



WARRIEN G. HARDING is probably the hardest-working man in the United States of America these days. He is the head of the biggest business concern on earth. And probably his secretary, George B. Christian, Jr., is the next busiest. Moreover, Mr. Christian is as important as he is busy. Really, you know, there are few more important jobs in Washington than that of the secretary to the President. Some people go so far as to say that the President's secretary is in reality a more important official than any member of the cabinet. They argue that if the executive departments were left without heads they would run along just about the same, whereas without a secretary a President could not get along at all. This is the kind of picturesque exaggeration that we Americans like—because it is mighty near the truth. Anyway, the discriminating reader will have noted that the press of the country gave Mr. Christian's appointment quite as much space as it did some of the cabinet appointments.

Mr. Christian has been with Mr. Harding quite a long time—long enough to have gotten well acquainted with his chief and to have proved his own abilities. As secretary to Senator Harding, he had a chance to learn Washington. And he won his spurs during the trying days of the campaign.

The President's secretary is the mouthpiece of the President. When he speaks it is ex cathedra. If a communication is to be made to the public on any subject not so important as to require a formal proclamation, it is the secretary who utters it, usually through the medium of the newspapers.

Every letter that reaches the White House, is read and a rule requires that to everyone a courteous reply shall be made. A dozen clerks attend to this business. They even read and answer the letters addressed to the President's wife; for multitudes of strangers write to her also. Private letters, "recognized as such by a sort of instinct," alone pass unopened.

His future? That remains to be told. Many of the presidential secretaries graduated from the White House office to fame and riches.

Simply "White House."

The official residence of the nation's chief is called in the laws the President's house, and with this name much of the old silver and china belonging to the establishment is marked. When Mr. Roosevelt arrived on the scene he found large stacks of note-paper and letter-paper stamped with the words "Executive Mansion"—a title adopted by Mr. Cleveland, who delighted in big words. "Throw out that junk!" said he to his secretary; and, by his direction, all of the stationery was thereafter headed simply "White House."

Up to Mr. Roosevelt's time the business offices of the White House were in the mansion proper, directly over the East room, so that visitors came in at the front door and climbed a flight of stairs to reach them. Across the main corridor on the second floor was placed a screen to shut off the offices from the private quarters of the President's family.

The arrangement was certainly deplorable. Sofas along the walls of the corridor, into which the President's own office opened directly, provided seats for persons anxious to see him or his secretary. The secretary's room adjoined that of the President, and on the opposite side of the corridor were rooms for clerks and the telegraph room.

Mr. Roosevelt tore the mansion literally to pieces, spending for the purpose \$500,000, or nearly twice as much money as it originally cost. As one result, the former office quarters in the White House are now five bedrooms, and all executive business is transacted in a small one-story annex a couple of hundred feet to the west



WILLIAM WILSON, President

of the main building, with which it is connected by a terrace. Mr. Wilson, soon after he came to the White House, doubled the size of the business annex, extending it over part of the ground which Mr. Roosevelt laid out as a tennis court. It was thus made far more commodious; and the President's office, on the south side, is a large and sunny room, with a big bay window that looks toward the Washington monument. His seclusion during work hours is as complete as could be desired.

Made a \$5,000 Job.

The secretary to the President was no more than a head clerk in the executive office up to Cleveland's first administration. But Cleveland brought with him as secretary a remarkable young man named Daniel S. Lamont, who had served him in a like capacity in Albany. Lamont was a man of great natural ability and gifted with extraordinary tact.

The man who happened to hold the post of private secretary to a President-elect is altogether likely to be appointed secretary after his chief has reached the White House. He presumably enjoys the confidence of the new President, understands his ways and policies, is accustomed to the handling of his work, and is personally acquainted with his friends. A helper with this equipment, whose efficiency is proved, cannot easily be replaced.

Mr. Cleveland was a man who was likely to ruffle people's feelings. Lamont was suave and pleasant-mannered; he made things smooth. So popular did he become with the folk on Capitol Hill that they decided to give him a lift. He had been merely "private secretary," with a modest salary of two thousand a year. They created by legislation the office of secretary to the President, with pay at the rate of five thousand dollars. The job for the first time was made one of dignity and decent emolument. Cleveland went on to do even better and made Lamont secretary of war.

