

# Social Season In Washington

A Score of Presidential Receptions and Cabinet Dinners—Taft Interested in Congressional Elections—Is It to Be a Do Nothing Session?—Clothes on the Lee Statue.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.  
[Our Washington Correspondent.]

RESIDENTIAL receptions are coming along in a bunch. Outside of the regular New Year's reception there was one to the diplomatic corps on Jan. 4, which will be followed by the judicial reception two weeks later, the congressional reception on Feb. 1 and the army and navy reception Feb. 8. Scattered in between will be diplomatic dinners, supreme court dinners and plain and fancy banquets in such profusion that they would delight the eye and palate of old Epicurus himself. Whatever



MRS. EDW. C. KNOX.

may be said about the deliberate way Washington goes about other things, socially it is a busy city. Just now the thing that disturbs the fast hostesses of the capital is not the woman question, but the man question. One would suppose that with all the male statesmen who foregather here there would be plenty to dine and lead the ladies out to dinner; but, whether it is that the men are busy playing poker or trying to devise ways to keep from passing bills, it is a perplexing fact that it is not always easy to find enough men to go around. To add to the difficulty about fifty new society buds have blossomed out this winter or are in process of doing so, which calls for just that many more masculine partners. It is a pity that the male beauty squad of the Taft inauguration could not have been induced to remain here permanently.

As Lent begins this year on Feb. 25, the social season has been hastened and squeezed up into a few weeks. This has necessitated the rushing of cabinet dinners at the rate of one a week, beginning with that of the secretary of state on Jan. 6. I do not know that Washington social affairs are intensely interesting to the remainder of the country, but it ought to afford some satisfaction to the people to know that their representatives, senators and other officials get enough to eat, even if food prices are doing the acrobatic act for the rest of us. It used to be supposed that the nation's brainiest men should be the ones sent here, but I am not sure that the view is correct or that it is any longer followed. So far as I can judge the two most important activities of Washington life are eating and talking, and as both are performed through the facial orifice it would seem that the prime requisite in these sentenced to terms of service here is not brains, but mouth. Nor am I prepared to say that of late years this has not been the rule observed.

Now that 1910 is on the board members of both houses are awakening to the fact that a congressional election is on this year. The Democrats are more confident of carrying the next term than they have been in a decade. For one thing they argue that no party ever revised the tariff that it was not showed under in the next congressional election with the single exception of 1828 when the Spanish war came on to distract the people's attention. One uncertain element in the coming fight will be the insurgent Republicans. I am inclined to believe that this element, however will fight out its battles within the party and that whatever division exists in the majority ranks will be settled in convention and will help the Democrats little in the election. President Taft, it now appears, is to take a very active part in the fight, naturally regarding the result in the light of a verdict on his own administration.

The statue of Robert E. Lee in the uniform of a Confederate general, which was placed by the state of Virginia in statutory hall, has created embarrassment in official quarters owing to the criticism leveled at it from certain portions of the north. These objections have not been aimed at Lee, but at his uniform. Now, outside of eating and talking Washington is perhaps most expert in the matter of

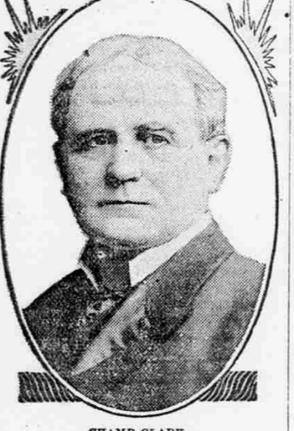
clothes, so that this sort of sartorial question is right in its line. However, it has not been met to the issue as yet, but has settled the matter by sidestepping it—that is, congress will permit the statue to remain in place, but will not formally accept it.

Some ingenious student has discovered a similarity between the careers and attitudes of John Quincy Adams and William Howard Taft. Both the sons of noted fathers and distinguished in their own rights, both averse to making political appointments, both refusing to play politics to further their own fortunes and both, despite their excellent qualities, failing to stir the hearts of the multitude, the parallel does not seem entirely fanciful. Will the likeness be carried out to the end of their careers? Even the weather prophets would hardly dare to offer a forecast. Besides, it is too early in the Taft administration to size it up.

The librarian of congress has handed over another momentous decision, this having not to do with the north pole or the fearful and wonderful meteorology of the 4th of March, but the more aesthetic subject of music. In a word he has settled once and for all what is the most popular national song. It is not "Yankee Doodle," "The Star Spangled Banner," "America" or even "The Girl I Left Behind Me," which gained such vogue in our late war with fever, embalmed beef and Spaulders. The first of American songs in "patriotic popularity," so says the oracle of the Congressional library, is "Bella." Hereafter the yells which rise to greet that blood stirring air may be given with renewed fervor, having the support of official sanction.

