

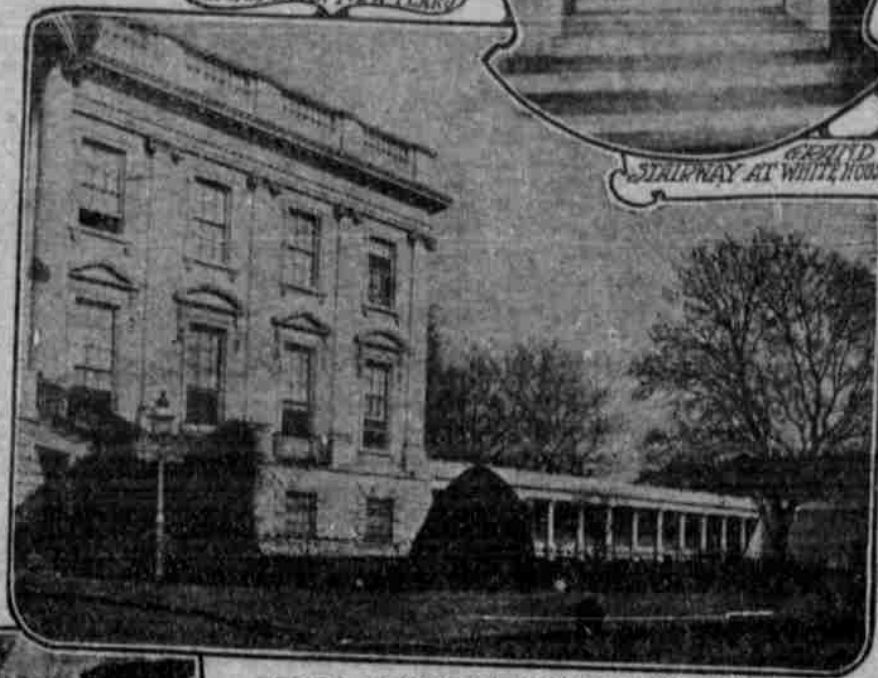
New Year's in Washington

BY EDWARD B. CLARK
COPYRIGHT BY WRIGHT A. PATTERSON

HE practice of New Year's Day calling is said to be a heritage of the American people from the early Dutch fathers and mothers on Manhattan Island. Therefore it is of northern origin, but it has a firmer hold on the South today than it has in many places in the North. In Washington, the capital, New Year's calling seemingly is a fixed habit. Custom has given it virtually the force of law, and the Washington people do not wish to be considered in any way law-breakers.

The president of the United States holds the earliest New Year's Day reception. It is in the broadest sense a public reception, for every American of whatever creed, color or station in life is welcomed into the big White House to greet the chief executive and his wife, who by custom are fixed as that of the holiday calling, is known as "the first lady in the land." The "wedding garment" is not necessary for the visitor at the White House on the first day of the year. The callers come literally some in rags and some in velvet gowns.

The president by force of the custom-law of precedence is obliged to divide his reception into two parts, one for officialdom and one for the "falty." Precedence would not be such a powerful thing in Washington were it not for the presence here of so many foreigners to whom precedence is everything. The representatives of foreign governments would take instant offense and also would take means to show it if they were not given the exact place in line to which their service rank entitles them. There is one thing which foreigners have to forget while in the diplomatic service. Their social rank at home counts for nothing in diplomatic circles. Length of service is the only thing which is given consideration in establishing precedence except, of course, that ambassadors rank ministers, irrespective of the time they have been in the diplomatic employment. New Year's Day President



ARMY OFFICERS IN LINE



WHERE NOTABLES ENTER WHITE HOUSE ON NEW YEAR'S

WHERE PRESIDENT RECEIVES NEW YEAR'S CALLERS

of State Philander C. Knox. The members of the supreme court and the members of both houses of congress follow with army and navy officers in their handsome dress uniforms treading fast on their heels. Some one might ask why the army and navy do not take precedence of the civilian officials at New Year's receptions and other formal functions. To get the answer to the question it is only necessary to remember that in a republic the military power is always supposed to be subordinate to the civil power. The army ranks the navy because it was of earlier creation. The highest ranking officers of the army today are the lieutenant generals of the service, all of whom are now on the retired list, but their rank holds, nevertheless, because, although retired, they are still in the military service.

