

## Gossip of Washington

What Is Going On at the National Capital.

### New Ships to Make Our Navy Lead All



WASHINGTON.—The navy department experts figure that the United States navy will be the first in rank in the world when the four new battleships proposed by Secretary Newberry have been completed.

The approximate time of the completion of these ships is the close of the year 1911. By that date there will have been completed these four: The Delaware and Dakota and the Florida and Utah.

The specific points made by the experts, however, is that the four new ships which have been suggested are to be of 25,000-ton displacement each and will carry eight 11-inch guns. Such a squadron of battleships will be unlike and superior to anything in naval history, both as to displacement and to main battery.

The astounding but absolutely true statement is made by the navy experts that the 11-inch guns will be effective at ten miles. It is also stated by these experts that Great Britain, after the appropriation by congress for the four proposed battleships, will never be able to regain its lead in modern battleships over the United States. England's greatest proposed battleship, the *Fondroynt*, is, according to the details in the United States naval bureau of intelligence, inferior to the Florida or the Utah.

The report that Great Britain was building a 13.5 gun has been run down by the naval authorities here and they state that it is not true. It is also stated that there is no foundation whatever for the report that Germany is building, or projecting even, five battleships, each of which is to carry 12 12-inch guns.

It is admitted now that the United States stands second on the list of naval powers, and this is largely because the United States naval relative power depends on modern ships against which twenty or more of the British so-called battleships do not count and are not to be taken into account, because not one of them could approach within five miles of any of the United States battleships even of the Alabama class. Above that class in the United States are the South Carolina, Michigan and, of course, the American Dreadnaughts are all above that class. In other words, the United States has ship for ship, built and building, better and more powerful ships than Great Britain has built and is building for the next three years.

The navy department confidently expects to see the prediction of the experts realized in 1911 and the United States will lead the world in naval power. The experts declare that when the statement is made that Great Britain has at the present time 54 battleships against 29 of the United States, it only means an apparent numerical excess and that when the ships are compared one with the other, there are more dead or obsolete types and classes in the British navy than in any other navy.

### Alcohol School Opened by Government



THE government has now opened its alcohol school in the city of Washington for the instruction of the people of the United States in proper methods of making and using the denatured product.

For this purpose a model still has been erected close by the department of agriculture which is big enough to work up 25 bushels of corn a day, converting that quantity of grain into 75 gallons of 95 per cent. alcohol—that is to say, 95 per cent. pure. The plant represents the smallest outfit that can be conducted profitably on a commercial scale.

The farmers cannot very well see it for themselves, so arrangements have been made by which they may learn about it. Agricultural experts from the experiment stations in every one of the states are to go to Washington, examine the alcohol-making outfit, see how it works and listen to a course of lectures explaining its management. It will be their business when they go home to teach the farmers how to put up and how to operate plants of this character.

### Hearty Welcome for "Joe" Blackburn



IT is pleasant to have Senator Blackburn back in our midst again, to see his great, stalwart form swinging through the streets, to meet his semi-cynical, semi-humorous smile and to feel his hearty hand clasp, but it is difficult to think of him in any environment save that of the senate chamber where he passed so many years. There has never been a member of that distinguished body more frankly, more genuinely and generally popular than "Joe" Blackburn. No matter how widely one differed with him in politics, it was impossible not to like him, for there is nothing about him to dislike. He is a prince of good fellows, a generous friend and a magnanimous foe. When the battle is on he fights with all the fight there is in him, but he is as quick to forgive

and forget as he is to fight, and once the hatchet is buried, it is never resurrected.

It was with regret that Mr. Blackburn left the senate, but he has been almost as happy in his new field as on his old stamping ground and in the short year and a half of his service as one of the commissioners of the Isthmian canal he has become as popular in Panama as he was in Washington, and the style of life in the old Spanish city is especially pleasing to the silver-tongued Kentuckian. As everybody knows the public servants in Panama in magnificent style. The state in which they live, indeed, approaches that formerly enjoyed by the Spanish grandees in that part of the world, and the role of a Spanish grandee admirably suits the former senator from the Bluegrass state, who is so adjustable and so versatile that he is always at home no matter what his surroundings and so much at home he is in Panama that his friends both here and there hope he will be allowed to remain during "good behavior."

