

# GOTHAM LETTER

New York, July 22.—The steam yacht, *Mayflower*, formerly owned by Mrs. Ogden Golet, and purchased from her by the United States government at the time of the Spanish-American war, probably will be sold soon. During the time that the Japanese-Russian peace envoys are in this country the vessel will be placed at the disposal of the commission. After that the government will have no further use for her. The *Mayflower* is being overhauled at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and will go to Portsmouth, N. H., on August 1st to carry the peace commission. All the expensive fittings, which were removed at the time she was commissioned for war service will be replaced. It has been decided by the authorities to have six of the six-wooders, formerly on board the battleship *Alabama*, placed on the "peace ship," so that it is supposed there will be enough war about the boat to keep fresh in the minds of the envoys the grimness of the conflict which they may bring to a close.

With the completion of the battleship *Connecticut*, now building here, and other warships, more vessels will be added to the register of naval ships in the fiscal year just opening than in any other fiscal year in the country's naval history. In the coming twelve months there will be placed in active service, beside the *Connecticut*, the great battleships *Nebraska*, *Vermont*, *Virginia*, *Georgia*, *New Jersey*, *Rhode Island* and *Louisiana*, the armored cruisers *California*, *South Dakota*, *Tennessee* and *Washington* and the protected cruisers *St. Paul*, *Milwaukee* and *Charleston*.

The result of this large addition to the navy will be a swing of the pendulum of activity to the other extreme. Not for a long time have there been so few vessels in the early period of their construction as now, and the consequence will be that July 1, 1906, will find fewer ships than in many years in course of construction at private or government yards.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt is not fond of the limelight and she says nothing outside the circle of her closest friends about her many little philanthropies, yet she is one of the most patriotic of all the women who have tenanted the White House, and is always devising plans for the furtherance of the nation's interests—especially those of the women. She is sponsor for what promises to become the great American silk industry—an enterprise contemplating the establishment of a business that may rival European and Asiatic commercial interests in that line. Mrs. Roosevelt, at the inauguration ball last March, wore a silk gown which had been woven on American looms. Before she leaves Washington she may appear at another big affair in a frock entirely of American production, for she is fostering the culture of silk worms by American women, and already the plan has had a large measure of success. Silk worms thrive wherever mulberry trees or orange bushes grow. The raising of them requires only sixty-five days a year. Little care is needed, the chief essentials being an abundance of leaves and a large room that can be given over exclusively to the culture for six weeks. It is Mrs. Roosevelt's idea that silk worm culture in the United States will be conducted principally by farmers' wives and daughters, as it is in Europe.

"Glass luncheon" might be a fitting title for an entertainment given a few days ago by Mrs. Harry Lehr. Not that the hostess had invited a dime museum freak to teach her guests how to eat glass. Simply she had carried out to a logical extreme the fad of using glass covers for dining tables.

On the table had been spread a piece of the beautiful Irish lace Mrs. Lehr had brought from Europe, and ferns were strewn on that. Seen through the glass top the effect was charming. All the tableware was glass. The only drawback the glassware offered was that every time a metallic substance was laid upon it there was a disturbing clatter.

The Historical Society of Flushing, near this city, which has been making an effort to raise funds with which to purchase the old Johann Sprong house from the Flushing cemetery, has announced that it has been unable to raise the necessary funds. Now it is feared that the old stone structure, which has been declared unsafe, will be demolished. The building is a one and a half story stone structure of an unique architecture. It was constructed in 1661. In Revolutionary days it was occupied by famous men, and for that reason the historical society has been anxious to get possession of it.

Brooklyn is to have a million dollar art temple, which will be a grand opera house and a Madison Square Garden in one. Plans for the structure have been accepted by the board of directors of

the Academy of Music, and work on place the old academy, destroyed by fire, will begin at once. The building will be constructed on the most modern lines, and will comprise two auditoriums and a ball room. The main auditorium will be for grand opera and dramatic productions, and will have a seating capacity of 5000. The other auditorium will seat 1500, and will be used for lectures and concerts. On the second floor will be the ball room, with a floor space of 5800 square feet.

