

# NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

## An Old Man Wearing Army Button Shines Shoes

WASHINGTON—Have you seen him? And did you have to swallow a lump? Maybe you have missed him, so far, for he doesn't stay put. His business requires circulation. And, besides, you can't stay still in November when you have no overcoat. You've just naturally got to keep going.



Yesterday he was down by the soldiers' monument—an army button on his coat and a shoe brush in his hand—waiting and waiting—until Providence came by in the shape of a man with one of those loud, cheery voices that God gives to many men, but which only Dickens could describe.

"Why, bless my soul! Where did you get that old kit? Give me a shine." He put a foot on the small shoe-shine box. Remember when the kiddies used to shine 'em up on the streets? Gee, it's a long time back! And the other man creaked his joints into a crouch and proceeded to put on a polish.

To a woman who had happened along it did not seem probable that a customer wearing as good clothes as a tailor can make would really enjoy having his shoes smeared over with blacking that you can bet your life wasn't Day & Martin's, or that he wanted them scratched up with a cheap brush by a wavering hand. Still, you can't always rely on the sex suppositions of a spinster soul whose only knowledge of man has been of the mail—note the spelling, please—mail correspondence variety. Anyhow, whatever his reason, the man put one foot and then the other on the box and told the other man about how he used to be a bootblack—before the shoe-shine kiddies vanished with the coming of the asphalt. And did it pay? And wouldn't it be better to get something more profitable and sheltered from the weather—a watchman's place, for instance? Any man who had fought for a flag ought to be fit to guard a store.

The woman had to leave them there, so that she can never know how the job turned out, but—

If you don't come across an old man with a gone-by shoe box on his back, waiting around for a chance to shine 'em up, you may know that he's got a job as a watchman.

## Congressman Finds His Boyhood's Wish Fulfilled

REPRESENTATIVE CLAUDE WEAVER of Oklahoma finds in his coming to congress the fulfillment of a wish expressed ever since he was nine years old. At that age he began his diary with the statement that he was hours on his hands, decided to go out in the suburbs and rehearse his oration. He selected a secluded spot on the road along which ran a long, high brick wall, with a gate at the end. Weaver did not know it, but this was the state lunatic asylum.

Up and down the road he paced, talking most vehemently, gesticulating wildly to an imaginary determined to be one of the nation's representatives. And ever since then he has worked with this object in view.

Weaver settled in Oklahoma when there were few white people living there. But in one of his trips in Texas, to deliver a political speech, he had an adventure which seemed at the time much more serious than it does now. He reached the town to which he was billed, and, as he had a few audience, shaking his head and pounding one hand upon the other. People who passed shook their heads sadly.

Presently, as he neared the great iron gate, four uniformed men rushed out, grabbed him by the arms and legs and carried him, kicking and fighting, inside the grounds. Weaver, choking with rage, demanded an explanation of such an outrage.

"Aw, g'wan!" chortled one of the brawny guards, setting Weaver on his feet with a jerk. "What you handing us—we knows you is one of them bugs outen ward C."

"Lunatic!" yelled Weaver, who now saw into what spot he had landed. "Lunatic? Why, I am a politician and expect to go to congress!"

"Well," drawled the guard, with a grin, "I don't know but what you've got to just the same kind of place now!"



## Senator Went to Capitol Only Half Dressed

THEY are telling this story on John R. Thornton, senator from Louisiana: Thornton arose absent-mindedly, dressed himself fully, he thought, and went into the dining room of his hotel for breakfast. The head waiter grinned at him a bit, but the senator, who was in a hurry, failed to notice it.

He just caught a street car bound for the capitol and plumped himself between Postmaster General Burleson and Edward Keating, representative from Colorado.

"See you're dressed for hot weather," commented the postmaster. Senator Thornton, attired in white linen, nodded his head complacently.

"Yes," he said; "we of the south learn to do that." And he wondered why his hearers smiled in an embarrassed manner.

When he reached the senate office building the elevator man said: "Good morning, senator. I see you're prepared for the heat."

