

Gossip from Washington

Interesting Items Gathered at the Capital—Social Leader of the White House Must Be a Single Man—Cleaning Up the Executive Mansion.



WASHINGTON.—It is openly declared that the president has decreed that the major domo of the White House must be a single man. Those who make this assertion point to the removal of Maj. McCawley, for nearly four years leader of social functions at the White House, who recently married the widow of Judge Davis, as their proof.

No recent White House announcement has created as much comment and concern in official and high social circles as the order disposing Maj. McCawley. It was upon Maj. McCawley that most of the important details connected with the Roosevelt-Longworth wedding devolved. Maj. McCawley has held a much similar relative position in the White House under the Roosevelt regime as Harry Lehr holds in Mrs. Astor's "600." Without him no social function could have succeeded half so well. He is handsome, dashing, a divine dancer and as a cotillon leader his reputation in Washington is unequalled.

And now his romantic marriage at the height of his popularity to the widow of Judge John Davis of the court of claims, has been followed by the much discussed official announcement transferring Maj. McCawley to the Marine barracks at Washington, and placing a new major domo at the White House.

"Bean Brummel is paying the penalty of getting married," is what official Washington is whispering. It should perhaps be explained that Maj. McCawley has long been honored with the title of the Bean Brummel of Washington, and very deservedly, too.

The incoming holder of that distinguished position is Capt. Frank McCoy of the Third cavalry, now at Lewisport, Pa.

Maj. McCawley was an obscure officer in the Marine corps until a little more than four years ago, when largely through the record and high standing of his father, the late Col. McCawley, of the Marine corps, he was chosen aide to the president. Since then he has loomed high in the social firmament at the capital.

Much interest has attended the courtship of Maj. McCawley and the famous beauty, Miss Davis is nearly 90 years old, her wonderful beauty, black hair and splendid carriage would lead an observer to place her on the sunny side of 50. She is extremely wealthy, having a fortune of several million dollars in her own right, and occupies a high position in the most exclusive social sets in Washington. Her name figures among the lists of the capital's most assiduous hostesses, and wherever she goes a murmur of admiration follows.

POLISHING UP THE WHITE HOUSE.

When President Roosevelt and his family come back to Washington they will find the White House as bright and clean as the proverbial pin.

For weeks the executive mansion has been closed to visitors and in the hands of workmen repairing and renovating the interior.



Congress at the last session appropriated over \$50,000 for this work, and under the supervision of Col. Bromwell, superintendent of public buildings and grounds, every defect, inside and outside, has been noted and repaired.

The contractors have guaranteed the work for at least ten years. A new roof has been put on the entire building and the leaks in the wings and office building have been stopped. The state parlors on the ground floor have been redecorated, but the well-known Blue, Green and Red parlors still retain their colors, while in the East Room the prevailing tints are ivory and gold.

Upstairs on the second floor, where are the living rooms of the president's family, the same thorough renovation has been made.

The Prince of Wales room, which was occupied by the present king of England when he visited President Buchanan many years ago, has been transformed into a dressing room for the president.

GROWTH IN OUTPUT OF COAL MINES.

According to the report of Edward W. Parker, statistician of the United States geological survey, the production of coal in the United States in 1905 amounted to 392,919,341 short tons, having a value at the mines of \$476,756,963, surpassing in both quantity and value all previous records in the history of the country. Compared with 1904 the output in 1905 exhibits an increase of 41,102,943 short tons, or over 11 per cent. in quantity, and of \$32,385,942, or over seven per cent. in value.

Of the total production in 1905 77,659,850 short tons were Pennsylvania anthracite, with a value at the mines of \$141,879,000. The total production of bituminous coal and lignite was 315,259,491 short tons, valued at \$334,877,963. The production of anthracite coal in Pennsylvania in 1905 was 4,593,151 short tons more than that of 1904, while the increase in the production of bituminous coal was 59,832 short tons. A portion of these increases in both anthracite and bituminous production is traced by Mr. Parker to the efforts of operating companies to provide a supply of fuel in anticipation of a suspension of mining in April, 1906, when the wage scale agreements in the organized coal producing states and the award of the strike commission in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania would terminate.

