

# THE PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING VACATION

By WALDON FAWCETT

**T**HE quaint little community of Beverly, Mass., is pretty certain to enjoy the distinction of ranking as the "summer capital" of the United States so long as William H. Taft is president. The Tafts chose the little seashore resort for a vacation retreat for the first summer of the present administration somewhat as an experiment. No member of the family had previously spent much time on the famed "North shore" of Massachusetts and consequently they were obliged to accept largely on hearsay its claims to pre-eminence as an ideal summer playground. However, after their first season at this pleasure domain the White House household was more than enthusiastic regarding the locality and forthwith decided to return there in future summers. Hence the selection of the president in extending his leave on the cottage he occupies at Margress Point.

For a decade and a half prior to the selection of William H. Taft as president, the present occupants of the White House, together with the members of all the other branches of the very numerous Taft family, had been wont to gather each summer at Mur-



PRESIDENT TAFT'S FAVORITE MOTOR HIGHWAY



SUMMER HOME OF THE PRESIDENT



RESIDENCE OF JOHN HAY HAMMOND

ray Bay, Ontario, a picturesque resort on the north bank of the St. Lawrence river. They have not, to this day, lost any of their affection for the hamlet that was so long the rendezvous of the Taft clan, but Murray Bay is, of course, in Canada, and the president is not supposed to go beyond the borders of the United States, even for a vacation. This put up to the president and the first lady of the land the problem of selecting a new summer domicile.

That the North shore of Massachusetts was chosen was largely due to the influence of Miss Mabel Boardman, the well known Red Cross leader, and Mrs. Taft's closest personal friend. The Boardmans have long had a summer home at Manchester-by-the-Sea, which is but a few miles from Beverly and Miss Boardman, like her parents, is more than enthusiastic regarding this "summer colony belt." She accompanied Mrs. Taft on a house hunting expedition last spring, and was her chief adviser in the selection of the roomy frame cottage which was finally chosen as the "summer White House."

One factor in the satisfaction of the Tafts, and an influence in the decision to return to Beverly this summer, is found in the circumstance that this vacation retreat proved beneficial to Mrs. Taft. It may be remembered that Mrs. Taft broke down in health only a few weeks before the time set for the departure of the family for their summer home. When the physicians prescribed absolute quiet some of the friends of the mistress of the White House were dubious as to the effect of Beverly, for although the town is a quiet enough community, the whole North shore of Massachu-



THE PRESIDENT'S "PRIVATE BEACH" AT BEVERLY, MASS.

setts is a very lively place socially in summer, even rivaling Newport in that respect, and the migration of a president to a summer resort is always followed by the transfer of many of the diplomatic establishments from Washington, to say nothing of the influx of ambitious social

leaders so that a "summer capital" quickly springs into existence as a setting for a "summer White House."

However, all misgivings to the contrary, Mrs. Taft was enabled to enjoy a thoroughly quiet and restful summer at Beverly, and this program will be repeated this season, for the health of the first lady of the land continues anything but robust. The Taft cottage being located on a point of land and surrounded by water on three sides, is well located with reference to quiet, and also for the securing of the sea breezes which have proven Mrs. Taft's best tonic. On the land side the house is located only about a hundred yards from a trolley line, but it is well screened by trees, and the fact that the cottage may be approached by land from only one direction makes it a comparatively simple matter for the secret service men to intercept unwelcome callers.

President Taft has planned for the summer of 1910 a much longer and more restful vacation than he was able to enjoy last year, when, it may be recalled, the extra session of congress and the fight over the tariff kept him in Washington until well into August. The president hopes to get to Beverly early in June, and with the exception of occasional trips, mostly to nearby points, will remain there throughout the heated term. A year ago the president planned to devote most of the summer of 1910 to a trip to Alaska—a journey that would have far surpassed in point of time consumed and number of miles traveled, the famous transcontinental "swing around the circle" in which Taft indulged during the autumn of 1909. However, various influences, primarily the state of Mrs. Taft's health—have caused the president to abandon this Alaska trip, and he will rest quietly at Beverly save for visits to fairs, conventions, etc., none of which will consume more than a few days.

