

SPRING IS AT HAND.

Mrs. Hippo and Mme. Leo Preparing for Easter Parade.

Ecological Garden Has Its Vanity Fair No Less Than the Smart Set on the Other Side of Central Park.

[Special New York Letter.]

MR. DOHONG wrinkled his brows in a very distressing manner. He had partaken of his third cup of tea and he looked at the sky quite anxiously. Indeed, the groundhog must have known his business, for there was every indication of an early spring. Having, evidently, made a satisfactory meteorological survey, Mr. Dohong turned to his waiter and said somewhat impatiently:

"Cheny! Cheny!"
Perhaps you don't know what "cheny" means. In that case if you will turn to Prof. R. I. Garner's latest Chimpanzee dictionary, containing fully 25 words, you will see that all well-educated monkeys say "cheny" when they want something to drink. Mr. Dohong wanted his fourth cup of tea and he knew how to ask for it as well as you or I. Of course Mr. Dohong is a monkey. Otherwise he wouldn't have made that remark about "cheny." But in other respects he acted a good deal as a man might act whose table manners are not exactly up to the standard of the Waldorf-Astoria set, but who on certain occasions can appear fairly civilized while taking his breakfast. I have known Mr. Dohong to go through an entire meal in a very decent manner. Then again I have seen him, when his keeper's back was turned (Mr. Dohong thinks the man is his private waiter), grab up the teapot, utterly neglecting the cup, and swallow down the entire contents at one big gulp. As a usual thing, however, he sips his tea



"IS MY HAT ON STRAIGHT?"

quite demurely and uses his napkin with considerable grace.

In a word, Mr. Dohong is the most genteel monkey in the New York Zoological gardens out in the big Bronx park, to say nothing of the other animals, many of whom belong to the Smart Set. If you could have gone there the other day with me and afterwards made a visit to the winter quarters of the animals in Central park you would have been proud of some of the specimens that Mr. Darwin insisted came down directly from our ancestors. The inmates of the "zoo" are feeling particularly fine. It may be that, like their more highly-educated brother animal, man, they are animated with the exhilarating thoughts of spring moving, for several new houses have been prepared for them and doubtless they are anxious to get into their commodious homes.

There is the new lion house, for instance. It is the finest one in the world. The 12 lions which have been installed there are very happy in it and look complacently at the visitors for whom seats have been provided. Or if the lions tire of the public gaze they may retire to their private apartments that have been arranged at the rear of their cages. All the modern improvements have been placed in these new houses—running water, steam heat, etc. Numerous other new quarters have been constructed for the other inhabitants of the "zoo" and the members of the various families are rather on the qui vive in anticipation of moving time. Why, if you could have seen old Mrs. Bear the other day gathering her cubs about her and walking up and down the spacious yard allotted to her and hers, you could almost have imagined that she had her boxes and handboxes about her packed and ready for the moving.

And gracious goodness! Over in the elephant house there is the same kind of excitement. Not that the elephants are going to move this spring. My, no! They have their own house, you know—an elegant old mansion—but still there are indications that the rejuvenating effects of spring are upon them. Of course, it is the time of the year when the new styles in spring and summer coats are in vogue. There is not an animal in the Bronx or Central park that will not have a new coat this spring. That is why they are all feeling so

frisky in the elephant house. One might, if one were real intimate with the family and if one were there all the time, see Mrs. Elephant trying on a new love of a hat and asking her maid, Miss Monkey, if it were on straight. Or if one would go over to the hippopotamus' apartments one might possibly see Papa Hippo being measured for a new spring suit. But, anyway, all the animals are beginning to admire themselves and preparing to lay off their winter clothing. And perhaps you think the animals are not vain. I have seen two Guinea cocks do a genuine cakewalk for the delectation of a hen which stood soberly by and awaited the conclusion of the performance. Any self-respecting animal or bird knows



MEASURING MR. HIPPO.

when it is well dressed and makes a presentable appearance.

When the great crowds of visitors through the Zoological gardens and Central park at the first show of pleasant weather and see the well-kept animals in both places, they will not realize the care and attention that have been bestowed upon the menageries during the long cold months of the winter. They will not realize that many of the animals require the tender watchfulness that is given to babies when the temperature gets down about zero. Hundreds of the birds and animals that are natives of tropical countries would contract colds and pneumonia and consumption if the temperature in their houses were not kept perfectly even. The fires must be watched day and night and intelligent keepers are constantly in attendance. Then, too, the food must be prepared in a certain way and if any animal is the least indisposed he is given medicine and treated as tenderly as if he were a human being.

