

THE SEA SERPENT APPEARS TO THE SCIENTIST

Tales Told Down of Wonderful Creature—Monster Recently Seen by Well-Known Naturalists—Legs of the Sea-Snake.

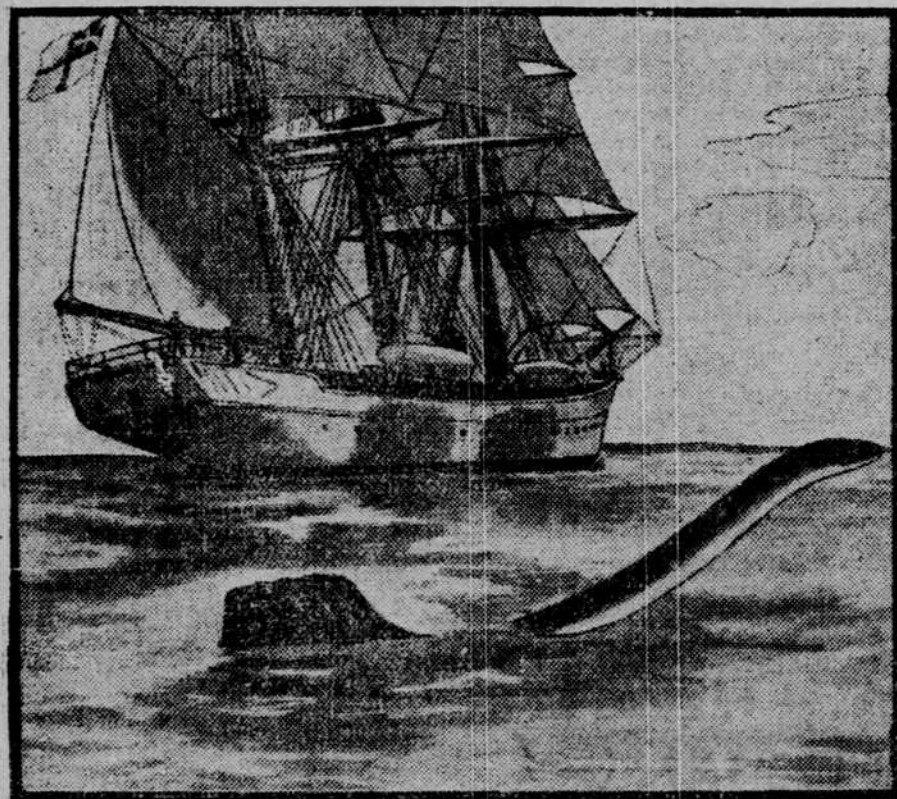
Verily the perversity of mankind passeth all understanding! And if there be any who would challenge the justice of this aphorism, let him reflect for a moment on the fact that we talk of the Phoenix as if it were real, and of the sea-serpent as though it were a purely mythical beast! But the sea-serpent is probably himself to blame for this, inasmuch as he is indiscreet enough to show himself from time to time to those who go down to the sea in ships. Hence, as with other distinguished mortals, everybody who has occasion to cross the ocean burns for an opportunity to boast an acquaintance with this distinguished dweller in the deeps.

Naturally, "land-lubbers," out of pique and jealousy, belittle the experiences of those who profess to have seen this monster, and yet live! But, as a rule, in their efforts to crush, they have to use weapons borrowed from other ocean travelers who assure us, on their own experience, that the sea-serpent is a creature vainly imagined, a figment of the brain, a thing born of after-dinner orgies; it may even have a semblance of reality, but when analyzed it proves to be nothing more than a school of porpoises playing at "follow-my-leader," a gigantic cuttlefish vainly waving its long arms in an endeavor to escape the grip of some hungry whale! On occasions, indeed, the sea-serpent has turned out to be nothing more interesting than a floating spar decorated with a tangle of seaweed!