In each district the output of the United States has been practically doubled. The report shows that there are 626,174 men and boys employed in coal mining in the United States.

The larger part of the increased production in 1905 is credited to the great activity in the iron industry, as is shown by the fact that the amount of coal made into coke increased from 21,278,537 to 41,412,323 short tons and that the larger increases were in the cokeling coal producing states and those which furnished fuel to the iron furnaces.

VETERAN CONGRESSMEN BEING RETIRED.

This has been a hard summer for the veterans of congress. Early in the season old Gen. Grosvenor, of Ohio, went down in defeat before a young rival.

A few months later Representative Bankhead, of Alabama, the Democratic Father of the House, was unhorsed by Richmond Pearson Hobson, who would like to have a fleet of "5,000-ton battleships."

Now comes Samuel Matthews Robertson, of the Sixth district of Louisiana, who is now serving his tenth term. He lost out at the primaries held recently. He was elected to fill a vacancy in the Fifty-third congress and stood next to Bankhead in years of service in the house. His defeat leaves De Armond, of Missouri, the Democratic Father of the House, although, in comparison with Gen. Ketchum, Gen. Bingham, Hitt, of Illinois, and Speaker Cannon, he is only a newcomer. The first mentioned is now serving his seventeenth year term, but as they have not been continuous and there has been one hiatus in the record of Speaker Cannon, the 14 terms of Gen. Harry H. Bingham, of Philadelphia, make him the Father of the House.

De Armond's jump into the Democratic premiership in the matter of service was made positive by the defeat of Bankhead, of Alabama, who has since been elected "alternate senator," to fill the vacancy that may be caused by the death of either Senator Morgan or Senator Pettus, both of whom are more than 80 years old.

No honor will come to De Armond by reason of his premiership unless the Democrats control the next house. In such an event he may be designated to administer the oath to the Democratic speaker, John Sharp Williams.

OUR SOLDIERS WEAR GOOD SHOES.

"Uncle Sam keeps well in mind the saying, 'A man is not well dressed unless he wears a good pair of shoes,'" said a government inspector, "for he takes care that the army is fitted out with the most comfortable and nattiest of footwear. To be sure, he does not go in for upper jawed, flaring soles, or twisted, ugly toes, but he provides the finest of leather and insists that the boots for his soldiers shall be well made. His inspectors look after the shoes at every process in their manufacture, and any short cut in leather or negligently placed nails that might result in corns or sore feet are pointed out with condemning fingers and the boots are thrown aside.

"Once in while the style in army shoes changes and then a big batch of shoes will be thrown on the market, which merchants eagerly gobble up. The man who buys these shoes will not get a new style army shoe, but he gets the finest shoe on the market for high grade leather and good workmanship.

"The United States army marching shoe of to-day has a cap and is a shoe for a man to be proud of. The cap is not only over the toe, but across the heel, and it gives just that touch of ornamentation which the well dressed man likes.

