

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Speaker Is no Longer an Autocrat



WASHINGTON.—It is hard for old-time politicians, who have lived their day in Washington, to realize that the speaker of the house of representatives is no longer an autocrat. Any one desiring to get anything done in the house is now advised to see the speaker and Leader Underwood. They are the two head men of the Democratic branch of the Sixty-second congress. Neither of them can do things as completely and summarily as could the autocratic speakers of old, but when both of them undertake to get something done a good start has been made.

Their status does not work as much to a speaker's disadvantage as one might suppose. As far as there is satisfaction in the exercise of authority, a speaker of the house is not as contented a man as his predecessors have been. But he also has an excuse for not complying with a great variety of insistent demands. And when the house carries through a policy or a

program, the speaker has the right to claim credit therefor, just as the president has the recognized right to appropriate credit for the achievements of his administration, even though the work and the responsibility were immediately shouldered by the subordinates.

As the prerogatives of the speaker have diminished in the present house, those of the chairman of ways and means have increased. This is not altogether due to the fact that this has been a tariff revision congress and that the ways and means committee has been busy with these revision bills. As chairman of the committee that selected the committees of the house (a task previously falling to the speaker), Mr. Underwood has also been recognized as the floor leader of the majority to an extent not noted before in many years. He has been the floor leader also in the party caucus.

While Leader Underwood has had numerous loyal associates and has not hesitated to take advice and counsel, he has had to face several serious problems alone and virtually unaided and to work out the solution himself. Thus there has fallen to him many of the worries and vexations, which in the times gone have fallen to the speaker.

Capital City Has a Museum of Styles

MRS. CLEVELAND has announced that she will present to the nation her wedding gown. This will indeed be historical. Mrs. Cleveland, formerly Miss Frances Folsom, was a ward of President Cleveland, and married him during the second year of his administration. The wedding took place in the famous blue room of the White House, and was the first wedding to have been solemnized in that room so far as history has made any note. Also Mrs. Cleveland was the first woman to marry a president in the White House.

Mrs. Taft will present the magnificent gown which she wore at the inaugural ball.

Martha Washington is represented in the collection by a satin gown, once white, but now yellowed by time. She wore it on occasions of state in Philadelphia and New York. The satin is brocade in garland design, and the flippers which accompany the dress are of the same pattern. These have been in the museum for many years.

Mrs. Taft's gown is of white satin, embroidered in silver, in a graceful design of golden rod. The gown that belonged to Mrs. Andrew Jackson has been contributed by her great-grand niece, Mary Wilcox, of Washington.

Mrs. Alexander Sharp, widow of Captain Sharp, U. S. N., who was a



nephew of Mrs. Grant, has given a gown once worn by Mrs. Grant in the White House.

Mrs. Samuel L. Gouverneur of New York, whose husband was the grandson of James Monroe, has given a suit of the clothes worn by Mr. Monroe at the French court when he was American minister there. She has also contributed a fancy dress worn by Mrs. Winfield Scott, wife of General Scott, at a costume ball in Paris in 1830. Mrs. Scott represented Pocahontas. The wonderful color of the feather and tinsel-trimmed costume are almost as vivid today as they were 80 years ago.

Mrs. John Hay has placed in the collection a court dress worn by Mrs. John Hay at the coronation of King Edward of England.

The purpose of the National Museum in collecting the gowns is to preserve to future generations these mementos of famous women. A permanent organization to perpetuate the work will be formed.

Uncle Sam Is the Biggest Publisher



THE government printing office at Washington, the biggest printing plant in the world, is busily engaged upon the publication of Uncle Sam's largest sets of books. These sets will comprise more than one hundred volumes, says Popular Mechanics, all of large size and costly binding.

First comes the report of the immigration commission, a body which devoted several years to investigating this subject in all parts of the world. This will comprise fifty-six volumes of from 600 to 1,200 pages each a grand total of upward of 40,000 printed pages.

The report of the national monetary commission, which is now virtually complete, comprises 24 volumes, averaging 300 pages to the volume. Despite the cost of getting out such a reference work, the government is getting out a "first edition" of about 5,000 sets.

The findings of the governmental commission that recently investigated child labor, etc., in the United States are being printed in a set of 19 volumes, ranging from 600 to 1,200 pages each.

Twelve volumes are required to tell the story of the doings of the North Atlantic coast fisheries arbitration commission, and the disclosures of the recent governmental investigation of the iron and steel industry will require a four volume set.