This rather puzzled Senator Thornton, for he always wears linen in summer. The explanation of it all came when his son Gordon, who is also his secretary, saw him.

"Say, father," he yelled as Senator Thornton entered his office, "What on earth did you do with your collar?"

Thornton grabbed at his neck wildly. He had on neither collar nor tie. He hustled his son back on the hotel for the necessary articles of raiment and then sat down and wrote apologies to both the postmaster and Mr. Keating, telling them that he hadn't intentionally gone downtown in the street car with them half dressed; it was only an oversight.

"I intend to talk to that waiter in the hotel," he moaned, sadly. "Why didn't he tell me I was only half dressed?"

## Representative Slep Finds an Agent of Cupid

REPRESENTATIVE BASCOM SLEMP of Virginia was until recently a bachelor. A few years ago, however, when he was "heart whole and fancy free," he was speaking to a large assembly at a political gathering. The audience was full of handsome women and pretty girls who were, of course, much interested in the tariff when it is explained by a young bachelor who lived in official Washington.

Slep got along famously, carrying with him the sympathy of the crowd. But at last a fellow in a back seat rose to make a statement.

"I like Slep," he roared. "Slep's all right. The only thing I have agin him is that he is not married. Now, I propose to this honorable gathering that we refuse to vote for him unless he promises to git married."

Slep was equal to the occasion. "I acknowledge my desolate state," he exclaimed, "yet it is not my fault, but that of the fair ones who will not have me. If there is any one among the many lovely ladies in this audience who will accept my heart and hand, I am only too willing to be led to the altar."

The man jumped to his feet again excitedly. "No, you don't," he exclaimed. "You'll have to go to foreign parts to git your bride—all the girls around here have got too much sense to take you!"



## GOVERNS GEORGE V.

Queen Mary Rules English Monarch Is the Report.

King's Place in Royal Household Likened to That of Victoria's Consort—Queen's Presence Not Wanted at Times.

London.—An Anglo-American woman who was a great favorite of the late king of England is credited with a joke which is now going the rounds of London society. "We have the court of Queen Victoria," she said, "then the court of King Edward and now we have the court of Queen Mary."

Those members of society who fail to see the point—report has it there are some—have it pointed out to them that King George occupies much the same position in the royal menage as did that poor prince consort who could not have a dish he liked put in the menu without first consulting his queenly spouse.

While some allowance must be made for exaggeration, it is a fact that King George's reliance on his wife is carried to a degree of self-effacement which strikes all the members of the court circle.

Prominent and responsible members of the royal establishment are all now so familiar with the reply "I think you had better consult the queen" when they seek King George's directions about any matter in connection with the management of the household that they frequently do so without consulting him at all. It saves time. For example, when the details of Prince Arthur's wedding were being settled all the directions were issued by Mr. Wallington, Queen Mary's private secretary, and in most instances the formula adopted at the beginning of Mr. Wallington's letter was "It is the queen's desire."

Lists of persons to be asked to court entertainments for the first two years of the king's reign were always made out by Lord Stamfordham and sent by him to the lord chamberlain's office, whence invitations were sent out. Now the invitations, and lists are made out by Lady Bertha Dawkins and Lady Eva Dugdale at the queen's direction and sent to the lord chamberlain's office without ever being shown to the king. Cases have actually occurred of names being sent to the lord chamberlain by Lord Stamfordham of persons whom the king desired to have asked to court who were nevertheless not invited. For example, Lord and Lady Castlereagh were omitted from the list of invitations issued for the ball at Buckingham palace during the visit of the French president to London last June. The names of Lord and Lady Castlereagh were actually given to the lord chamberlain by Lord Stamfordham among the list of people



Queen Mary of England.

whom the king desired to have asked to the ball. It was probably a matter of indifference to the king whether the Castlereaghs were invited or not, but his majesty had promised Sir Charles Cust, a member of the household, that they should be invited and King George subsequently told Sir Charles he was sorry the invitation was not sent. He pleaded as an excuse that he left the arrangement of all these matters in the queen's hands.

