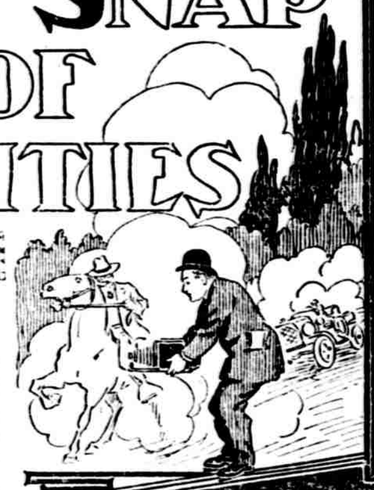
MAKING SNAP-SHOTS OF CELEBRITIES



JAPANESE AMBASSADOR AND BARONESS UCHIDA

THE past few years has witnessed the development of a unique activity, the purpose of which is to satisfy public curiosity regarding men and women who are prominent in one or another of the conspicuous walks of life. This particularly up-to-date vocation might be denominated as "snapshotting" of celebrities, which means the making of instantaneous photographs of the people who are temporarily or permanently in the public eye and whose personal appearance is consequently a matter of interest to the people of all parts of the country.

Now newspaper readers who take delight in the mass of pictures spread nowadays over every printed page, ever stop to reflect what a comparatively short time ago it was that first saw such embellishment of the chronicle of the day's happenings. Most of our readers can doubtless remember distinctly the time when pictures were unknown in their favorite newspaper, and even after crude cuts began to make their appearance in the advertising columns of the weeklies, and later in the dailies, it was a long lapse ere the pictures were to be found in the reading columns and a yet longer time before the reader came to expect not more scenic subjects but graphic pictures of the current happenings of the busy world.

The vocation of snapshotting celebrities has been the outgrowth—the very latest outgrowth, it might be termed—of the practise of recording in picture as well as in story the doings of all the world. When the newspaper-reading public came to expect the quick reflection in picture form of great happenings all over the world it speedily progressed from interest in places and things to curiosity regarding the actual appearance of the people regarding whose doings the papers had much to say. It was not enough that the newspapers should print as a counterfeit presentment of this or that public man a carefully posed bust portrait, touched up to show the subject as he wanted to appear rather than as he actually did appear. Newspaper readers with a thirst for accurate information came to demand pictures that would show the subjects as they actually appeared. Moreover, they wanted not a commonplace bust photo, but a full-length picture that would represent its object as he would appear to one who met him on the street and with a hint as to his distinctive characteristics as to dress, etc. From this demand was born the personal "snap shot."

Nowadays the snap-shot is to a large extent displacing the stereotyped visage in the public prints. Almost everybody who achieves fame or notoriety must must needs fall victims to the sharpshooters of the camera. The snap-shotter is no respecter of persons or callings so long as "human interest" is present, and everybody, from preachers to pugilists and from statesmen to suffragists, is the quarry of the camera scout at one time or another. Some of the people who are snap-shotted manifestly relish it; a great number accept it as a matter of course and a minority wriggle and squirm and even fight at sight of a camera. Conspicuous among the latter are Harry Lehr, the Newport society pet of monkey dinner fame, and J. Pierpont Morgan, the financier. It must be admitted that the father of trusts does not make a pretty picture when taken unawares and he evidently realizes this, for he is usually guarded by several private detectives when he appears in public and carries a cane which he is quick to use on any offending camera that he can reach.

Public officials, headed by the president of the United States, are usually the most satisfactory subjects for snap-shots because, whatever may be their natural inclination in the matter, they quickly learn to submit gracefully to this sort of attention. A leading statesman or army or navy official who realizes that at public functions he is liable to be continually in the camera eye is likely to instinctively avoid those awkward attitudes and facial grimaces that sometimes spoil things in the case of a celebrity who is new to the game and self-conscious in consequence. From the standpoint of the snap-shotters perhaps the most satisfactory subjects in this country are the diplomats at Washington—that is, the alien officials who are stationed at our seat of government as the ambassadors or ministers of foreign powers. For one thing, these titled foreigners are possessed of gorgeous uniforms that show up well in unconventional pictures, and then again they are accustomed to being constantly on dress parade.