### Mint "Makes Money" for Your Uncle Sam



THE director of the mint has "made money" for the United States in more ways than one. He is rejoicing because the government made a profit during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1908, of \$10,341,371 on the coinage of silver, nickel and copper bronze pieces.

This represents the difference between the price paid by the government for the metals and their coinage value.

The original deposits of gold bullion in the mints and assay offices during the fiscal year amounted to \$207,415,984 and uncurrent United States gold coin of the face value of \$4,020,668 was received for recoinage.

Silver bullion purchased for subsidiary silver coinage during the year aggregated 18,819,279 standard ounces, and mutilated and uncurrent United States silver coin of the face value of \$1,162,982 was received.

The coinage executed by the mints during the fiscal year 1908 amounted to \$197,238,377 in gold, of which \$106,182,420 were in double eagles, and \$4,829,000 in eagles of the designs prepared by the American sculptor, the late Augustus Saint Gaudens.

The amount of subsidiary silver coin executed was

### THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

The first national convention of the unemployed met in St. Louis.

Three persons were killed and two fatally injured by a snowslide at the Camp Bird mine, Ouray, Col.

Stephen T. Hood of Kansas City was shot and killed by his former friend, James W. Blanton, after a quarrel.

Charles Platt, one of the most widely known fire insurance men in the country, died at his home in Philadelphia, aged 80 years.

Delegates from 35 countries including the United States, have voted in Paris to establish a permanent international refrigeration association.

Brooding over financial troubles, R. L. Hillborn, a well-to-do farmer, killed his wife and then blew his own brains out at their home near Charlton, O.

The Swiss Aero club has selected Zurich as the starting place for the international balloon race for the James Gordon Bennett cup next fall.

A general reduction in the number of employees at the Philadelphia navy yard has thrown nearly 600 mechanics of the various departments out of work.

Insurance Commissioner Bell of Kentucky revoked the license of the Southern Fire Insurance Company of New Orleans, now in the hands of a receiver.

Former State Treasurer E. P. Shaw of Massachusetts, a railroad financier, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy with liabilities of \$1,023,306 and assets of \$275,765.

Two Russians, in an attempt to rob the pay wagon of a factory in Tottenham, a London suburb, killed three persons and wounded about 20, after which both shot themselves, one dying instantly.

Judge Hunt of the United States district court at Helena, Mont., handed down a decision in the so-called smoke case in which he denied the application of farmers for the closing of the Washoe smelter at Anaconda.

By the decisive vote of 193 to 42 the house refused to increase the pension of Julia B. Coghlan, widow of the late Rear Admiral Coghlan, U. S. N., from \$50 a month, as recommended by the committee on pensions to \$100.

A fortune from one of the most valuable estates in Germany and the title of dowager countess of Marbroeck constitute the reward which will fall to Mrs. J. H. Voelker of Wallace, Idaho, as a result of a five-year legal battle in the courts of Germany.

### BIG QUAKE IN TURKESTAN.

Exact Location of Disturbance Is Not Yet Known.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 25.—Although all reports from the various observatories in Russia locate the earthquake, the shocks of which were recorded Saturday, somewhere on the Russian side of the Pamirs, Turkestan, no direct news has been received that would serve to fix the disturbance in any definite place. A dispatch from Bishkek in Transcaucasia reports the registering there by the seismographic instruments of a distant earthquake.

Russian Turkestan, in the region indicated, is sparsely settled and details of an earthquake there would be very slow in reaching St. Petersburg. The first direct reports from the scene of the great earthquake at Karatagh Russian Turkestan, in October, 1907, were not received here until three weeks after the occurrence. In that earthquake about 15,000 persons were killed.