A vast amount has been written about the sea-serpent, but all the

logical society Mr. E. B. Meade Wald and Mr. M. J. Nicoll described a creature seen by them from the deck of the earl of Crawford's yacht, the Valhalla, which bears a remarkable resemblance to that seen from the Daedalus. These two gentlemen, accompanied Lord Crawford as naturalists during his usual winter cruise. Both are well-known naturalists, and one is a member of the council of the Zoological society. The story they unfolded to a breathlessly excited assembly of the Fellows is briefly this: When off Para on December 7, 1905, at ten a. m., they were standing on the deck of the yacht, when their attention was caught by a curious sail-like object of some four feet long and two feet high waving from side to side in the water. No sooner had they turned their glasses on to this strange object than there appeared a huge eel-like neck, some six feet long, and as thick as a man's thigh, and this neck was surmounted by a great turtle-like head with large eyes, now borne high above the sea, which was quite calm. It was dark colored above and silvery white below. After a few moments the head and neck were slowly lowered, and when level with the water were violently lashed from side to side, churning up the sea into a great sheet of foam, and then it vanished.

Adverse winds caused the ship to beat about so that at midnight they were only 20 miles from the scene of the morning. This is noteworthy, because when Mr. Nicoll came on deck after breakfast one of the officers came up and reported that during the night he saw a strange commotion in the water.



A HUGE EEL-LIKE NECK APPEARED.

stories that have been told, it is sad to reflect that those of clergymen surpass in wildness of elaboration even the yarns invented with intent to deceive." At least, so says Mr. Frank Bullen—and he ought to know! One or two of the more serious accounts are worth repeating. No longer ago than 1891, one Peter Nelson, a quartermaster, and therefore "an honorable man," saw from the deck of the Rotomahana a beast with the head of an eel and fins ten feet long rise 30 feet out of the water. It was dark above, and white below. He gave a long account of this strange beast, yet, so far, those whom he intended to convert only reply that it was "very like a whale"—in short, that he saw nothing more than a whale "breaching."

Capt. McQuhae, of H. M. S. Daedalus, and his officers, in 1848 created a great sensation in England by a sea-serpent story which at the time was discredited by the late Prof. Sir Richard Owen. But time brings its revenge. It may turn out that the professor was wrong. Briefly, he reported having seen an enormous serpent with head and shoulders some four feet out of the water, and some 60 feet of its body on the surface. It passed rapidly so close to the ship that a man's features at the same distance could easily have been distinguished. It had no fins, but something like seaweed washed about its back.

Now within the last few weeks the honor of the captain and his officers, or rather, their credit as observers, has been singularly vindicated, for at the last meeting of the London Zool. At first he thought it was a rock "awash," but a most careful examination showed that it was a beast of some kind, traveling faster than the ship, which was then making only about eight-and-a-half knots. The of-

ficer "hailed the deck" and the look out man, and thus got witnesses to this weird phenomenon. Though the sea was calm, and there was a bright moon, nothing satisfactory could be made out owing to the "wash" which the creature was making; but in its movements it resembled a submarine traveling just below the surface.

Seriously, we can no longer regard the "sea-serpent" as a myth. There can be no question but that the ocean harbors some secret which we have not yet penetrated. It seems unlikely that this elusive creature should be a descendant of the old Plesiosaurus which became extinct millions of years ago, though the resemblance to those monsters is striking. More probably it will prove to be some bizarre form of reptile. But the resemblance between the descriptions given by these gentlemen and that given by the officers of the Daedalus agrees too closely to be passed by, and furthermore, both agree with the description of a similar creature seen off Tonquin some four years since. It is possible that it may even prove to be a "serpent." For it is well known that the land-snakes once possessed limbs, and some gigantic forms of sea-snake may well have preserved its limbs, though now transformed into paddles, like those of the turtle and whale.

W. P. PYCRAFT.

Thoughtful people have doubts, but doubts ought not to be the sum total in life. Doubts ought to be like clouds that by and by are swept from the sky. We have got to have sun-up and sunlight, and the blanketing of the clouds must some time be torn away, and the sunlight must get at the flowers of the world, lest the flowers fail to bloom and exhale perfume to the sky.—William A. Quayle.

Can Walk Under Water.

Geneseo, N. Y., Man Gives Two Startling Exhibitions with Invention of His Own.

Rochester, N. Y.—A submarine contrivance which permits a person to walk under water has been invented by R. P. Lawton, of Geneseo. Already he has given two demonstrations of its power. Once he remained under water for an hour, the other time for 45 minutes.