The snap-shotter must "quick on the trigger" and he cultivates ability in this direction almost as earnestly as the gun fighter of the west did in the old days. The newspaper snap-shots are made by means of special cameras made specially for the purpose, and costing as much as $250 apiece. Only a fraction of a second is required, of course, to make a snapshot, once the lens is focused upon a celebrity in a desired position, but the uncertainly lies in the fact that the celebrity is seldom actually posing for his picture. More than likely he may not realize that he is being caught by the camera or maybap may be trying to dodge the glass eye pointed toward him. In any event quick action is necessary at the critical moment if the subject sought is to be caught ere he moves away, turns his head or otherwise spoils the picture. Indeed the snap-shotter who would "catch on the wing" such restless spirits as Colonel Roosevelt must develop a sort of sixth sense that will enable him to anticipate with reasonable certainty the future moves of his subject.

No other American of the day is so much photographed as is Colonel Roosevelt, and yet he is by no means an easy subject for good pictures. It is not that he objects to the operation; indeed, he seems to utterly ignore the cameras that are pointed at him a dozen times a day. But the colonel is one of the most active and sudden of men, and the snap-shotter must be on the alert every minute of the time or he loses the golden opportunity to catch the ex-president at the "psychological moment." This was admirably illustrated many a time during the colonel's trip through the west. Several professional photographers accompanied him, and a number of the press correspondents also carried cameras, and often it was a wild race for them to keep up with Mr. Roosevelt and be on hand at the time when the good "human interest" pictures were to be had.

Whenever Colonel Roosevelt appeared, unless the police arrangements prevented, he was at once surrounded by a cheering crowd, every man, woman and child of which was trying to get close enough to grasp his hand or at least to say "Hello, Teddy." At such times a snap-shot usually yielded only a mass of heads and backs surrounding a set of gleaming teeth. If Mr. Roosevelt was carefully guarded by police or soldiers, as was the case in some cities, the task of the photographer was almost as difficult, for the "coppers" and deputy sheriffs of the western towns seemed to have much more self-importance than common sense. In Denver two of the camera men were left behind when the colonel and his party went to the auditorium and arrived to find that building packed to the doors and surrounded by a ring of mounted police. To one of these they appealed in vain. "But we are supposed to be with Mr. Roosevelt's party," said one of them finally. "Well," was the chilly response, "if you are supposed to be with them, why aren't you?" And the officer's horse scornfully switched his tail in their faces.

It was in Denver, too, that one of the most amusing scenes of the trip was witnessed. The Press club gave a "chuck-wagon" luncheon to the colonel in a park. "Here," said the camera men, "is our chance for some good stuff." So they put in fresh films or plates and hustled out there by the dozen. The colonel, in the midst of a throng of self-invited Colorado deputy sheriffs, stood at the rough board table and every time he reached for a bit of meat or put a morsel of food into his mouth there was a perfect fusillade of clicks from the cameras that surrounded him. The photographers were ranged in a triple ring about the chuck wagon, those with little cameras in front, stooping low; next, the men with the larger hand cameras, and in the rear the local artists, who had big machines on high tripods. It was in truth a comical sight, but the colonel did not seem to mind it a bit, and went on eating and talking with the utmost enthusiasm.

The visit to Cheyenne, of course, gave the snap-shotters their best chances for picturesque views, for there the colonel could be caught almost any time shaking hands with the cowboys, cowgirls and gaudily painted Indians, or applauding the work of the broncho-busters.

There is a Chicago newspaper man who once had the unique experience of being the only person with a camera present at the coronation of a king. The monarch in question was Mataafa, who had been elected king of Samoa by a majority of the inhabitants of those delectable islands in 1898. His reign, to be sure, lasted but a few months, for after a gallant struggle he was most unjustly deposed by the Americans and British, who thereupon partitioned the islands with Germany. The performance took place in the open, but the king and the chiefs who anointed him were not to be approached within some fifty yards. So rigid is Samoan etiquette that the one man with the camera did not dare to break through the surrounding ring of natives, and had perforce to be content with such views as could be had from a distance.