Some of these contracts, for instance the one for the set chronicling the investigations of the immigration commission, cannot be completed before the close of the year 1912. The work could not be turned out so expeditiously were it not for the recent invention of machines which enable 1,000 employees in the book bindery to do work that would otherwise require the services of 4,000 employees.

Incidentally it may be noted that in getting out these big sets of books, Uncle Sam's book bindery is using 10,000 sheets of gold leaf per day for titling the volumes in gold letters, etc. In addition to the big sets work is progressing on Uncle Sam's "best seller"—the Year Book of the Department of Agriculture, a volume of 800 pages, of which an edition of 650,000 is printed.

Little Girl Blows Cigarette Rings

"SHE smokes cigarettes, your Honor," so spoke Miss Elizabeth Mc Masters, probation officer to Judge De Lacy in the juvenile court, as she pointed to a little flaxen-haired girl who was busy stretching a piece of gum to its limit.

"Why, that can't be possible," exclaimed Judge De Lacy in astonishment. "She doesn't appear to be more than ten years of age."

"She is twelve now and has been smoking for three years," continued the probation officer. "Just as soon as school is dismissed she roams the streets of Georgetown in search of butts and then retires to a woodshed in the rear of her home and consumes what she has gathered. She never smokes less than two cigarettes a day, and when the picking is good no one knows how many more."

"Yes, sir," piped the child, smiling at the judge, "I smoke, but I haven't had any today. Yesterday I got two



cigarettes. The picking was poor."

"How did you come to acquire such a terrible habit?" asked the court.

"I saw lots of boys smoking and they were sending up into the air all kinds of pretty circles and wreaths. So I just picked up a cigarette from the street when nobody was looking. It lit, and after several puffs, I could make just as nice circles."

The mother of the little girl told Judge De Lacy that she had never seen her daughter smoke, but had often noticed the fragrance of cigarettes on her breath. The child was placed on probation for six months.

"For Sale"

By Rosalie G. Mendel.

"Maybe, while you are away, our house in the suburbs will get sold," said Mrs. Morse to her husband as she helped pack his new wardrobe trunk.

"Well, by jinks, I hope it will," emphatically answered Mr. Morse. "It has been on the market long enough, goodness knows. Yesterday I put it in the hands of a new agent. Maybe he will do something with it."

"I just have a feeling, somehow, that he will," said the wife.

"Just keep that feeling, dear, and maybe it will help matters along," laughed Mr. Morse; "and on the strength of it I'll make an agreement with you. If that blankety blank house is sold before my return, you have permission to order for yourself as handsome a l'avalier as your dear little heart desires."

"Oh, you angel man. I've just been dying for one for ages," exclaimed Mrs. Morse, throwing her arms around her husband's neck.

"Don't count your l'avalier before it's ordered!" warned Mr. Morse.

A few days later Marjory, Mrs. Morse's sister, came rushing into the house, saying, "Sis, I think your suburban house is going to be sold! Congratulations!"

"What makes you have such an idea?" eagerly asked Mrs. Morse.

"I slept at Dorothy's last night. On my way home I passed the house and saw three ladies, a man, a child and a dog standing on the porch. The man was busily engaged writing something on a piece of paper. And it all looked pretty business-like to me. Aren't you glad that at last you are going to get rid of that elephant of a house?"

"I should think I am. Simply delighted. It's too good to be true. Marjory, where did Dorothy purchase her new l'avalier?"

Early the next morning Mrs. Morse telephoned to her friend that it would be impossible to keep the luncheon date with her, owing to a most important engagement. Then she told the maid to attend to all the household duties, as an unforeseen errand called her away in great haste. Her concert ticket for that afternoon she sent to a neighbor. Then Mrs. Morse ordered a taxi to take her to the depot. As she boarded the suburban train which was to take her to the "old" house she said to herself:

"If that husband of mine had a grain of sense he would have told me the new agent's name. Then I could have telephoned instead of taking this unnecessary trip. Men are so careless."

Her long trip was rewarded, however, when on arriving at the house she discovered that the "For Sale" sign had been removed.

"Goody! Goody!" she exclaimed. "Didn't I tell Dick that I had a feeling it would be sold while he was gone? He'll be so glad. I'll wire the news at once. Then for downtown to order my long-wished for l'avalier."

The next morning Mrs. Morse received an answer from her husband, stating: "Order l'avalier! I celebrated the sale last night with Bob. Love, Dick."