Incidentally, when Lamont relinquished his place at the end of the first Cleveland administration, it was with such a reputation that "big business" welcomed him with open arms, and within a few years he was rated a multimillionaire.

Edwin Denby, secretary of the navy, married Marion Bartlett Thurber, daughter of President Cleveland's secretary. She was a member of the "White House" kindergarten of Cleveland's day.

George Bruce Cortelyou, after his college course, began life as a shorthand reporter in New York in 1883. After two years of this he was prin-



GEORGE B. CHRISTIAN, Jr., Secretary

cipal of preparatory schools for four years. He then entered public life as the secretary of several public officials. When he was fourth assistant postmaster general he was called to do some shorthand work for President Cleveland, who held on to him and made him executive clerk. President McKinley made him assistant secretary and then appointed him secretary. President Roosevelt made him his private secretary.

Cortelyou made a most efficient secretary. A man of suave and graceful manner and gifted with exceptional tact, he was a born diplomat. It is said of him that he never refused anybody anything. Someone once called him "the great American promoter." Even if the person calling on him was a total stranger, he would listen politely, write "special" on the person's card and indicate that the matter should receive immediate attention.

Anyway, Roosevelt liked him well enough to make him a member of the cabinet, where he filled three places in quick succession: Secretary of commerce and labor, postmaster general and secretary of the treasury. Later, the erstwhile shorthand reporter accepted a job at \$75,000 a year as head of a big company, and today he is an important man in the world of finance.

William Loeb, Jr., began his public career as private secretary to Governor Roosevelt in 1899. He followed the Roosevelt fortunes and was his private secretary in Washington 1903-06. Roosevelt made him collector of the port of New York. Now he is with a big smelting and refining corporation. He lives at Oyster Bay.

Taft's Three Secretaries.

President Taft had three secretaries. The first to serve in that capacity was Fred Carpenter, who was succeeded by Charles D. Norton. The third, Charles D. Hillis, served as Taft's political manager during his unsuccessful campaign for re-election. He was an assistant secretary of the treasury before he became Taft's secretary. He was chairman of the Republican national committee, 1912-16. He is in business in New York.

Joseph Patrick Tunulty, President Wilson's secretary, is a college man and a lawyer. He was a member of the New Jersey legislature, 1907-10, and then became secretary to Governor Wilson. President Wilson appointed him, just before the change in administration, a member of the international joint commission between the United States and Canada. Mr. Tunulty declined the appointment. He is now practicing law.

An interesting prediction is that sooner or later we shall have a president who will appoint a woman as his private secretary. It is argued that it is exactly the job for a woman, because it involves the handling of an immense number of details. Women are the great systematizers of detail; in this respect men cannot compare with them. For this reason it is that nowadays the heads of big corporations and other big business concerns commonly have women secretaries.

GREAT INTEREST IN USES OF GAS

CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE DINNER ATTRACTS MANY MEN OF PROMINENCE.

BECOMES USEFUL IN PEACE

How Poison Gas Is Being Employed Now—Speakers Admit the Necessity of Its Development for Self-Protection in War.

By EDWARD B. CLARK.

Washington.—One of the most striking official-social gatherings of recent record in Washington was the dinner of the present and former officers of the chemical warfare service and their guests, which has just been held in Washington. It was expected that the affair would be a small one, but interest in the event was so great that it was necessary to secure a large hall to accommodate the officers and their many guests.

There is congressional interest, of course, in all branches of the armed services of the country, but the interest that has been shown in the chemical warfare service, the newest of the offensive and defensive branches of the army, seemingly surpasses everything in the interest line that has been known before. The dinner just held was attended by many senators and representatives in congress, by high officers of the army and navy, and by a score or so of the most famous chemists in the United States.

Brig. Gen. Amos A. Fries, who was the chief of the gas service in the American expeditionary forces, is today the chief of the chemical warfare service as it exists in time of peace. He presided at the dinner, and in the course of his opening remarks he touched on the developing uses of gas for service in the peace life of the nation. It is now being used to avert the dangers of bubonic plague through the use of gas as an exterminator of rodents of various kinds which are plague carriers; it is of use for protection of vaults and safes from burglars, and it rapidly is coming into use in the police departments of the country as a means of routing armed bandits who have been run to cover.