SECRETARY OF STATE KNOX, BARON HENGELMULLER, JUSTICE HOLMES AND JOHN BARRETT.

GEORGE VON L. MEYER PITCHING THE BALL INTO THE FIELD FOR A SOCIETY BALL GAME

SECRETARY OF STATE KNOX AND MRS. P. C. KNOX.

SNAP SHOT OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND MRS. JAMES BRYCE

ENTERTAINING THE BLIND.

"In these days of specialists you can't just step out and help your fellow humans in haphazard fashion," said the matron on an institution for the blind. "You have to take a course of training before you can even do good in the world. In this position the task that requires most diplomacy is declining the services of people who offer to entertain the blind. All sorts of incompetents volunteer. Their intentions are good, but their achievements are deplorable. Poor readers are most numerous and are hardest to manage. They have had no practise in reading aloud since they left the lower grades in the grammar school, yet when the fires of benevolence break out that is the first thing they want to do.

"The blind are particularly sensitive to the quality of a voice. A harsh, high pitched voice that rambles on without rhyme or reason gets on their nerves, and it is our duty to shut out all such readers. They have to be handled with care because their hearts are in the right place, and with tact their good intentions may be deflected into some useful channel."

KING'S BEARD MODEL FOR ENGLISHMEN.

Beards are at present the order of the day among London's fashionable "men-about-town." In remarking about the prevalence of facial hirsute adornments, a prominent hairdresser said:

"One would not have thought that the coming of King George to the throne would have made much difference to the fashion of current hairdressing, in view of the fact that his father wore a beard for so many years, but I can assure you it has, and a very great difference at that.

"In all probability the present fashion of the point beard is due in a great measure to so young a man affecting one. I have been told that there was a great rage for beards among 'men-about-town' when King Edward first grew a beard many years ago.

"In my opinion the average Englishman is tremendously imitative. The style of beard King George wears is appropriately named the 'torpedo' in the navy, and since the king's accession many of the younger men in the service have started to grow them."

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Will Scrutinize the Bank Borrowers

WASHINGTON.—Comptroller of the Currency Murray is now hard at work in making sharper and more searching the official supervision and control of the national banks. He requires the examiners to make their investigations more complete and exacting. He has changed examiners from one district to another, and if they thus lose something of knowledge about local conditions, they are set free from influences which breed partiality and prejudice. Official inquiry is in this way lifted above cliques and the mastery of one or two institutions in a city.

The latest step is to call on the examiners in the several districts to make out lists of the concerns which are largest borrowers at the banks. Such reports from the 11 districts are to be tabulated at the Washington office which will be so created a clearing house of commercial credits. The record is to be kept in confidence, and the names of banks carrying heavy lines of paper will not be exposed.

Individuals and corporations which strain their credit soon get beyond the resources of their home banks. They go abroad for loans. Note brokers derive their profit from this practise. When failures occur it often happens that the bankrupt is debtor to banks at points remote from each other. One lender does not know how many others have been buying the same sort of paper. Reliance on business statements becomes trust on broken reeds by changed conditions as well as by over-sanguine estimates.

The new policy of Comptroller Murray will tend to restrict credit at both ends of the transaction. Borrowers who expand unduly will take warning when they learn that record of all their loans is kept for review. They will discern the need of caution in putting out their obligations, and will do less business on other people's capital. They will feel some alarm at the broad semi-publicity of their affairs and will reduce their appeals to lenders. The weakest of the large borrowers will first be compelled to reduce their loans. All who rely too much on borrowing will see the veil lifted from their operations and will come to act knowing that they are doing business in the open. Those who are fairly entitled to the credit which they ask can get no harm. The danger of the output of bad paper will be diminished, and banks will be warned against assets not desirable.

Savings Made in the Naval Service

WITH a navy increasing in size, the estimates for the expense of the naval establishment for the next fiscal year show a saving of over $4,000,000, as compared with the amount appropriated last year. For the present fiscal year the estimates were $10,000,000 less than the appropriations for the preceding year. The two years taken together show economy with increased efficiency.

