

LIFE IN WASHINGTON.

It Is Not as Pleasant as Many Would Have Us Believe.

Some Actual Facts Concerning the National Capital—Things Are Not as They Are Painted by Space Writers.

[Special Washington Letter.]

"Real life in Washington," says one of the best experienced reporters of the city, "is never depicted in any of the local papers, and very seldom referred to by Washington correspondents. For some reason or another the city editors of the papers published here are opposed to the publication of news concerning some of the most important phases of life.

"For example, it is not generally known that no ladies ride in street cars in this city. I have been a constant rider back and forth from the navy yard to Georgetown and all over the hills upon the electric lines, and I have never yet seen a lady in any street car. Nevertheless it is a fact that there are three women riding to one man, and maybe the proportion is greater. There is comfortable room on either side of any of our regular street cars for ten people. Five women will spread themselves out over that entire space, and if another woman enters the car, no matter if she is feeble and aged, not a single one of the five women spreading themselves over so much space will make room for her unless the conductor requires her to do so. If there should happen to be a lady in the car she would, of course, make room for the aged, the infirm, or for one of her own sex. For my part I have never yet seen a woman in any street car in Washington make room for another of her own sex, or recognize the presence of a man hanging to a strap, even where there was plenty of room for all. Moreover, when I was first a reporter in Washington I used to give up my seat whenever a woman entered the door, but I found that none



THE GREAT MAN'S GREAT MAN.

of them were ladylike enough to offer me even a bow or a smile, much less a 'thank you,' so I have ceased giving my seat to women in street cars.

"I entered the rotunda of the capitol this morning, after walking up the grand marble staircase on the east front. To my right, as I came up the stair, I noted the figure of Daniel Boone and the Indian in mortal combat, and the entire group was so covered with dust and begrimed that it was simply disgraceful. To my left was the figure of Columbus, holding aloft a globe in his right hand, and the figure was so disgracefully dirty that it almost made me blush for my country. As I stepped upon the sandstone platform at the head of the stairs I noted the figure of Mars to my right hand, and a similar statue of Minerva to my left, both of them so extremely dirty and filthy that I almost felt like calling for the hose and a scrubbing brush in order to ameliorate the disgraceful condition.

"As I passed through the costly bronze door into the rotunda, my blood boiling with rage at the carelessness which produced this shameful result, I noticed upon my right hand and upon my left hand, and at convenient intervals all around the spacious rotunda, small square wooden boxes filled with sawdust for the benefit of tobacco-chewers. These filthy receptacles have probably been there ever since Charles Dickens visited the capitol and wrote his scathing denunciation of the expectoration habit of the American people. There is no dirtier place in this city than the capitol rotunda and its approaches. Some one is responsible for this condition of affairs, but it would probably take a Lexow investigating committee to discover the responsible party.

"I do not suppose any paper in this city would publish the fact that the central office of the telephone company is practically without discipline. The young ladies who manipulate the wires there seem to be privileged to do just about as they please, and to have no regard for any power of discipline over them. Only yesterday I rung up the United States senate, and after having had a satisfactory conversation with an official there I endeavored to ring off

in order to call another party. I rang probably 20 times, but the girl at the central office paid no attention to the bell. Finally, when she did give attention to the ringing, I requested an interview with the chief operator.

"In a very short time by conversation with him over the wire I ascertained that he deemed it to be his duty to defend the girls under his direction, no matter whether they were right or wrong, and therefore I found it necessary to make a report to the general superintendent in order to get proper attention to the demands of subscribers for the telephone service. No matter how the girls may delay or hamper the desires of people who want to talk over the telephone wires in this city, if you simply call for an interview with the chief operator, the girls at the central office flippantly reply: 'Oh yes, if it will do you any good; and an interview with that official does not do any good, apparently, so far as my experience is concerned.

