New Year's in Washington

BY EDWARD B. CLARK

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THE practice of New Year's Day calling is said to be a heritage of the American people from the early Dutch fathers and mothers on Manhattan island. Therefore it is of northern origin, but it has a firmer hold on the South today than it has in many places in the North. In Washington, the capital, New Year's calling seemingly is a fixed habit. Custom has given it virtually the force of law, and the Washington people do not wish to be considered in any way law-breakers.

The president of the United States holds the earliest New Year's Day reception. It is in the broadest sense a public reception, for every American of whatever creed, color or station in life is welcomed into the big White House to greet the chief executive and his wife, who by custom as fixed as that of the holiday calling, is known as "the first lady in the land." The "wedding garment" is not necessary for the visitor at the White House on the first day of the year. The callers come literally some in rags and some in velvet gowns.

The president by force of the custom-law of precedence is obliged to divide his reception into two parts, one for officialdom and one for the "lafty." Precedence would not be such a powerful thing in Washington were it not for the presence here of so many foreigners to whom precedence is everything. The representatives of foreign governments would take instant offense and also would take means to show it if they were not given the exact place in line to which their service rank entitles them. There is one thing which foreigners have to forget while in the diplomatic service. Their social rank at home counts for nothing in diplomatic circles. Length of service is the only thing which is given consideration in establishing precedence except, of course, that ambassadors rank ministers, irrespective of the time they have been in the diplomatic employment. New Year's Day President Taft seeks his office and transacts such business as is absolutely necessary. Ordinary official matters must wait the coming of the second day of the year for consideration. When the first office duties of the morning are over the president returns to the White House proper, where he takes his place in the big east room with his wife at his right hand. By the special invitation of Mrs. Taft the wives of some of the more prominent officials of Washington, with some of her close acquaintances among the resident Washington families, are asked to become members of the receiving party. The cabinet women always are present at the White House reception, taking their places at the right of Mrs. Taft in order of cabinet rank. The wife of the secretary of state takes the first place, and the wife of the secretary of commerce and labor the last place. Cabinet positions rank in the order of the creation of the departments.

With the president and in full uniform are the young army officer and navy officer aides. It is Major Archibald Butt of the army who is Mr. Taft's chief personal military attendant. It is Major Butt's duty to repeat the name of each guest as he or she is presented to the president, and a hard duty it is, for the major must catch every whispered name as the visitor gives it to him and catch it correctly, for if he makes a mistake he is likely to give offense to some person who thinks that his name ought to be known even without the asking. Major Butt's position carries with it cares to make a man's hair grow white over night.

At eleven o'clock in the morning the official procession begins. For an hour it has been forming outside the White House, for the lines of the visitors are long, being made up as they are of senior and junior officials of some hundreds of departments, divisions, bureaus and subbureaus of the government.

The president receives the diplomatic corps in a sense separately. The foreigners rank by themselves and anything like a chance to give offense is avoided by treating diplomacy as an entity separate from American officialdom. The diplomats are all garbed in the dress of their rank and some of them are fearfully and wonderfully garbed, wearing in some cases high boots, the soft leather of which falls over from the tops in more or less graceful folds, tight trousers sometimes white, sometimes blue and on occasion red, and cloaks trimmed with costly fure. With some of the foreigners the sword is an inseparable companion when full dress is worn.

The cabinet comes first, headed by Secretary of State Philander C. Knox. The members of the supreme court and the members of both houses of congress follow with army and navy officers in their handsome dress uniforms treading fast on their heels. Some one might ask why the army and navy do not take precedence of the civilian officials at New Year's receptions and other formal functions. To get the answer to the question it is only necessary to remember that in a republic the military power is always supposed to be subordinate to the civil power. The army ranks the navy because it was of earlier creation. The highest ranking officers of the army today are the lieutenant generals of the service, all of whom are now on the retired list, but their rank holds, nevertheless, because, although retired, they are still in the military service.

Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles, who unquestionably is the best-known living American soldier, resides in Washington. He still takes a most active interest in government affairs. About eighteen months ago the general was thrown from his horse while riding along the Potomac drive. Miles is a splendid horseman and it is said that his mishap was the first of the kind which had happened to him in all the years of his service. It was feared that he would die from his injuries, but his splendid natural constitution, reinforced by the strength which comes from an abstemious life and from campaigning in the free air of the fields, helped him on to rapid recovery. He shows no sign today of the accident.

The first officer in the holiday line of the soldiers still on the active list of the army is Major General Leonard Wood, now the chief of staff of the United States army. Only fourteen years ago Wood was a surgeon of the service, ranking as a captain. He became colonel of Rough Riders through the influence of Theodore Roosevelt, and later McKinley made him a brigadier general of the line, from which position he rose to be a major general. By the deaths or the retirements of ranking major generals, Wood is now at the head of the army.

There are three hundred army officers stationed in Washington. Every one of them, unless on sick report, is compelled to be in line at the New Year's reception. A few days before the holiday an order is issued by the general commanding that all officers of the District of Columbia subject to duty shall pay their respects to the president of the United States on the morning of the year's first day. If an officer fails to put in an appearance he is likely to be called to account for disobedience, a serious offense. The army in its commissioned ranks is represented in Washington by details to general staff, to quartermaster, to commissary, to ordnance, to engineer and to artillery work. Moreover, there are many officer students in the city who are taking "strategy" courses at the war colleges.

The highest ranking officer of the active list of either armed service in Washington today is Admiral George Dewey. He holds his active rank for life. He is long past the general retiring age which is fixed for the navy at sixty-two years, but an act creating him full admiral carried with it the delegated right to remain on the active list as long as he should choose. Dewey is still in active service, although he no longer goes to sea. There is no army officer of equal rank with Dewey. An admiral ranks with a general and there has been no full general of the service since the days of the last great trio—Grant, Sherman and Sheridan.

The official visitors to the White House on New Year's Day form in separate lines, the members of each department of government taking positions by themselves. The lines radiate from the front door of the executive mansion in a dozen different directions. The multitude of officials and sub-officials is so great that it would seem it would take hours for the president to greet each of Uncle Sam's servants separately and to call him by name, but the arrangements are perfect for expediting the line of march past what might be called the reviewing stand.

In two hours at the most the last official has been greeted and then the "laymen" are admitted to the presidential presence. Year after year thousands of Washington residents and visitors from afar take advantage of the holiday to shake the president's hand and to exchange a word of greeting. Men, women and children are in the line. Some of the men in frock coats and silk hats, some of the women in fetching morning apparel, but for the most part it is the workaday portion of the populace which flies into the great east room to say the Happy New Year word. Colored people are numerous for in Washington they form at least one-third of the population, and many of them seek the White House on the holiday. It is a picturesque crowd and one well worth watching for the charm of the human interest which it holds.

As soon as the White House reception is over the women of the cabinet retire to their own homes, where in turn they hold receptions to which everybody is welcome. The wives of nearly all the public officials also keep open house on the afternoon of New Year's Day. The White House reception is the only one given by the president during the year which is in every sense a public reception. No one is barred from admittance. The holiday reception is followed by four semi-public receptions given in the evening, and to these admission is only by card.

So it is that only once in the year is it possible for every American to call at the White House and be certain of a personal greeting from the president.

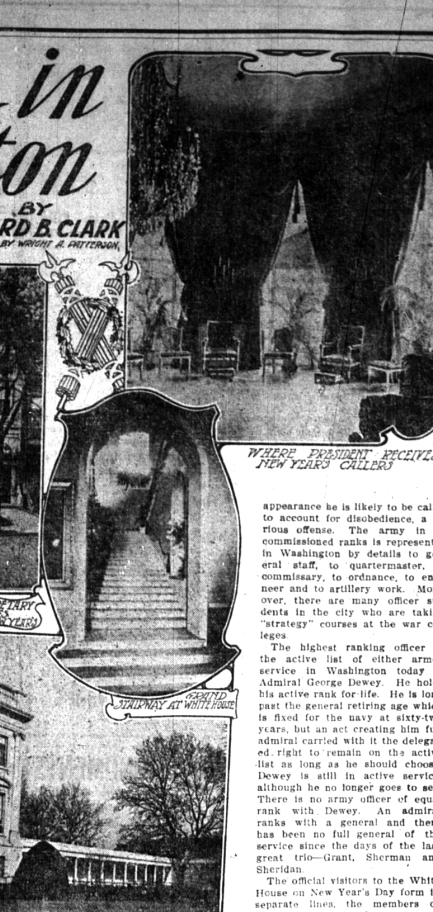
WHERE PRESIDENT RECEIVES NEW YEARS CALLERS

