

Gossip of Washington

What Is Going On at the National Capital.

Federal Sleuths Kept on the Jump



WASHINGTON.—That branch of the public service which its detractors called "the government spy system," or "the Black Cabinet," has been brought into conspicuous prominence by the tiff between congress and the president, growing out of the criticism in the president's message of the action of congress in circumscribing the activities of the secret service.

The system of government espionage over the private citizen has grown in an unprecedented manner under the administration of President Roosevelt. Whether it conduces to the general public welfare is a matter for publicists to discuss, but as to the fact that the secret service has reached greater extensions than ever before there can be no doubt.

This extension has been brought about by the executive branch of the government, and its justification, in large degree, is that a law has no value unless it is enforced, and the only way to enforce it is to look after violations.

Originally the secret service of the United States had two functions and two only. Those were the detection of counterfeiters and the hunting down of illicit distillers. A good many years ago, however, long before Mr. Roosevelt entered public life, one of the presidents detailed secret service men to serve at the White House. There was not the slightest authority in law for such a procedure, but congress had a good deal of consideration for the executive and this violation of law went on year after year. Finally congress, seeing that the practice had become permanent and not wishing to engage in a dispute with the executive branch, conferred the legal authority necessary to enable presidents to make such a detail.

Gradually the presidents enlarged the practice of detailing secret service men and sent them hither and yonder on all sorts of errands. Then other administration officers—cabinet chiefs and even bureau heads—without the remotest authority in law, called upon the secret service branch for agents to send out on confidential missions. Chief Wilkie of the secret service was up a tree, figuratively speaking. He did not have men enough to go around. Congress allowed him a blanket appropriation, but it was not large enough to hire all of the detectives demanded.

Time to Call a Halt on the Practice



THE origin of the paragraph in the last sundry bill, restricting the activities of the secret service, which provoked the hot denunciation of the president, is decidedly interesting. While a subcommittee was framing the sundry bill it was brought to the attention of the members that a secret service man had been assigned to keep watch over the conduct of a certain naval officer. The application for the detail was made to the navy department by the wife of the officer, who was not entirely satisfied as to the faithfulness of her spouse. The officer was not even on duty at the time, but was away on leave of absence.

vision limiting the functions of the secret service, it was not striking at the president, but at a custom. At least that is the solemn assertion of all the members who had anything to do with it. Representative Walter L. Smith of Iowa, drafted the provision and it was put in with the approval of Chairman Tawney and all the members of the appropriations committee.

Gradually congress itself has enlarged the inspection, or espionage, system of the government, but for the most part, it has done so under executive pressure. Naturally, the fact that the congressmen helped to create so many "spies" would be expected to stop their criticism, but it is fashionable now to blame a good many things on the president. The army of government detectives numbers all told about 5,000. Nearly all of these men are engaged in traveling about the country and mingling with the 80,000,000 people outside of Washington. The list includes secret service men, postoffice inspectors, special agents of the land service, pure food inspectors, meat inspectors and others. The talk that in some instances secret service agents have been used to work up damaging information about congressmen who are objectionable to the administration seems to be without the slightest foundation.

Gridiron Club Gives Annual Dinner



THE annual fall dinner of the Gridiron club, held the other night, was made noteworthy by the presence of a distinguished company of guests. An extended program devoted entirely to fun-making, made the night one long to be remembered by the organization. The company was one only possible to bring together at the capital of the nation. The president, vice-president, president-elect, vice-president-elect, presidential possibilities of the future, senators and representatives, almost without number, an English lord, diplomats of this and other countries, newspaper men whose names are known far and wide, captains of finance and industry, and men of affairs generally were seated about the gridiron-shaped table. Coming so soon

after the recent national campaign, the dinner presented an exceptional opportunity for the merry-makers.

One of the funniest skits was a roll call after the recent national political battle. The mournful tap of a drum was heard in the anteroom and there came marching in a tattered and dilapidated troop. The uniforms showed the members had been on the firing line. The president of the club announced in solemn voice that the slaughter had been terrific. The members of the troop answered to the roll call. Sergt. Jim Watson was reported as "killed while riding to the front on the water wagon." Private Charlie Landis "fell at Watson's side." Private Charles G. Dawes "passed in his checks," and Private Frank Lowden was "shot in the pocket." Corporal Norman E. Mack was reported as "burying the dead." Corporal William J. Bryan was "among the missing." Corporal Loeb was "in the hands of his friends." Private Taft was reported present and Color Sergt. Hitchcock was announced as "here, with the colors."

Shameful Treatment of Uncle Ike



UNCLE IKE STEPHENSON, champion buttonhole story teller of the senate, has certainly been treated shamefully since he came down here last winter to take Mr. Spooner's place as one of Wisconsin's legislators. He has the distinction of being the oldest man in the senate and at the same time of being one of the wealthiest, and he is used to having his own way.