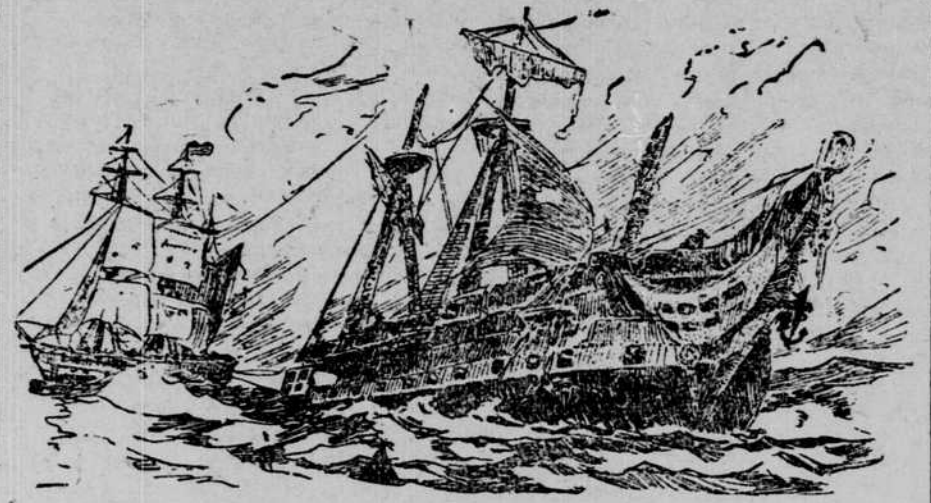
"Its sole is only moderately heavy, and the leather is the best box calf. It is eight and a half inches high. It has five eyelets at the bottom of the lacing, then five hooks, and at the top of the shoe is another eyelet, a combination of fastenings which has been tried out and found to be the best for getting the shoe on quickly and for strength.

"The garrison shoe is built on similar lines, only it is six and a half inches high and has a plain toe. Some of them have clips at toe and heel, but for the most part they are plain.

"Contrary to popular belief, Uncle Sam does allow his soldier boys to wear a low shoe or Oxford, although it is never worn on the march. They are more for dress and are made of dongola kid and are called gymnasium shoes."

FAMOUS OLD FLAGSHIP NIAGARA TO BE RAISED FROM LAKE ERIE

Vessel Made Memorable Through Heroic Deeds of Commodore Perry to Be Preserved as a Naval Relic.



Washington.—The rate bill, pure food inspection measure and the selection of a type for the Panama canal are among the legislative products of the session of congress just ended that have the largest share of interest from a practical standpoint, but from a historic viewpoint the house, senate and president, at the instance of Representative Arthur L. Bates, enacted no more interesting law than that appropriating \$20,000 to raise the famous old flagship Niagara from Lake Erie and preserve it as a permanent sailors' home at Erie, Pa., as a memorial to the first victory of an American fleet over a foreign foe.

The bill provides for the salvage work under the direction of the secretary of the navy and for the erection of a suitable building of brick and stone for housing the vessel after it is transported to land.

The site contemplated by the board of trustees of the soldiers and sailors' home of Erie, who are made the custodians of the vessel, for the proposed building is on a bluff overlooking Lake Erie, making a most appropriate setting for carrying out the patriotic intentions of the advocates of the restoration plan. Thereafter the naval relic is to be kept on exhibition free to the public at all times.

The size of the building may be judged from the fact that the Niagara which was built after the same model as the Lawrence, was 100 feet straight rabet, 30 feet beam, 9 feet hold and was pierced for 20 guns.

Every American knows of the heroic deeds of Perry at the battle of Lake Erie in the war of 1812. It is one of the brightest pages in a naval history lustrous in deeds of valor.

Contrary to an impression that has gained currency the Niagara did not sink during the battle. It was not until years later, when the memory of the great victory was fading into forgetfulness that the Niagara found a resting place at the bottom of the lake.

The water at this point is not very deep and the location of the wreck has been well identified. Fortunately, the fact that it has been half immersed in sand and water for the last 40 years has kept its old timbers in an unusually good state of preservation and no doubt is entertained that the vessel can be successfully raised.

At the beginning of the present congress Representative Bates announced his determination to see that a relic of such value should be carefully kept. He did not finally succeed in forcing the signature of the president till the closing week. It was no difficult to persuade President Roosevelt to give his approval.

The raising of the Niagara should not take a great deal of time and the suggestion has even been made that it be rushed so that the ceremonies attendant on placing the old craft on the lawn of the home may take place on September 10, the ninety-third anniversary of the conflict.