"Last Sunday morning a colored woman endeavored to secure admittance to a hospital with a child suffering with diphtheria. She was refused admittance at half a dozen hospitals and finally went to police headquarters. She carried the poor child in her arms all day, and it was not in the power of the police officials to secure a harbor of refuge for her, except in a little unused upper room at the precinct station house. Late at night, just before church time, when the bells were ringing, calling our people to worship under the forms of the religion of love, the health officer of this city was discovered somewhere, and, by the exercise of unusual official energy, he found some means of caring for the unfortunate woman and her child. That is a sample of how we are governed in the District of Columbia.

"No lady can visit the department of agriculture in the national capital without humiliation. Between Tenth and Fifteenth streets, on Pennsylvania avenue, there is a cordon of crime through which every person must pass who wants to go to the department of agriculture, the bureau of engraving and printing or the Washington monument. Seven solid blocks of residences are occupied by fallen women; and they receive police protection, or encouragement.

"No lady or gentleman can go to the top of the dome of the capitol building without being intercepted by beggars or disreputable characters. The dome is not properly policed, and many a crime of a venal nature has been committed there. But conditions have recently somewhat improved.

"People who read the daily news from Washington do not realize how difficult it sometimes is to ascertain bare facts from officials who seem imbued with the belief that they are custodians of great state secrets, and that they must withhold from the public all information concerning public affairs.

"Then again, it is exceedingly exasperating to be obliged to stand out in a corridor and send in a card, begging an audience of a man who sits behind closed doors mainly for the purpose of magnifying his own importance. Too many doors are thus guarded in the public departments. Moreover, many a man in this city is drawing \$60 a month for doing nothing but sit in front of the door of some man who thinks he is great because he holds a little brief authority, when the same man, if he were not a messenger to some supposedly great man, could not earn a dollar a day chopping wood or working on the streets.

"But there is another thing which ought to have public attention. The white people are encouraging the crime of miscegenation. The black men and women who abound in Washington are no longer regarded as desirable servants. The people who have but little colored blood in their veins are taken in preference to the pure African. Moreover, in our barber shops the black men are not as popular as they used to be, and their places are being taken by the light-colored mulattoes. This condition of affairs is encouraged by our white people, and it produces crime. Moreover, strange as it may seem to you, light-colored girls no longer associate with black men, nor accept them as beaux at any of the church meetings, or any of the other entertainments of colored people.

"This city is a nondescript community, which cannot be called cosmopolitan, and if it were written up as it ought to be written up, or down, by some good descriptive writer, it would surprise the American people to learn the facts concerning real life in Washington. The national capital they usually read about is a fictitious affair. Any newspaper man who might have the foolhardy courage to write actual facts concerning this city might soon find himself out of a job, because all manner of influences would be brought to bear to wreak his ruin. It would not do to tell the truth on all occasions, particularly concerning this city."

SMITH D. FRY.

Sanitary Item.

Uptown and his friend Westside were in a car on the Sixth avenue elevated. Although it was quite chilly, Uptown pushed up the window.

"Don't do that, you will get pneumonia," expostulated his friend.

"That's precisely what I want. My landlord is a doctor, and if I don't give him something to do pretty soon he will raise the rent on me."—N. Y. World.

TWO OF THEM TAKEN.

Members of a Noted Gang of Bank Swindlers Captured at Freeport, Ill.—Headquarters Were at Cameron, Mo.

Freeport, Ill., Nov. 28.—Two noted bank swindlers, who gave their aliases as W. J. Shannon and W. H. Wilson, were arrested here by a constable. Bank cashiers in the small towns of Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas will breathe easier when they know that these men are in custody. During the past 12 months it is known that over 50 banks have been muled of sums ranging from \$200 to \$600 by these swindlers and it is said that if the truth were known the number of defrauded banks would exceed 100. That the gang knew the ropes and were deep-dyed criminals is shown by the fact that not one of the banks they victimized was a member of the American Bankers' association, but in almost every instance private banks or institutions of small capital. The field in which the gang operated was the territory of which Cameron, Mo., is the center.

