



**SECRETARY PAYNE'S
NIECE TO STORM
THE CAPITAL**



MRS. HENRY C. PAYNE

Miss Louise Jones, of Milwaukee, niece of Mrs. Henry C. Payne, will live with the new postmaster general's family at Washington. It is expected that she will cut a dashing figure in Washington society. She is about twenty-five years old and very beautiful.

**Pearl Buttons and
Their Origin**

Fished from the mud banks of Arkansas by nondescript unfortunates, shipped to Nebraska, turned into buttons by skilled convict laborers and finally retailed in the markets of the world, is a brief history of the career of the "clam shells" which are now being imported from the south. This is but a small part of the story, however, from a commercial point of view. In Arkansas and Mississippi 12,000 persons make a living by shell fishing, to say nothing of the host of laborers employed in the button factories throughout the country.

In Lincoln thirty-two men are employed at present in button making. Unfortunately these "are bound to labor for a term of years" and are temporarily not the masters of their own destinies. Whether or not the calling of button manufacture will ever become a mammoth industry in the state is doubtful. In other portions of the country the factories are flourishing. The same state of affairs may exist here when button-making has outgrown the stigma of convict labor. Shells are imported from Arkansas.

The shell fisheries grew out of pearl diving and, strange to say, the former is now the more profitable of the two. In Tennessee there are large fisheries in the region of Memphis. The White and Black rivers in Arkansas are the principal scenes of the search for these

marketable gems are realized by the denizens of the mud banks.

Many thousands of dollars in fine pearl fisheries each year. The shell men make much more and from their calling the element of chance is, to a greater extent, eliminated.

First the pearl fever spread. The best prizes were garnered in at the beginning and then the fishers either went into shell collecting or departed looking for other fields to conquer.

The more sensible of the pearl fishers were soon convinced that it was a great deal better to save the shells after they had been examined for pearls and sell their collections to the button factories which soon began operations in the vicinity of the White and Black rivers. Shells sold at from \$5 to \$7 a ton and the figures approximately represent the market price today. The average shell fisher could clear from \$1.50 to \$2.50 each day and, in addition, gratify the gambling desire by keeping his eyes open for the always expected gem that was to lift the mortgage on the farm.

The soft, oozy banks of mud along the Mississippi were soon exhausted and the Arkansas and Tennessee products were shoved on the market instead. These were found to be fully as good and, some claim, better than the Mississippi shells, so the industry flourished.

The hunters are an indiscriminate lot and all sorts of men, women and children are found in their ranks. For the women are always present and sometimes the children are as enthusiastic as their elders. The fishers are superstitious and it is commonly thought

that children will bring good luck. So the little fellows are instructed to find and open shells all the time keeping juvenile but wary watch for the ever expected pearls.

Sometimes there are a thousand people working in one mud bank, picking, digging and opening the shells. They watch each other with jealous eyes all the while for, of course, it is the usual thing for some lazy good for nothing to find the pearl of great price and become rich by one lucky cast. For the spirit of the patrons of Monte Carlo is abroad among the pearl fishers and their occupation is an absorbing and exciting one. Each of the adventurers is constantly erecting an extensive row of "air castles" to be realized when his "lucky streak" comes.

J. M. O'Hara, a dealer and pearl expert of Memphis, claims the honor of starting and promoting the industry. Seven years ago, according to his version, he engaged in the pursuit and helped create the pearl excitement. He

also clamors for the distinction of starting the first button factory in Tennessee.

The shell fishing industry is sure and profitable; requires no previous training, and demands no capital. The supply is declared to be inexhaustible in both Tennessee and Arkansas. The past year was one of the most profitable for the shell fishers and button manufacturers and it is asserted that the coming year will surpass the preceding one in respect to prosperity in these lines.

* * *
Ticket Seller—What's this you're giving me for money?

Patron—That's a \$1,000 Carnegie steel bond; isn't it good enough for two seats in the dress circle?

T. S.—No; the Washington people won't take 'em. Pay cash or get out of line.

* * *
Tourist—There's a worm in Hawaii that eats hardwood and destroys all the pianos.

Blifkins—We have a piano—where can I get one of those worms?



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Rummage Sale

Beginning Monday we will place on sale all our slightly damaged, shop-worn, and discontinued samples of Furniture at prices that will make Quick House Cleaning. Some pieces have been

Reduced as much as 60 per cent.
Many pieces 40 per cent.
None less than 25 per cent.

Read Sunday's Journal for a partial list of pieces, and prices of Bed Room, Dining Room, Parlor, and Library Furniture, Rugs, Lace Curtains, Remnants of Carpet.

New Arrivals

FROM NEW MEXICO—
A choice assortment of Indian Pottery, Pueblo, Navajo ware, 20c to \$3.00 each; Navajo Rugs, \$8.00 to \$100.00.

FROM LUXEMBURG, GERMANY—
An imported order of celebrated Sarreguemines Cooking ware, Individual Handled Baking Dishes, Shirred Egg, Scalloped Oyster Dishes, and regular size Dishes, 12c to \$1.00 each.