### CARRIE NATION IS EGOT.

London Crowd Drives Her from a Lecture Hall.

London, Jan. 26.—Mrs. Carrie Nation, who is attempting to deliver a series of lectures here, met with a very hostile reception at the Canterbury Music hall last night. She was pelted with eggs, one of them striking her in the face. From the very beginning the audience maintained a chorus of boos and hisses. Mrs. Nation was obliged to quit the house under police protection.

### THE MARKETS.

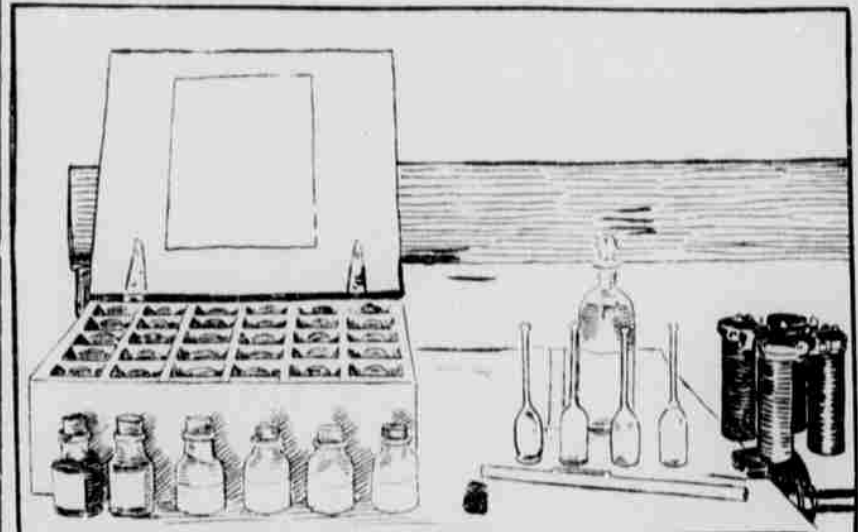
New York, Jan. 25.	
LIVE STOCK—Steers	22 1/2 to 23 1/2
Hogs	12 1/2 to 13 1/2
Sheep	12 1/2 to 13 1/2
FLOUR—Winter Straights	4 1/2 to 4 3/4
WHEAT—May	1 11/16 to 1 13/16
July	1 10/16 to 1 11/16
CORN—May	85 1/2 to 86 1/2
RYE—May	85 1/2 to 86 1/2
BUCKET—Creamery	20 1/2 to 21 1/2
CHEESE	10 1/2 to 11 1/2
CHICAGO.	
CATTLE—Fancy Steers	26 1/2 to 27 1/2
Medium to Good Steers	25 1/2 to 26 1/2
Cows, Plain to Fancy	24 1/2 to 25 1/2
Choice Feeders	23 1/2 to 24 1/2
Calves	30 1/2 to 31 1/2
HOGS—Heavy Packers	15 1/2 to 16 1/2
Heavy Butchers	16 1/2 to 17 1/2
Pigs	12 1/2 to 13 1/2
BUTTER—Creamery	22 1/2 to 23 1/2
Dairy	22 1/2 to 23 1/2
LIVE POULTRY	12 1/2 to 13 1/2
EGGS	20 1/2 to 21 1/2
POTATOES (per bu.)	70 to 75
WHEAT—Spring Wheat, Sp. 1	1 11/16 to 1 13/16
July	1 10/16 to 1 11/16
Corn, May	85 1/2 to 86 1/2
Oats, May	31 1/2 to 32 1/2
Rye, May	75 to 76
MILWAUKEE.	
GRAIN—Wheat, No. 1 Nor'n	1 11/16 to 1 13/16
May	1 10/16 to 1 11/16
Corn, May	85 1/2 to 86 1/2
Oats, Standard	31 1/2 to 32 1/2
Rye	75 to 76
KANSAS CITY.	
GRAIN—Wheat, May	99 1/2 to 100 1/2
July	99 1/2 to 100 1/2
Corn, May	58 1/2 to 59 1/2
Oats, No. 2 White	50 1/2 to 51 1/2
ST. LOUIS.	
CATTLE—Beef Steers	21 1/2 to 22 1/2
Stockers and Feeders	20 1/2 to 21 1/2
HOGS—Packers	15 1/2 to 16 1/2
Butchers	16 1/2 to 17 1/2
SHEEP—Native	14 1/2 to 15 1/2

