

The President's Private Secretary.

The position of secretary to the President of the United States is an arduous one. In the rendering of its multitudinous services, it calls for the business qualifications of a methodical and systematic clerk, in the performance of the daily routine of official work, and the finesse of a practical diplomat in meeting and satisfactorily adjusting situations which naturally come before him as an intermediary between the President and an assorted public, each individual of which believes himself entitled to a portion of the time and interest of the chief executive.

The task of handling and answering the White House mail is in itself no small one. The President receiving from two hundred to one thousand and two hundred letters a day. Important or not, each of these communications receives due attention, the secretary carefully sorting and classifying them presenting some to the personal attention of the President, referring others to the department or person to which each properly belongs, while all receive courteous acknowledgment from the President's representative.

The secretary is also required to meet and dispose of the numerous visitors who call on the President at times not set aside for his public receptions, and whose business ranges all the way from that relative to the appointment of a Supreme Court Judge or the Governor of a turbulent territory, to the obtaining of the President's autograph for a schoolgirl's album.

To deal with this heterogeneous mass in such a way as to best serve the ends of both business and courtesy, while economizing his own time and easing the strain of the President's personal attention by selecting the really important from the trivial—sorting the grain from the chaff—giving offense to none, and sending all away with pleasant words and smiling faces, requires endless resources of tact and good judgment.

The secretary is also expected to keep at his fingers' ends the details of all the official business of the executive office, and the President is likely to send for him frequently each day to consult him regarding official engagements which have been made by him to seek information and advise with him upon some matter under consideration, or, at a moment's notice, to bring papers and data in some case demanding immediate attention.—Success.

No Better Off than Before.

A small town in Posen near the Silesian frontier still keeps that relic of other centuries, the night-watcherman who calls the hours. One night—the London Telegraph tells this remarkable story—one of these watchmen, an old worthy long in service, failed to blow his whistle when the clock struck the hour.

The burgomaster summoned the delinquent to account for his negligence. After some hesitation he declared that his last tooth had dropped out, and that he could not hold in his mouth the official flat tin whistle.

A council was called, and the subject was gravely discussed. Finally one of the members said that he had heard of a dentist at Breslau who supplied artificial teeth. After long debate the council appropriated money to send the good watchman to Breslau to get a set of new teeth.

In due time the watchman reported that his teeth had arrived. That night the burgomaster sat up to hear the result. To his astonishment there was no whistle at ten, at eleven, or at midnight. The next morning he summoned the watchman.

"You have got your teeth," he said indignantly. "Why do you not whistle as before?"

"Yes, I've got a new set of teeth," replied the old man, "but the doctor told me to put them in water at night."

A New Lincoln Letter.

When Lincoln was in Springfield practicing law, he had a pass on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, perhaps because he was attorney for the company. The following letter asking for a renewal of his pass—or "chalked hat"—the old slang word that Lincoln uses—was found seven years after it was written in a box of old papers belonging to the railroad, and was recently published for the first time in the Century Magazine:

Springfield, Feb. 13, 1856.
R. P. Morgan, Esq.
Dear Sir: Says Tom to John, "Here's your old rotten wheelbarrow. I've broke it, usin' on it. I wish you would mend it, 'cuse I want to borrow it this afternoon."

Acting on this as a precedent, I say, "Here's your 'chalked hat.' I wish you would take it and send me a new one, 'cuse I shall want to use it the first of March."
Yours truly,
A. LINCOLN.

Would Seem So.

Quinn—Do you think the comic papers do more harm than good?
De Fonte—Yes. For instance, if they hadn't started that stolen-diamond joke I don't believe a single actress would have thought about it.

Dark Outlook.

Ida—Don't be so rough on the poor writer, dear. Remember, he won't always live in a garret.
May—I should say not. I heard the landlady say to-day if he didn't pay his rent she'd put him out.

Lots of people find marriage a failure, but the grass widow considers it only a temporary embarrassment.

