman's efforts a roping contest at Sapulpa was declared off last summer. She not only realizes that the day of the "wild west" is long since past in Oklahoma, but it is her desire to put a stop to a form of amusement that results in broken horns and legs and frequently broken necks for the steers that are used. In addition, horses and men also are frequently injured.

As truant officer, Mrs. Bassett has almost stamped out truancy in the public schools of her home city. With the compulsory school law behind her she is able to enforce her demands

INTERNATIONAL CHARITY GOAL SET BY BRITISHER

Philanthropy has gone forward a step in the act of Sir Ernest Cassel. Though many have been generous in their home towns, dispensing of their surplus for the general good, and numerous Carnegies have bestowed handsome gifts for the use of their countrymen at large, Sir Ernest, has gone them all one better by his international philanthropy. An Anglicized Teuton, his gift takes cognizance of the fact, and the million dollars donated in the name of the late King Edward, as a memorial to "The Peacemaker," includes in its benefit his compatriots in the land of his adoption equally with his erstwhile countrymen in the fatherland.

A gift to international charity in memory of King Edward; a million-dollar fund established for the aid of the English poor in Germany and the German poor in England, plainly the gift seems designed to relieve the tension between these two nations whose "war scares" at the expense of each other are so numerous. However, Sir Ernest says that was not his idea, although if that were the effect of the fund he would be greatly delighted.

The son of a Cologne banker, Sir Ernest was born in 1852 and at an early age went to England, where he made a splendid fortune. About eight years ago, on the eve of his departure to India, he placed at the disposal of King Edward $1,000,000 to be used for charitable or utilitarian purposes. King Edward devoted the money to providing additional sanatoria for the open air treatment of tuberculosis, which were greatly needed at that time. Sir Ernest early became proficient in financial affairs. In recognition of successful services rendered to the Egyptian government in 1899 he received the K. C. M. G. And in addition he has the first-class Royal Order of Wars (Norway and Sweden), to which countries he was of great assistance in railway enterprise, and the Order of the Crown of Prussia, of the first class, one of the highest German decorations. Of late years Sir Ernest had been closely associated with King Edward and was one of the last allowed to call on him before his death.

CATALPA TREES FROM SEED

Good Wind-Breaks Easily Obtained in Short Time and at Practically No Cost.

(By GEORGE W. BROWN.)

For a number of years we have grown this valuable species of deciduous tree from the seed gathered from our matured trees and we do it easily.

After the leaves have dropped we gather the long spike-like pods from our catalpas and separate the seeds which are dried out and stored away with our other farm seeds. In early spring when we plant our dwarf peas in the garden we scatter the catalpa seeds into the trenches with the seed peas.

About the time the peas are gone the little catalpa plants come up nicely and by cultivation we can grow them a foot to 18 inches the first year and we then can set them out the following year in a permanent location.

We have a hedge or windbreak about the west and north sides of our orchard grown in this manner, and besides have many growing alongside the border fences and roadways, and upon our home grounds, where they bloom and are very pretty and ornamental the whole year with their broad, attractive leaves and drooping seed pods a foot or more in length.

Some of our friends have tried the method of scattering the seed in the woodland or planting it along the fence rows where trees are wanted, but field mice rob the seed and a failure results.

The catalpa speciosa, or tall-growing catalpa is what we grow, and it is easily grown from seed after our method. If we desire a few trees of this species for planting no easier method can be employed than to grow them ourselves from seed gathered from the true speciosa variety. We are intending next season to grow a large quantity for planting into a grove for post timber, as they are valuable and have out-lasting qualities above many other varieties of timber for this purpose.

FEED AND WATER FOR HORSE

If Given Grain First Liquid Will Push It Out of Stomach Before Properly Digested.

An important fact to know in the feeding of the horse is that its stomach is quite small and that it will hold about two gallons. If the horse is fed his grain first, then hay and then water, the grain will be pushed out of the stomach before it is digested. The best way is to water first, then feed some hay, and then the grain. In case the horse is warm it would not do to give all the water it would take, but it should be given a little even then. During warm weather it would be well if the horse was watered in the field at least once during the forenoon and in the afternoon. A horse will eat too much hay if given all at once. Feed a smaller amount of hay at noon. During warm weather it pays to take at least an hour and a half rest at noon and often times even longer and then working a little later in the evening. In cool weather the rest hour need not be quite as long.

LIVESTOCK NOTES.

The lamb that cashes in the most money for its owner is not a product of poverty.

Circumvent the large feed bills by producing better roughage and grain on your own farms.

To allow feeders to eat all the corn they can stow away after reaching the farm is disastrous.