It is probable that President Taft will come near the Roosevelt record in the matter of special messages, though to do so he would have to send them in every other day. Outside of his railroad message there will undoubtedly be one on the Philippines, one on conservation, one on the District of Columbia in all probability and one on Alaska. How many more will be forthcoming no prophet would have the temerity to predict, especially in view of the prodigious output of former days. Mr. Taft's Alaskan communication is to deal with a comprehensive scheme of government which he is working out. Now that "Seward's icebergs" has been found to be a land flowing with milk and honey, likewise with coal, gold, enterprise and prospects, it is clearly entitled to all the government it can get and pay for.

The reassembling of congress after the holidays was marked by no wild display of fireworks. In the beginning of the session the ex-ere was that the president had not outlined his chief policies in his regular message, and hence there was nothing to do but to wait until he did. Now that the commerce message is ready this excuse no longer exists. Will there be some other plea for inaction? Champ Clark, the minority leader, says that all the house ma-



CHAMP CLARK.

chine expects to do is to pass the appropriation bills and a ship subsidy measure. The Democrats, of course, will oppose the subsidy and will try to cut down the appropriations. Clark expects the session to end by April or May. There is far from an optimistic belief in the capitol that anything worth while will be undertaken. The listlessness of December is still present. Unless the insurgents manage to start something it looks as if the session will be labeled with a large sign of "Nothing Doing." If this thing keeps up the city of Washington should place over its gates this legend: "Leave work behind, all ye who enter here."

With the National Geographic society's headquarters in this city, the Cook-Peary controversy has had here a storm center. Washington is overrun with scientists, from the bug experts of the agricultural department to the weather sharps of the signal service. Willis L. Moore, the head of the "fair and warmer" prophets, is also president of the National Geographic society, the body that will examine the verdict of Copenhagen university and deliver the scientific finding for America on the polar affair. This it will do in deciding as to the inscription on the medal delivered to Commander Peary. It has already found that he "reached" the pole. What it is now to determine is whether or not he "discovered" the pole. Of course the nature of its decision is already settled. It remains only to make the formal investigation and give out the result. Even though there may be left a few Cook partisans it is assured that the verdict will be more generally accepted than are Professor Moore's optimistic forecasts of inauguration weather.

## LUCKY IMITATION.

An Experience With the Russian Autocrat Marshal Gourko.

Marshal Gourko, the famous Russian general, was a terrible miser. On one occasion an important official of a theater in Odessa. One evening he received a mysterious message which read "Study General Gourko" in Russian. It is better not to inquire into matters that one does not understand, and so the artist spent an hour in privately impersonating the autocratic Russian. Just as the evening performance was about to commence an order of arrest signed by Gourko was presented to the impersonator, and with an explanation he was led through the streets to the marshal's palace and into an apartment where the terrible man was seated. "They tell me that you impersonate celebrated men," he roared. "Impersonate me!"

Giving a hasty look at Gourko, the performer turned to the mirror to "make up." It was an anxious time, for if the marshal should take exception to the representation he had no limited power to inflict punishment. The impersonator dragged himself together and turned to the marshal a copy of his own face and overbearing manner. Gourko burst into a roar of laughter, and the dangerous moment was over.

## EELS IN JAPAN.

The Restaurant Cook Catches Alive the Fish the Patron Selects.

Entering a Japanese restaurant, a guest who wishes broiled eels and is led to a table of squirming fresh water eels and hidden to point out the object of his preference, says a writer in the Delineator. The cook, who stands by, seizes the wriggling victim of his choice, strikes its head smartly upon a wooden block and, squinting by it, grasps the creature's neck, inserts a knife in the left side of the vertebrae and dexterously runs it down to the tail, then, rapidly applying his instrument to the other side of the backbone, repeats the process, leaving the eel split open.

Then, chopping the flattened eel into three-inch lengths, the pieces are plunged into boiling water to make the skin tender, our bamboo splints used as skewers are thrust through them, and they are then placed on rods over glowing charcoal and broiled brown, being plunged from time to time into a vessel that contains oil so of the color and consistency of mayonnaise. These preparations completed, the steaming eels again are drained and placed in red lacquer boxes with rice and set before the customer.