He had no sooner got here last December than he discovered he had been assigned a committee room over in the Malby building, on B street northwest. This was too far from base to suit Uncle Ike, so he made a good-sized kick, and finally got himself assigned to a room on the senate terrace, away down in the ground.

But a great surprise was in store for Uncle Ike when he returned this December. He had no room at all. His

office furniture was all standing out in the corridor. This was too much. Off he went to see about it. What he found out was that there had to be a place to put a new power plant, and his room was the only one available. Where was he to go now? Oh, he'd have to go over in the house office building until the senate office building was finished.

So now, Uncle Ike, who has more money than he knows how to spend and who could buy himself a thousand committee rooms, is located away over in the extreme southeastern corner of the house office building—Anacostia they call it in the house—and it looks as if he will have to stay there for a few months anyhow.

As a consequence, he is an exceedingly sad-looking senator these days. It is said that some one heard him remark the other day that he would put up a temporary office building of his own on the capitol grounds if he could get the permission. Vain hope.

Two other senators have been sent over to the house office building with Uncle Ike. They are Cummins of Iowa and Du Pont of Delaware. But that doesn't console him any.

Midwinter MILLINERY never more CHARMING



A NEW DRESSY GAGE MODEL

THE Easter bonnet is a bagatelle in comparison with the headgear fashion evolves for winter time. No airy arrangement of straw and flowers at this season ekes out the price charged for the milliner's ingenuity; but substantial velvets, furs and costly ostrich feathers sum up a total that makes even the milliner's skill but an item. This year, for the poor husband's further undoing, have been added gorgeous gold and silver blooms that cost a pretty penny, a perishable rose cloth of gold often outdistancing a durable ostrich tip in price.

Such a craze is there for these huge gold and silver roses that, fast as the makers can turn them out, the shops cannot supply the demand. Fresh relays are eked out to pacify the clamoring of store buyers, and everywhere one meets the baffling information: "We are just out of gold roses, madam," or, "We are expecting more silver roses to-morrow morning."

Flower hat trimmings always make their appearance at the very height of cold weather, just as wings seem to suit Dame Fashion's fancy in the last sultry days of August. The very contrast of the biting wintry winds with the fragile blossoms, however, seems to lend spice to the choice of flowers for midwinter wear. In fact, the frost seems to have an amazing effect on these winter flowers, for they grow to mammoth proportions, some of the huge chiffon roses measuring not an inch less than a foot across.

The illustration shows the latest dressy Gage model, just now so popular.

VOGUE IN SEASON'S COATS.

Are Slightly Narrower Than Those of Last Winter.

The coat is slightly narrower than those of last winter across the shoulders at back. The fronts are double-breasted, fastened with huge buttons of brilliant set in a composition like platinum.

The revers, which are quite broad, are made of old blue satin, that very good looking tone that comes in so many fabrics. These are slightly embroidered with a heavy silver thread forming bees. The long sleeves are without fullness, each fastened tightly at wrist with a button of brilliants, and finished with a frill of old lace.

The blouse that rises above this high-waisted skirt is built of gray flannel tulle in the coarse round mesh that is fashionable. It is draped over thin silver gauze, and shows a round gulle and stock of Mechlin lace. Its sleeves are long and tight, made of tulle wrapped around the arm.

Here and there are embroidered silver bands, and there is one large one where the bodice tucks under the skirt of center front.

LATEST IN COLLARS.



The new Paris "Bull Dog" collar, showing the bow to be worn at the back or the side.

Quickly Adjusted Shields. A girl who has theories on the evils of pinned shields will not use the tiny safety ones sold for that purpose. She compromises by not sewing in her shields after each washing, but hooks them in.

A small, non-rustable hook is sewed on the corners of each shield, and an eye to correspond on the proper place on the armhole. The preliminary sewing takes only a few minutes, and is much easier than fastening a shield with needle and thread each time it is changed.

REVIVAL OF GOLD SLIPPERS.

Fascinating Footgear Just Now Immensely Popular.

In with all the other brilliant fascinating footgear the gold slipper is revived. This is made of gold satin, cloth of gold, but especially of gilt.

This is the name that it has always gone by and there are bottles of the liquid gold to touch up the slipper whenever it becomes faded.

According to the new fashion it is not necessary to wear stockings to match these slippers. Instead, they match the costume. These gold slippers do not look well with anything except a black gown, a white one, and these in pastel shades. With all of them the stockings are of the same color as the skirts.

As bronze slippers are back in fashion, the old-fashioned bronze liquid is sold to keep them in luster. These are very pretty and they are worn with stockings to match. One should be careful that these stockings do match, for when they are of another shade of brown they are quite ugly. Shops now have a genuine bronze silk stocking, which they sell for the slipper.

Makes Fine Sofa Pillows.

