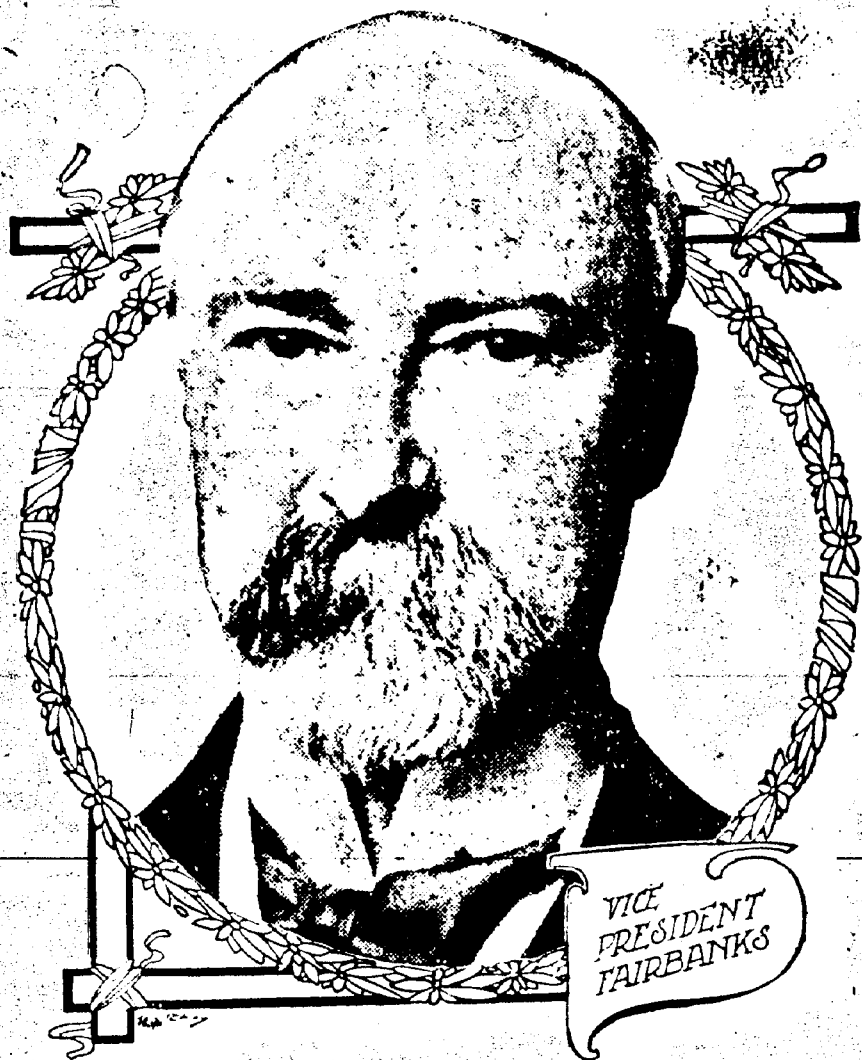


"THE SYCAMORE OF WABASH"



VICE PRESIDENT FAIRBANKS

On account of his height—he is well over six feet—Charles Warren Fairbanks, vice president of the United States, is sometimes referred to by the above title. He is an acknowledged candidate for the presidential nomination at the coming Republican convention at Chicago. Before being elected vice president Fairbanks was one of the senators from Indiana, having been elected in 1897 and reelected in 1903. He is 58 years old.

QUEEN OF THE HENS

"PEG" MOST PERFECT FOWL SO FAR FOUND.

Cared For by Her Own Valet and Takes Life Easy—Owned by Kansas City Millionaire Who Raises Poultry.

St. Louis.—The queen of the hens—of those in America, at least—is a crystal white Orpington, "Peg," belonging to Ernest Kellerstrass, a millionaire of Kansas, who makes the raising of prize poultry a fad. It is said that no other hen in the world has won so many blue ribbons as have been awarded to Peg. According to the National Poultry Association of America she is the most perfect fowl so far found. At several shows she has scored 97%.

The services of a valet, and sometimes two, are given over exclusively to the care of this hen. "She" lives in a big steam heated barn and is given a bath every day. She has her own private pen in which to run and look for worms. Other chickens are not permitted to associate with her.

Peg has not a broken or missing feather. She is also perfect in contour of her body, and her legs and feet are featherless, which count perfection in this class of birds. Peg's valet receives a big salary to attend to her wants. He watches over her to see that no other chickens break into her pen and engage Peg in a fight, thereby damaging her fine plumage. He also inspects her food carefully, buying the meat himself that enters into her daily diet.

Peg is possessor of a dainty manure set, and a cut glass perfume sprayer, both the gift of admiring women who have visited her at poultry shows.