POLICEMAN'S LESSON.

One Tells How Reckless He Was with His Weapons at First.

"Experience is certainly a good teacher," observed a member of the Washington police force while discussing the establishment of a school of instruction. "Some instruction to new appointees," he added, "is absolutely necessary, and with the proper start experience will do the rest."

"I remember my first tour of duty, which was many years ago, and I also remember that it not only came near being my last, but came near resulting disastrously for me. Having been sworn in and sent out to do police duty without being instructed as to my rights, I started over the beat to which I was assigned armed with all the dangerous weapons usually carried by policemen."

"These weapons were not intended for mere playthings I thought and that I had a right to use them under any and all circumstances I did not doubt. Should I want to make an arrest for any violation of the law and was unable to overtake the offender I was satisfied that I had the right to stop him with a bullet."

"During the evening," the policeman continued, according to the Washington Star, "I came across a party of trap shooters on the commons, and that I thought was an opportunity to distinguish myself. Being unable to overtake those who had participated in the game I proceeded to send bullets toward them, and only gave up my efforts when I had emptied my pistol. So far as I was concerned the affair was fun for me, but I nearly dropped dead when a friend informed me that I might have been given a penitentiary sentence had one of the bullets from my pistol taken effect."

"During the succeeding twenty years or more I did not find it necessary to discharge my revolver. Experience proved a good teacher for me, although proper instruction at the time of my appointment would have avoided the possibility of my being sent to prison."

THE LAND OF TIPS.

Traveler Surprised at Number of Persons Who Had Claims Upon Him.

A traveler who has been all over Europe believes that the villagers of the Alps outdo all other people in the unhappy business of tips and fees. Relating his experiences in the Detroit Free Press, he says that when he was leaving Chamouni he gave fees to the chamber-maid, the waiter, the porter, the bootblack, the cook, the omnibus drivers, the mail carrier and all the bell boys. Then the landlord approached and suggested that he had been left out.

"But I was your guest."
"True; but if you will remember, I received you with three distinct bows, where only one is required by custom. It is two bows extra, monsieur."

The traveler had just paid ten cents apiece for the bows, when the coroner appeared.

"But where do you come in?"
"Had monsieur met with a fatal fall on the mountain, I should have held the inquest."

The coroner got a franc. Then his clerk came forward, and said:
"And had there been an inquest, I should have had the pleasure of writing to monsieur's relatives that, unfortunately, he was dead."

The traveler handed him a coin, and then, to be done with the business, asked if there was anybody else in Chamouni who had a claim.

"The police have not arrested you," said the landlord.

"All right; here's a tip for them. Any one else?"
"My night-watchman did not let the hotel take fire."

The traveler left a tip for the faithful watchman, went down to his train, tipped all the railway officials, and considered himself fortunate in having money enough left to get him out of the country.

AN UP-COUNTRY SOLOMON.

He Rendered a Very Wise and Equitable Decision.

In a small town in one of the central counties of New York State lives an old German, who, because of the high esteem in which he is held in the community, was elected justice of the peace. The old gentleman was once called upon, says the New York Times, to decide a most perplexing question.

One of his fellow citizens owned a dog which, although not very vicious, had a bad habit of barking at passers-by. A neighbor vowed vengeance. His chance came when he was returning from a shooting trip, gun in hand. The dog ran out and barked savagely at him, and he fired at the animal. As his aim was bad, the dog escaped, yelping, with nothing more serious than a wounded tail.

The owner of the dog had his neighbor brought before the old justice on a charge of cruelty to animals, and the court-room was crowded with the partisans of both men. The justice heard the charge, and then the defense that the dog was a dangerous animal and a menace to the neighborhood. The old German cleared his throat and delivered the dictum:

"Der man—he has been guilty of cruelty to animals." And one side of the court-room applauded the justice of the decision.

"But der tog—he was a vicious tog." And the other side voiced its approval.