At the Bronx now there are about 1,000 animals, and in the Central Park menagerie about 400. Many of these animals are very expensive and in the event of their death would be hard to replace. The most expensive animal is the rhinoceros, which is valued at \$12,000. The one in Central park is 60 years old, but according to the best accounts of naturalists he has 30 or 40 years to live yet, if he reaches the full span of his existence. The price of an elephant varies from \$1,500 to \$2,500, and his longevity is usually placed at from 50 to 60 years. Lions are worth all the way from \$800 to \$1,500, and live to be from 20 to 30 years old. The ages of other animals run from 10 to 25 years.

Aside from the expense of acquiring two such menageries as those in



READY TO MOVE.

the Bronx and Central park the cost of maintaining them is enormous. Many of the animals must have beef, and they must have it in large quantities, which at the present high price even for inferior cuts (but the quality must be of the highest), requires the expenditure of thousands of dollars during the year. Then there is a large corps of keepers, many of whom must be skilled in their line of work, the expense of heating and numerous incidentals that make a total sufficiently large to cause the tax dodgers to dodge all the harder. It costs over \$100,000 a year to maintain the animals in the New York Zoological gardens and the Central Park menagerie. The two institutions are under entirely separate management.

The "Zoo," as it is commonly called, is already one of the largest menageries in the world. When completed it will be the largest. It is situated in the center of the great Bronx park, to the north of the city, and connected with innumerable trolley lines and the Third avenue elevated railroad.

FREDERICK BOYD STEVENSON.

WASHINGTON'S MALL.

Most Attractive Public Reservation in the Country.

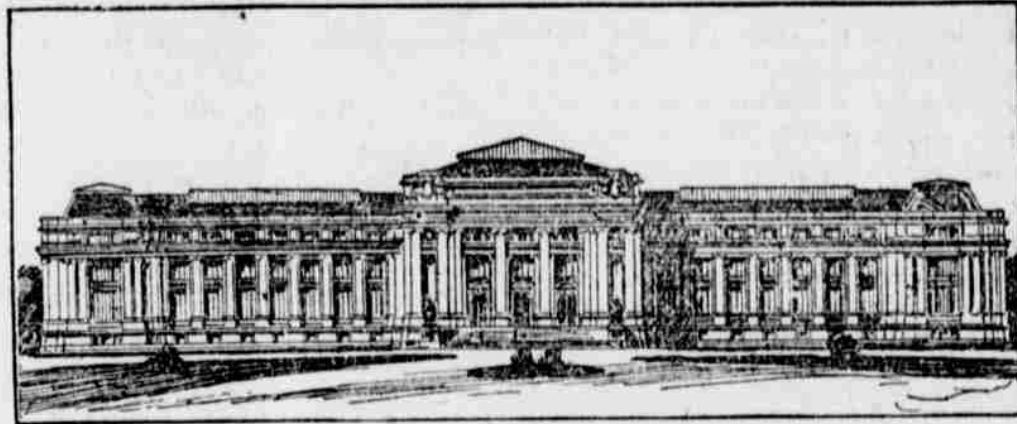
Proposed New National Museum Building Will Add Impressive-ness to It—Place Well Worth Visiting.

[Special Washington Letter.]

THERE is a public reservation extending from the capitol to the white house, and it is called "The Mall." There is a well kept boulevard more than a mile and a half in length, because of its devious windings through the bowered park, although the direct distance from the white house to the capitol is only a mile. It was the purpose of the designer of the city that this reservation should be kept guarded from the public, so that the presidents might have a private driveway to the legislative halls; but that idea did not long prevail, and "The Mall" has always been opened to the uses of the public.

This great reservation is in South Washington, and cannot be seen from Pennsylvania avenue, because that thoroughfare is lined with business houses; very few of them worthy of the situation, and substantially all of them too small and insignificant in appearance to be located along the grandest avenue in the world.

When William M. Springer, of Illinois, was in congress he advocated and urged the purchase of the entire south side of Pennsylvania avenue by the federal government, for the purpose of erecting thereon handsome and substantial public buildings. The idea did not then prevail, but it is gradually becoming popular. It can be safely predicted that within another decade the government will make that pur-