The battle of Lake Erie has always been regarded by Americans as their crowning victory on water in the second struggle with Great Britain. It is a milk fed pumpkin Amazes. Bloomington, Ill.—A milk fed pumpkin is the latest development in agricultural circles. Two pumpkins, grown on the same vine, were on exhibition at the Tazewell county fair. They stood side by side, but one was ten times larger than the other. The giant was given a pint of milk per day, a hole being cut in the vine which was attached to the stem. The milk was completely absorbed over night. The small brother attained natural growth, but the milk fed weighed 100 pounds.

The British commander was terribly injured and nearly all his ships were complete wrecks. So impressed was Perry by the valor of the enemy when the time for surrender came and the enemy's officers came to his flagship, the Niagara, he declined to take their side arms.

His triumph complete, Perry sent to Gen. Harrison this modest message, which remains a classic: "We have met the enemy and they are ours. Two ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop."

Gen. McCaskey Says Infantry Branch Disapproves Unnecessary Tramp. Washington.—Long marches in the infantry branch of the army, as provided for in recent orders, pertaining to annual camps of instruction, are disapproved by Brig. Gen. William S. McCaskey, commanding the southwestern division, in his annual report to the war department. The recent orders, he says, will have a decided and disastrous effect upon reenlistments.

Commenting upon the general dissatisfaction Gen. McCaskey says: "The practice marches as now ordered and the prospect of a repetition of this summer's long encampments and the extended marches incident thereto are looked upon as an unnecessary hardship. American soldiers are thinking men and reason to the effect that while any hardship that is necessary will be endured, those not necessary will be evaded. It is believed that the infantry soldier upon reenlistment will be found in the coast artillery."

"I am of the opinion that camps of instruction as now conducted are too long in duration. Three weeks in camp should be sufficient. Marches in excess of less than 100 miles; anything beyond this is unnecessary and is disapproved by the majority of officers and men whom I have interviewed on the subject."

ARMY MARCHES TOO LONG.

There Are Many Kinds of Potatoes. Hampden, Mass.—Deacon John N. Isham, who has been cultivating two or three strains of potatoes for half a century, recently decided to introduce in his patch a few other varieties. On one seed farm in North Middleboro he found 825 named and numbered kinds, not including this year's seedlings, resulting from crossing native stock with a hardy South American potato. Deacon Isham, after learning what a complex proposition the potato breeder faces and being informed that not more than one in 100 new strains is an improvement over the plain everyday potato which New England has produced since the days of the Pilgrims, concluded that the old-time "spuds" are good enough for him.

Cats Mourn; Turn Black. Steamville, O.—Two cats owned by Hiram Jennings went into mourning following the death of their master the other day. Jennings was found dead in an oat field after eating a hearty meal, and by his side were the pet cats, both white. They followed his body to the grave, and upon their return to the house it was noticed that they were rapidly changing to a deep black. Within three days the felines were in deep mourning. They have refused to eat, and spend the night wailing most pathetically in the back yard.

Artistic Sensitiveness. "Why are you so resentful toward that writer?" "Because," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes, "he once said there were moments when my work did not realize the highest possible standard of excellence." "Well?" "My dear sir, I welcome criticism, but I cannot endure such ignorant abuse."—Washington Star.

Close to It. "Were you ever hypnotized?" "I don't know, but I once bought a lot of things I didn't want from a girl in a department store."

PLAYS TUNE ON A BARREL.

Massachusetts Man Has a String Instrument That is a Wonder.

Malden, Mass.—Out of a sugar barrel Frederick S. Hall, of Malden, has constructed a unique musical instrument, supposed to be a distant relative to the 'cello, and on the one string of the contrivance the performer plays arias and selections from famous operas.

Hall got the idea for the barrel 'cello one day when he heard the hollow sound made by some small boys pounding on a large hoghead. He believed that the hollow cavity of a good, stout oaken barrel would produce a good sounding-board for a vibrating string.

Procuring a 'cello string, Hall rigged it on the side of a barrel and then began his experiments. After several weeks' work he has perfected an instrument that gives a surprisingly mellow tone.