The Phonograph. One need not be afraid of operating a machine too constantly, as there is little danger of wearing it out, and the motor will give better service when used frequently than when allowed to stand unused. In all cases avoid winding the spring too tightly. Stop when it offers strong resistance. In many cases it is specifically stated that the needles should not be used more than once, and these directions should be observed. Not to follow them means almost certain damage to the records. The machine should be kept well oiled; otherwise its motion will become sluggish. Sewing machine oil may be used for that purpose. The records should be kept free from dust, as dirt clogs the sound wave grooves and tends to give a scratchy sound to the reproduction. A good record cleaner may be made by gluing a small piece of velvet carpet to a wooden block. Such a cleaner always should be used on dusty records before they are placed on the machine. —Suburban Life.

A Dismal World. "Why are you sad, my dear? You ought to be supremely happy. Here, I've just inherited a fortune, and everything looks rosy. I can't understand why at such a time as this you should look so dismal. What is it? Have you heard bad news from home?" "No, no; it isn't that. I'll try to throw it off. I suppose I'm foolish not to be thoroughly happy. Let us not mention the matter again." "But I insist on knowing what it is that so depresses you. If it's anything that I can help I shall—" "Well, if you must know, I've just heard that the Snoblights next door are going to move away, so she'll not be here to feel jealous of me when we begin to put on style after you get your money." —Chicago Record-Herald.

His Rent Flag. On Jan. 18 every year, the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington is bound to present to the sovereign a small flag, which is the annual rent in "petit sergenty" by which the estate of Stratfieldsaye is held of the crown. The flag must be a miniature tricolor or eagle of the Napoleonic army, fringed with gold, with a gilded eagle on the head of the staff and the number of the year embroidered at the top corner of the flag near the eagle.

An Old Idea. In those old times when they cut off people's heads the train of events proceeded on one modern idea. "What was that?" "The block system." —Baltimore American.

Making Sure. Highland Ferryman, during momentary lull in the storm—I'm thinkin', sir, I'll just tack yer fare. There's no sayin' what might happen tae us.—London Punch.

He that plants thorns must never expect to gather roses.—Pilpay.

## A BIT OF DIPLOMACY

An English Official Who Outwitted a French Admiral.

### HOW PERIM ISLAND WAS WON

The Interesting Story That Is Told by a White House on the Foreshore of the Arabian Coast at the Southern Entrance to the Red Sea.

On the foreshore of the Arabian coast in the strait of Babel-Mandeb, at the southern entrance to the Red sea, stands a large white house concerning which the travelers to the far east may hear a curious story. In the middle of the nineteenth century, when M. de Lesseps after many difficulties had successfully floated the Suez Canal company, the governor of the British port of Aden, about 100 miles distant, was surprised one morning by the visit of a French squadron of very unusual size for that part of the orient, which, having encountered a terrific storm off Sokorra, had put in for repairs.

In the mind of the governor curiosity was at once aroused as to the destination of so large a command, a curiosity which increased as he found it impossible to extract any further information from the French admiral or his officers beyond the statement that they were upon an ordinary cruise, an explanation which the former was not the least inclined to believe.

Firm in the belief, therefore, that some political move of great importance was afoot, if not about, the governor, in order first of all to gain time gave orders to go very tortoise-like on the repairs and then set to work to take the Frenchmen off their guard by giving a succession of such extraordinary amounts as both his slender means and the awful barrenness of the place would afford.

But, though at the end of two weeks the French and British officers had gone upon the best of terms, the immediate destination of the French squadron remained as much of a mystery to the governor of Aden as before, and in spite of all possible delay the repairs were nearly completed.

Now, it happened that the wife of the governor possessed an Irish maid, who had been receiving attentions from one of the French petty officers—attentions which the girl did not regard seriously. It occurred to the governor that by such means something might be learned of his unexpected visitor's plans, and a private conversation between the latter and her French admirer, by which it was discovered that Perim Island was the objective point.

At this information the governor opened his eyes wide indeed, for, if the Suez canal were cut through, Perim, as commanding the southern entrance to the Red sea, in the middle of the strait of Babel-Mandeb, would be a place of great strategic importance, over which, without doubt, it was the intention of the French admiral to hoist the tricolor.

Secretly giving orders, therefore, for a gunboat to immediately embark a detachment of soldiers and steal away in the night for Perim island, the governor then announced a farewell banquet and ball for the day but one following, a final act of courtesy with which the French admiral would willingly have dispensed, for he was anxious to sail, but which he could not well refuse on account of the use he had made of the British supplies and machinery at Aden.

So the dinner and party in due course came off, the governor being in high spirits, because in the meantime he had received the news of the occupation of Perim, which under the circumstances would surely be followed by the longed for promotion, and the French admiral was equally happy, for he hoped on the morrow to add the same important little speck of land to the dominion of his own country, thereby covering his breast with the stars and himself with maritime glory.