Taft seeks his office and transacts such business as is absolutely necessary. Ordinary official matters must wait the coming of the second day of the year for consideration. When the first office duties of the morning are over the president returns to the White House proper, where he takes his place in the big east room with his wife at his right hand. By the special invitation of Mrs. Taft the wives of some of the more prominent officials of Washington, with some of her close acquaintances among the resident Washington families, are asked to become members of the receiving party. The cabinet women always are present at the White House reception, taking their places at the right of Mrs. Taft in order of cabinet rank. The wife of the secretary of state takes the first place, and the wife of the secretary of commerce and labor the last place. Cabinet positions rank in the order of the creation of the departments.

At eleven o'clock in the morning the official procession begins. For an hour it has been forming outside the White House, for the lines of the visitors are long, being made up as they are of senior and junior officials of some hundreds of departments, divisions, bureaus and sub-bureaus of the government.

The president receives the diplomatic corps in a sense separately. The foreigners rank by themselves and anything like a chance to give offense is avoided by treating diplomacy as an entity separate from American officialdom. The diplomats are all garbed in the dress of their rank and some of them are fearfully and wonderfully garbed, wearing in some cases high boots, the soft leather of which falls over from the tops in more or less graceful folds, tight trousers, sometimes white, sometimes blue and on occasion red, and cloaks trimmed with costly furs. With some of the foreigners the sword is an inseparable companion when full dress is worn.

The cabinet comes first, headed by Secretary

Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles, who unquestionably is the best-known living American soldier, resides in Washington. He still takes a most active interest in government affairs. About eighteen months ago the general was thrown from his horse while riding along the Potomac drive. Miles is a splendid horseman and it is said that his mishap was the first of the kind which had happened to him in all the years of his service. It was feared that he would die from his injuries, but his splendid natural constitution, reinforced by the strength which comes from an abstemious life and from campaigning in the free air of the fields, helped him on to rapid recovery. He shows no sign today of the accident.

The first officer in the holiday line of the soldiers still on the active list of the army is Major General Leonard Wood, now the chief of staff of the United States army. Only fourteen years ago Wood was a surgeon of the service, ranking as a captain. He became colonel of Rough Riders through the influence of Theodore Roosevelt, and later McKinley made him a brigadier general of the line, from which position he rose to be a major general. By the deaths of the retirements of ranking major generals, Wood is now at the head of the army.

There are three hundred army officers stationed in Washington. Every one of them, unless on sick report, is compelled to be in line at the New Year's reception. A few days before the holiday an order is issued by the general commanding that all officers of the District of Columbia subject to duty shall pay their respects to the president of the United States on the morning of the year's first day. If an officer fails to put in an

appearance he is likely to be called to account for disobedience, a serious offense. The army in its commissioned ranks is represented in Washington by details to general staff, to quartermaster, to commissary, to ordnance, to engineer and to artillery work. Moreover, there are many officer students in the city who are taking "strategy" courses at the war colleges.

The highest ranking officer of the active list of either armed service in Washington today is Admiral George Dewey. He holds his active rank for life. He is long past the general retiring age which is fixed for the navy at sixty-two years, but an act creating him full admiral carried with it the delegated right to remain on the active list as long as he should choose. Dewey is still in active service, although he no longer goes to sea. There is no army officer of equal rank with Dewey. An admiral ranks with a general and there has been no full general of the service since the days of the last great trio—Grant, Sherman and Sheridan.

The official visitors to the White House on New Year's Day form in separate lines, the members of each department of government taking positions by themselves. The lines radiate from the front door of the executive mansion in a dozen different directions. The multitudes of officials and sub-officials is so great that it would take hours for the president to greet each of Uncle Sam's servants separately and to call him by name, but the arrangements are perfect for expediting the line of march past what might be called the reviewing stand.