The rigidity with which the child labor laws are being enforced this summer is being bitterly protested by the parents in the poorer sections of the city. They cannot understand why the Board of Health should refuse a work certificate to a child under 14 years of age, nor can they understand any of the other regulations which govern the issuance of these certificates. As a result of this ignorance scores upon scores of angry parents are being turned away from the various local offices of the health bureau muttering imprecations at the officials who refuse to give them certificates which will enable their children to work during the summer months.

In former years it was a comparatively easy matter for a child to obtain a vacation work certificate, but things have changed now and no child is permitted to work unless it is 14 years of age and has attended school for 130 days since its 13th birthday. So rigidly are these two qualifications enforced that no work certificate is issued to a child unless it can produce absolute evidence of age, together with a certificate from the principal of the school it last attended, showing that it had been in school the necessary number of days.

### Transplanting Big Trees of California.

The bureau of forestry says: "Contrary to prevalent belief, the famous big trees of California do now reproduce themselves under certain favorable conditions. With some care this race of forest monarchs need not become extinct, but may be greatly multiplied. The number of mature trees is not great, and healthy young growth is rare, but in some situations there are plenty of seedlings. In order to distribute these trees more widely it is proposed to move seedlings to localities where they will be apt to grow. The first extensive transplanting of the big trees has been recently finished by Ranger Lewis L. Davis in the General Grant Park, California. Ranger Davis has thus far transplanted 1,400, and these—set out last year—have nearly all grown."—The Lumberman.

### A Grim Tragedy

is daily enacted, in thousands of homes as death claims, in each one, another victim of consumption or pneumonia. But when coughs and colds are properly treated, the tragedy is averted. F. O. Huntley, of Oakland, Ind., writes: "My wife had the consumption, and three doctors gave her up. Finally she took Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, coughs and colds, which cured her, and today she is well and strong." It kills the germs of all diseases. One dose relieves. Guaranteed at 50c and \$1.00 by J. C. Perry, druggist. Trial bottle free.

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"Who was he?"

"He was—or—the boss. Seems to me you're mighty inquisitive."—Chicago Tribune.

### CASTORIA.

For Infants and Children.

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### Partridges in Captivity.

Dr. Clifton F. Hodge, professor of biology at Clark university in Worcester, Mass., is having remarkable success in his efforts toward domesticating the ruffed grouse or partridge, says the Boston Transcript. The latest achievement is the raising of a second generation of the birds while they are in captivity, five strong, healthy birds having been hatched two weeks ago by the mother partridge.

More could scarcely be desired than to have a pair mate and produce their young in the back yard of a city home. So far as is known the birds have acted exactly the same as their brothers in the woods even to the curious act of drumming. They are just as large as those in the woods, and are lively and contented. One of the old male birds seems to be especially de-

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lighted when Dr. Hodge enters the enclosure in which they are kept and plays with the bird as one would with his pet cat. In no other case, so far as is known, has this species been anywhere near so perfectly domesticated.

closure with a view to aiding such work as the association is doing, especially by eventually setting the birds free in the covers of the state of Massachusetts, and perhaps in our city parks. Dr. Hodge's purpose in the experiments, so far as his own work is concerned, is more especially to study scientifically the biological relations of the species—its foods, habits and instincts and the possibilities of its domestication.

Dr. Hodge began these experiments in the spring of 1903, when he obtained some partridge eggs from the woods and hatched them out under a bantam hen. At the time he was laughed at for trying it, but after the chicks were hatched out and it was seen they were being raised, a member of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective association, who resides in Worcester, Mass., reported the affair to a meeting of the directors, which then voted \$200 to be given to Dr. Hodge in aid of his experiments.

He is using it in enlarging his in-

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