

# THE WAGWORKER

By W. M. MAUPIN

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

## Fame Deferred.

John LaFarge, for many years a celebrated mural painter, when he received a medal of honor from the Architectural League of New York, a few weeks ago, accepted it "with some reticence of thanks," as he said in a spirit of pleasantry, as coming rather late. His years of work were almost past, he said, and recognition now was useless "as a help to live, although had it been accorded earlier it would have smoothed a very toilsome road. A few days previous to this presentation, when Mr. W. P. Frith, member of the Royal Academy, attained his ninetieth birthday, it was noted that pictures he had sold in his early days for a hundred dollars afterward brought more than \$5,000—of which, of course, he received nothing. Another academician, remarking on this fact, observed that fame sometimes yields little practical benefit to the one who wins it, to his family, or to comrades he would gladly aid. Millet's "Angelus" was sold by the painter for \$200, but after Millet became famous it changed hands six times, always at an advance, and was finally bought by an American for \$160,000. Yet its value, as a work of art, was fixed when it left the easel. So the academician suggested that in similar cases a percentage of the advanced price should be paid to the artist's heirs, or if there were none, be used by the state to purchase the productions of living painters. Anomalies of the "Angelus" variety are not confined to any class of artists. Authors, composers, inventors and all who exercise creative gifts are subject to the experience shared by the painters, nor is it easy to name a practicable remedy. All the more keenly, it may be said, the Youth's Companion, one feels "the pity of it" that fame, or the rewards of fame, should come too late to help a genius to live; and one wishes that, before expending vast sums for "old masters," prospective purchasers would try to satisfy themselves that no new master is striving—and starving—within easy reach.

An important step toward stopping the waste of the fuel resources of the country has been taken by the United States geological survey in its tests of the coals of the Rocky mountain region at the government plant in Denver, Col. At that plant the purpose has been to determine what coals of this region are capable of making coke that can be used by the great metallurgical interests of the west. Of 37 coals tested, the government experts succeeded in producing good coke from all but three, though a number of these coals had never been known to be capable of making coke. These results, which will prove of much importance to the west in the next few years, were obtained by following out a carefully prepared treatment of the coals. Each of the coals was washed in order to get rid of the ash, sulphur and other impurities which prevent the making of coke that is of any use in metallurgical work. The washing tests not only prepared these coals so that they made good coke, but also demonstrated the fact that many coals of the west which have too much ash and sulphur to be used economically under a steam boiler may be rendered of commercial value through such treatment.

Women of wealth and fashion in New York are now personally lobbying for the support of legislative bills in which they are interested. Whatever may be individual opinion on this departure from established convention there is no doubt conditions are changing and that the period of transition now unmistakably upon us is bound to bring forth results leading to a marked readjustment. Whether that readjustment will be for the better or the worse remains to be seen, but hope is given by the fact that important movements of the present are in the main morally and socially progressive. At least the good sense of the public may be relied upon to check excesses in the way of reforms.

The ancient gold cup from which King Edward drank to the health of the city of Berlin has been engraved with an inscription recording the dates and the circumstances of the reception and placed in the strong room of the Rathaus, to be kept as a memento. Edward VII. was the first foreign ruler who has visited that municipal palace on its own behalf, and this ancient cup is to be treasured as the symbol of a new era in the history of Berlin.

Prof. Hugo Muensterberg says there are not enough bookstores in this country. The professor has probably been trying to find a store with a window display consisting of his works. Any author who starts out with such a purpose in mind is sure to arrive at the conclusion that the bookstores ought to be more plentiful.

New Jersey claims to have found Ponce de Leon's fountain of youth. "Nother watered Jersey corporation—we don't take stock in it."

# IN THE PUBLIC EYE

## NAGEL'S FIRST ASSISTANT



Ormsby McHarg, who has been appointed assistant secretary of commerce and labor, is a native of North Dakota and has been in close touch with affairs at Washington for several years. His selection was personal with Secretary Nagel, who was anxious to find a man who had the business and legal ability to run the department of commerce and labor in Mr. Nagel's absence.

Mr. McHarg was graduated from the law school of the University of Michigan in 1896, and returned to North Dakota to practice his profession. In 1899 he went to Washington and entered George Washington university, taking several degrees. Later he became an instructor of law at George Washington.

About two years ago Mr. McHarg was engaged as a special attorney by the department of justice and assigned to the prosecution of land fraud cases in New Mexico. Later he represented the department in litigation connected with Indian affairs in Oklahoma. While thus engaged he was selected by Frank H. Hitchcock, then in charge of William H. Taft's campaign for the presidential nomination, to prepare the cases of contesting delegations for presentation to the Republican national committee, and the committee on credentials at the Chicago convention.