Lawton's experiments were made at Silver lake. Clad in a bathing suit, he walked out toward the center of the lake, holding aloft a fish pole, to the top of which was attached a flag. He had remarked to some boys on shore that he was going for a walk in the lake. When the flag was about 40 feet from the shore it suddenly disappeared below the water. The boys waited for Lawton to reappear, and when he did not do so they gave the alarm.

wards, and explained his ability to walk under water. The crowd was skeptical, so Lawton climbed into his bathing suit again and gave another exhibition. He stayed under water this time for 45 minutes.

He will allow no one to see his contrivance. He says it is of the simplest kind, and weighs little more than a pound.

Chinese Coffins.
Chinese coffins are made of timber eight inches to ten inches thick. It is calculated, therefore, that over 8,000,000 feet of timber is utilized yearly for coffins in China.

Cleveland's Distinction.
Only one of the first 14 cities, in order of population, in the United States was named after a man. That city is Cleveland, O.

General Poverty.
If one's income is limited the general rule is that one must live and die in a black hat.—Ladies' Field.

HIGH POSITION FOR LABOR LEADER.



E. E. Clark, of Cedar Rapids, Ia., grand chief of the Order of American Railway Conductors, has been appointed by President Roosevelt to a seat on the interstate commerce commission. In appointing Mr. Clark President Roosevelt made a concession to labor which will elate more than 38,000 railway conductors.

KEPT THE WIRE HUMMING.

Great Feat of Henry Bogardus, Who Was the Original Tramp Telegrapher.

Henry Bogardus was the original tramp telegrapher. He had traveled all over the world and undoubtedly was one of the finest operators in the business, but he wouldn't hold down a job for more than two or three weeks. One night he wandered into the office of the Atlanta Times and asked for a job. The paper needed a man badly and put him to work.

The chief operator got hold of the other man on the wire and told him he had a new man on and to work him out. That was the day before typewriters came into general use. Everything was written out in long-hand. The story began coming in. Bogardus asked for a pencil, leaned back in his chair and slowly began to sharpen it.

The sounder was pounding away as fast as the man at the other end of the wire could send. The editor spoke to "Bo" and told him he had better get busy as the man was a rather fast sender and he would get behind. "Bo" told him to never mind, that he would attend to that. He got up and walked around a moment, picked up the poker and stirred up the fire, got a drink of water, then seated himself and started to take the message.

He sat there through the night and took between 15,000 and 20,000 words, which were written in a beautiful hand. The feat went the rounds of operators all over the country and became a legend as one of the greatest tricks ever.

Sleeping Out of Doors.
Outdoor sleeping, which is such a

VALUE OF COCOANUT PALM.

Tree's Many Uses Have Made It Almost Indispensable in the Tropics.

There is absolutely no part of the coconut palm which is without its uses. The tree grows all through the tropics, but it is the natives of the Philippines and other islands in the Pacific who most largely depend upon it.

First, the nut is a valuable and almost complete food, and the liquid which the shell contains is a refreshing drink. From the husk is made ropes, sails, netting, and the familiar cocoanut matting. The leaves are used for thatching and make the best and lightest roofs in existence.

The leaf ribs are formed into brooms or else are used for fuel, while the ashes mixed with the oil crushed from the nut form an excellent soap. The shells form cups and goblets.

The trunk makes excellent pillars for house buildings, being both strong and light, while cut into sections, and with the pith hollowed out, it forms tubs, casks and water pipes. From the roots is made a red dye, and the green crown, or central bud, when crushed, gives a liquor called tuba, delicious to drink and which when fermented makes first-class vinegar.

PHRASE OF QUEER ORIGIN.

"Morganatic Marriage" Suggests the Mirage of the Desert—The "Fata Morgana."

One of the words having a derivation the significance of which is lost upon most of those who use it is

JUSTICE FULLER'S DAUGHTER A BRIDE.



Dr. Robert French Mason is now in the north on his honeymoon trip with his bride, who was Miss Fannie Louise Fuller, youngest daughter of Chief Justice Fuller, of the supreme court of the United States.

"ad in this country, is by no means unknown in England. A writer says: 'I have encountered a baby, born last summer, who was set to sleep in a Chelsea garden during the hot weather. When the temperature dropped, the careful parents brought the baby into the house at night. But the infant was restless; could not sleep. And now, throughout the winter, the child has slept peacefully in the garden. It is well wrapped up, and a tarpaulin guards it from snow or rain. But it is a fine and healthy child, and a compliment to the fresh air that London can provide at night.'

"morganatic" in the term. "a morganatic marriage."