The following day the new agent telephoned to Mrs. Morse. He said: "I just received a letter from your husband that is quite puzzling to me. Maybe you can put some light on it. He thanks me for selling your house with such dispatch. I don't understand."

"You said it, didn't you?"

"Not that I know of," answered the surprised man.

"Why, my sister Marjory said she saw some people looking at it. The next day the 'For Sale' was down. Consequently, I thought it was sold. It was a perfectly natural deduction, I am sure, so I telegraphed at once to Mr. Morse."

"Madame," replied the voice over the phone, "the party that was looking at the house intends to build in the vicinity and they were studying your porch structure. The 'For Sale' sign had been pressed into use as a snow shovel by some boys. Later, it was found a few blocks from the house. Up to the present date, as far as I know, the house is not sold. Good-by."

"Oh! Oh!" cried Mrs. Morse; "then the house is not sold, after all. Well, that makes me feel kind of foolish. But I've ordered my l'avalier, and Dick will think it such a joke on me that he won't care. 'Studied our porch structure,' indeed! And 'pressed it into use as a snow shovel.' Absurd! Mine was a logical conclusion, anyway. And I'm going to have my l'avalier!"

Not HOLLERING Now.

Church—What's become of that fellow who started in business and who was continually hollering that he was in business to stay?

Gotham—Oh, the sheriff shut him up.

Resentful Recollections.

"Did they make you recite 'Little drops of water' when you were a child?"

"Yes," replied Colonel Stillwell.

"And it didn't stop there. When I grew up they tried to insist on my adopting them as a beverage."

BASEBALL RECORDS WORTH A THOUGHT

Here are some of the baseball records made in the old days which the veterans delight to talk about:

In the thirteen years between 1877 and 1900 "Silver" Flint caught 835 games, and in 833 of them he wore neither mask, glove nor chest protector.

In the sixteen seasons between 1876 and 1892, Adrian C. Anson played in 1,582 games and made 2,252 hits. His batting average for the entire sixteen years was .344.

In 1875 Boston won every game played on the home grounds.

In 1,555 games, covering twelve consecutive seasons, Mike Kelley had a batting average of .321.

Hugh Duffy, with the Boston club in 1894, had the unprecedented batting average of .438.

The first no-hit game ever pitched was by Joseph Mann of Princeton, N. J., against Yale, New Haven. The game was played in 1875.

LOST ONLY ONE LONG GAME

Russell Ford Defeated in One Extra Inning Contest Since Starting in American League.

Russell Ford, who keeps a record of all the games he has pitched, dug up figures to controvert assertions that his delivery is such as to be weakening on his arm.

"I have lost only one extra-inning game since I've been in the American league," said Ford, "and that was my first one."

Ford then produced the following record of the extra-inning battles from the archives: 1910, lost in ten innings to Mullin of Detroit, score 4 to 3; won from Walsh of Chicago in 11 innings, score 3 to 2; 1911, won in 12 innings



Russell Ford.

from Walsh, score 4 to 3; won in 13 innings from Walker of Washington, score 5 to 1; won from Kaler of Cleveland in ten innings, score 4 to 3.

VIN CAMPBELL IS TOO FAST

Ran Himself Off Pittsburg Team by His Eagerness to Capture Files in the Field.

Vin Campbell, who was traded by the Pirates to Boston for Mike Donlin, literally ran himself off the Pittsburg club. At least such is the opinion of Mordcael Brown.

Campbell has speed, lots of speed. In the outfield his speed was a menace, and at times he had Fred Clarke in fear of his life. Ordinarily, when a ball is hit into the doubtful territory between two outfielders, one of them will stop, yell to the other and let him have it. Not so Campbell.

As a result Clarke was not sorry to get rid of the youngster for steady, experienced Mike Donlin. At bat Campbell's speed, according to Brown, was also a detriment. The moment he faced the pitcher he was, in his mind, starting for first. He never put his whole thought on hitting the ball, but was thinking of his start. As a result he never truly hit up to his possibilities, and for all he is younger than Donlin, was of far less use than the ex-Giant is expected to be.

Relly Trains Faust.

Charles Victory Faust lays his "splendid condition" to Barney Relly of the Brooklyn team. While at Hot Springs he was told that Relly, was a famous trainer, and he immediately "cottoned" to him. Daily he visited Relly's room for his advice concerning the medicine he should use. Relly changed the remedy every day until Charles Victory's room looked like a drug store and smelled like an automobile accident.