The manner in which Mr. McHarg handled these cases attracted to him the attention of the party leaders, who recognized his ability at once. After the convention he was actively engaged in campaign matters under Mr. Hitchcock.

Mr. McHarg succeeds William R. Wheeler as assistant secretary of the department of commerce and labor. Mr. Wheeler last December was on the point of tendering his resignation to accept the position of manager of the traffic bureau of the Merchants' Exchange of San Francisco, for which he has been chosen at a salary of \$15,000 a year. At the earnest request of President Roosevelt, however, he made arrangements whereby his assumption of his new position would be deferred until after the close of the Roosevelt administration.

## GOT NEAR TO SOUTH POLE



Lieut. Ernest H. Shackleton, the young British naval officer, whose south pole seeking expedition came within 111 miles of reaching that much-sought spot, smashed a lot of precedents in pole-hunting when he made his dash. In the first place, he made a good share of the journey by automobile, and the last desperate dash for the pole he made with hardy little ponies rather than with dogs. The ponies were killed and eaten one by one as necessity demanded. The food supplies carried by the expedition contained very few vegetables and an unusual proportion of meats. The latter have been found superior to keep up the strength of the men, while the vegetables soon become worthless as food in the Antarctic regions.

Lieut. Shackleton has a reputation as an explorer earned by a varied line of experience in that pleasant if somewhat frost-bitten pursuit.

One of the members of the expedition in recounting the story of the journey, said that when they started on the trip to the magnetic pole the weather was so hot they had to pull their two sledges in singlets. There was half a ton of provisions on each sledge. After a comparatively easy 250-mile journey along the sea ice they had an almost hopeless climb to the inland plateau. They carried their lives in their hands, fighting their way inch by inch and suffered great privations on the return journey. When rescued by the Nimrod they were a party of gaunt skeletons; the Nimrod had almost given them up for lost.

The members of Lieut. Shackleton's party state that when they were compelled to turn back their bodily strength was diminishing so rapidly that their temperatures went down to far below normal, in some cases reaching 53 degrees, and in others considerably lower than that.

Had this party been two days later in reaching the Nimrod it would have been frozen in for another season. They declare that any future explorer attempting to reach the pole must be provided with much larger supplies of food, because there is no doubt that the south pole is situated on a high plateau and that the coldest and stormiest weather in the world prevails there, there being 70 degrees of frost under the very mildest conditions.

## PATENT CHIEF REMAINS



Edward Bruce Moore, commissioner of patents, has been requested by Secretary Ballinger to continue as the head of the United States patent office during his administration of the department of the interior.

Mr. Moore is the first commissioner to be appointed from the office force. Since becoming commissioner he has succeeded in so impressing the appropriation committees of congress with the needs of the office that that body has increased the force by 88 people and raised the salaries of the examining corps all the way from \$200 to \$600 a year each. He has brought the work of the office up until it is now practically current in all its branches.

Mr. Moore was sent abroad last summer by the department of state. It is understood he was successful in negotiating treaties with foreign nations relating to the non-working of patented inventions in foreign countries, which had been for some time a source of great annoyance to the manufacturing and commercial industries of the country as well as the inventors.

Commissioner Moore is president of the Washington Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. By numerous decisions he has rendered he has protected the flag and national emblems as well as the emblem of the American National Red Cross society from use for marks of trade in this and foreign countries.

The justices of the court of appeals of the District of Columbia were highly gratified when informed that Mr. Moore would continue in office. As one of them expressed it, in view of the fact that all appeals from the commissioner lie to that court, it is quite necessary to have an experienced man as commissioner, as the practice of the patent office is highly technical and is what has been termed "the metaphysics of the law."

## EX-ROUGH RIDER'S WAY



Governor George Curry, former rough rider friend of ex-President Roosevelt and by the latter made first governor of the island of Samar and later promoted to the governorship of the territory of New Mexico, does not agree with his benefactor in the matter of treating unfriendly editors. Whereas Mr. Roosevelt painstakingly bombarded the recalcitrant men of the blue pencil with interviews, written statements, bitter letters and libel suits, his New Mexican protegee follows the much simpler and equally satisfactory method of getting the bad editor into his office and beating him up.

Editor A. J. Loomis, of the Santa Fe Eagle, published the fact that Gov. Curry and his delegation of official statehood workers at Washington had been instructed by the president to return home and not pay their expenses on of the territorial money appropriated for the Washington campaign. The indignant governor telephoned to the editor who he reached home and read the newspaper. Responding to the telephonic summons, Editor Loomis went to the capitol, met the angry executive and was punched. It is more prompt than the Roosevelt way, less trouble and probably productive of more results.