Must Be Ready for Future Wars.

Full cognizance was taken by the members of congress who spoke, and by others of the fact that the world hopes that some means eventually can be taken to avert all war so that it may never again be necessary to use any means of offense or defense against an enemy in the field, but no speaker was hopeful enough even to insinuate that such a hope is to be fulfilled. It also is admitted by the most trustful of all those who hope for peace, that if a war does come, some nation certainly will use gas, which is now recognized as the most potent element for overcoming a foe that the world knows.

The reasoning of congress in continuing the chemical warfare service, and of making it a separate branch of the service in order that it might work its way to efficiency effectively and individually, is that even if an agreement shall be entered into among the nations of the world not to use gas, every nation of the world must be prepared to defend itself with gas and to use it offensively if some other nation breaks the agreement—and it can be said definitely that the lessons of the last war made men believe that the nation which thinks it can win a victory by the use of gas, will not hesitate for a moment to bring it into the lines as a weapon.

Dr. W. D. Bancroft of Cornell university, who did such high service along chemical lines for the United States government during the war, said at the dinner that if the Germans when they made up their minds to break the agreement not to use gas, and did use it, had realized fully its offensive power and had brought into the service the kind of gas which they later used, they could have gone straight to the sea after their first gas offensive against the English at Ypres in April, 1915.

We Have the Most Deadly Gas.

No secret has been made of the fact that the United States chemical warfare service has developed the most powerful gas ever known, one which is capable of destroying large forces of men concentrated within a given but of course somewhat limited area. Brig. Gen. William Mitchell, assistant chief of the air forces of the United States, said that bombing squadrons of airplanes making only one visit a week over New York city could, by the use of gas bombs, make the place absolutely uninhabitable, even in its nooks and corners.

The possibilities of the use of gas, therefore, are such that if any nation of the world engaged in war uses it to its full bent, and other nations are not prepared to protect themselves against its use and with it to make counter offensives, the enemy could work his will on any foe which could be brought into the field against him.

These things go to show why it is that the secretary of war, army officials and every member of congress takes such a deep interest in the chemical warfare service. It now is held that, while the use of gas was considered only recently to be a violation of all the set rules of warfare, it is certain that any country must be in a condition to meet a gas offensive, which, in the future, any foe may put into the field against it.

Get Ready for Hot Weather By Purifying the Blood

Many people simply melt in summer. They can't work or enjoy life. They lack vitality. Ten to one their blood is impoverished. To avoid this, get from your druggist S.S.S., the famous vegetable blood tonic and alterative. It is just the thing for poor blooded people. After starting S.S.S., write us about your condition and we will send you expert medical advice free. Address Chief Medical Advisor, 839 Swift Laboratory, Atlanta, Georgia.



What to Take for Disordered Stomach

Take a good dose of Carter's Little Liver Pills—then take 2 or 3 for a few nights after. You will relish your meals without fear of trouble to follow. Millions of all ages take them for Biliousness, Dizziness, Sick Headache, Upset Stomach and for Sallow, Pimply, Blotchy Skin. They end the misery of Constipation. Genuine bear Brand. Small Pill; Small Dose; Small Price.

The American Language.

An Indianapolis resident went up to the sidewalk newsstand to buy his regular weekly magazine.

"Police stopped us sellin' anything but newspapers. Drug stores and hotel newsstands made a kick against us," the attendant told him.

"You mean no one is selling magazines from the street newsstands?" asked the would-be purchaser.

"Nobody except the stand on the next corner. He's bootleggin' 'em."

Important to Mothers.

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, that famous old remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the

Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher* In Use for Over 30 Years. Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

ROOM FOR YOUNGER CRITICS

They Have a Place in the World and a Duty That Is Well Worth Performing.