If one has an old-fashioned coverlet in rich blue and white, such as our grandmothers used on their beds, they can be made over into charming silk sofa pillows.

While few women would be willing to cut up a good spread for this purpose, it is a happy solution for the coverlet that is worn in places.

Not only do they make attractive pillow slips, but if they are made to button on they can be laundered repeatedly and will wear for years.

There are now to be found many cheap modern spreads in imitation of the old-time quilts. These one need have no hesitation about cutting into all sized pillows.

The Pony Skin Coat.

It looks as though the pony coat of last winter would be in first style this year. It is in black and brown, cut long, with a waistcoat of gaudy satin or left quite plain and mannish.

The short ones will not be in first style, but they will be worn by those who put a good deal of money in them last year.

The new ones are cut on straight and rather narrow lines, with small sleeves and gauntlet cuffs. The revers are of satin or skin and the large buttons are of ornamental metal.

KING OF LUNCHEON DISHES.

Chicken Saute a Real Delicacy Prepared in Following Manner.

Remember in preparing this dish that it is only one course of your luncheon menu, so when you have drawn and wiped your chicken dry, cut it into small sections, discarding the back and neck for future use in making stock. Cut the breast into at least three pieces, and do not use the giblets at all. Melt two tablespoons of clear bacon drippings and lay the chicken in this, turning it often so that it mellows in the bacon grease, but does not fry brown. Cover, set on the back of the stove, and let it steam half an hour. It should not be permitted to burn down. Roll each piece separately in fine breadcrumbs already seasoned with salt and pepper. Pour off any liquid or broth that may be left in the skillet to use in the gravy, and add fresh bacon grease or a little butter or both. Brown the chicken in this grease, remove, drain and arrange on a hot platter. To the drippings left in the pan add one tablespoonful of flour, rub smooth and then add whatever liquor you may have poured from the chicken and half a cup of rich, sweet milk or thin cream. When this comes to a boil add one cup of canned asparagus tips which have been drained, a pinch of ground mace, a few drops of lemon juice and the yolk of one egg. Just as it comes to a boil, and before the yolk of the egg curdles, pour over the chicken and serve piping hot.

MAKES A RICH DESSERT.

Recipe for Cream Nut Pie That Will Serve Eight Persons.

One baked pastry shell, one pint milk, three whole eggs and two whites, one tablespoonful cornstarch, one cupful sugar, one teaspoonful almond extract, one pint of whipping cream, and one cupful English walnuts, ground fine.

Way of Preparing.—Beat the whole eggs and the whites until thick, then add the sugar and cornstarch sifted together. Then add the milk. Place this mixture in a double broiler and cook, stirring all the time. When thick remove from the fire and allow it to cool. When cold add the flavoring and nuts and fold in one half of the cream whipped until stiff. Then place this in the shell. Flavor and sweeten remaining half of the cream and whip very stiff. Place this on top of the cream nut mixtures, sprinkle with chopped nuts and serve.

This is very rich and will serve eight persons.

Surprise Potatoes.

Boil until mealy white potatoes, then mash and beat until free from lumps; season with salt and white pepper and add a little butter. Make them into balls about the size of a large egg; with a teaspoon make a cavity in each ball into which drop three creamed oysters, cover the cavity and, after making the ball as round as possible, roll it first in a well-beaten egg, then into cracker crumbs, drop into boiling fat, which should be deep enough to cover the balls without letting them touch the bottom of the kettle. Fry to a delicate brown, garnish each ball with a sprig of holly and serve hot with oyster sauce. The same can be stuffed with chicken or turkey.

Keep Broiler Clean.

Almost every one who broils steak in a gas oven has experienced no small amount of trouble in keeping the broiler clean and shiny. An easy way out of this is to place the steak on the broiler and instead of leaving the pan underneath dry, place about two inches of cold water in the pan. The fat drops into the water and is purified, and may then be skimmed off and used. In this way the pan is never allowed to dry and burn, and the oven is kept free from grease.

Sour Cream Soup.

A fine winter soup, containing enough nourishment to constitute a full meal is made by the following Dutch recipe: Four medium sized potatoes, one-half pint of sour cream, one egg and one lump of butter the size of an egg. Pare and slice the potatoes and boil in three pints of water. When done add butter and salt to taste, and then the egg and cream, well beaten together. Do not boil after cream is added or it will curdle. Pour over squares of stale bread and serve hot.

Salmon Patties.

These make a good dish for luncheon or dinner, whether served hot or cold. Mince freshly boiled or canned salmon fine and season well with salt, pepper, cayenne, and a grating of nutmeg. Rub in a small quantity of butter and bind with the beaten yolk of an egg. Line tart tins with puff paste, fill with the salmon mixture, cover each with a cover of paste, trim around the edges, moisten, and press together. Bake in a hot oven.