A little flock well tended on the small farm well tilled will rarely disappoint the good shepherd.

Give ewes good pasture and extra feed just before the breeding season. Give them extra feed during pregnancy.

Tar in sheep troughs is said to be generally beneficial for sheep at all seasons, and especially for grubs in hot weather.

To get the best financial results from a flock of mutton sheep it is essential that they combine a good fleece with a good "leg of mutton."

Dairying and Soil Fertility.

No other branch of agriculture presents more advantages than dairying—disposing of these products of the farm as milk and butterfat. When the latter may be sold to creamery stations and the skim milk fed to calves and pigs along with alfalfa the profits are greater than from almost any other form of agriculture.

No other business tends so rapidly to build up the fertility of the farm, and, when judiciously conducted, no other branch of farming yields more satisfactory financial returns. Raising and feeding alfalfa will add from 15 to 20 per cent. to the profits of dairying over the use of any other feedstuff that may be raised or bought. The profit problem for the dairyman is constantly to find the feed that will decrease the cost of his production.

Sheep-Raising Pays.

Farms where sheep are depended upon for the big end of the income are quite scarce this side of the Mississippi. But farms where sheep show net profits that they are never given credit for are numerous. The man who has kept a flock of 40 or 50 ewes all his life seldom realizes how much they contribute to his bank account and to the looks of his farm until he gets "sore on the wool trust" and gets out. He's generally found getting right back in.

For the Hostess

Chat on Interesting Topics of Many Kinds, by a Recognized Authority

A Chrysanthemum Luncheon.

Judging from the numerous letters from brides-elect, Cupid must have been unusually busy with his little bow and arrow. There are so many requests for pre-nuptial functions, I am sure the description of this chrysanthemum luncheon will be very acceptable.

It was gorgeously brilliant, the color scheme being yellow; especially fitting for this month as November claims the topaz and the chrysanthemum; in this instance it was also the bride's birthday month as well as her wedding day season. For a centerpiece there was a mound of yellow "mums," kept in place by embedding the stems in sand. At each place there was a little yellow jardiniere containing one stiff, straight little yellow "mum" to which the name card was attached with a yellow ribbon. The grape fruit cock-tail had a wee "mum" in the center of the fruit; around the stem of the glass there was a fluffy bow of white tulle. The plates on which the frappe glasses stood had a wreath of yellow "mums" around them and the ice-cream was in boxes concealed by petals of yellow crepe paper "mums." The candle sticks were of silver and had yellow shades. At each place were yellow slippers filled with salted nuts. Just the bridal party were included in the guests, I mean the girls in the party and two matrons of honor.

A Box Shower.

A jolly crowd wishing to "shower" one of their number who was about to leave the state of single blessedness, conceived the bright idea of giving a box shower. The boys were in on it too, and they had loads of fun. All the gifts were in boxes, which in turn were put in a huge dry goods box covered with white paper cambric on which hearts of red, large and small were pasted. When all had arrived, the bell rang and the village expressman appeared and said he had a small parcel for Miss B—— and imagine the surprise when he entered with the assistance of several of the masculine guests bearing the immense box. The honored couple were told they could unpack, but each package was to be shown, the card read and speech made before the next box was opened.

Among the articles were boxes of paper, box of matches, box of tacks, box of soap, of thread, of pins, work box, glove and handkerchief box, stamp box, tool box and a nest of boxes ending with a wee pill box which contained a collar button; box of tin kitchen utensils, box of paper napkins, box of lard, etc. When it came to serving refreshments the hostess had a dainty luncheon put up in pasteboard boxes covered with rose wall paper, a box for each couple, coffee and ice cream completed the repast. There were salted almonds and bon-bons in pretty heart shaped boxes bearing the monogram of the bride and groom elect, which the guests retained as souvenirs.

A Neck-Tie and Apron Party.

This really is an old time stunt, but like many other old things has been rejuvenated. The hostess prepares as many cheese cloth aprons as there are men and as many pieces of silk or ribbon as there are girls. When all arrive the men are given spools of thread and told to find the girl who has an apron to match it. In this way partners are chosen and the girls put on the aprons after the men have sewed the hems and sewed on the strings. Allow half or three-quarters of an hour for this. Next the girls are given the necktie pieces and they are gathered together and put through a door, each girl having hold of an end, the door is closed and the men are to come in and take hold of an end. When each man has an end, the door is opened and the girl who has hold of the other end must fashion a necktie for her swain. The latter puts it on and the girl puts on her apron, and thus partners are selected for supper or refreshments. This is a very jolly party, adapted to private parties or for a church social.