In two hours at the most the last official has been greeted and then the "laymen" are admitted to the presidential presence. Year after year thousands of Washington residents and visitors from afar take advantage of the holiday to shake the president's hand and to exchange a word of greeting. Men, women and children are in the line. Some of the men in frock coats and silk hats, some of the women in fetching morning apparel, but for the most part it is the workaday portion of the populace which files into the great east room to say the Happy New Year word. Colored people are numerous, for in Washington they form at least one-third of the population, and many of them seek the White House on the holiday. It is a picturesque crowd and one well worth watching for the charm of the human interest which it holds.

As soon as the White House reception is over the women of the cabinet retire to their own homes, where in turn they hold receptions to which everybody is welcome. The wives of nearly all the public officials also keep open house on the afternoon of New Year's Day. The White House reception is the only one given by the president during the year which is in every sense a public reception. No one is barred from admittance. The holiday reception is followed by four semi-public receptions given in the evening, and to these admission is only by card.

So it is that only once in the year is it possible for every American to call at the White House and be certain of a personal greeting from the president.

1912

We greet you with a hearty hail,
A welcome to the best;
We bring fond hopes of friendly deeds,
And that you'll do the rest.
We usher in your coming reign
With fealty and cheer,
And heart to heart, give royal start
To you, our glad New Year.

What are you bringing unto us,
This welcome to return?
What's hidden in your secret hands,
Fate fortunate or stern?
What are the words of destiny
You'll speak for us to hear?
Oh, bring you good or bring you ill,
As on you go, New Year?

You will not speak—the secret's safe,
Your lips are firmly sealed,
And not on threshold of your reign,
Are they to be revealed.
Yet will you not, to human will
A pliant friend appear,
And let us shape some part of you,
Oh, promising New Year?

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



Time now to carefully plan the new house.

It is very desirable that the ewe lambs exercise daily.

One bit of impurity in the milk may spoil a whole dairy's milking.

Tiling is proving to be the very best way of making good roads.

Gentleness counts much with fowls, as it does with other birds and animals.

The air-tight storm window is the friend of tuberculosis and the enemy of health.

Water is very essential in winter and summer to the health and vigor of the flock.

Chickens should have good food and plenty of it as well as clean fresh water and clean coops.

It is claimed that string beans grow in the hothouse very prolifically, and are tender and delicious.

When the white of an egg is watery it shows that one is not feeding a good, well balanced ration.

Those who do not have a supply of alfalfa on hand will find red clover to be a satisfactory substitute.

This is a year of high-priced feeding-stuffs and you ought to know just what it is costing to feed your cows.

Are the hens roosting out on the trees these cold nights? Better get them in and avoid frozen combs and feet.

Oat straw that is free from mold makes an excellent winter forage for horses, young cattle and boarding hogs.

Fall calves grow about as much in twelve weeks as the spring calves would in eighteen, is an assertion frequently made.

The things which are important in the poultry business are the things which are deemed the least important by the big raisers.

It is poor economy to feed stock musty or spoiled ensilage. The butter will have a bad flavor and the milk will be far below standard.

Corn and alfalfa usually can be attended to when the wheat needs no care, thus distributing the labor more equitably throughout the season.

Lime is generally considered one of the most efficient disinfectants, because it possesses the ability to destroy organic matter as well as bacteria.

A litter carrier will add much to keep the barn clean because the boys and men will work more readily than if they have to depend upon the old method.

It is a good plan to feed colts a little grain just as soon in life as they will eat it, but if this is not done it should at least not be put off until the colt is weaned.

The great trouble in the average dairy is that animals are underfed, especially during the summer when excessive reliance is placed in grass pasturage as a balanced ration.

Wool substance is what the wool grower is looking for, provided it is not made up of too coarse fibers, which is not usually the case. Density and fine fibers are usually associated.