Such a union between a royal personage and a woman of inferior rank is not uncommon in Germany, or at least it was not until recently. The man gives the left hand to the woman when the ceremony takes place. The wife gains no rank by her union with a man of royal blood, nor do her children become princes and princesses. They are regarded as perfectly legitimate by the law, but they have no right to the property of their father.

The origin of the name given to such mockeries of marriage seems to be the optical illusions of the deserts. The Italians call the mirage which mock parched and weary travelers "fata morgana," that is, the delusions of the Morgana.

The Indispensable Man.

Let no man fall into the dear delusion that he is an indispensable part of this world's machinery. No matter how much he may overestimate his importance, it is yet probable, at least possible, that he has a definite, if elastic, value, but let him drop out of the whirl, having still breath enough to last him while he surveys the situation, and he will find that the wheels will go right on turning in the old familiar way.—Detroit Free Press.

Silence.

"To be successful in politics," said the young man, "I suppose you've got to keep your wits together at times." "Well," replied the politician, "that's not so important as to keep your lips together at the right time."

CONCERNING OUR BOYS.

Without Doubt the Boys Should Have Duties About the House Required of Them.

The teaching should not be all on the girls' side of the house. There are lessons the boys should learn, and learn thoroughly, in many homes where the mother is almost a nervous wreck from overwork, the boys are given nothing to do, and run about the streets out of sheer restlessness. They should not be allowed to lie in bed until called for breakfast, but should be among the first out of bed. Teach them that it is but fair to wait on themselves. Teach them to prepare vegetables, to cook simple foods, to wash dishes, to scour shelves, to black stoves, to make beds and sweep and dust, and put their belongings in order. Teach them that it is as much their duty to keep their rooms tidy as it is for the sister to look after hers. A slovenly, disorderly boy is every bit as bad as a slatternly girl, declares The Commoner. They should know how to handle a needle and thread; to sew on buttons; to mend rips and tears on the sewing machine; to replace the book taken from the book shelves; to fold and lay in its place the paper they read; to shake the rugs; to dust the furniture and do the "fetch and carry" work that every home must have done. Teach them to be considerate of others, not only as to burden-bearing, but in all work or worry. Boys should be taught to take the part of the weaker ones in all the battles of life. If the mother would begin with the boy when he is still in dresses, allowing him to do little kindnesses and setting him little tasks, thus saving herself many a step, he would hardly be ashamed to help her when he gets older. Compared with mother's weak arms, the boy's strength is magnificent. Do not wait until he is in his teens to begin the lessons for he will rebel wholly against "girls' work" then, no matter how much you may need him. But teach him that the home is as much his as it is that of his little sister, and that you look to him, even more than her, for its happiness, and, dear mothers, he will seldom fail you.

TO LAUNDRER MOURNING.

An Expert Laundress Advises Black Starch and Salt and Vinegar in Rinsing Water.

A good laundress is what is needed to solve a serious problem for the woman who wears mourning, particularly in the summer. Black goods not only look warm, but are warm, and the black lawns and sheer goods are avoided by most women because it is generally thought that they cannot be laundered with much success, says a contributor to the Brooklyn Eagle.

A certain laundress who is well known among her clients as an authority on all matters of soap and water and starch, offers the following directions, which will bring the best results if attended to carefully:

"Dissolve a heaping tablespoonful of black starch in two tablespoons of lukewarm water. Then pour a quart of boiling water over it, stirring constantly until it gets perfectly clear, but do not let it boil.

"Wash the dress in a little soap-suds, just warm. Rinse it in two buckets of cold water, with one teaspoon of vinegar and a handful of salt. Dry the dress and then pour the black starch over it. Let the dress get a little bit dry, then roll it up, without sprinkling, and iron upon the wrong or under side, over a black cotton cloth. The dress will look as good as new."

An easier way to solve the problem is not to wear pure black in summer. All white is considered by many as almost as deep mourning as black."

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Beef or mutton reheated in a double boiler is a vast improvement over the ordinary stew.

For the removal of grease spots from woolen dresses salt dissolved in alcohol is recommended.

To improve the flavor of roast beef and give a rich brown color add a tablespoonful of sugar to the water for basting the meat.

A piece of coarse net sewed over an extra large hole in a stocking will make it easier to darn, and will make the darn more lasting.