The president is planning a very busy and beneficial summer on the golf links. The courses in the vicinity of Beverly include some of the finest and also some of the most difficult in the country, and the chief magistrate's summer program calls for three or four hours of golf every day. He will not lack for worthy partners and opponents either. His especial chum "Jack" Hammond and W. J. Boardman, have cottages nearby; his brother, C. F. Taft of Cincinnati, also a golfer, has leased a cottage on North shore, to be near his brother this summer, and he will also have with him Capt. Archibald Butt, who in addition to serving as the president's military aide can likewise always be drafted for a golf game. Next to golf the president takes delight in motoring on the magnificent roads of the North shore—perhaps the finest in America. Several of the White House automobiles are transferred to Beverly, and these place the president within easy reach of three or four different golf courses.

Several persons were injured by the falling of a section of seats at a tent show performing in York. Mrs. J. W. Cox received a broken bone in one of her feet.

John Heybrock of Stanton county, adjudged insane, escaped and wandered away. No trace of him has been found. It is feared he may commit suicide.

The Alma Interstate fair will be held this year, September 13, 14, 15 and 16. The chautauqua will begin July 14, and over 700 season tickets are already sold for the season.

At Beatrice J. W. White was fined \$100 and costs by Judge Ellis for shortchanging Bert Weindenhammer, a local grocer.

The Des Moines Iron & Construction Co., of Des Moines is completing the water works at Creighton.

One hundred homes have been erected in Crawford the last year. The prospects for this year are even better than last season. The common complaint is a lack of carpenters to do the work.

Owing to the activity of the Civic league, the number of saloons permitted to operate in Crawford has been limited to four, and the license raised from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

After two years of the dry regime, Auburn has restored the saloon. Two places have opened in South Auburn. It is expected that six places will be open ultimately.

Some time past someone has been giving the Missouri Pacific employees at Nebraska City considerable trouble by smashing the switch lights along the track in the southern part of the city. All efforts to capture the miscreants have thus far failed.

At a special election O'Neill voted \$16,000 bonds for the purpose of installing a sewerage system. The majority for the bonds was 129. The town will do much building during the year.

Mrs. Rosa Wilcox of Hall county was arrested in Denver whether she had fled with Paul Jensen, who had been in the employ of her husband. Her hubby knows no reason why she left him.

The section foreman of the Burlington at Beaver City was surprised to find that instead of fourteen feet of water in the supply tank for locomotives that there was but six feet, and a small lake had formed around the foundation. A woodpecker had picked a hole through which the water had escaped.

At the special election held in Valentine to determine whether or not the city will give the state forty acres of land on which to erect their building for the state experimental farm stations there, the vote was very light, standing 140 for a 8 against.

## NEBRASKA IN BRIEF.

News Notes of Interest From Various Parts of State.

Fire at Albion destroyed two livery barns.

Uehling has organized a department for fighting fires.

Business men of Callaway have organized a commercial club.

Presbyterians of Fremont will build a new church this year.

Eighteen young people will graduate from the Tecumseh high school this year.

Hon. W. J. Bryan made speeches in Nebraska City and Omaha favorable to county option.

The residence of M. D. Moyer of Wymore was destroyed by fire, the loss being \$1,500.

The project of building and equipping a suitable auditorium at West Point is again being agitated.

Farmer Boles, living near Battle Creek, had his leg broken in two places while moving a house.

A party of prominent Fairburyites left for Washington to attend the world's Sunday school convention.

Omaha sent out a "booster train" with 150 prominent business men for a ten days trip through Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota.

Democrats of Southwestern Nebraska had an open air meeting and banquet at Beaver City. Gov. Shallenberger was present.

The new storage house at Holdrege to take the place of burned structures will probably not be erected till late in the fall.

A series of small burglaries have taken place in Seward county without the authorities having been able to trace the crooks.

The population of the state reform school at Kearney was given a boost when seven boys were committed to the institution in one week.

Two boys arrested for burglaries in Beemer confessed their transgressions and will be tried at the September court. Being under age they will probably be sent to the state industrial school.