The trouble created considerable comment and resulted in Gov. Curry tendering his resignation to President Taft, but the latter requested him to retain his post.

# MAINSTAY OF PITTSBURG TEAM



JOHN (HANS) WAGNER

This famous player will again cover the position of shortstop for the Pittsburgh team this season. He is regarded as one of the greatest players the game has ever produced, and is conceded to be half of the strength of his club. For several seasons he has topped the batting list.

## LOUD UNIFORMS PASSING FROM MODERN BALL FIELD

Gay Color Display of Yesterday Has Disappeared and Plain Hues Now Rule.

Color is passing from the baseball field. To-day there is little left to resemble the uniforms of yesterday. White at home and gray abroad are soon to be the color schemes of the big league clubs.

The sporting goods houses who furnish uniforms annually are still cataloguing the gay colors in their sample books, but orders for them are rare—rarer this year than ever before.

The love of color, which is more or less barbarian, has passed into baseball history. In 1865 when the men who had fought in the civil war were returning home to begin the work of reconstruction, a small factory in New England began to manufacture baseballs. Previously they had been made of strips of rubber shoes worn with old stocking yarn.

The rule requiring uniforms for teams was adopted in 1882. The stockings worn by the players were:

- Detroit—Old gold.
- Worcester—Brown.
- Cleveland—Navy blue.
- Chicago—White.
- Boston—Red.
- Troy—Green.
- Providence—Light blue.
- Buffalo—Gray.

The fads of color come in the ranks of the amateurs. Youthful ambitions are partly realized in wearing uniforms of oriental shades, they please the youthful eye and add loftiness to positions on the teams that delight Boyville on the corner lots.

"When I started out in baseball they were strong for color display," said "Hughie" Jennings the other day. "The first uniform I ever owned was one of a rich red. I don't think I ever saw a shade of red that was quite as loud as that of my uniform. And how proud I was of that red suit. I was quite the biggest boy in our town."



Venturing a guess as to the probable lineup of Pittsburgh in the opening game at Cincinnati, a Smoky City correspondent presents the following combination: Battery, Maddox and Gibson; first base, Abstein; second base, Abbaticchio; third base, Leach; shortstop, Wagner; outfielders, Clarke, Wilson and Moeller.

Abstein, new first baseman for the Pirates, is a star association football player. When the Pilgrim eleven comes over from England next fall the diamond star will be one of the men to oppose the Brits at St. Louis.

Manager Lajoie becomes more optimistic each day. He can see nothing but Cleveland in the American league and predicts that the Naps will jump into the lead and never be headed.

Grant is leading off for the Phillies and has convinced Murray that he is the best of his team mates at getting to first base.

Despite the optimism which comes from the Naps' training camp, the boss of the bunch is still trying to get a shortstop. Hall and Austin of the Highlanders are being considered.

At a rainy afternoon dopest one of the Giants figured out that McGraw's team has been batting at a .300 clip in the practice games.

A big shakeup in the New York Highlanders is threatened unless the team batting improves.

Jack Thoney is unable to get into condition through illness and Hooper is likely to get his place on the Boston Americans.

Brown, former Boston catcher, who started the craze of having the appendix removed to help in ball playing, refuses to report to Toronto. He says he is sick and couldn't earn his salary and wouldn't cheat the club.

Barney Dreyfus told a very close friend at Hot Springs the other day that he believed he had a much stronger team than last year.

## FIELDER JONES IS OUT OF THE GAME FOR GOOD

Former Manager of Chicago White Sox Declines the Offer of Owner Comiskey.

The final refusal of Fielder Jones to harken to the flattering offer of President Charles Comiskey of the Chicago American league club dispels the last ray of hope that the great field general will see fit to change his plans. When Comiskey met Jones in Portland, Ore., and offered to allow Jones to write his own contract the former White Sox player simply said: "No, I am out of baseball for good. That's final."

His refusal to play again recalls his statement made last season when the White Sox still had a chance to lead the American league pennant.

"It makes no difference where we finish this season; when it is over I am through with baseball for the remainder of my life," said he at that time. "I will meet my brother in a day or so and close a contract with him, which will make us business partners, and the baseball public will see no more of me after the bell's tap for the close of the game, unless it be in the world's championship series. I am in such a position that I can do better out of baseball than in it, and, furthermore, I am wearing out under the strain and want to get out. There is not the slightest chance of my changing my mind. When I said I'd quit I meant it, and I am through when it is over this year."

The passing of Fielder Jones is a sad blow to Charley Comiskey's hopes, and the baseball world loses one of its brightest stars.

Like Griffith and a few other great stars, Jones is of Welsh descent. He began playing ball in the minors many years back, but didn't remain a minor for any length of time. When he was seized by the Brooklyn club he was picked solely for elegant and elaborate batting, and was not thought to be anything above the usual class of fielders.