Since 1903 Peg has been going the rounds of poultry shows, every year taking on new honors. She won first prize for perfect points at London, Honolulu, New York, Jamestown, Chicago and Kansas City. Peg is the proud owner of 18 blue ribbons. As her fame spread she became a greater attraction among poultry fanciers.

ILLINOIS CARP SOLD AS FOOD.

Fishermen Market 20,000,000 Pounds of the Article Some Years.

Bloomington, Ill.—Fishermen of Illinois annually realize \$250,000 to \$500,000 from the sale of carp, more often the latter sum, according to the annual report of the Illinois fish commission, just issued. The annual catch of this species of fish runs to 20,000,000 pounds in some years. The long and formidable indictments against carp as being unfit for human food are quashed by the state fish commission.

The board takes upon itself the duty of replying to the charges, declaring to be false the reports that the carp injure the feeding grounds of wild fowl; that they injure other fish, and that they are not food fish. The board admits that there are species of fish that are of superior quality and of finer eating, but to the many people who cannot obtain bass, salmon, trout, shad, mackerel, etc., the carp are a boon.

The consumption of carp in the eastern sea towns, tons of Illinois carp going east every month, is surprising in large. It has been declared that "planked white" fish that appear so often on New York men's cards is nothing but carp, so delicately cooked by expert chefs as to make the deception impossible to detect.

Illinois is the great carp state of the union, and great as is the commercial value of the fish, this is insignificant compared with its importance as food for other fish. Young and adult bass feed upon carp and like it.

DIFFER AS TO "LOVE TAP."

City Official Angry Over Property Owner's Whack with Umbrella.

Wilmington, Del.—Is a whack over the head with an umbrella a "love tap"? Such is the question on which Registrar John S. Grohe of the water department and Henry F. Dure, one of the largest property owners of the city, disagree. Both men are more than 60 years old.

Mr. Grohe says that Mr. Dure entered the water department's office and, after asking "where everybody was," hit him over the head with an umbrella. Mr. Dure wanted to know why the department had permitted the pipes in his house to burst.

Mr. Grohe says he protested to Mr. Dure against the umbrella salutation, but Mr. Dure replied that he "was not yet through with him." Mr. Grohe says that the tap was so severe that he had to consult a physician. He wants Mr. Dure to apologize.

"Why, I never thought anything about the matter," said Mr. Dure. "I did not hit hard enough to kill a fly. I have the greatest regard for Mr. Grohe, and am surprised that he should have taken offense."

SAUERKRAUT BIRTHDAYS.

Reading Mother Has Series of Novel Anniversary Dinners.

Reading, Pa.—Mrs. Frank Ellsworth Wenrich of 119 Grape street, who is the mother of 20 children, celebrates the birthday anniversary of each with a sauerkraut dinner.

WU VERSUS TAKAHIRA

WASHINGTON TO SEE GAME OF ORIENTAL DIPLOMACY.

Two Most Astute Statesmen of Far East Will Watch Moves in Game in Which Manchuria is Stake.

Washington.—Two of the smartest diplomats in the world are about to face each other over an empire of the world. Wu Ting-fang, all that is suave, quaint and alertly efficient in the dextrous subtleties of Oriental diplomacy, will be here shortly to represent China.

Takahira, trained in diplomacy, representative of the truculent and tremulously egotistic people of the new world power—Japan—is already here to match moves with Wu.

And the stake is Manchuria, rich, populous, wonderful Manchuria, an empire in itself. Japan is entrenched in Manchuria and holds the door closed to international traffic. China, centuries old, is rising from its sleep and looks toward the United States to sustain its integrity.

The fight is to have the United States keep the door open in China and maintain the ancient rights of the empire. Against this the astute and alert Takahira will battle.

It has been asserted that soon the administration will address a circular note to the powers asking for the maintenance of the open door in China. All summer Wu and Takahira and the administration will match moves in this wonderful game.

It is asserted that Japan, prostrated by her own financial trouble, will take the rear of the stake, and China, which has found her position uncomfortable under the tutelage of Japan, will come to the front with an entirely independent policy.

Such a course has been impressed upon China as the result of the aggressive policy of Japan in Korea and Manchuria. It is probable, therefore, that the most absorbing diplomatic struggle in Washington the coming year will be that between Minister Wu and Takahira.

At the outset Minister Wu will possess the advantage. The United States, in her policy, has shown a marked interest in China. This was inaugurated by Secretary Hay in the promulgation of the "open door," and has been continued by Secretary Root by the remission of \$17,000,000 of the Chinese indemnity and the establishment of the extra territorial court at Shanghai.