During the past few months the queen was present at official interviews between King George and some of the cabinet. These interviews take place in the king's writing room in his personal apartment, which Queen Mary has also of late taken to use as a writing room, with the result that she has sometimes been in the room on the arrival of the minister and remained there during the interview. At last representations were made by Mr. Asquith to Lord Stamfordham that some of his colleagues objected to the presence of the queen during their interviews on state affairs with the sovereign, and Lord Stamfordham, who by no means approves of the authority Mary exercises in the royal household, readily enough undertook to convey the prime minister's message to both their majesties, with the result that ministerial audiences with the sovereign are now no longer attended by his consort. More recently still Queen Mary received a respectful, but plain, reminder from the lord chamberlain that she was taking upon herself authority that properly only belonged to the king. This was when Queen Mary notified the lord chamberlain through Mr. Wallington of her desire to have alterations made in the house for delivery of letters at Buckingham palace. The alterations were made, but the instructions had come direct from the king before they were

## BELGIAN POLICE DOGS FOR SOCIETY FOLK



Miss Vieve M. Fisher, daughter of Mrs. Joel M. Fisher of New York, guarded by her Belgian police dog. Miss Fisher is the first of the "younger set" to adopt the vogue set by Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Jr. The intelligence of this dog is little short of uncanny and it is capable of rendering a great deal of service as a bodyguard. Other members of the social set have placed orders for these Belgian dogs.

## Many Lawsuits in Germany

Nearly 6,000,000 Cases Fought Out in the Courts of the Country Every Year.

Berlin.—Nearly 6,000,000 lawsuits are fought out in the German courts yearly. This number does not include criminal cases, the myriad of proceedings to recover a penalty, nor the quasicriminal actions brought for insult, etc. The figures mean, roughly, one lawsuit for every eleventh person in the empire, counting women and children, and since each suit involves at least two persons, the proportion is much greater, even allowing for the fact that many persons are chronic litigants, conducting a number of lawsuits at the same time.

These facts are made the basis for an article in a current German publication by a Dortmund jurist. He refers to the situation as a "lawsuit plague," and says it demands more victims yearly than does tuberculosis. The cost, both in time and money is enormous. A case which goes to the imperial supreme court requires at least three and one-half years for final disposal. Costs in two courts in a suit for an object valued at not more than \$12 amount to \$20; for an object worth up to \$120, the cost is \$115. Germans pay to lawyers each year \$7,500,000 in actions on account, involving \$12,500,000, in cases where the debt is not denied.

In the so-called collegial courts, that is, courts presided over by two or more judges and corresponding roughly to American courts of record, parties to the suit may not represent themselves, but are compelled to engage attorneys. This is true even in the case of litigant attorneys themselves. The author of the article in question cites a case which is, he declares, by no means unusual. One farmer sued another to compel the return of a saw. The trial court decided in favor of the plaintiff, and the case was appealed. In the meantime the saw was lost. The putative owner thereupon brought action to recover its value. The parties being unable to agree an expert witness was called, who testified that the saw was worth 12 cents. The process lasted three years and the costs amounted to more than \$25. The writer says it should be impossible to set such ponderous machinery in motion for trivial cases, and commenting on this tendency in the German people says: "The German Michael will sue the shirt off his back in order to obtain a decree in black and white in the king's name, setting forth his theoretical rights."

## THREE GOULDS FIGHT FIRE

Reach Blaze in Lakewood Hotel Before Other Volunteers and Aid in Subduing Flames.

Lakewood, N. J.—George J. Gould, Kingdon Gould and George J. Gould, Jr., all members of the Lakewood fire department, received their baptism of fire in a small blaze at the Lillian Court hotel recently. Not only were the Goulds first on the scene of the fire, but their work aided materially in subduing the flames. Mr. Gould and his sons hurried to the fire in their



George J. Gould.

limousine. When the fire companies arrived Kingdon Gould manned the hose which the chemical engine ran in. Mr. Gould and George Gould, Jr., assisted in keeping the lines clear and quieting the alarmed guests. Lord Decia, who married Miss Vivien Gould, accompanied the three "recruits," but not being a fireman took no part in fighting the flames, which were extinguished with small damage.