Frask Double Play.

Billy Sullivan got a double play at Waco on a passed ball. Men were on first and second when the ball got away from Sullivan. He recovered quickly and ran down the man before he could return to third. He whipped the ball to Weaver, who returned it, and Sullivan caught the second man just as he tried to slide into third base.

MACK IS MANAGER IN NAME AND IN FACT



Connie Mack, Leader of World's Champion Athletics.

The world's champion Athletics stand alone today in many respects. A system, or it may be systems, exist on that club which exists nowhere else in the baseball world.

The Athletics are managed first, last and all the time entirely by Connie Mack. His power and authority ranks above that of any other man in a similar capacity in baseball.

Tom Shibe, vice-president of the club, gave a sample of the authority vested in the Athletic chieftain when the club was in New Orleans last spring. Tom was discussing the affairs of the club and incidentally mentioned that he didn't know the salary of a single player on the club.

One of the parties in the conversation looked surprised and said: "Why, surely, then, your father knows the salaries." His father, Ben Shibe, is president of the club.

"No, I am positive," Tom answered, "that even my father doesn't know. Why, a few years ago Connie went to father and said: 'Mr. Shibe, so and so wants a raise in salary. What do you think?'"

"Now, Connie, I don't want to have a thing to do with the matter. Do just as you want. That's entirely up to you. Anything you do will be completely satisfactory to me."

And Connie still does what he wants.

GREATEST SLABMAN IN GAME

In All Elements of Pitching Walter Johnson, the "Idaho Cyclone," Entitled to Decision.

Discussions break out frequently as to the greatest slabman in the game today. But at the wind-up of each argument no one seems able to compile a choice with any edge on Johnson, the Idaho cyclone. If a vote were taken among the profession there isn't any doubt but that Washington's premier



Walter Johnson.

would stampee the convention and get the nomination on the first ballot.

There are others who have shaded him at various angles. Mathewson knows more about the art of pitching—Ed Walsh can stand as much punishment, Brown carries a better curved ball and Rube Marquard shoots almost as much smoke. But in the combined elements of pitching greatness the smoke-ball Swede is probably entitled to the decision. He won 23 games with a team in seventh place last season, after facing a bad start, due to poor condition. There were only five slabmen in his league who did as well, and the other four were all with clubs pitched a much loftier altitude in the race.

AROUND THE BASES

Kid Elberfeld has been sold to Milwaukee by the Washington club.

Doc Johnson has been named as captain of the New Orleans team.

Jack Nagle, a catcher farmed by the Naps to New Orleans, has been sold to New Haven.

Arthur Fletcher, Larry Doyle and Chief Meyers are Giants lucky enough to get three-year contracts.

Don't worry; it won't be long before the Cincinnati fans will be saying that Hank O'Day is a good umpire.

Rube Hildebrand of the Cincinnati Reds has been sent back to the Montana team from which he came.

Shotten, the Browns outfielder, seems to be a much improved player this season, and he was coming fast last year.

Wid Conroy has been shifted to the outfield by Manager Ganzel. It isn't a new position for Connie, by any means.

Manager Davis of the Clevealand let Fisher go to the Highlanders because his young catcher, O'Neill, looks like a wonder.

John M. Ward, president of the Boston National league team, has retired from the competitive field as an amateur golfer.

Pitchers Baker and Reis, Outfielder Gilbooley, and Third Baseman Scott have been sold to Erie by the St. Louis Nationals.

Hugh Jennings is as frisky as ever on the coaching line. Auto accidents cannot shatter nor train wrecks stale his infinite variety.

Pitcher Radabaugh, a Cardinal last fall and shipped to the Montgomery Southern association team this spring, is pitching great ball.

Theodore Breitenstein, veteran southpaw pitcher, has been released by New Orleans so he could sign as Southern league umpire.

Manager Frank has sent Pitchers Galm, Frost and Cheney and Outfielders Dawson and Metzel to the New Orleans team of the Cotton States league.

Joe Agler, first baseman, has been released by the Cubs to Jersey City, and Pitcher Pierce, obtained by waiver from the Giants, has reported to Chance.

Ty Cobb started playing ball when he was thirteen years old. This is an awful blow to those people who are continually declaring it is an unbreakable number.

Berghammer, secured by Birmingham from the White Sox, has not slid the ball and is on the market again. Maroon and Jimmy Wall are also slated for release.