CATTLE INDUSTRY IN CUBA.

A Texan Who Traveled Over the Island Found Conditions Favorable for This Industry.

Fort Worth, Tex., Nov. 28.—David Pryor has just returned from a trip to Havana and other places in Cuba. Mr. Pryor went to that island in August in charge of a shipment of cattle to Havana via Galveston. He visited the provinces of Havana, Matanzas and Santa Clara and investigated the conditions there in relation to the cattle industry, which he contemplates engaging in. He found that there are great possibilities there. It is not a feeding country, being tropical, and suitable cattle feed is not raised there. But it is a splendid grazing country and cattle fatten and flourish well on the native grasses.

Gen. Butler in Washington.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Gen. M. C. Butler, of South Carolina, member of the Cuban evacuation commission, arrived here direct from Havana, in response to a telegraphic summons from President McKinley. He made an extended report of negotiations for the evacuation and of the terms upon which the Spaniards had agreed to complete the evacuation by January 1. Gen. Butler gave it as his opinion that all the Spanish troops will have departed ten days before the date fixed in the agreement.

Want Dewey for President.

New York, Nov. 28.—In a quiet way Admiral Dewey is getting quite a boom in the east for the democratic nomination for the presidency. This boom seems to originate in the lesson of the Roosevelt victory. The democrats who are anxious to eliminate the money question from politics, see in Dewey a chance to do in the nation as the republicans did in New York state and they figure that the colonial question will keep the Dewey boom alive long enough to make him available.

Co-operative Colony a Success.

Edmond, Ok., Nov. 28.—Oklahoma comes to the front with her first co-operative community, which, contrary to the usual order of things, is proving to be an unqualified success. The colony or association is a little over a year old, and the results attained are really remarkable. It was started by four families a year ago in Hartzell township, this county. The scope of the colony is to be greatly enlarged.

In Prison Thirty-one Years.

Lawrence, Kan., Nov. 28.—S. D. Tripp was sentenced in the district court here to three years in the state penitentiary for larceny. Of the past 33 years there were only 18 months that Tripp did not spend in prison in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. Six others were sentenced to terms in the penitentiary and state reformatory.

An Attack on Bailey.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Gov. elect Benton McMillan, of Tennessee, who is a member of the present house, is out in a bitter attack on Congressman Bailey, of Texas, the recognized democratic leader in the house. He says Bailey is guilty of all sorts of political crimes and the democrats of the country are just beginning to find him out.

Blizzard in the East.

New York, Nov. 28.—New York and the whole of New England has just passed through the severest blizzard since 1888. The storm began Saturday at noon and before it ended last night ten inches of snow had fallen, street and railway traffic was seriously impeded and many ships along the coast were driven ashore.

Boston Bank Consolidation Effected.

Boston, Nov. 28.—The Shawmut national bank, the new institution which was organized recently to take the place of nine of the smaller national banks of Boston, which are being liquidated, has opened its doors to the public. The new bank has a paid up capital of \$3,000,000 and a surplus of \$1,500,000.

St. Joseph Stock Exchange Burned.

St. Joseph, Mo., Nov. 28.—The stock exchange in South St. Joseph burned yesterday morning, entailing a loss of \$20,000. The fire started in the telephone exchange on the second floor, where an oil stove, supplying heat for the night operator, a boy, exploded.

HAWAII'S GOVERNMENT.

Provision for a Partial Continuance of the Present Form, Under Federal Supervision—Qualification of Suffrage.