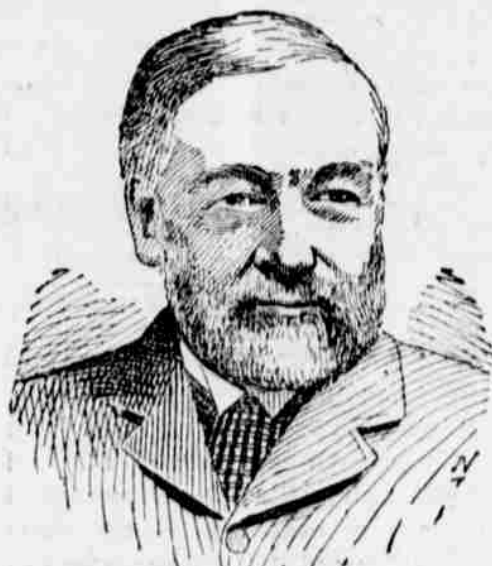


PROPOSED NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM BUILDING.

chase, although the cost will be tremendous. When it was urged by Mr. Springer, 20 years ago, the whole south frontage of the avenue could have been bought for comparatively little money.

The congress recently appropriated \$3,500,000 for the erection of a municipal building for the District of Columbia, and specified that it shall be built on the south side of Pennsylvania avenue, one block from the treasury department. The post office department is now located on that thoroughfare, and hereafter when appropriations are made for a hall of records, the department of commerce and other great public needs, they will be erected on contiguous ground. It takes a long time to build any city, and particularly a national capital.

The botanical gardens are located on the Mall, directly opposite the cap-



PROF. S. P. LANGLEY.

(Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.)

itol grounds; and they are bounded on the north by Pennsylvania avenue and on the south by the Mall. The gardens have a frontage of three blocks on the avenue, and thence westward the business buildings occupy the avenue frontage.

Driving westward along the Mall we come to Armory square, where the first troops were enlisted for the defense of the capital in 1861; and where now are located the buildings of the federal fish commission. To the right, as we drive westward, is the railroad depot where Garfield was shot; and to the left is the long wharfage where hundreds of thousands of soldiers embarked and debarked, and in plain view is the celebrated long bridge.

Crossing Seventh street we come to the army medical museum, which belongs to the office of the surgeon general. Here are exhibited marvelous things in surgery and medicine; celebrated cases treated on the field in Indian warfare, the Mexican, civil and Spanish wars. And, after crossing Ninth street, still driving along the

boulevard of the Mall, beneath the impenetrable leaves of magnificent trees and surrounded by sward as green and smooth and attractive as nature ever made, we come to the National museum, which is an outgrowth of the Smithsonian institution.

Next we come to the department of agriculture, which is surrounded by the best kept grounds in this city; a department so rapidly growing that congress has recently made a preliminary appropriation for the erection of a new and more commodious building, also to be located on Pennsylvania avenue. And then, crossing Fourteenth street, we come to the great bureau of engraving and printing, where all of our paper money is made. Next, still within the Mall, we come to the Washington monument, and here, circling northward, we come into the grounds of the white house and department of state. When you come to the national capitol you must take the drive; or, if you can't afford to drive, take one whole day for a strolling walk through the Mall. It is often neglected by visitors who do not see it, and have never heard of it.

You should take time to enter the National museum and also the Smithsonian institution. In 1846 an act of congress was approved which founded the Smithsonian, and out of that institution the National museum has grown to great proportions. Smithsonian not only gave money, but also, a collection of curios which formed the nucleus of the great collection which now stands unrivaled in the world for magnificence and variety. There was a private society known as the National Institute which gave to the Smithsonian an excellent collection, some time about 1850. Then, in 1876, the greater part of the material gathered for the centennial exposition at Philadelphia was given to the Smithsonian, which expanded that institution beyond the capacity of the original building, so that in 1879 con-

gress appropriated \$250,000 for the building now known as the National museum.

In the building which was yet unadorned, but under roof, the inaugural ball was given on the night of March 4, 1881, when Garfield was inaugurated. This building and the Smithsonian, with all of their store rooms, stables and sheds, make use of 238,689 square feet of floor space; and that is not half enough. For lack of space most deplorable conditions are now apparent, every branch of the service being seriously hampered by inadequate space. Long ago it became impossible to make proper disposition of specimens, so that year after year large and valuable collections are packed away in rented buildings. Consequently, they are not half catalogued; and even those which are catalogued are inaccessible.

These conditions have been placed before congress by the officials of the museum, and at the last session an appropriation of \$5,000 was made for the preparation of plans for a new building, which must cost not more than \$1,500,000. The plans have been laid before congress, and the appropriation will probably be made before the adjournment on March 4. The plans contemplate the erection of a rectangular building 486 feet front, 345 feet deep, and 80 feet high, with four floors and about 400,000 feet of floorspace.