Competition in the fleet has been encouraged and has resulted in better target practise, economy in coal consumption and in consumption of supplies. Full power trials of vessels under cruising conditions have been conducted. The fastest battleships on the recent full power trials were the only ones repaired at navy yards under the present system of navy-yard organization.

The greatest progress in the navy has been in target practise. It has been due to carefully conducted competitions, where ship has been pitted against ship, man against man and officer against officer. In this way every one has been put upon his mettle and results have closely measured the relative worth of the various ships and officers.

The cost of work at navy yards has fallen materially. Steel castings made at navy yards have been reduced from about 9 cents a pound to about 5 cents, and iron castings have been cut from about 4½ cents a pound to 2½.

Although the navy has increased in size, the cost of the coal is expected to be about $1,000,000 less during the current fiscal year than during the previous one. The estimates for fuel for the coming year have been decreased by $1,000,000. Improvement has been made in the use of lubricating oil. The cost of supplies has been reduced by more than 20 per cent., and in freight and transportation of supplies there has been a saving of about $100,000.

The most serious waste of funds under the navy department has probably been that due to expenditures upon vessels that are not fit to take part in any future war. There are many of these vessels that will probably be relegated to the reserve or be placed out of commission in the near future.

Supreme Court May Unsquat 300,000

THE legal battle which has raged in Kentucky for several generations over the validity of so-called "blanket" grants of land by Virginia, the mother state, and even Kentucky itself during the earlier years of statehood, has come before the Supreme court of the United States for decision. Titles to lands now said to be worth at least $10,000,000 depend upon the decision of the court. Originally some of the land was procured at 2 cents an acre.

Arguments were made as to the constitutionality of the Kentucky statute under which it is claimed a forfeiture of the title to 40,000 acres of land, held by the Kentucky Union company, would be worked in favor of the occupants of the land. Immediately after this case, it is expected the suits involving the title of the eastern Kentucky lands will be taken up.

About 2,500,000 acres of land are said to lie under the doubtful title of these "blanket" grants. On the other hand, 300,000 citizens of Kentucky have entered these lands. Claimants under the "blanket" grants call them "squatters."

The attorney general of the commonwealth of Kentucky has appeared in the supreme court to assert in defense of their claim of title that they are the people who have built up the state, and erected a commonwealth, with its court houses and school houses, its municipalities and internal improvements.

They have for years, the attorney general has said in a brief, filed with the court, paid taxes on the land, while a search of the records, where such information would be found, he says, shows that the sum total of all taxes paid by the claimants under the Virginia grants in litigation, since the organization of Kentucky in 1792, to the present time, does not exceed $75.

Uncle Sam Goes After White Slavers

THE government of the United States has turned its whole detective machinery toward unearthing and destroying the white slave traffic, as it exists between the states or between foreign countries and the United States. It is the plan of the department of justice to make one sweep on all the large cities at once, and strike, if possible, one staggering blow at the traffic.

The government's authority comes from the Mann act, imposing upon the interstate aspects of the crime penalties of five years' imprisonment or a fine of $5,000. According to information already received at Washington, Pittsburg is the center of the trade, though clues discovered in Chicago make that city an important substation. The firsts swoop, it is intended, will be started simultaneously in New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Chicago and San Francisco.

Officers at ports of entry have been asked to increase their vigilance and to inspect female immigrants with peculiar care. Meanwhile officers at inland cities will watch and report the movements of all suspects.

In New York some months ago District Attorney Whitman made an effort to trap some of the men back of the trade in that city, but they escaped. The only way to capture the offenders, according to the agents of the department of justice, is to have the authorities of all the large cities act together. The government agents will not try to "clean up" the various cities. They will simply go after the leaders of the syndicate.

In Chicago some arrests have been made, but these are only the beginning of the general crusade, it is said. In several cases it was found that men in that city had brought women from France. Some of the lines developed in Chicago by these arrests can be traced throughout the country.

Couldn't Be Thankful.

Bishop Charles W. Smith at a harvest dinner in Portland said of the harvest spirit:

"The harvest spirit is one of thankfulness, but there are some crabbed old farmers who couldn't be thankful if they tried.