## IT PAYS TO GRADE UP THE DAIRY HERD

Blood Tells in the Profits of the Dairyman—By Otto F. Hunziker, Dairy Husbandman, Indiana Experiment Station.

The depressing influence of poor cows upon production and profits has often been pointed out. It remains for us to measure the force of pure dairy blood when persistently applied, in enlarging the profit-making capacity of the herd. It is a reasonable assumption that most men keep cows for profit, though it is a fact that many fail of their object, whether they know it or not. There may be several causes for bad results, namely, inferior animals, inadequate care, or a combination of both. Certainly a cow lacking dairy elements in her make

shows a difference of 64 pounds in favor of grading. The question next arising is, was the production by the graded group more or less economically secured than by the ungraded? Reference to table No. 38 will show that, while it costs slightly more to feed the graded cows, they returned nearly twice as much profit as the others. After allowing for differences in cost of food there remains \$15.63 per cow in favor of systematic grading. As a further point in this connection table No. 39 shows that the graded herds produced their butter fat at ex-



Sample Case and Apparatus for Milk Testing on the Farm.

up can never, under the most favorable conditions, perform well at the pail; and even though she were liberally endowed with them at birth, improper rearing or insufficient care later in life would necessarily preclude satisfactory performance on her part. While it is doubtless true that many cows make poor records through no fault of their own, we are forced to conclude that such cases are somewhat exceptional, and that, after all, most poor records signify inherent inferiority.

In view of a decidedly skeptical attitude on the part of many milk pro-

ducers toward infusion of pure dairy blood as a source of greater profits, tables Nos. 37 and 38 have been arranged. We desire to show what the blood of pure dairy breeds can do when given an opportunity, not only as it affects gross production, but also its cost. The herds already discussed have been classified on the basis of the presence or absence of persistent or systematic grading either through the use of pure bred dairy sires or the addition to the herd of high grade or pure bred females. Wherever there has been any doubt the herd has been given the benefit of it. In one or two

cases, grading other than the purchase of improved cows has been of such short duration that the herd had to be placed in the ungraded lot. The object has been to illustrate the advantages of persistent grading.

There are seven graded and nine ungraded herds in table No. 37 the average yield of butter fat for graded herds is 280 pounds per cow, while for ungraded it is 216 pounds. This

breed must not be used even though they "look right." To use them is to breed down rather than up. Dairy men are too much guided by the initial cost of a sire. A bull that is not intrinsically worth more than \$25 is of doubtful value as a breeder. While the argument is commonly advanced that producers cannot afford high priced bulls, the truth is, the cheap ones are too expensive at any price.

TABLE NO. 37.

The Influence of Improved Dairy Blood upon Production.

Average annual butter fat yields in herds where systematic grading has been followed several years.		Average annual butter fat yields in herds where systematic grading has been little practiced or absent altogether.	
No. Herd	Lbs. Butter Fat	No. Herd	Lbs. Butter Fat
7	269.2	2	182.8
8	266.8	5	189.9
16	280.3	6	243.8
17	291.2	11	224.1
18	301.1	20	286.6
18	295.2	23	183.5
19	259.6	23	220.9
		30	264.9
		33	152.8
Av'ge	280		216

Difference per cow in favor of systematic grading 64 pounds.

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TABLE NO. 38.

The Influence of Improved Dairy Blood Upon Profits.