An extremely favorable settlement also has been created by the contribution of more than one-half-million dollars to the Chinese famine fund by American citizens. Moreover, Secretary Root has indicated that he will not allow any violation of the "open door" policy on the part of Japan to go on without protest.

China's possibilities as a fertile field for the development of commerce are likely to prove too alluring to European governments, particularly Germany and Great Britain, to permit them to object to this policy. Japan, on the other hand, so far as popular sentiment may be taken to influence diplomatic positions, finds herself in a precarious situation. The recent fight on the budget has shown the impoverished condition of the country. Her attitude in Manchuria has shown her policy to recoup her losses at the risk of her prestige with foreign governments.

HAPPY HOOLIGAN OUTDONE.

Gas Inspector Tries to Restore Woman's "Plate."

New York.—Edward Militta learned to be polite during his years of service as an inspector. The other day he waited on a street corner for a car. By his side were two women. Just as Militta swung on board the car one woman finished a funny story. "Yah, hah, hah," laughed the second woman. She coughed in the midst of her laugh. A shining set of false teeth were ejected from her open mouth and landed in a snowbank.

Here's where the gallant Mr. Militta gets in. He sprang from the car as the motorist started it with the "New York jerk." Mr. Militta's iron-shod heel landed on the false teeth, and they were smashed to bits. Also Mr. Militta landed on his left ear, and managed to fracture a pair of ribs. The woman who owned the teeth gathered up what was left of them. Then, sunken-cheeked and flabby-lipped, she approached the groaning Militta, who was waiting for the ambulance.

When away from his shack he invariably carried a chip market basket, which, it has been learned since his death, contained cash and papers worth over \$100,000. At one time he owned a great deal of real estate, but six years ago his son committed suicide, after which the old man converted most of his property into cash.

As far as known he left no will, and the fortune will go to his only daughter, Mrs. Janice McClurgage of Rosa Hill, Kan. It is said that the old man and his daughter had been estranged for many years.

Law Suit 478 Years Old. Berlin.—A lawsuit began 478 years ago, in 1430, has just been amicably settled. The suit began when some mill owners raised the height of a dam in Freimar, a suburb of Gotha, without authorization. The municipality has fought the case ever since. The cost has been enormous.

WILLING TO BE CANNON TARGET.

Two Men Would Remain on Monitor During Naval Test.

Washington.—There are two men in the United States who are willing to risk their lives in the interest of military science and they have written to the navy department offering their services. They are R. A. Tascoe of Glen Ridge, N. J., and Daniel H. Mills, of Bellevue, Ky.

Several days ago an article appeared in a newspaper announcing the alleged fact that the navy department wanted more volunteers to remain in the turret of the monitor Florida when that ship is fired at some time within the next few months to demonstrate the explosive power of a new shell and the resisting strength of the turret armor.

Tascoe and Mills hastened to offer their services and wrote letters to the navy department, which were received the other day, saying that they were willing to undergo the test.

The navy department has written letters to these volunteers informing them that no human beings will be placed in the turrets of the Florida during the test, but praising their courage and telling them that the department would like to have them enlist in the navy.

STONES IN PUMP; CITY DARK.

Theaters and Mills Stop for Odd Cause in Chester.

Chester, Pa.—The Beacon Electric Light company's plant became incapacitated, the boiler becoming clogged with several hundred pounds of stones, which the suction pump drew with such force from the river that the screen through which the water passes was broken, allowing the obstructions to pass through.

Suddenly the engine refused to work, and the electric current was shut off all over the city.

As a result of the accident a number of industrial plants, which depend upon the Beacon company's plant for light and power, were compelled to shut down. The Chester Times was unable to issue its edition until late in the afternoon.

The matinee performances at the Chester opera house and the Family theater were in progress when the lights suddenly went out, and the managements found it necessary to open the window blinds, admitting the daylight, and dismiss the audiences, as sufficient illumination could not be obtained to proceed.

ELEPHANTS DRUG ON MARKET.

Very Low Prices Are Quoted to Kansas City Zoo.

Kansas City, Mo.—Some idea of the market value of wild animals may be got from the offers which are being made constantly to the Kansas City Zoological society, which is organizing to establish a zoo in Swope park.

One entire menagerie has been offered for the block sum of \$10,000. In the schedule a male elephant is quoted at \$2,500 and a female at \$2,000. Two male camels are down for \$600 a pair, and a pair of lions are listed at \$700. A family of three lions, two of them males, is marked at \$1,350, and two other females at \$750 for both of them. The explanation is made that a lion is top price at four to five years.