"I vill fine der man five tollars." Another murmur in the court-room.

"But I vill gif him anoder shot at der tog."

If men abused their bodies as they do to their credit the race would soon run out.

THE STRIKE IS SETTLED

President Brings Contending Forces Together, Day and Night Conference

PRESIDENT NAMES COMMISSION.

Washington, Oct. 23.—The following statement announcing the close of the strike was issued at the White House at 2:20 a. m.:

After a conference with Mr. Mitchell and some further conference with representatives of the coal operators, the president has appointed the members of the commission to inquire into, consider and pass upon all questions at issue between the operators and miners in the anthracite coal fields:

Brigadier General John M. Wilson, United States army, retired (late chief of engineers U. S. A.), Washington, D. C., as an officer of the engineer corps of either the military or naval service of the United States.

Mr. E. W. Parker of Washington, D. C., as an expert mining engineer. Mr. Parker is chief statistician of the coal division of the United States geological survey and the editor of the Engineering and Mining Journal of New York.

Hon. George Gray of Wilmington, Del., as a judge of a United States court.

E. E. Clark of Cedar Rapids, Ia., grand chief of the order of railway conductors, as a sociologist, the president assuming that for the purpose of such a commission the term sociologist means a man who has thought and studied deeply on social questions and has practically applied his knowledge.

Mr. Thomas H. Watkins of Scranton, Pa., as a man practically acquainted with mining and selling of coal.

Bishop John L. Spalding of Peoria, Ill. The president has added Bishop Spalding's name to the commission.

Hon. Carroll D. Wright has been appointed recorder of the commission.

STATISTICS OF THE STRIKE.

Statistics of the strike, which began May 12, follow:

Miners and others thrown out of work	183,500
Number of women affected	105,000
Number children affected	285,000
Capital invested in coal mines	\$511,500,000
Operator's daily loss in price of coal	433,500
Total loss caused by strike	197,390,000
Loss in miners' wages	39,350,000
Loss of operators	68,800,000
Loss of merchants in mining towns	22,750,000
Loss of mills and factories closed	7,320,000
Loss of merchants outside of district	16,000,000
Loss of railways	34,000,000
Loss of business permanently	7,000,000
Cost of troops in field	1,850,000
Cost of coal and iron police	3,500,000
Loss to railway men in wages	275,000
Cost maintaining non-union men	545,000
Damage to mines and machinery	5,000,000
The number of fatalities about twenty.	

Washington, Oct. 17.—The great anthracite coal strike is settled at last. A commission of six persons, with a seventh, Mr. Carroll D. Wright, as recorder, will adjust differences between operators and miners. President Mitchell of the miners' union will take the necessary measures to call the strike off. The president will urge immediate resumption of mining and operations are expected to begin next week.

Announcement that the great strike was off was made by Secretary Root with exuberant good humor at the White House shortly after 1 o'clock this morning.

Organized labor has a representative on the commission in the person of E. E. Clark, grand chief of the order of railway conductors, named as a sociologist. The president added Bishop Spalding of Illinois to the list of the five members suggested by the operators.

As named the commission is perfectly satisfactory to both miners and operators.

REDUCE THE ARMY

Washington, Oct. 17.—The order reducing the army to the minimum of 59,000 men is in the course of preparation at the war department. It is one of a series of orders that have been issued cutting down the regular army as the decrease could be made as a result of reduction of the force in the Philippines. The manner in which this order will be carried out is to discontinue enlistments until the number has been reached.

JOHN MITCHELL'S STATEMENT CONCERNING THE PROBABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE COAL STRIKE

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Oct. 16.—At 9:55 o'clock this morning President Mitchell issued the following statement:

"Appreciating the anxiety and impatience of the public and the mine workers for some authoritative statement from this office I issue this bulletin to say that I was unalterably opposed to the acceptance of or acquiescence in the form of settlement proposed by the coal operators, because it restricted the President of the United States in making selection of the men who were to determine the questions involved in the coal strike. These restrictions having been removed and representation given to organized labor as well as to organized capital, I am now prepared to give my personal approval to a settlement of the issues involved in this strike by the commission selected by the President, and shall recommend to the executive officers of districts 1, 7 and 9, in their meeting today that an immediate call be issued for a convention whose authorization is necessary to declare the strike at an end.