Next day, after an interchange of cordial farewells, the French squadron sailed away to an apparently unknown destination, until, when clear of the land, the course was laid full speed direct for Perim island.

Then what were the dismay and disappointment of the French admiral and his officers when, on coming in sight of their destination, they beheld the British flag flying and a company of soldiers drawn up to give them a proper salute. It is said the French admiral was so mortified at being thus outwitted that he first thumped his cocked hat overboard and then followed it himself into the sea.

## Social Club Saloons Unlawful.

The Tribune has repeatedly called attention to the fact that the liquor law of the state was being violated by one of the social clubs of this city.

There has been some question in the minds of the officials as to the standing of such cases in law, and no action has been taken against the club, into whose rooms liquors in large quantities could be seen taken almost any and every day by arm loads, even by box loads. And as the liquors were generally delivered to the club rooms toward evening, there is a fair presumption that the eight o'clock closing law has not been observed in this club-saloon.

A recent decision makes plain what has all along been regarded as the law in this case. The Tribune will publish the decision as soon as a copy of it can be secured.

However, in chapter 32, section 7161, of Cobby's Statute, the law is clearly enough set forth:

"A social club keeping liquors under charge of a steward or keeper, which liquors are drunk by its different members calling for it as they wanted it, IS A VIOLATION OF LAW. One is in default for maintaining a place kept to a 'club' for the purpose of selling and distributing intoxicating liquors, there is no variance, though the club is incorporated under a name other than that stated in the indictment, it being as well known by its name as by the other. It need not be shown that the sale of the liquors was for sale and distribution in intoxicating quantities. It is enough that that was one of the purposes for which the place was kept."

## Sin-es-Spiegel.

One of the prettiest weddings of the season was that of Miss Edith Spiegel and Mr. Clarence Stokes, at the home of the bride's parents, Monday evening, Jan. 17. As Miss Myra Pittenger sang "The Beauty of Love" the young couple took their place under a canopy of white and gold. The bride wore a gown of white satin and carried a bouquet of white carnations and fern leaves. The groom wore conventional black.

The bride has lived in Albion all her life is graduate of the Albion High school and for the past number of years has been attending the State University at Lincoln, where she has left an excellent record as a student and made friends. She is a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority.

The groom is a stranger here having spent most of his life in McCook, Neb., and for the past two years has been in Lincoln. During his short stay Albion he has made a great many friends and has won the name of being an excellent musician.

These young people expect to make McCook their home where the groom's father has been in merchandise business for the past number of years and the groom is to assume partnership—Albion Argus.

## INDIANOLA.

Clint and Curt Hoagland left with a car of household goods, Saturday, for Southern Missouri, where they will try their luck farming.

The preliminary trial of Mike Riley for selling liquor without a license was held Thursday. He was bound over to the district court in the sum of \$500 bond.

Robert McWilliams is the new chambermaid in John Harrison's livery barn. Will Kummer, who has been working there, packed his clothes and went back to his home in McCook.

H. W. Keyes was a McCook visitor, Wednesday.

George Reiter is visiting his parents in Eagle, Nebraska, this week.

Over fifty tickets were sold from here to McCook, Tuesday, the day of the athletic event.

John Malcolm, of McCook, was an Indianola visitor, Tuesday.

Ira Horton and brother Charley were McCook business visitors, Tuesday. Ira talked as if he went up there to turn down a big railroad job.

Ernest Woodford and George Hamburg were Cambridge visitors between trains, Sunday evening.

James Ryan is visiting in the eastern part of the state, this week. Guess he is down there trying to find out the latest styles in pompadour hair cuts.

## Wickersham's Creed.

- 1st. What is easily done will be overdone.
- 2nd. What is hard to do will be in demand.
- 3rd. What has been done can be done again.
- 4th. You are the one who can do it.
- 5th. Impossible is unamerican.

## Legal Blanks Here.

This office carries all kinds of legal blank forms and makes special blanks to order promptly and accurately.

"Received on account," "Paid out," "Cash," "Credit" slips etc., for sale at the Tribune office. Per 1,000, 50c.

Dr. Green, next Wednesday evening.

## MINOR ITEMS OF NEWS

McConnell for drugs.

McConnell bills prescriptions.

A. McMillen, prescription druggist.

Dr. Green, next Wednesday evening.

Mary Harrison, nurse. Phone black 286.

Dr. Green, next Wednesday evening.

"Take Me Back" continues to be McCook's musical classic.

Typewriter ribbons, papers etc. for sale at THE TRIBUNE office.

McCook will enjoy the luxury of 15-inch ice, next summer, anyhow.

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