WHERE SECRETARY OF STATE RECEIVES

MOUNTED STALLWAY AT WHITE HOUSE

WHERE NOTABLES ENTED WHITE HOUSE ON NEW YEARS

ARMY OFFICERS IN LINE



1912

We greet you with a hearty hail,
A welcome of the best;
We bring fond hopes of friendly deeds
And that you'll do the rest.
We usher in your coming reign
With fealty and cheer,
And heart to heart, give royal start
To you, our glad New Year.

What are you bringing unto us,
This welcome to return?
What's hidden in your secret hands,
Fate fortunate or stern?
What are the words of destiny
You'll speak for us to hear?
Oh, bring you good or bring you ill,
As on you go, New Year?

You will not speak—the secret's safe.
Your lips are firmly sealed,
And not on threshold of your reign,
Are they to be revealed.
Yet will you not, to human will
A pliant friend appear,
And let us shape some part of you,
Oh, promising New Year?

FITTED FOR GOOD SOCIETY

The Distinguishing Mark of a Gentleman, Which It is Impossible to Counterfeit.

"It takes three generations to make a gentleman," says Sir Robert Peel; but, alas! it takes only one generation to undo the work. Just as the proper development of the physique through several generations produces a higher type of organization, so the cultivation of the moral and spiritual nature elevates the human soul, and gives us a higher type of moral and spiritual life in the individual.

Here aptly recur the words of Caius Marius, again giving emphasis to the truth that it is not what our ancestors made themselves, but what we make ourselves, that our standing, our merits, our influence depends upon. "The glory of ancestors casts a light, indeed, upon their posterity; but it only serves to show what the descendants are. It alike exhibits to public view their degeneracy and their worth." As true today as then.

An English author very sensibly defines the duties of the individual, or rather his proper objects in life if he wishes to fit himself for good society, to make himself better in every respect than he is; to render himself agreeable to every one with whom he has to do, and to improve, if necessary, the society in which he is placed. If he can do this, he will not want good society long. It is in the power of every man to create it for himself. An agreeable and polished person attracts like light, and every kind of society which is worth entering will soon and easily open its doors to him and be glad to have him in its circle.

As surely as water finds its level, so surely will they who are fitted for the best society find their way to a permanent place in it; while those who are not fitted for it, who find the observance of its forms irksome, may be tolerated in circles where they are well known; but they carry no pass port that will admit them into the best society of other circles.

EXCELLENT STRUCTURE FOR ALL KINDS OF LIVE STOCK

By Proper Construction of His Barn and Other Outbuildings Farmer Is Enabled to Save Services of One Man—Arrangement as Designed by Missouri Man Is Illustrated.

Good barns cost money, but when the farmer once knows that by the proper construction of his barn, and other outbuildings, he can often save the work of a man, it will readily become clear to him that the investment will pay big interest in the long run.

The barn shown herewith was designed by a Missouri man.

The building will accommodate 14 cows, 12 horses, has box-stalls for both the cows and horses, and also a large calf-pen.

Exterior View.

Manure and hay-carriers can easily be installed, and these are great laborsavers.

The arrangement of the feed room and silo is excellent. The four-foot chute extends the entire length of the silo, it has small windows for light, a tight door below, separating the same from the feed room, and keeping out dust and odors.