"I said to such an old fellow as he conducted me over his farm on a golden autumn afternoon and showed me a record harvest:

"'Well, sir, this year, at least, you've got nothing, nothing whatever to complain of.'

"'I don't know about that, bishop,' he answered, with a shake of the head. 'I'm afraid there'll be no spoilt hay for the young calves.'"

Hardly a Compliment.

In the excitement of the moment public speakers often say the opposite of what they mean to convey, and "when Henry Irving gave a reading in the Ulster hall, in 1878," says Bram Stoker, in "Personal Reminiscences of Henry Irving," "one speaker made as pretty an Irish bull as could be found, though the bull is generally supposed to belong to other provinces than the hard-headed Ulster. In descanting on the many virtues of the guest of the evening he mentioned the excellence of his moral nature and rectitude of his private life in these terms: 'Mr. Irving, sir, is a gentleman what leads a life of unbroken blemish.'"

"Beer" in Kansas.

A certain Kansas editor always puts the word "beer," when printed in his paper, in quotation marks.

"Why do you do that?" a subscriber asked him.

"It is for the same reason," he replied, "that we put quotation marks around the word 'ghost.' We don't believe there are any ghosts."—Kansas City Journal.

He Never Shaved Again.

Marmaduke—What do you suppose that wretched barber said when he shaved me?

Bertie—I don't know.

Marmaduke—He said it reminded him of a game he used to play when a boy called "Hunt the Hare."

The Lawyers Won.

Askit—Old Skinnerd left quite a large estate, did he not?

Noitt—Yes; but some of his relatives contested his will.

Askitt—Was there much left after it got through the courts?

Noitt—Nothing but the heirs.

Feminine Logic.

Her—A woman is always right.

Him—How do you figure that out?

Her—Well, a woman is, isn't she?

Him—Yes, I suppose so.

Her—And Pope says: "Whatever is, is right." See?—Chicago News.

A mother makes a fatal mistake when she leads her children to believe that they are wingless angels.

Making of a Great Novel

Many Things Other Than Powers of Description Enter Into Its Composition.

The commonest fault of novels is lack of knowledge and it is just because of this lack they fail in imagination. For imagination is encouraged and enriched by knowledge of all kinds, and flags for the want of it. Knowledge is, as it were, the soil by which the flower of imagination is nourished; and the greater the writer the greater his passion for knowledge and the more use he can make of all that he knows. Scott is perhaps the most imaginative of all our novelists, and none of them has had a knowledge so vast and diverse. It is the same with Tolstoi. His novels interest us so much, even when the story seems lost in them, because he is always telling us of what he knows. He can interest us as in Levin mowing, because he had mowed himself, or in Andrew Bolkousky fighting, because he has fought himself. If in these cases he were not writing out of his own experience, his narrative would be empty of detail and illusion.

And so it is with stories of poems of passion. They are dull if the writer can only tell us how he or some one else is very powerfully moved. He must, even in poetry, tell us facts about passion if we are to listen to what he says, though he may tell them indirectly; and they must not be second-hand facts that he has learned from other writers. For it is easier to detect "cramming" in literature than in examination papers; and when the reader detects it he loses interest. There is this fault in many of Zola's novels. He was thoroughly aware of the value of knowledge in a novelist; but he thought he could cram it. His books are full of facts, but they are often facts too easily come by and acquired for a particular purpose.

An Example.

"I don't believe in spiritualism and I wouldn't have anybody in my employ who did."

"Yet only yesterday I saw one of your clerks who had sold some liquor to a customer, and he was doing some spirit wrapping."

Brilliant Idea.

Uncle Treetop (on his way to the dentist's office)—"Most likely it'll stop aching by the time I get in the chair. If it does, I'll pretend I've made a mistake and tell him I want a haircut."

Not the Only Sufferer.

The domesticated ostrich had just been relieved of his "tips." "Trimmed again!" he groaned; "I wonder why the S. P. C. A. doesn't agitate for anti-tipping legislation?"

Microscopic.

"You'll not find a steak like this in a hurry," boasted the tall waiter.

And the guest looked up with an icy smile.

"I should say not. It is so securely hidden under these few chips of potatoes it is doubtful if I find it all."