Mock Whitebait.

This is a London dish recently introduced here. To prepare it parboil an egg plant in salted water, then cut in little strips the size and shape of the whitebait. Shake in a plate of flour until dusted all over, then put in a frying basket and fry in deep fat to a crisp, golden brown. Drain, dust with cayenne, and serve with lemon and slices of buttered brown bread.

Mocha Filling.

For a nice thick frosting, cream 1½ cups powdered sugar with small tablespoon of butter. Add five teaspoons cocoa and about three tablespoons cold coffee or enough to make it spread nicely on cake. Flavor with vanilla. It doesn't harden.

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Sunday School Lesson for Jan. 3, 1909
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—Acts 1:1-14. Memory

verses 8, 9. GOLDEN TEXT.—"And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried into heaven."—Luke 24:51.

TIME.—The spring of A. D. 30. The Ascension, May 18. The ten days' waiting, May 19-28.

PLACE.—The Ascension was from Olivet, near Bethany. The meeting place of the disciples was in the upper room in Jerusalem.

PLACE IN HISTORY.—The close of the earthly life of Jesus Christ. The birth of the Christian religion.

Comment and Suggestive Thought.

The life of Jesus on earth, including (1) What he was; (2) What he did; (3) What he taught; was an essential condition of all his power during the centuries of Christianity.

It made him a real being to us, while unseen on earth.

It illustrates his teachings for all ages.

It was a perpetual ideal, by which to test all we are and do and teach.

It is in itself a supreme power to influence character.

Illustrations.—I know of no discordant note among educators in the testimony that "The greatest thing a teacher ever brings to a child is not the subject matter, but the uplift which comes from heart contact with a great personality."

President Charles F. Thwing records the results of "a very interesting study of 50 representative men to questions involving the best thing college does for a man." The entire drift of the testimony was that the most these men got from college was inspiration from life contact with great leaders.

"No nobler feeling," says Carlyle, "than admiration for one higher than himself dwells in the breast of man. It is to this hour, and at all hours, the vivifying influence in man's life."

The promise of the Father was the special, overflowing gift of the Holy Spirit, as we learn from verses 5 and 8, and the fulfillment of the promise in the next chapter. The Father had promised this gift through Joel (2:28, 29) as shown in Acts 2: 17, 18; through Isaiah (32:15; 44:3); Haggai (2:5); Zechariah (4:6; 12:10).

The promise is called The Promise, for it really includes all the promises of the coming of the kingdom of God.

The disciples were the instrumentality used by the Great Leader. God works not only directly on the hearts of men, but through his people on other men. God in men is the power through which the kingdom of God has so far come, and is to come in its fullness. "The agencies he employs must, by their very nature, be the Divine Spirit and the human disciple."—Kirtley. The achievements of the apostles in the story of the Acts were the account of what Jesus continued to do after his ascension. The author of "The Fifth Gospel" (i. e., Saint Paul's gospel as recorded in his epistles, many of them written before the first of our four gospels,) shows that the apostles not only preached the facts of Jesus' life, but the significance of the life which Jesus continued to teach them through their own experience guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

1. They had their ideal in the promise of the Father.

2. They were imbued with power by the Holy Spirit.

3. They were changed, transformed, by the Holy Spirit, into new men fitted to carry on the work of Christ.

4. They knew the facts about Christ, and they experienced his presence and his teachings, so that they could be witnesses to the whole world.

It was at this time, doubtless, that the great change came over his body described in 1 Cor. 15:51-53. For such a change is signified by his appearance as John saw him (Rev. 1:12-16).

The Importance of the Ascension.—

1. It is the one fitting ending to the earthly life of Jesus. Coming from the Father he returns to the Father.

2. The last view of Jesus is not on the cross, but going home in glory.

3. It kept before the disciples the fact that he is their ever living Saviour. We do not worship and serve and trust a dead Saviour, but one who is alive forevermore.

4. He can rule and guide his people infinitely better there than on any earthly place, where but few could come into his near presence.

5. It places Jesus before all men as their ideal.

6. "It enables us to realize his divinity, without losing his humanity."

7. It gives us the true idea of his kingdom as a spiritual kingdom of righteousness.

8. The doctrine of the ascension, with its hope of future glory, with its transfigured son of man (not son of Jew or Greek, but of man) on the throne, "adds new dignity to life," for the lowliest shall be changed into the likeness of his glorified body.

The power of faith—in a supreme leader. The church without him would be an army without a general, the evolution of nature without a God. Never has been such a leader as the ascended and enthroned Christ.

The power of an ideal before all Christians, the ideal for each personal life in Jesus himself; the ideal to be gained by the church as a whole for which each disciple is laboring and to which he has consecrated himself and all he has and is.

The assurance of success in a mighty inspiration in the times of struggle with the powers of evil.