Chicago, Nov. 28.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says Senator Cullom is preparing the report of the Hawaiian commission and will submit it to the president for transmission to congress so that it will be ready at the opening of the session. The senator declines to give details as to the character of the report, but from other sources it was learned that the report as finally drafted will provide for a partial continuance of the present government in the islands under direct federal supervision. There will be a senate of 15 members and a house of double that number, which is an increase in the present house membership of Hawaii. There will be a graded qualification on the suffrage. Members of the house may be elected by voters who pass an educational test alone, while members of the senate will be chosen by voters possessing both educational and property qualifications. There will be educational and property restrictions in regard to holding office, the qualifications for which will be closely defined. There will be no "open door" in Hawaii. The tariff laws of the United States will be extended to the islands without alteration, because Hawaii was formally annexed to the United States by a statute law and any other course would unquestionably be opposed by the supreme court. The immigration, labor and general election laws of the United States will be specifically extended to the islands. These will keep out further inroads of coolies.

HE REFUSED TO OBEY.

A Prominent Republican Leader Says Lives Might Have Been Saved if Sampson Had Entered Santiago Harbor.

New York, Nov. 28.—A republican leader who was in close consultation with President McKinley during the war has recently given out an interesting bit of naval history which has never been shown up in any of the naval reports. He states positively that one night when he was at the white house and the naval situation at Santiago was critical, the president, about midnight, decided to issue peremptory orders to Admiral Sampson to enter Santiago harbor and force the fight. The order was sent and Admiral Sampson, in brief, refused to obey the order. That is, he replied that he was on the ground and could better judge of the futility of such a scheme. "The battle of San Juan hill would not have been necessary," he continued, "if Sampson had obeyed this order."

An Army of One Hundred Thousand.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Chairman Hull, of the house military committee, has announced that his committee has in preparation a bill increasing the army to at least 100,000 men. Mr. Hull stated there was a disposition on the part of some to make the limit 125,000, but he believes that as finally presented to the house it will not carry a larger force than 100,000. Of this number 8,000 may be natives of Cuba and Porto Rico, who will be stationed in those two islands for garrison duty.

Fatalities on the Gridiron.

Chicago, Nov. 28.—The Tribune says: The football season just closed shows more deaths and more serious accidents than any season in the history of the game. The season opened September 24 and closed with the Thanksgiving game between Pennsylvania and Cornell. During that time there were six deaths and 33 serious injuries, while the minor accidents ran up into the hundreds.

Serious Boiler Explosion.

Stockton, Cal., Nov. 28.—The most disastrous river accident in the history of Stockton occurred yesterday near Fourteen Mile slough, when a part of one of the boilers of the river steamer T. C. Walker, which left San Francisco Saturday night, was blown out, killing five and dangerously wounding 21 persons, while probably 15 or 20, more or less, are badly hurt.

Three Deaths Over a Trivial Matter.

Dallas, Tex., Nov. 28.—Passengers on the St. Louis & Southwestern train give the details of a street fight that occurred at Hughes Springs, on the line between Marrs and Cass counties, Tex., in which Constable James Driver and his son were killed and Ben Boone, a prominent resident, was mortally wounded. The affair resulted from a trivial matter.

Spain Would Sell Them All.

Madrid, Nov. 28.—A plan for the selling of all the remaining Spanish islands in Oceania will be formulated soon after the ratification of peace. It is considered by those who advocate this course that, in view of the great demand for coaling stations in the far east by all nations, good prices could be obtained for property of trifling value in the Spanish regime.

Fear a Warship Trust.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Naval officials are discussing seriously the reported combination among American ship builders to divide the new construction of vessels for the navy which congress is expected to authorize in accordance with the recommendations of Secretary Long.

THE WISCONSIN LAUNCHED.

The Battleship Christened by Miss Elizabeth Stevenson at San Francisco—Larger Than the Oregon.

San Francisco, Nov. 28.—The big battleship Wisconsin was successfully launched from the shipyard of the Union iron works at 9:50 Saturday morning in the presence of many thousands of spectators. Miss Elizabeth Stephenson, daughter of ex-Congressman Stephenson, of Marinette, Wis., christened the huge leviathan as she started from the ways, dashing over her bows a bottle of California champagne and calling out in perfectly distinct tones: "I christen thee Wisconsin." As soon as the great mass of steel was seen to move, the thousands who thronged the yard and neighboring points of vantage, burst into enthusiastic cheering, while bells, whistles and steam engines throughout the city clamored and shrieked in concert.