"In the meantime I trust that the people of our country will be as patient as possible, as we are moving as rapidly as the interests of our people will permit.

"JOHN MITCHELL,"
"President Mine Workers of America."

DEATH IN AIRSHIP

PARIS THE SCENE OF ANOTHER FATAL ACCIDENT.

CAR DROPS FROM BALLOON

TWO DARING AERONAUTS ARE KILLED.

STORY OF EYE WITNESS

One Victim De Brasky, Owner of the Dirigible Traveler, the Other His Engineer—Paris is Horrified.

Paris, Oct. 14.—De Brasky, the aeronaut, and a companion, were killed by falling from a dirigible balloon today.

The balloon started from the aérostat station at Vauriardi, a suburb of this city, at 7:55 on a trial trip. After preliminary maneuverings with a rope attachment Brasky released the balloon and proceeded southward at a height of 300 or 400 feet. The propellers of the machine appeared to work well. The rudder, however, was not successful. At about 9:20 the balloon had returned to above the point of departure and then it gradually mounted until it disappeared in the clouds.

The prefect of police later received a dispatch announcing the fall of the balloon near St. Dennis five and a half miles from the center of Paris, and adding that its two occupants were killed.

The catastrophe sent a thrill of horror through Paris, following the disaster at the Brazilian aeronaut Severo, who was killed May 12 last and whose balloon started from the same shed.

At the start this morning De Brasky first tried the ascensional screw below the car, and the airship, held by ropes, rose easily and maintained its equilibrium. De Brasky was satisfied and said he would maneuver over the drilling ground. A whistle was blown and released the ropes; the propelling screw behind was set in the proper direction when suddenly a southwest wind sprang up and the airship swerved to the northwest instead of to the northeast.

Crossing the main boulevards the aerial craft executed a number of evolutions, but continued northward, eventually disappearing over the great white basilica of the church of the Sacre Heart and the top of the hill of Mont Matre. The aeronaut's wife and their friends awaited at the shed from 8 till 10 and grew anxious at this prolonged absence.

When the balloon was later perceived at an immense height this increased the anxiety, as it was known the airship was never intended to rise to such a point. It was, however, merely the inflated envelope which drifted back across Paris after the breaking of the suspension wires had relieved it of the weight of the car. A few minutes later a telegram arrived with the news of the disaster.

An eye witness gave the following account of the accident:

"I was standing on the steps of my building when I heard a voice calling. I looked up and saw an airship a hundred yards in the air. M. Morin was leaning out of the car and asked through a megaphone where was a suitable spot to descend. I indicated a place in the neighborhood and the airship proceeded in the direction I had indicated. A few instants later I saw the balloon turn sharply and at the same moment heard a noise like the tearing of cloth. The piano wires followed suit, they became detached and it fell to the ground two hundred yards distant.

The balloon itself bounded up in the air and disappeared. I hurried to the spot and found De Brasky dead and terribly bruised. M. Morin was lying under the remainder of the car. He lived but a few moments."

De Brasky was a Hungarian baron, thirty-six years of age, rich and clever, and had been in the diplomatic service. He made his first ascension in 1901. Morin was his engineer. He leaves a widow and three children.

La Chambre, the constructor of the airship, says he had no confidence in the mechanical part of the airship.

Fishing on the Dee. Some fishermen on the Dee, in Scotland, pursued a royal sturgeon and chased it onto a sandbank. It weighed over 200 pounds and measured 8 feet 8 inches in length.

Will Send More Warships.