Average annual cost of food and profit per cow in herds where systematic grading has been followed several years.			Average annual cost of food and profit per cow in herds where systematic grading has been little practiced or absent altogether.		
No. Herd	Cost of Food	Profit	No. Herd	Cost of Food	Profit
7	\$34.28	\$34.02	2	\$31.65	\$13.34
8	33.37	36.19	5	40.58	8.13
16	47.11	25.83	6	38.30	22.22
17	36.72	38.27	11	37.40	22.33
18	31.19	48.86	20	33.78	38.93
18	31.57	42.81	23	32.88	14.91
19	42.61	26.33	23	34.41	22.05
			30	41.94	26.66
			33	32.32	8.01
Av'ge	\$36.69	\$36.04		\$35.90	\$19.62

Difference in profit \$16.42  
Difference in cost of food 79

In favor of systematic grading \$15.63

TABLE NO. 39.

Cost of One Pound of Butter Fat.

Group	Cost
Grading	\$ .131
Partial or no Grading	.166
Difference	\$ .035

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### HOLDS REMARKABLE RECORD.

Maine Man Who Has Voted at Seventeen National Elections.

Boston.—Voted in 17 presidential elections, lived in two states and two counties, yet never moved from his farm, is the rather remarkable record of a remarkable Maine man.

When Almon S. Forbes of Brooks, Me., was born August 10, 1818, he was a resident of the state of Massachusetts and of the county of Hancock; now he lives in the county of Waldo, state of Maine, and until within a few years upon a farm which the first set-



ter of the town cleared from the virgin wilderness.

For 69 years Mr. Forbes has paid taxes and voted in the town of Brooks and has the right to be referred to in the village press as "one of our oldest and most highly-esteemed residents."

Although in his ninety-first year he is most remarkably well preserved and would pass for not over 75 years old. He reads without glasses and being an expert orchardist spends much of his time in grafting and pruning and improving the orchards of his neighbors. He has been a hard worker all his life and but recently retired from the management of one of the largest farms in the county.

His memory of past events is remarkably accurate and he is in a way a walking historian of the earlier days of the section where he lives. He has been selectman and town treasurer and earned well the title bestowed upon him by an enthusiastic admirer as "The grand old man of Brooks."

### CURIOUS FREAK OF NATURE.

Tree Grows Out of Grave and Lifts Tombstone.

London.—The woman buried in the grave shown in the illustration, which is situated at Hanover, is said to have been a professional infidel, and in order to show her aversion to the idea of a resurrection she gave instructions that the



Tree Which Grows Out of a Grave.

following notice should be engraved on her tomb: "This grave has been purchased forever, and no one must dare open it at any time.—Henrietta Juliana Caroline Vonrulling, born 9th January, 1756, died at Hanover, 1782." What man has not dared to do, and while the instruction has been observed as far as the human is concerned, nature has not felt so restricted, but allowed a tiny seed to upset the infidel lady's decree in that a tree has grown out of the grave where she was buried, and has lifted the tombstone as shown in the picture.

### Liquor That Preserves Vegetables.

Farrant's liquor, for the preservation of vegetable organisms, consists of 35 parts of distilled water, in which, while boiling, 0.1 part of white arsenic is dissolved. The cooled fluid is mixed with an equal part, by weight, of glycerine, and in this is dissolved the same quantity, by weight, of gum arabic. In this fluid the most delicate plant organisms are preserved admirably, and in addition it is not liable to evaporation, which, in hot countries, is of great value. It is poisonous, of course.

### Secret of Preserving Colors Lost.

Present-day artists buy their colors ready-made, and spend large sums of money on pigments with which to color their canvases. The pictures of modern artists will be colorless when many of the works of the old masters are as bright as they show to-day. Just as the secret of dyeing has been lost, so has the secret of preserving the colors of artists' paints. Yet this secret was known to every ancient painter, for all of them mixed their own colors.