MADAME MERRI.

To Clean a Black Skirt.

To clean a black skirt, lay the skirt as flatly as possible on a clean table. Remove all grease spots with brown paper and a hot iron, then with a sponge dipped in strong coffee rub over the whole of the dress, paying special attention to the front and edge of the skirt. When the whole of the skirt has been sponged and is still damp, iron on the wrong side until perfectly dry.

FANCIES OF FASHION

All-black hats are seen in satin, velvets, brocade, hatter's plush, velours, beaver, beaver cloth.

More dress hats are in all-black or black-and-white with a touch of metal or color than in any other shade.

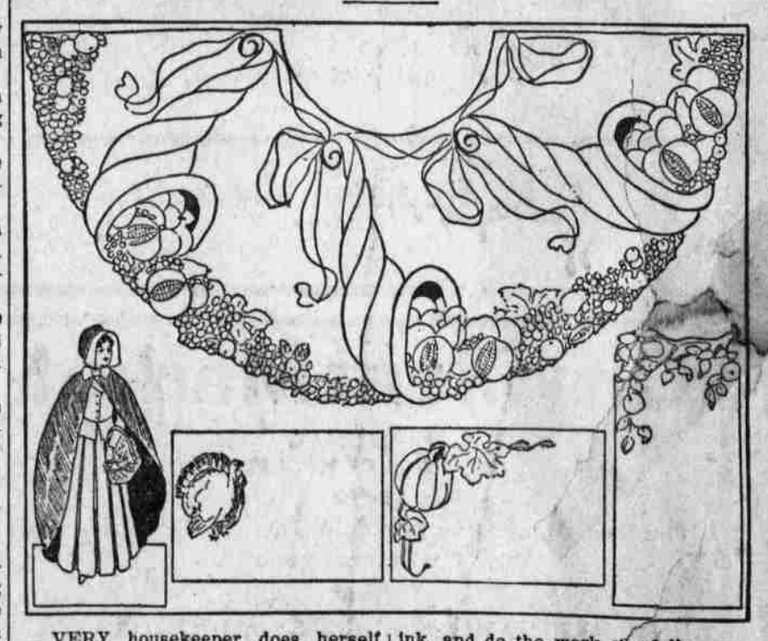
Ostrich feathers, willow plumes especially, are much in demand. Shaded and two-tone effects lead in favor.

Brimmed turbans are seen, with upright brims almost as high as the hat itself and close to it except at the back.

Hat shapes are of three sorts—the large, wide-brimmed hat (the most popular, the clotche, or Charlotte Corday, and the turban.

As a variation on these there is the large hat with the mushroom brim in a wide variety of shapes, all generally following the mushroom type.

For Thanksgiving



EVERY housekeeper does herself proud in getting up the Thanksgiving dinner. Besides the snowy linen, sparkling silver and glass, and savory dishes, some decoration is needed to make the festive occasion quite complete.

These decorations are no small item of expense if purchased in the art shops where hand work brings its price. Any woman or girl may, however, make her own decorations at very small expense and in a short time.

We are giving today several designs which work out attractively in color.

The candle shade, representing the horn of plenty, always in evidence in Thanksgiving decorations, is to be traced on thin water-color paper by means of carbon paper, and tinted in water-color. The horn is to be purple—not too dark—the ribbons green, and the fruit of the gay richness of the natural color. The inside of the horn may be tinted dark green.

To add to the effect when lighted, put a bright bit of color on the wrong side of the shade under any gay colored fruit, such as orange or apples. Leave a little seam on each end of the shade and fasten with brass brods. The edge is cut out irregularly around the fruit. When the painting is done go over all lines with waterproof black ink, and do the work carefully.

Four place cards are given, one a demure Puritan maiden to be colored in light gray gown, darker gray cape with bright red lining, cap to match the cape with a white facing and tie and kerchief—which just shows a little in front.

Paint the face and hands in the natural color. Red and yellow, if properly mixed, will give a satisfactory flesh color for beginners.

The lines in all the cards should be gone over with a pen and ink outline.

The turkey is to be painted brown, light and dark shades, with a bit of red on the head, and outlined.

The pumpkin is a brilliant orange color with dark green leaves, and the apples shaded in light and dark red and green leaves, with brown stems.

The water-color cards may be bought by the dozen, or very stiff and heavy water-color paper may be used.

Those who do not already possess a box of water-color paints may secure a very excellent little box of a new make with all the necessary colors, for 50 cents. A five-cent Japanese brush, which comes to a very fine point, will answer all purposes for doing this work.