

ODD FIRE ESCAPES AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Devices on Roof Look Like
Miniature Howitzers.

Millions of visitors from all parts of the world have made pilgrimages to the White House in Washington, but few of them have inspected any of its mechanical marvels.

Although neither lightning rods nor fire escapes are visible from the outside, they are there just the same, but in such strange forms that they hardly would be recognized, even if seen. The fire escapes, for example, look for all the world like miniature howitzers mounted on the roof of the executive mansion for the defense of the edifice. Weighing two hundred pounds apiece and anchored from a balcony by means of extendable steel arms, the metal drums would never attract the attention of anyone hunting for steel ladders, safety ropes or exit elevators. Pulling the chain at the bottom of the cylinders causes them to open and release an endless chain that fastens around the waist and then slowly lowers the load to the ground.

Science also has armored the White House against the dangers of lightning, approximately twenty-five hundred feet of wire being strung across the chimneys and guard wall on the roof. The arrangement is such that if any balls of fire are flung from the skies the lightning wires deflect them into the ground. Then there is an attractive, screened sleeping porch. This skyline bedchamber, however, is not for the use of the President. It is eighteen feet square and was erected exclusively for White House attendants.

Another prominent accessory on the roof is known as the President's flagpole and is used wholly for the display of "Old Glory."

A mammoth lamp which is six feet high and two and one-half feet in diameter—a large man can stand erect within it as he cleans the globe—is the faithful beacon which illuminates the main entrance to the mansion.—Popular Mechanics.

Fifty-Fifty.

The late Stuyvesant Fish, the New York capitalist, took a deep interest in the farmer, who, he thought, seldom got a square deal.

"The farmer's square deal," Mr. Fish once said at a farmers' dinner in Tarrytown, "reminds me of the rabbit pie."

"An American, you know, once ordered rabbit pie in a cheap Paris restaurant. The waiter brought him an enormous portion, and, inasmuch as the price was only 15 cents, the American asked if the pie was really and truly rabbit."

"Oh, yes, sir," said the waiter, "that's rabbit pie."

"But does it contain rabbit only?" persisted the American.

"Well, sir," said the waiter, "I'll admit there's a trifling admixture of horse meat."

"Aha! Horse meat! And what proportion of horse meat?"

"Oh, just fifty-fifty," said the waiter—"one rabbit, one horse."

Secret of Sevres Blue.

For a long time it was believed that the famous blue color given to the porcelain manufactured at Sevres, in France, was the result of a secret process and there were many legends in regard thereto. It has been proved, however, that it is an error to suppose that Sevres blue cannot be produced elsewhere. As a matter of fact, it is produced in many French potteries where sufficient care is taken and where pure oxide of cobalt is employed. Formerly it was difficult to procure this article free from certain impurities that injured the color; but chemical science has overcome all the difficulties. The same is true of the Chinese green known as celadon. It was invented in China, but it can be perfectly reproduced elsewhere.

"Fossil Raindrops."

In slabs of Triassic rock little depressions are often seen that have been called "fossil raindrops," the idea being that they were formed by showers on muddy sea beaches, and preserved by being covered with a layer of mud at the next high tide.

But lately it has been suggested, in view of observations on a flood plain in the Dorn valley, that the supposed impressions of raindrops may really be due to pittings formed by bubbles in a film of mud at the bottom of shallow water. There have been watched the formation of many pittings, and it has been found that after the mud had dried they exactly resemble "fossil raindrops."

Some Mistake.

The telephone in a well-known surgeon's office rang and the doctor answered it. A voice inquired: "Who is this?"

The doctor readily recognized the voice of his seven-year-old son. Although an exceedingly busy man, he was always ready for a bit of fun; so he replied:

"The smartest man in the world."

"I beg your pardon," said the boy; "I have the wrong number."—Austin (Tex.) Cumberland.

Serious.

"Your wife is looking well!"

"Yes. Just fancy. When I took her to the sanatorium she was so bad that I wouldn't risk buying a return ticket!"—Stockholm Soudags Nisse.

A colony of beavers has been located near Vermillion, N. D. but not working for Ford.

A rare apple tree, valued at \$5000, stands on a mountain side in West Virginia. It is protected by a burglar alarm cage and is guarded against harmful insects and foraging animals.

An enterprising American is preparing to put a fleet of 500 yellow taxicabs in the streets of London, England. All the cars will be of the four-cylinder type and comfortable.

LETTER TO FARMERS.

Malheur County Farmers:

This will inform you that the office of the county agricultural agent is again open for business. The state supreme court found the law under which the so-called tax commission was working to be void, thus placing the county budget for your information.

back as approved by the county budget committee after the public hearing had been held.

The tuberculosis campaign was renewed on Tuesday, January 8th, at which time Federal Veterinarian F. H. Thompson returned. The work will proceed as rapidly as possible in the districts where cattle have been signed up for it. This will require about two weeks to complete. Unless additional cattle are signed in the meantime, the campaign will then be discontinued until next winter. Persons who desire the test should return the blank at the bottom of this letter, properly filled out, at once. A fee of fifteen cents per animal (fifty cents minimum) is being charged to cover the expense of ea rtags, transportation of the veterinarian, etc. A bulletin on tuberculosis in livestock is enclosed thus placing the county budget for your information.

Your attention is called to a new special coyote poison now manufactured by the United States Biological Survey by a process by which the strychnine is "coveredup" by coating each particle with Fuller's earth. This poison, together with full instructions for its use, is now obtainable through this office. Weather conditions are now favorable for coyote poisoning operations and about the right amount of snow is on the ground to facilitate finding the dead animals.

While there is not the usual number of rabbits to contend with this winter, it should be remembered by persons interested in getting rid of this pest that the time to do it is while the snow is on the ground and the rabbits are bunched up around hay stacks and in sheltered places. A good supply of poison is on hand for these pests and directions for its use as well.

Where local farm bureaus or community organizations are prepared to put on a concerted campaign to clean up the pests, some special help can be rendered through this office by cooperating with the Biological survey.

L. R. Breithaupt,
County Agent.

CANDIDATES

The primaries come in May. That is only four months off. Already the candidates have begun to break from cover and to throw their hats into the political ring for the coming fray. The mud throwing will commence in the very near future.

The candidate is merely an aspirant for a job. He, or his friends, believe that he is qualified to fill a position created by public need. In fact he is just a potential servant of the people. Each citizen must help to pay his wages, and therefore the law permits each citizen to assist in his selection. He will become the business manager of the rest, and must serve their interests honestly, efficiently and faithfully if he is to properly perform the duties belonging to his office.

The great question in the minds of many is: How shall we pick the one best fitted to promote the public good? The answer is: In the same manner and by the same qualifications as you would choose any other employee. If you were to hire someone to work for you, you would demand first, honesty. You would look into his past record as far as possible and generally check up on him. The same should be done with the prospective public servant for he will have the spending of your money and the enforcement of your laws in his hands. Do not think that you will not have to pay for any of his mistakes, for they must be compensated by taxation and you will pay those taxes, other directly or as a part of the man's overhead expense. The officer should be efficient. He should be qualified to do the job in which he is placed. His training must be such as would fit him to carry his share of the public work.

Personal friendship will control a great number of the votes. If the candidate is your friend you should know his ability and shortcomings even better than that of a comparative stranger.

But to put it all in a few words. Vote for the man whom you would hire to do a similar task for you.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23

FIRE SALE

Remember the Date

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