A small paint brush with long, strong, supple bristles is the best thing with which to keep cut glass clean. It is the only means of reaching the dust which lodges in the small carvings.

Copperware may be brightened by rubbing with a piece of flannel that has been wrung out of hot water, well soaked and dusted with borax. Rinsing and a polish should follow the rubbing.

When frying croquettes be sure to plunge the basket in hot fat before the croquettes are placed in it. This will prevent them adhering to the wire when lifted out.

The value of wringing clothes well cannot be overestimated. A good laundress squeezes out the last drop of soapy water, and again rinses the garment well after she has thoroughly rinsed it.

White crepe paper has been found to be the satisfactory tablecloth at fetes. No one is ever anxious to donate one of her own tablecloths for this purpose and the paper kind is just as effective.

Flower baskets are superseding the more ordinary vase. With fluted edge and graceful handle they make a most artistic receptacle for short stemmed flowers.—Brooklyn Eagle.

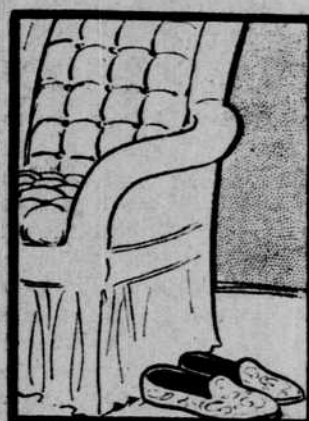
German Potato Cakes.
This well known German dish has been made a part of the cookery of our country, introduced by many of our German families. In making it grate the potatoes raw, add butter to enrich it, eggs and flour to hold the grated potato together, a little salt, and season with sugar and cinnamon to taste. The cakes are fried in butter on a griddle or in a fat saucepan till brown.

Ginger Plaster.
Ground ginger used for plasters instead of mustard is just as good to "draw" and it never blisters.

Gossip of Washington

OUR WEEKLY LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Not Lese Majesty to Decline Informal Invitation to White House Dinners—The Big Market in Central and South America—To Maintain the Dignity of the United States Abroad—The Summer Somnolence of Washington.



WASHINGTON.—There were few presidents who cared less for conventionalities than does Mr. Roosevelt. Where these conventionalities mean national dignity or have any particular diplomatic significance Mr. Roosevelt wants to have them observed, but he is not a stickler for form and in his private life in the White House goes a good deal on the plan of a genuine old-fashioned American homebody. With some presidents an invitation to take dinner at the White House took the form of a command much as would a similar invitation from one of the crowned heads of Europe. Anyone receiving such an invitation would never have thought of declining it unless prevented by sickness or some providential interference.

Mr. Roosevelt's invitations to dinner have been sometimes declined, but only such as have been extended in a generous sort of "come and Montana called at the White House and the president asked him to take dinner with him that night. The old cattleman declined on the ground that he had no evening dress and in fact had never worn that sort of togs. Mr. Roosevelt pressed him, but he was firm in his resolve that he would not sit down among lot of other folks without being dressed as they were.

There have been others who have good-naturedly declined the president's informal invitations and their excuses have been just as good naturally accepted. On one occasion Speaker Cannon had an engagement to dine at a cabinet dinner where the president was the guest of honor and he begged off in order to attend a griddon dinner. The matter was compromised by a postponement of the cabinet dinner. It does not constitute lese majesty to decline an informal invitation to the White House dinners.

A PRECEDENT FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY.

Secretary of State Root is now on a mission that promises to be of great importance to the United States and to all the Republicans on the western hemisphere. It is a great departure from long established custom for a cabinet officer to visit neighboring countries and discuss with their administration international affairs, but the president's administration at Washington carries very little about precedents so long as the thing contemplated to be done is for the good of the country.

Mr. Root is a man of practical ideas and since he became the premier of the administration he has been looking into the matter of extending United States trade to the countries to the south of us. He has been impressed with the idea that there is a big market in Central and South America that is in danger of being monopolized by foreign countries and which naturally ought to belong to the merchants and manufacturers of this country. One reason that the people of the United States are not getting their share of that market is a prejudice that exists among the Central and South American republics against this country.