Friends of the musician have been calling at his studio by the score for the past few days to hear the new musical instrument. Hall has received a large offer for the instrument from a circus performer, but he refused to part with it.

Hall is well known in local musical circles. He is the composer of several tuneful songs and marches.

BANKER BUYS WAITER A RANCH.

David H. Moffat Will Install Old Friend in Home Near Him.

Denver, Col.—David H. Moffat, millionaire banker and railroad builder of Colorado, who boasts as his friend Thomas Gay, head waiter of the Fifth Avenue hotel, New York, desires his friend to live near him, and as the first step in that direction has purchased a ranch of 158 acres in Routt county, near Steamboat Springs, which he is having put in shape before presenting it to Gay. Mr. Moffat bought the ranch for \$4,800. He will spend a goodly portion of his time on the ranch with his old friend.

The friendship of the two men has interfered with the banker's business several times, but when a man objects to the waiter the banker wanted nothing to do with him. Once a Denver man took an eastern capitalist to Mr. Moffat's room in the hotel to talk over a business deal involving \$250,000. They found Moffat playing poker with the waiter. They were introduced to him as they would have been to any other guest and the deal fell through on account of the attitude of the eastern man when a waiter was introduced to him as a social equal.

Exports and Imports Grow. Foreign Trade on Sound Basis and Collections Are Large.

City of Mexico.—During the fiscal year ended June 30 the total exportations of the country amounted to \$271,138,809, against \$208,520,451 in the preceding fiscal year, a gain of \$62,618,357. Imports amounted to \$230,651,974, against \$178,204,962, an increase of \$52,446,112. Nearly \$50,000,000 in coined silver was exported and some \$38,178,000 new gold was imported in the readjustment of the currency. Exports of merchandise for the fiscal year increased by \$2,741,919. The foreign trade of the country is on a sound basis and the customs collections large.

During the fiscal year the United States took of Mexican exports \$186,010,052; Great Britain, \$47,272,873; Germany, \$29,523,156; France, \$8,010,279.

Mexico imported from the United States to the amount of \$145,600,313; from Germany, \$20,814,557; from Great Britain, \$20,344,648; from France, \$16,383,255. All sums are in Mexican standard currency, the unit being one-half of the American dollar gold.

STAYED IN JAIL BY CHOICE. "Eddie" Mullin Declined to Accept Freedom and Died in Prison.

Cleveland, O.—"Eddie" Mullin, who for 29 years refused to leave the Cuyahoga county jail, died at the city hospital. He was about 65 years of age.

Mullin was a familiar figure about the county prison. He was picked up by a policeman one day in the fall of 1877 wandering aimlessly about. He was talking to himself about ships and Egypt. He was taken to the county jail to await an investigation as to his sanity. He was not violent and the probate court did not investigate his case. Hugh Buckley, member of the board of public safety, was then sheriff, and he ordered the release of Mullin. The prison doors swung open and Mullin was told that he was free.

"I don't want to be free. Please let me stay here. This is the best place I have found since I left the ship—the good ship Alice," wailed Mullin with tears in his eyes.

Mullin's manner touched the sheriff, and he said he could stay around the jail until he found a place to work. Mullin liked the jail so well that he did not try to get a job.

Sewer Good After 53 Years. New Albany, Ind.—By reviving an old water works system that was constructed 53 years ago at Byrnesville, a village 15 miles northwest of this city, the citizens of that town contemplate the establishment of a new system. The old stone pipes that were placed more than half a century ago were buried deep in the ground and recent investigation has shown that they are as good as new. A supply of water can be procured from a stream near by and the reconstruction of the old system, it is said, can be accomplished at a small cost.

Life Created by Frenchman? Paris.—Prof. Liduc, of a medical school at Nantes, claims to have created vegetable life. He has been experimenting for ten years and he eventually discovered that with what he described as "osmotic pressure," which animates inorganic matter when dissolved to a liquid, it is possible to produce a substance identical with artificial cells, which lived and reproduced. From these he claims he produced growing plants three and four inches long.