Expensive Wedding Presents. Denver, Colo.—"It was only a trifle," declared D. W. Brown, when asked about his bridal gift to his daughter, Miss Hazel Bird Brown, who was married to Capt. J. W. Flanagan, U. S. A. The "trifle" were a \$15,000 necklace and a check for \$150,000.

Xmas Gift for President. Washington.—A painting, "The Woodchopper," that has been on view at the Corcoran gallery and which was greatly admired by President Wilson, was bought by Mrs. Wilson as a Christmas gift for her husband.

Barbers Discriminate. Passaic, N. J.—Barbers here charge residents 20 cents for a haircut, outsiders 25 cents. They charge that Paterson safety razor users imposed on them.

## "CASCARETS" FOR A BILIOUS LIVER

For sick headache, bad breath, Sour Stomach and constipation.

Get a 10-cent box now. No odds how bad your liver, stomach or bowels; how much your head aches, how miserable and uncomfortable you are from constipation, indigestion, biliousness and sluggish bowels—you always get the desired results with Cascarets.

Don't let your stomach, liver and bowels make you miserable. Take Cascarets to-night; put an end to the headache, biliousness, dizziness, nervousness, sick, sour, gassy stomach, backache and all other distress; cleanse your inside organs of all the bile, gases and constipated matter which is producing the misery.

A 10-cent box means health, happiness and a clear head for months. No more days of gloom and distress if you will take a Cascaret now and then. All stores sell Cascarets. Don't forget the children—their little insides need a cleansing, too. Adv.

First Chinese School Book. There are also fragments of the Chi Chiu-Chang vocabulary composed by a eunuch of the palace in about the year 40, A. D. All the authentic texts of this ancient school book, widely used in the year 2 to teach Chinese children to read and write, had long since disappeared. The paper manuscripts are the oldest examples of such literature in existence. M. Chavannes has succeeded in reconstructing from these heterogeneous and more or less fragmentary and disconnected materials a fairly probable picture of the daily life of the Chinese garrisons that held these frontier posts against the Huns and kept open the trade routes to Farghana and Yarkand. The historian as well as scientific interest of such a picture is manifest.

## ECZEMA IN WATER BLISTERS

748 Congress St., Chicago, Ill.—"My eczema broke out like little water blisters. Each one was full of water and would itch until I would scratch it open, then the water would run out and it would get sore. I first got the eczema on the back of the hand and I scratched it so hard I made it all sore. Then I got it on my legs just above the ankle and above the knee."

"I used what they call — and it stopped the itch but it got worse. Then I used — In all I had the trouble for about two years. One day I saw the advertisement of Cuticura Soap and Ointment in the paper. I wrote for a sample of Cuticura Soap and Ointment and I tried them and then bought some more. Cuticura Soap and Ointment left my sores nice and smooth. I used them for six weeks, and am now cured; the eczema left no marks." (Signed) F. W. Horriach, Oct. 19, 1912.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment sold throughout the world. Sample of each free, with 32-p. Skin Book. Address post card "Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston."—Adv.

Didn't Suit Small Boy. After spending a few weeks last year at a watering place, where he took his daily swim in the open air pool of warm sulphur water, a little fellow was this year at the seaside in his tiny bathing suit he gazed out over the vast ocean in silence. Then he protested: "I'm not goin' in. Dat ain't water for boys; dat's for boats."

It is foolish to become chummy with a man who treats his dog better than he does his wife.

No, Alonzo, a girl isn't necessarily a modern Venus just because she has an offhanded way.

## Make the Liver Do its Duty

Nine times in ten when the liver is right the stomach and bowels are right. CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS gently but firmly compel a lazy liver to do its duty. Cures Constipation, Indigestion, Sick Headache, and Distress After Eating. SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE. Genuine must bear Signature.



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## Nebraska Directory

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