The silage is dropped down this chute, and from there shoveled to the mixing boxes—one for the cows, and one for the horses. There are two bins in the feed room, and two more may be located on the floor above, and connected by a small spout for drawing off the grain. These spouts may be located directly over the mixing boxes.

All hay is supposed to be fed from above, one hay chute being provided for each two stalls.

The milk room is so located that the milk may be taken to it at once, and it contains plenty of clean water, running water, if possible. Here, of course, should be located the separator.

The work shop is one of the necessities of the farm, as with a few tools, many bills for repairs can be saved here.

The harness room is located in the center of the horse barn, and the two box stalls provide room for both male and female animals, as well as sick ones.

The hay-bay is open to the roof, but this can be arranged differently. The partition separating the cows from the center section is boarded or plastered up tight, except the calf pen, to keep out any odors, dust or dirt.

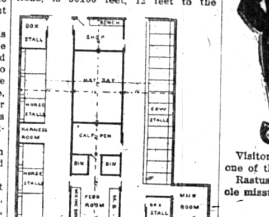
The box stalls in both the cow and horse barn are so constructed that the inmates can have a good view of the other animals. They like company and will do better if they can see their neighbors.

The floors of the cow stable, the milk room, feed room and silo, are of cement, the gutter being formed in the floor, with a four-inch drain at the rear, leading to the manure pit.

The stalls are made to fit both long and short cows. The first stall, in front, is four feet wide and five feet long. The rear stall is three feet six inches wide, and four feet eight inches long. The stalls slope from the front to the rear, each stall being slightly shorter than the one next to it.

The floor of the horse stable may be made of cement or clay; but the writer prefers clay for horses, and we quite agree with him, for horses confined on cement floors are apt to injure the joints of their legs by continual stamping; besides, we do not believe that any animal should be allowed to lie on a cement floor that is not covered with boards.

The barn, as shown in the illustrations, is 50x60 feet, 12 feet to the eaves, 38 feet to the peak. The silo is 38 feet high.



Floor Plan of Barn.

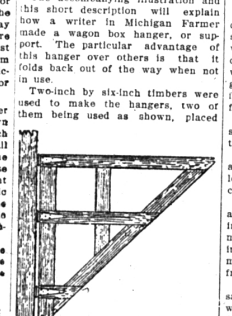
The construction of the foundation may vary, according to the material, and can be more easily and cheaply secured, but the man who builds any barn, on a poor foundation, is making a bad investment. The foundation should be made to stand for all time.

GOOD SUPPORT FOR WAGON BOX

Particular Advantage of One Illustrated Is That it Folds Back Out of Way When Not in Use.

The accompanying illustration and this short description will explain how a writer in Michigan Farmer made a wagon box hanger, or support. The particular advantage of this hanger over others is that it folds back out of the way when not in use.

Two-inch by six-inch timbers were used to make the hangers, two of them being used as shown, placed eight feet apart, they were fastened to the side wall of the wagon shed, with three large hinges for each hanger.



A Wagon Box Hanger.

When not in use they may be held in position by means of two large hooks, and when not in use, they fold back against the wall and occupy only about three inches of wall space. The manner of making same is plainly illustrated.

Qualities of Leghorns.

Leghorns are good foragers and great layers.

Protecting Roses in Winter.

After a mild summer and fall, a severe winter is very hard on both utility and ornamental vegetation, as the growth is very green and unripe.

Amongst the first to suffer would be varieties of roses, and their protection should be attended to before the slightest frost occurs.

Take a wood rammer and ram the soil as hard as a road all around each plant; then place a forkful or two of stable or cow manure round the stem.

Let this come up a little way under the branches, but not far, as it is the neck or collar that wants wrapping, and if this is protected, there is little danger of the plants being injured.

Old-Fashioned Method.

The old-fashioned method of feeding corn in the bundle before any husking had been done is rapidly going out of practice. It is too expensive for present day conditions.

Building Poultry House.

Build that new poultry house on a high and dry spot, sheltered on the north if possible.

KILLING INSECTS DURING WINTER

Nothing Is Quite So Effective as Digging Out Heart of Ant Mound and Flooding With Water.