Mr. Root has gone down on a visit to our sister republics for the purpose of persuading them that we are their best friends, and that they should look to the United States rather than to old European nations for commercial as well as political friendship. It will be Mr. Root's purpose also to inquire as to whether Germany and Great Britain are trying to make any headway in the politics of those countries as they are doing in their contact with members of the administration to strengthen the old-fashioned American Monroe doctrine which denies the right of European governments to acquire any more territory on this hemisphere.

SUITABLE LEGATION AND EMBASSY BUILDINGS.



Now that the United States government has made a start in the direction of erecting suitable legation and embassy buildings for our representatives abroad it is hoped that before many years the United States flag will fly over property that this government owns in every prominent capital abroad. The fact that American ambassadors and ministers have had to rent their quarters abroad has been a disgrace to the United States diplomatic service.

The experience in Peking during the Boxer troubles in 1900 made it imperative that this government erect its own legation building in that city where a proper guard could be placed. A handsome ministerial residence and guardhouse have since been provided there and now that the precedent is established, congress will be appealed to, as it was in this last session when an appropriation was made for the purchase of an ambassadorial residence in Constantinople. Minister John G. A. Leishman, who has been in Constantinople for a number of years, spent his leave of absence in Washington, and through Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, and Secretary Root, had little difficulty in persuading congress that the diplomatic post at Constantinople should be made an embassy and that a suitable residence should be purchased for the ambassador.

The rentals that our ambassadors at London, Paris, Berlin and other European capitals pay for their quarters is far in excess of the salaries the United States gives them. It is possible only for men of great wealth to fill these positions unless congress makes provision for their official homes and for the entertaining they are compelled to do in order that the United States may not suffer in dignity in comparison with other governments.

THE PERSONNEL OF OUR CONSULAR SERVICE.

Those who have had occasion to observe the United States consular service in recent years have noted a distinct improvement in its personnel. Now that congress has passed a law reorganizing this service still greater things are expected of it. In the old days one of the standing jokes and constant sources of amusement when there was a change in the administration was afforded by the horde of politicians who came to Washington soliciting appointments to the United States consular service. It was almost the exception to find men urged for these places who were in any way fitted for them. The story is still told of a man during Cleveland's first administration who was appointed for a consular post of great importance in Germany. When Cleveland asked him if he could speak German, he said: "No, but I have a brother who plays the German flute."

The consular posts were regarded as so many plums to be distributed among political workers who had aided in the election of a new administration. The places paid both salaries and fees and it was reckoned that a shrewd man would be able to make a pretty good thing out of the latter even if the salary was not very high. Then the services of these men were regarded as a convenient place to dump political workers of the "has been" type who would be stowed away in some far off corner of the world and forgotten. There have been cases where men were sent to consular posts and only heard of by an occasional report and left there for years and years until their very names almost were forgotten.

This order of things has been changed under the present administration of President Roosevelt and Secretary Root, and the operation of the new law there will be constant changes and promotions on civil service principles and no consular officer is likely to be forgotten no matter how far he is away from Washington.

SUMMER IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.



In mid-summer the great national capital at Washington is like an overgrown country village. The quiet of its streets and its general somnolent character are remarked by visitors from all parts of the country. There is no rush, no crowd except at very brief periods during the day. From eight until nine o'clock in the morning the street cars are crowded and a good many people are seen on the sidewalks, but they compose the army of 25,000 government employes that is swallowed up behind the doors of the big marble and granite government buildings upon the stroke of nine.

Again from 4:30 until 5:30 there is another little bustle on the street as this ink-stained crowd of clerks come out of their office buildings and go home. That is about all the excitement there is during the daytime. There is a gentle little stir later in the evening as a few hundred of Washington's citizens go to the wharves and take the boat for an evening ride down the Potomac or board the trolley cars for a trip to the suburbs. After this crowd has gone Washington goes to sleep until about 11 o'clock when these evening pleasure seekers return home. By midnight an hour when New York is just getting awake, Washington has its shutters closed and blinds drawn and anyone found on the street is looked on with suspicion by the police.

On Sunday or on a holiday the streets are so deserted that a pedestrian's footfall will start an echo. For three months at least Washington is dead socially and politically. With the return of the cool weather in the fall the thousands of politicians who have gone to summer homes and resorts or abroad to their back and the national capital is once more upon the map. The president and his official family are absent all summer with the exception of one or two cabinet members who remain here to represent the administration, or, as Secretary Taft expresses it, to "sit upon the lid."