GREAT SALTON SEA SCHEME

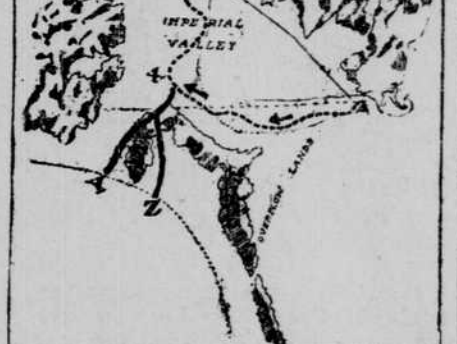
CALIFORNIA SUGGESTS JOINING IT TO GULF OF CALIFORNIA.

Would Afford, He Says, a Magnificent and Impregnable Harbor for United States War Fleets.

In spite of the efforts of the engineers of the Southern Pacific, who expect to divert the waters of the Colorado river into its old channel, and who say that then the waters in what has come to be known as Salton sea will dry up, there are others who look with skeptical eyes upon the success of the engineering project. If the effort does fail, and the great sea of water in the desert grows, to what use can it be put? Is the question some are asking, and M. R. Whitney, for many years a resident of Mecca, Cal., has come forward with the amazing scheme of connecting the Salton sea with the gulf of California, and making of it an impregnable harbor large enough to hold the fleets of the world, but designed only for the fleets of the United States.

Whitney is a man of education who spent much time over this plan, and having made an extensive study of hydraulic engineering, has prepared definite plans of how the trick can be turned. He now has two books in press, both laid in the valley of the Salton sea, and both replete with information concerning this strangely understood project.

Starting as the plan is, and radically different as it is from all schemes hitherto proposed for the relief of the stricken valley, engineers are practically a unit in the belief that it can be accomplished and at a small expense at that. When completed, it is admitted that the finest harbor ever devised will be in the control of the United States; that very small armament will be able to defend the narrow



Map Showing the Proposed Salton Sea Harbor.

mouth of the canal from all invaders, whether by sea or land. Extending over portions of two counties, nearly 50 miles long by 20 wide, Salton sea is rising at the rate of two feet every week. No power on earth has been able as yet to shut off the torrent of water which, running with the speed of a millrace, is pouring off the great Colorado river watershed into this rink. The town of Salton is under 20 feet of water; so are Durmid and Frinks. Walters is threatened, and north and south, east and west, the water of this rapidly rising sea is seeking the old levels of the inland ocean.

When this tank has been filled up Brawley, Calexico, Imperial, Heber, Silsbee and Holtville will be under water. The fertile Imperial valley will then have been wiped from the map. Over it all will lie a body of salt water varying from 300 feet in depth at the center to sea level at the edges, and from almost 90 miles long by 35 wide.

The barrier which holds this sea away from the California gulf is composed of nothing but silt and sand, brought in by the Colorado and backed up by the waters of the gulf until it has formed a fragile ridge between Hardy's Colorado, which empties into the gulf, and the buried sea.

Here at the head of the gulf will be established fortifications sufficient to guard the canal from all intruders, no matter how great their strength. But few guns will be needed for this; a disappearing carriage or so, well prepared for the work of protecting the narrow entrance with one big gun on each carriage will be amply sufficient, according to one military officer to whom the matter has been referred.

There are no mountains, at least none of any consequence, in the way of this canal scheme, and the big ditch, when finished, will be as nearly level as it is possible for a canal to be. In conjunction with the Panama canal, should the latter ever become a reality, this Salton sea harbor is pointed to by one of the government engineers as the finishing touch to the great scheme of uniting the Atlantic and the Pacific. With the control of the gulf of California in its hands, and this very probably will be an accomplished fact in a short time, for there is now a committee from the government of Mexico in Washington looking up an error in the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which, if rectified, will give the United States the greater part of Sonora and several other of the North Mexican states as well as the control of all of Lower California and the gulf—with the control of this gulf there will be provided for the United States the grandest harbor, in conjunction with the great isthmian canal, that has ever been devised by human engineers.