It is the purpose of the officials of the museum and the Smithsonian to make out of the proposed appropriation just one-half of the building, and afterwards complete it with a subsequent appropriation which necessity will require. The fireproof building which the service needs will cost not less than \$3,000,000; but the congress always takes two bites at a cherry of that size. The one-half which it is proposed to erect will present the appearance of a completed structure.

So much of the building as is now proposed will be used for storage purposes, primarily, because it is absolutely necessary that the valuable collections now packed away in rented buildings shall be removed to fireproof rooms. The losses which are liable to occur by fire would be irreparable.

The National museum is of three distinct functions, as described by its secretary. First, it is a museum of record. It preserves a vast amount of scientific knowledge; second, it is a museum of research, because its collections are arranged on scientific lines, and constitute an everlasting stimulus to scientific investigation; and third, it is an educational museum, illustrating by specimens every kind of natural object, every manifestation of human thought and activity.

SMITH D. FRY.

SOME IMMENSE FARMS.

One in Texas, Owned by Illinois Syndicate, Is as Large as the State of Connecticut.

While the United States census reports 5,000,000 farms averaging 146 acres each in the southwest states and territories, the average size is 500 acres each. Col. C. C. Slaughter, of Dallas, Tex., has 1,250,000 acres of farm and ranch land. In the Panhandle district of Texas the Capitol syndicate, of which Senator C. B. Farwell, of Illinois, is the head, has a ranch of 3,000,000 acres, or more than as large as the state of Connecticut. They raise from 10,000 to 20,000 acres of corn and other forage crops and ship from 18,000 to 20,000 beef steers each year; 250 cowboys and 50 farmhands are employed. In Oklahoma is one ranch of 50,000 acres. They raised this year 8,000 acres of wheat, 5,000 acres of forage, millet and Kaffir corn; 8,000 to 10,000 cattle are shipped each year. Although the expenses of running the ranch are \$95,000 a year, the profits the last year were \$150,000. The Forsha farm in central Kansas has 5,000 acres. On it are a flouring mill, a complete weather bureau, post office for owner and employes, gas plant and long-distance telephone. The wheat grown is made into flour on the farm. There is the largest field of alfalfa in the United States, 1,500 acres in one tract. This cuts three crops a year, about one ton at each cutting. Frank Rockefeller has 14,000 acres of grazing and farming land in western Kansas, of which about 5,000 acres are under cultivation and the rest in alfalfa and timothy pastures. There are some of the finest bred Hereford and Short-horn cattle in the world on this farm, valued at \$350,000, including one \$10,000 bull. The grain for these cattle is grown and ground on the farm. He intends to convert 10,000 acres of pasture land into alfalfa. The cattle and horse barns are of iron and stone. John W. Stewart, of Wellington, Kan., has 140 farms, all separate and in different parts of the state. It is not uncommon for a farmer in these sections to buy 15 harvesters, a dozen plows and as many corn harvesters at one time. Fifty men make a good harvesting crew for a farm there.

ALL-AROUND LOG SLED.

It Is Strong, Easily Put Together and Can Be Used with Snow or Without.

I have been putting out some lumber, and as there was little snow I have used the sled shown herewith. It is called a snapdragon and is such as is used in the lumber camp. It can be used with or without snow. I took two yellow birch stumps about



FOR DRAWING LOGS IN WOODS.

six inches through and three feet long for runners. The two bunks were about the same size and two feet eight inches long. The forward bunk is put on with one bolt in each end, so it can have a good chance to work.

For the middle bunk I put two two-inch holes through each runner, then took a small, round birch of the size wanted, heated it hot in a fire and bent it in the shape needed to put over the middle bunk and the two ends down through the runner, then wedged them solid, but so there would be plenty of play. The nose of the runners must be made so they will not catch on every rock or stump. This can be done by putting the forward bunk at the very end of the runner. The chain is put on the log with a half hitch and drawn through a hole through both bunks. Birch is the best wood, as it wears the smoothest on frozen ground.—Orange Judd Farmer.

The Value of Appearance.

The appearance of our cheese factories and creameries has much to do with insuring an improvement in the products. The surroundings of these places do much to set the pace. A nicely built, clean creamery is an inspiration to all connected with it. The workers take better care of themselves, and the patrons are more careful to bring only good products. This is the tendency—effective to a greater or less degree. What can we expect of the patrons, when the creamery itself is a tumbled-down affair, with drains filled with a stinking combination of putrid milk and dirty water? The task of securing from the patrons clean milk is nearly a hopeless one, unless the establishment that receives it is measurably clean.—Farmers' Review.

The dairyman who looks after the comfort of his cows will get the most out of them. He will lessen the cost of milk production, which is the same thing as increase in price.