After the 200 pound mark is reached, the hog should be marketed as soon as conditions will permit. It is a mistake to try to make them much heavier for often the expense is equal to the profit.

At a very low cost the farmer can build cement walks around his buildings that will last forever, and save his wife a lot of worry and hard work caused by mud being tracked into the house from dirt walks.

Look at the winter-blooming bulbs which are put away in November to root. They may need water, and they should be in the dark, and in cool place. In a cold frame outdoors is an ideal place for them.

It is not so much the breed or kind of pig, where pigs are kept for profit, that merits consideration, as "the sort of the kind," for the difference between two families of the same breed, as regards the qualities of vigor, prolificacy and aptitude to fatten, may be very great indeed.

There are over 12,000 dairies in London and suburbs.

The well-ventilated barn is quite as essential as the warm one.

A long pedigree will never develop long side pork upon a short pig.

During the last year New York city consumed 51,000,000 pounds of poultry.

Never loosen or throw out any more shlege than you want to feed immediately.

During the winter months sheep should be well protected from storms of all nature.

Roup can usually be traced to damp quarters, drafts in the poultry house and overcrowding.

Rabbits, mice and other things go to make the rearing of an orchard unpleasant for its owner.

Giant watermelons grow in Diar-bekr, Asiatic Turkey. Some of them are as large as a flour barrel.

The majority of mistakes are made in the poultry business in the overlooking of details in management.

Cold rains are much harder on cows than dry cold. Damp cold penetrates to the bones. Provide dry shelter.

Dairy products are now bringing unusually high prices, being above the values usually seen at this time of the year.

A colt that is well summered and grain fed before being weaned in the fall suffers little setback when it is weaned.

Sheep a year old or more commonly gain faster on corn when they have only dry roughage, especially clover or alfalfa.

Better copy the farmer who produces his yields at the lowest cost than the man who produces the largest yields.

As soon as the leaves fall and a few sharp freezes ripen the new wood, we may commence to prune fruit and shade trees.

Pumpkins have been in use for feeding cattle and hogs for many years and are valued very highly in some communities.

The introduction of co-operative testing associations would be a source of education and stimulus to all dairymen and farmers.

The calf is the cow in the making. Feed with that thought in mind. Generous feeding now ensures generous milkings by-and-by.

Variety is of great importance in feeding all live stock for whatever purpose, except it may be the last stages of fattening hogs.

Dairymen realize, perhaps far better than they have ever done before, the value of summer allage in tiding the animals over slim pastures.

All houses and nests should be clean. The eggs should be kept in cool, clean, dry places, and placed there immediately after gathering.

Crushed oyster shells in enormous quantities are imported by Germany from England every year. They are used by the Germans in feeding poultry.

Every ewe in the flock ought to be the producer of a close, uniform, clean coat of wool just as she should be the producer of a lusty, growthy lamb.

A ration for a dairy cow should fulfill the following requirements: It should be balanced, palatable, home grown as near as possible, and finally it should be economical.

A Missouri fruit farmer, whose orchard of 250 acres contained about 10,000 apple trees, sold his crop this season for \$100,000. A storage company bought the fruit on the trees.

When one rides through a dairy section it does not take very much imagination to decide whether the farmers are making money or not. The appearance of their places is sufficient evidence.

The best pig to keep is that which obtains the best sale in the locality, and there is no doubt that the best breed for any individual depends mainly on circumstances, and especially on local tastes.

A close, poorly ventilated stable is one of the most potent agents in the spread of tuberculosis. If our cattle could be kept out in the open every day in the year, we would have very little tuberculosis in our herds.

Cottonseed may be fed to steers with good results, although the usual practice now is to feed the cottonseed meal remaining after the oil has been extracted in the mills. The cottonseed has a pronounced laxative effect if fed heavily.

Grapes are pruned in the fall; usually a half to two-thirds of the new growth is taken off—depending on the system of training that is used—and in northern states the plants are laid on the ground and covered with earth in much the same way as raspberries.