THE CROTON DAM PARK.

DEBRIS LEFT FROM BUILDING DAM IS TRANSFORMED.

Landscape Artist Succeeds in Restoring the Picturesque Valley in New York to Old-Time Beauty.

In the building of the gigantic spillway at the Croton dam where engineering skill has succeeded in providing Greater New York with an adequate and pure supply of drinking water, there were mountains of rock and sand and debris left, which disfigured the beautiful valley and destroyed its former picturesqueness.

But the landscape artist has taken hold of the task of transforming these unsightly piles of debris and rubble into something better and more useful. He has seen to better effect his skill than in the disposition which he has made of the various banks of excavated rock and sand and the huge amount of general debris, which disfigured the otherwise picturesque valley of the Croton river below the new dam, during the years that the work of building was in progress. These banks of excavated material were necessarily of large proportions, as will be understood when we state that before the masonry of the dam could be built in place, it was necessary, according to figures of the Scientific American, to excavate 1,750,000 cubic yards of earth and 425,000 cubic yards of rock. The greater part of this material was carried down the valley and dumped into large spoil banks, which extended in some cases for thousands of feet. Although, after the masonry of the dam had been carried up above the original level of the bed of the river, a large amount of the excavated material was used for filling in the excavated trench and restoring the original bed of the valley, there yet remained a vast amount of debris below the reservoir.

The finishing touches to the Croton dam consisted mainly in the erection of a 200-foot steel-arch bridge across the spillway, the laying of the roadbed of the 18-foot driveway across this bridge and over the crest of the dam from one side of the valley to the other, and the formation of an ornamental park on the downstream side of the structure. The last-named work involved the grading down and forming into terraces of the debris, the construction of a central fountain, and the laying out of a series of driveways and footpaths, of which latter two lead from the fountain to the foot of the steps, by which the ascent may be made at two different points to the crest of the dam, while a driveway leads to a 150-foot steel bridge across the bed of the Croton river, whence it extends to a connection with the main road leading down to Croton Landing station. The 18-foot driveway along the crest of the dam forms a connecting link between two macadamized roads, which follow the shore of the new Croton lake, and form a continuous ride over 40 miles in extent. This road crosses the various arms of the lake by handsome steel bridges carried on granite piers, and it is destined ultimately to form one of the most



Section of Croton Dam Park.

picturesque drives in the vicinity of Greater New York.

The total length of the dam from the southerly abutment to the bridge is 1,168 feet, and the length of the spillway from the bridge to its terminus up the valley is 1,900 feet, making a total length of masonry of 2,168 feet. The 1,000 feet of spillway provides complete security against damage by sudden floods. As the waters flow over the spillway they enter a wide channel blasted out of the rocky side of the hill, and they are led beneath the steel arch bridge down to a new artificial channel, which ultimately directs them into the old bed of the Croton river.

How It Looked to Her. The Friend—I hear you are going to marry young Wilde to reform him.

The Maid—Your hearing is good. The Friend—Well, if you don't succeed, you won't be able to keep him out of jail.

The Maid—That's all right. If he doesn't reform, I'll not want to keep him out.—Chicago Daily News.

Didn't Learn her Age. "To-day," remarked the pretty young widow, "is the fifth anniversary of my marriage."

"Indeed! And at what age were you married?" asked the bachelor who thought to get next to the number of years she had sojourned on earth. "At the parsonage," answered the p. y. w. as she winked her other eye.—Chicago Daily News.

Couldn't Be Both. "Pa!" "For goodness' sake, what is it now?" "This book is called 'Shakespeare's Works.'" "Well?" "Well, you told me they was plays."—Cleveland Leader.

Blind. "I didn't know he was such a mean man." "You didn't! Gee! You couldn't see a bunch of pink ribbon through a peek-a-bow waist."—Houston Post.