The younger critics, says Heywood Brown, are the lineal descendants of that little child in Anderson's fairy tale who, when the emperor was being made a spectacle of and all the world was being fooled by the sharp tailor, refused to be quiet and cried out, "He hasn't got anything on." These young enthusiasts who have no positions to lose and no dignities to live up to go about, pointing to all our literary emperors and calling attention to the scantiness of their attire of greatness, and refuse to be silenced by their scandalized or terrified elders. Good sense bids us welcome their honest gaze at even the sacrosanct persons. It can't hurt anything really fine, and it's about time we came out of some of our illusions. William Allen White sized it up about right from the conservative point of view when he said in praising "Main Street": "Of course, I'm on the other side of the street myself, but that's just the reason why I like this book. It gives us fellows something to answer."

Got Inspiration From Music.

Curran's favorite mode of meditation was with his violin in his hand; for hours together he would forget himself, running volubly over the strings, while his imagination, collecting its tones, was opening all its faculties for the coming emergency at the bar.—Disraeli.

Diplomatic posts are now being demanded by British women.

In Hard Luck.

A few months ago, when writing a letter to a girl I had recently met, I placed it in the desk drawer unsealed and later mailed it. About a week after I received a formal note, thanking me for a little file I had enclosed, and adding that really she saw no reason why I should go to such trouble when she already had a complete ivory set. Apologies were in order, and I tried to be as diplomatic as possible in explaining that in the drawer I temporarily put the letter I have any number of trinkets and, unknown to me, the file must have slipped in.—Chicago Tribune

Shave With Cuticura Soap

And double your razor efficiency as well as promote skin purity, skin comfort and skin health. No mug, no slimy soap, no germs, no waste, no irritation even when shaved twice daily. One soap for all uses—shaving, bathing and shampooing.—Adv.

REALLY FLOWERS OF SPEECH

Sayings, Witty and Wise, That Are Worth Being Preserved in an Anthology.

Professor Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, in the course of his lively lectures "On the Art of Reading," gives some examples of Irish peasants' sayings with the large simplicity, the cadence, the accent of Scriptural speech. The best is the benediction bestowed upon one of the two authors of the incomparable "Irish R. M." by an old woman in Skibbereen: "Sure ye're always laughing! That ye may laugh in the sight of the Glory of Heaven!" The writer once thought of making an anthology of such wild flowers of wayside speech. He would have included in it some far-traveled sayings, such as that of the freighter in the alkaline districts of Alberta, who said, pointing with his whip to an intensely blue lake on the horizon, "Bitter as a dyin' man's sweat is that same water," and the perfect definition of a ghost implied in the words of a Newfoundland fisherman, "There I sees 'em warming themselves in the moon-light."

Solving a Problem.

"We'll put a cook stove in the automobile and go touring," announced Mr. Chuggins.

"But what'll we do for a servant?" inquired his wife.

"It's the only way to keep a servant. Once we have succeeded in hiring one, the only way for her to resign will be to get out and walk."

Let the Children in, too!

It's no longer necessary to maintain a dividing line at the breakfast table—tea or coffee for grown-ups—no hot cup for the youngsters

Serve INSTANT POSTUM

to each member of the family, and all will be pleased and benefited by this pure, wholesome cereal drink.

"There's a Reason" for Postum Sold by all grocers

Made by Postum Cereal Company, Inc. Battle Creek, Michigan.

Fly's Wonderful Tongue.

The so-called tongue of the fly is not truly a tongue, but a tube with an expanded end, which the scientists term a "ligula." Through this ligula the fly obtains its nourishment. The fly does not need to get down to its food, but draws it upward by means of this trunk or proboscis. Nature recognized the fact that the insect had many enemies and that it must therefore take up in the shortest

possible time the food it might discover. For that purpose the tongue is fitted at its free end with a curious pad-like modification of the ordinary tracheal structure, which has puzzled some of those who have studied its uses. Much discussion has arisen in regard to the reason for this peculiar formation of the fly's tongue, but it appears to be generally conceded by entomologists that nature has provided these singular ramifications of the instrument to assist in quickly taking up the drop of sweet or other liquid

material. These narrow strips of horny substance that form the proboscis are curved, and are united to one another by a membrane that forms a tube split along the border of the tongue where it comes in contact with the food.

Another Reason for Smiling.

"It requires," says a scientist, "sixty-five muscles of the face to make a frown and only thirty-three to make a smile." Conserve your energy.—Boston Transcript.