(BY G. H. GLITZKE.)

The common red ants do a great bit of damage to the alfalfa fields in some sections of the country. The spots where they kill the alfalfa are usually only about a square yard or two where they build their mounds, but a great many of these in the field count for quite a large patch where no alfalfa grows.

Some people try to destroy them by sinking bottles into their mounds so that the ants fall into them.

This system is not always effective as it is hard to trap them all and as long as a few remain the trouble will continue.

There is nothing quite as effective as the winter killing which consists in digging out the heart of the mounds in the winter and then pouring water into the excavation thus made so it soaks into the ground and freezes those that may still be living.

This method usually proves very satisfactory. Out of a large field where they were killed in this way during the last winter only a very few of the many ant hills had any ants remaining in them by spring and it is quite evident that if the work had been done more carefully every one of them would have been killed.

The work should be done very thoroughly. It does not take much digging at each mound, but it should be done in the winter time so there is no chance for them to rebuild and the weather is so cold that they must freeze.

Where other methods have failed this has done the work.

Mistake in Alfalfa.

Farmers who say they cannot raise alfalfa have not gone about it in the right way. Some mistake somewhere. Try it again.

The Goats for Milk.

The ordinary old-fashioned goat cannot be recommended as a milk producer, though crosses with one of the Mediterranean breeds the descendants may become so. The Nubian goat is perhaps the most prolific milker, but as a pure bred animal we do not think it would stand our climate unless handled with great care.

There are a number of breeders in the states who have fine flocks of goats, kept for milking purposes, but it must be understood that these require attention which is not, as a rule, lavished on the common goat whose feed is what it can get.

Farm Implements.

The implements of the farms of this country represent a valuation of $1,262,022,000, according to the last census, an increase of more than 68 per cent in 10 years.

Winter Quarters for Cow.

Comfortable winter quarters for the cows will increase the profits and decrease the expense of running the dairy this winter.

NO HARD PROBLEM TO SOLVE

Selboy's Suggestion Would Seem to Be Natural Way to Get Around Situation.

The Englishman who has been wearing a top hat and a frock coat impressed all who saw him with his distinguished appearance as he strolled about with an expansive air in one of the more expensive hotels. On Wednesday morning he came up to a clerk.

"I would like to have a shirt laundered," he said. "I must have it back by five o'clock."

The clerk told him that the time was unusually short, but he would do what he could, and the shirt was delivered on time.

He came down Thursday morning and said he wanted another shirt laundered, but that this one must be back by two o'clock in the afternoon. The clerk said that would be too short a time. The Briton grew angry and demanded to see the proprietor. He got as far as the bellboy captain, to whom he protested that he would not stand for such treatment. The bell boy suggested the purchase of a third shirt.—New York Sun.

NOT THE OLD MASTER'S.

Visitor (admiring painting)—Is that one of the old masters?

Rastus—No, sah; dat belongs to de ole missus.

Unwritten Law.

According to the Standard Dictionary, "The unwritten law is a rule or custom established by general usage, etc." The unwritten law, as the term recently has come into use, is the assumed or supposed right of a person to punish even with death the author of a gross wrong committed against a member of his family. Courts do not countenance it, but justices frequently act upon it, and several instances have occurred within recent years in which persons accused of homicide have been acquitted.

The Chicago Fire could have been prevented with one pail of water, but the water was not handy. Keep a bottle of Hamlins Wizard Oil handy and prevent the fiery pains of inflammation.

Irrigation projects are receiving the serious attention of the government of Brazil.

Dr. Pierce's Pellets, small, sugar-coated, easy to take as candy, regulate and invigorate stomach, liver and bowels. Do not gripe.

Don't waste time trying to kill two birds with one stone. Stones are more plentiful than birds.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c a bottle.

Most women like the villain better than the hero.

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Purely vegetable. Act gently on the liver, eliminate bile, and soothe the delicate membrane of the bowel. Cure Constipation, Biliousness, Sick Headache and Indigestion, as millions know.

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