J. B. King bought an automobile at Fairbury, giving a check for \$2,500 for the same. His paper proved to be no good, but before this was discovered he left town minus the automobile.

Selma Tirelle, an Italian, while hunting in the vicinity of Edgar, accidentally shot himself. The wound is in the head and will probably prove fatal.

Mayor Rutherford of Beatrice has instructed the chief of police to see to it that violators of the anti-treating law are prosecuted. Beatrice has an anti-treating law which forbids saloonkeepers or their employes treating or knowingly permitting treating in their places of business.

Erna Duntz, the seventeen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Duntz of Wymore, was taken to Chicago to take treatment at the Pasteur institute. He was bitten by a dog that showed symptoms of being mad.

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## WANT TO GET HOME

CONGRESSMEN APPREHENSIVE OF LATE ADJOURNMENT.

## MUCH WORK YET TO BE DONE

Postal Savings Bank, Statehood, Railroad and Other Measures Are Still Under Consideration.

Washington.—Shivers have been chasing themselves up and down the spinal columns of members who must face serious contests in their states or districts if they come back to the next congress, ever since John Dwight, republican whip of the house, issued his prediction that the session would not adjourn before July 15.

The contest in the house over the \$250,000 appropriation contained in the sundry civil bill to extend the scope of the tariff board has waged much more stubbornly than had been anticipated. The democrats have opposed the item on the ground that the results of the investigations by the board should be reported direct to congress instead of to the president.

The sundry civil bill has been used as a vehicle to convey more campaign speeches under government frank throughout the country than any other measure that has been before congress at the present session. It has been used about equally by both parties.

The postal savings bank bill, which has been reported from the committee of postoffices and post roads, is ready for the republican caucus, which will be held Wednesday night. Practically all the republicans of the house signed the call. It is not likely, therefore, that the division over the bill will be along regular and insurgent lines. It is more likely to be between eastern and western members.

The caucus will take the form of a committee of the whole majority membership of the house and it is probable that many changes from the form in which it was reported will be made in the bill. Some members believe that in order that there shall be a free discussion of the measure the caucus may have to be extended over several nights, but Chairman Weeks of the postoffice committee believes that one night will be sufficient.

Many western members believe the 7 1/2 per cent of deposits which the bill as reported would require to be kept in the local banks is too small, and that the provision of the bill which passed the senate would be more effective to keep deposits in the communities where collected.

The westerners charge that the bill as drafted is a "bankers bill" and that under its operations their communities might be depleted of money and that it would be taken to New York and other money centers.

When the caucus has agreed upon a bill which it has reason to believe it can put through the house the majority party probably will endeavor to bring in a rule with a view to passing the bill without amendment.

Spanish Veterans Want Roosevelt. New York.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, leader of the Rough Riders during the Spanish war, is slated as commander-in-chief of the national encampment of the Spanish War Veterans, to be held in Denver, September 6, 7 and 8. The delegation from the New York commandery has been instructed to vote for him, and several months ago the commander asked Colonel T. W. H. Draper of California, who is now abroad, to meet Mr. Roosevelt and ask him if he would accept the position.

Fighting In Nicaragua. Washington.—Two days' fighting near Rama, Nicaragua has cost the Estrada forces fourteen killed and twenty-nine wounded, according to a report to the state department from Consul Moffatt at Bluefields. The casualties of the Madriz forces he adds, were not learned. General Mena retired after the fight to his entrenchments. Large quantities of ammunition and provisions, said to be the entire stores of the Madriz forces at Bluefields, were reported to have been captured.

Brother Charles to Sail. Washington.—Charles P. Taft, brother of President Taft and at present a guest at the White House, will not take part personally in this year's campaign in Ohio. He will sail for Europe.

Steal \$10,000 Diamonds. Newark, N. J.—While Samuel Vogel and his wife of Newark slept soundly, burglars entered their home early in the morning and stole a handbag containing jewelry worth \$10,000 from under the pillow.

A \$500,000 Fire. Elkhart, Ind.—The plant of the C. G. Conn company, said to have been the largest manufactory of brass band instruments in the world, was destroyed by fire, the loss being \$500,000.