As the years went on his batting fell away. He was, apparently, one of the men who never recovered from the blow inflicted by the foul-strike rule. But with the fading of his batting came almost superhuman skill in the field and the ability to manage men.

He became an outfielder of the Fogarty-McAleer variety, and no gardener in history knew better where to lay for the flies or how to direct the men beside him. Finally he became a playing manager, won one world's pennant and the undying esteem of the Chicago fans.

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## FRENCH WRESTLING CHAMPION



Raoul de Rouen Who Recently Met Defeat at Hands of Frank Gotch in Two Straight Falls at Kansas City.

New Catcher Looks Good. Of the new Pirate catchers, Mike Simon appears best. He is reported to be a fine thrower and one of the hardest workers in the game.

# NO NEED TO TAKE CHANCES

There is a Sure Way of Knowing Good Paint Material.

There is really no need whatever for any property owner to take chances in the selection of his paint materials. It doesn't cost a cent to learn how to be on the safe side. Certainly every property owner has enough at stake to find this out.

A complete painting guide, known as Houseowner's Painting Outfit No. 45, can be had free by writing National Lead Company, 1902 Triality Building, New York. This company is the largest maker of pure white lead in the world. Its Dutch Boy Painter trademark is famous as a guarantee of purity and quality. The outfit includes a book of color schemes, for either interior or exterior painting, a book of specifications, and a simple little instrument, with directions for testing the purity of paint materials.

## ASKING SMALL FAVOR.



"Papa, mamma says that if you're too lazy to do anything else, will you please sit near the clothes closet and blow the smoke in, so as to kill the moths!"

Little Barbara's Complaint. Four-year-old Barbara went to church with her two sisters and came home crying.

"What is the matter, dear?" inquired her mother.

"He preached a whole sermon—about—M-Mary and Martha," sobbed Barbara, "and—never said—a—word about me."—Lippincott's.

Harris' Great Good Humor.

"No man ever maintained his life at a higher level of perpetual good humor," writes James W. Lee of Joel Chandler Harris in the Century. "The day before he died, when he was already beginning to pass into the dark valley of death, one of his sons came into the room and inquired: 'How are you this morning, father?'"

"Well," responded Mr. Harris, "I am about the extent of a tenth of a grain's eyebrow better."

Couldn't Convince the Judge.

"I have heard of the soul kiss and kisses of other kinds, but I never heard of a man biting his wife as an evidence of his affection for her," remarked Justice O'Neill of Baltimore, Md., when George Phoebus, aged 27, of East Baltimore street, endeavored to explain the biting of his wife, for which offense she had him arrested. Mrs. Phoebus said her husband deliberately bit her on the cheek, and, though the pain was excruciating, he said that it was a "love bite." The justice fined him five dollars and gave him ten days in jail.

## NOT A HERMIT OF ROMANCE.

Man's Reasons for Living in Solitude, Though Excellent, Somewhat Surprised Young Lady.

The beautiful young lady stood at the mouth of the cave in the mountains and addressed the ragged and long-haired hermit.

"So you are a real, live hermit! I have never seen a real hermit before, although I have read all about you many times. I suppose you had a very sad love affair in your youth and the loss of your beautiful sweetheart drove you to this wilderness to live alone. Was she so very beautiful? You have tomato cans filled with money hid in the ground, haven't you?"

"Not at all, not at all," interrupted the hermit. "I have no money buried—it is all in four per cent government bonds. My first love affair was altogether too successful, and that's the real reason I'm here. You didn't see a square-built, red-headed woman on the trail looking for a husband, did you? It's about time I moved again, anyhow, since so many people are coming here. 'Tain't safe to stay.'"—Puck

At a Chinese banquet in San Francisco eggs 100 years old were the greatest delicacy offered. We like to see the Chinese enjoy themselves regardless of expense, but we cannot help thinking that for practical purposes the ordinary man would find eggs ten years old quite enough of a delicacy.

The management of a London nagerie, having advertised for "a lady to dance in the lions' den," received 437 applications for that perilous post, and chose a "lady" who did the Highland fling and escaped in safety. The lions took no notice of her. If human beings would follow their example, fewer persons would seek notoriety by foolhardy feats.

Dr. Long, the naturalist, says that men are more savage than beasts—that if animals have a corner in food, they share it loyally with their less fortunate comrades and, unlike men, take no more than they need for themselves. But Dr. Long has been stamped by an eminent authority as a nature faker.

The new catalogue of Columbia university shows the total number of officers of the administration and instruction to be 670; the total number of resident students 5,623, as against 5,159 last year. Since the last catalogue was published eight special funds have been created by specific gift or bequest.