London, Oct. 14.—In a dispatch from Hamburg, the correspondent of the Daily Mail says on account of the murder in Venezuela of Adam Russell, a German subject and manager of the Venezuela Plantation company, the German government has ordered the cruisers Vineta, Panther and Gazelle to go to Venezuela.

A dispatch received from Willemstad yesterday said the Vineta had already arrived at La Guayra.

NEBRASKA

L. L. Winn, a forger, and another prisoner broke jail at Madison.

Nels Jorgensen, a Chadron ranchman, hung himself with a wire.

The United Presbyterians dedicated a new church costing \$8,248 at Superior.

R. C. Bowers' blacksmith shop was burned at Franklin with a loss of \$800.

Lincoln will hold a big Corn Carnival in November.

Andy Syec of Geneva was killed on the railroad near Milligan.

Mr. Shiefenbine, an insane man of Green precinct escaped from the officers at Wahoo and can't be found.

Robbers blew the safe of the post office at Wood River. They secured \$200 in cash and some stamps.

Arthur B. Matthison of Gering, accidentally shot and killed himself with a carbine.

The newest baby basket has a pretty doll in one corner, dressed in satin to match the outfit.

A. L. Garrison, Burlington section foreman, found five revolvers, a silver watch and 44 pennies buried under a tree near Nebraska City.

B. C. Martin of Central City has purchased the Silver Creek Times of Mrs. Frances Hunt and will conduct the paper in the future.

A person in a position to know, but who will not allow his name to be used says \$34,000 was secured by Burlington train robbers.

The eyes of the ten-year-old son of F. E. Champlin of Nebraska City were badly burned by carbolic acid splashing into them from a falling bottle.

J. N. Spence, of Wilbur, who sued his father-in-law, James K. Lane for \$5,000 for depriving him of his wife's affections was given a verdict for \$500.

A head-end collision occurred on the Burlington railroad near Seward. Several cars were reduced to kindling wood. Eight head of cattle were killed.

The saloon of Mrs. Valentine Geist of West Point, was entered by burglars and a revolver and \$35 in money taken. Entrance was effected by the rear window.

Fred Entenman, of Humphrey, died yesterday from the effects of a wound inflicted by himself a week ago with suicidal intent. The remains will be interred at Stanton.

Wood is becoming a favorite fuel this winter. Hard wood is selling for \$7.50 a cord. An Elkhorn farmer has 4,000 cords, which he expects to market before spring at an advance of \$1 a cord over its cost.

Governor Savage "as paroled Geo. Wilson, who is serving a seven-year term for a statutory crime. Wilson has served three years and three months. The governor paroled the man because he believed he had been sufficiently punished before his imprisonment.

John Payne, one of the wealthiest men of Elgin, or surrounding county, died suddenly after drinking a glass of milk. Heart failure was the cause. He was president of the bank at Clearwater, vice president at the Atlas bank at Neligh and leaves a son in each institution.

Chris Kroeger, aged 44, one of Schuyler's foremost citizens, was found dead in a pool of water not far from his home in the south part of Schuyler. He was returning from an errand up town, and only a minute or two before his dead body was discovered by two passers-by. had been conversing with a friend a short distance away. He had fallen from the sidewalk into a shallow pool left by the rain. The men who found him attempted to resuscitate him, but were unsuccessful. Within a few moments four doctors were at work on the body, without avail. There was no evidence of drowning, and the doctors say he was probably dead before he struck the water, heart failure being assigned as the cause. Deceased was unmarried, a member of the Odd Fellows and nights of Pythias. He was sheriff of Fillmore county from 1892 to 1898.

The relatives of Ernest Hussman, the man who disappeared under suspicious circumstances from Leavitt, have given up their search for him. They are convinced that he has met with foul play and that his body was either burned up in the lime kiln or removed to some distance from Leavitt.

The Nile is the only river in the world that flows for 1,500 miles without a tributary.