Insurgent Forces Win Out. Bluefields, Nicaragua.—"Have enemy completely surrounded and cut off from ammunition and provisions. Expect surrender any time." This was the message that came to General Juan Estrada, leader of the insurgent forces, from General Luis Mora.

## Where Men Fought and Fell

Spurred by the efforts of Miss Georgia Frazer a descendant of an old revolutionary family, and Charles M. Higgins, a wealthy manufacturer of Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, the city authorities are taking steps to acquire for the erection of a suitable monument and a children's playground the plot of ground covering two city blocks on which part of the battle of Long Island was fought in the Revolutionary war on August 27, 1776. The plot is located between Third and Fifth streets and Fourth and Fifth avenues, Brooklyn, and there are now only about ten houses on the entire plot, which is owned by the Litchfield estate. The rest of the land is vacant.

Directly behind the row of houses in Fifth avenue, between Third and Fourth streets, stands an old willow tree, marking the site of the old Stone house at Gowanus, where an important engagement between the British and Americans was fought. The Americans, although inferior in numbers, dislodged the British troops from the old Stone house, which was used as a fort, and as a result Washington was able to cross the East river with his army, thus saving the patriots from utter annihilation and virtually deciding the country's fate.

The old Stone house of Gowanus is not visible now and very few of the present generation know anything about it. The plot where it stands was very low—much lower than the surrounding places—and it became a dumping ground. As a result the historic house has been buried by 16 feet of earth. A willow tree which stood at the entrance to the old house was also buried, but from its branches rose another willow tree, which is still standing, and it is because of this

tree that the movement to uncover the old house and erect a lasting monument to the defenders of the country who fell there has received such an impetus.

Mr. Higgins, who, although of Irish extraction, is an ardent American patriot, was touched by the survival of the old willow and looked upon it as a mute appeal to those now living to remember the men who fought and died that the country might become free forever. His attention was called to the spot by a book written by Miss Frazer in which she gives the history of the old Stone house at Gowanus. Miss Frazer's attention was first called to the house by a painting executed by Louis Grube in 1846 at the order of George Anderson, her granduncle. Miss Frazer spent her girlhood at the home of her uncle, Thomas Easton of Newport, R. I., to whom the painting had been sent, and she took a great interest in the picture and the story attached to it.

At a dinner given recently by the Prospect Heights' Citizens' association at which Mayor Gaynor, who is a neighbor, was present, Mr. Higgins aroused the enthusiasm of the gathering by his appeal for the restoration of the old Stone house and the consecration of the plot surrounding it to the memory of the revolutionary heroes who fell there.

He said it was a patriotic shame that the historic spot should have been neglected so long. Mayor Gaynor, Borough President Steers and other officials who were at the dinner let it be known that they were in favor of the restoration of the old Stone house, and the board of estimate is expected to make an appropriation for the purpose in the near future.

Miss Frazer, who is very modest about her connection with the matter, told a reporter how she came to discover the site of the old Stone house.

"After much research," said she, "I found a bronze tablet that had been erected many years ago on the front of the two-story brick house that stands at the corner of Fifth avenue and Third street. It was almost hidden by grime, and in the shadow of the 'L.' It contains this inscription under a picture of a battle field:

"Here on the 27th of August, 1776, 250 out of 400 brave Maryland soldiers under the command of Lord Stirling were killed in combat with British troops under Lord Cornwallis."

"I found that the old Stone house around which the battle was fought, and which was also called the Cortelyou house, had been buried under 16 feet of earth, nobody knowing that it was famous 75 years before the battle of Long Island was fought in and around it. It was built in 1696 by Nicholas Vechte, a Dutch colonist, and in 1790 it passed to the Cortelyou, the price being \$12,500. In 1846 the Litchfields, who now own it, bought the property from the Cortelyous. It stood on the banks of a brook emptying into Gowanus creek, 15 or 20 feet below the present street level, and was famous as the largest and most substantial house on Long Island at the time.

"The spot became a city dumping ground, and in 1846 only the upper part of it was visible. Some one took away the iron brace that supported the roof and the roof fell in. Gradually it was covered up entirely, but I believe that when it is unearthed the lower portion of the house will be found in a good state of preservation."