The Wisconsin is somewhat larger than the battleship Oregon, which vessel recently made such a good record in the engagement with Cervera's fleet, but is not quite as large as the Ohio, now building at Cramps' yard in Philadelphia. The Wisconsin is 338 feet in length, 73 feet 2 1/2 inches in breadth of beam and 33 feet 6 inches normal draught. Her displacement will be 11,500 tons and her speed 16 knots an hour. Her armament will consist of 4 14-inch guns and 12 6-inch rapid-fire guns. Her armor will be of harveylized steel.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES.

National Business League Sends a Letter to President McKinley Urging the Establishment of a New Department.

Chicago, Nov. 28.—The National Business League Saturday sent to President McKinley a long letter relative to the establishment of a department of commerce and industries. The letter, which is signed by Ferdinand W. Peck, Erskine M. Phelps, A. H. Revell, John W. Ela, E. G. Keith and the other members of the executive committee of the league, urges favorable action on bills for the establishment of the department which are now pending in congress. The letter says in part:

The expansion of our commercial relations to include many new peoples, living under widely different conditions, seems to deepen the conviction already growing in the minds of every business man that tariff questions are getting to be questions of facts, for experts rather of party politics. We submit that, whether these questions are in politics or not, a department of commerce and industries might provide facilities through which competent, non-partisan experts could make such investigations and reports, before legislation on any contemplated change in a tariff schedule, as would enable congress to take action with comparatively accurate knowledge as its effects and thus the wholesale revisions of the tariff, so damaging to general business interests, might be avoided.

OUR MARINES IN CHINA.

Captain of the Charleston Places a Guard Ashore at Tien Tsin—Will Protect American Legation at Peking.

Washington, Nov. 27.—The navy department received a dispatch that the cruiser Boston has landed a marine guard at Tien Tsin, in the roadways of the gulf of Pe-Chi-Li, 100 miles by water from Peking, the Chinese capital. The dispatch was considered so important that it was taken to President McKinley at the white house at once. The disturbances in Peking following the dethronement of the Chinese emperor suggested to Washington the necessity of sending a naval vessel to Chinese waters to protect American interests. Secretary Hay, when called into consultation over the dispatch, said that the marines were landed, not because of any information of rioting or attacks on American missionaries, but solely to act as a guard for the United States legation at Peking.

AN UNHAPPY END.

Eight of the Crew of an Australian Trading Cutter Said to Have Been Eaten by Cannibals of Baku Island.

London, Nov. 28.—Advices from Brisbane, Queensland, contain a ghastly story of cannibalism in the German group of the Sulu islands. It appears that a Queensland trading cutter, the Sea Ghost, with three white traders and a crew of seven natives, was boarded by the treacherous natives of the island of Baku, who murdered two of the whites and six of the blacks. Their bodies, it is asserted, were then dressed for a cannibal feast. In the meanwhile the natives found a keg of rum and soon they were all helplessly drunk. Before they recovered from their stupor the surviving white man and the native seaman managed to unloose the ropes with which they were bound and escaped in a small boat, from which they were picked up by a British ship.

HAVOC BY PRAIRIE FIRES.

Oklahoma and Indian Territory Suffer Heavy Losses of Hay, Cotton, Live Stock and Buildings.

Perry, Ok., Nov. 28.—Prairie fires have played havoc in Oklahoma and Indian territory for the last few days. One farmer lost 1,000 acres of fine hay in the field, several hundred bales of cotton and 500 head of cattle and hogs. He estimates his loss at \$20,000. Millions of tons of hay in bale and in bulk have been burned in other sections, and no less than 100 residences have been destroyed. Several lives have been lost in these prairie fires. In the Kiowa Indian reservation a strip of land 30 by 75 miles was burned, causing great damage.