For \$200 the society can get a leopard, and for the same money a hyena. A black bear is priced at \$190, and wolves at \$25 each. A half-bred buffalo is offered at \$150, and an elk at \$100. An offer has been made to the society by an Australian dealer, but his collection is mostly of birds that would be difficult to keep alive in this climate.

MOLLYCODDLE IS SENT HOME.

"Mamma's Boy" Too "Stuck Up" for Associates at School.

Upper Alton, Ill.—Accused of being a "mollycoddle" and a "mamma's boy," and of being too "stuck up" to associate with his fellow pupils at the Western Military academy, John Flentge, aged 19 years, son of E. W. Flentge, postmaster of Cape Girardeau, was escorted to a train by a committee of his classmates and sent home.

His ticket from Alton to Cape Girardeau was bought by the other cadets, a collection being taken up for that purpose, and he was told to get on the train "and never come back."

Capt. Eaton, a member of the faculty, said that, although young Flentge had not transgressed any of the rules of the school, he was so manifestly unpopular with his fellow cadets that he would not be permitted to return to the academy.

Kept Fortune in Basket.

Chattanooga, Tenn.—Possessing a fortune of at least \$150,000, John McMillan, aged 85, died in a hotel in the outskirts of Chattanooga. He had for years lived in apparent poverty, being seen on the streets at infrequent intervals.

When away from his shack he invariably carried a chip market basket, which, it has been learned since his death, contained cash and papers worth over \$100,000. At one time he owned a great deal of real estate, but six years ago his son committed suicide, after which the old man converted most of his property into cash.

As far as known he left no will, and the fortune will go to his only daughter, Mrs. Janice McClurgage of Rosa Hill, Kan. It is said that the old man and his daughter had been estranged for many years.

CONQUER HIGH PEAK

TWO AMERICANS SCALE MOUNT ORIZABA, MEXICO.

Accomplish Feat Attempted Unsuccessfully Numerous Times by German, French and English Tourists.

El Paso, Tex.—Two daring Americans, J. Frederick Shepard and Charles C. Nichols, Jr., both of New York city, have made the ascent of the rugged mountain at Orizaba, Mexico, and discovered the old flag pole and a few torn remnants of the flag which Gen. Scott's men had planted 60 years ago.

The first ascension of Mount Orizaba of which there is any record was made by a party of Americans in 1847. These intrepid climbers belonged to the army of Gen. Scott, which was making its way from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico. They planted upon the summit of the large mountain a large American flag, and upon the staff which upheld the colors of the republic to the north was carved the date the ascension was made.

Mount Orizaba is 15,224 feet above sea level. It is next to the highest mountain upon the continent, being surpassed only by Mount McKinley. Its summit has been gained by but few people. The Indians who make their home near its base have a superstitious reverence for the snow which perpetually covers the peaks of the mountain. On account of this fear that something terrible should befall them if they should come into contact with the snow it is impossible for climbers to obtain the services of guides farther than the snowline. The remainder of the journey is full of dangers and requires the use of ropes and the exercise of the greatest care in getting over the more difficult places. In the absence of guides few men are daring enough to undertake the trip.

The success which Messrs. Shepard and Nichols recently scored in reaching the summit was all the more remarkable from the fact that it was a competitive adventure in which the United States, England, Germany and France were represented. Those who set out to perform the feat were Messrs. Shepard and Nichols, four German naval officers whose training ship was in port at Vera Cruz for a brief stay; two French tourists and two English scientists.

The start of this journey was made from the City of Mexico. They were all well equipped to make the hard journey but when they had reached a point near the perpetual snow line they encountered a terrible storm of sleet and snow. The snow was so blinding that the different members of the party became separated. The two Americans managed to remain together, and when they emerged from the cloud or mass of snow which filled the air, they found that none of the other members of the party was in sight.

How long they lay in the cloud in which they had been enveloped, the sun shone brilliantly above and the scene was an inspiring one, they say. The cloud billowed and tossed like a tempestuous sea, but above its disturbed surface all was bright and serene. The Americans continued to climb upward until they had reached the pinnacle of the mountain. The guides had deserted them far below and they had to exercise their own judgment as to the path to be trodden through the deep snow. The sides of the cone for the last few hundred feet are remarkably symmetrical.

The daring adventurers carried with them two large flags, one the colors of the United States and the other that of Mexico. They planted these flags upon the summit, and after spending a short time taking in the grand view, which had by this time been left exposed by the clearing of the clouds, they started on their downward journey. The descent was quickly made, it taking them only 30 minutes to cover the distance that they had spent ten hours and thirty minutes to climb.

The other members of the party made a brave effort to reach the summit of the mountain. The Germans gained a point within 200 feet of the top, when they were all forced to give up further effort on account of complete exhaustion. It was with difficulty that they made their way down the sides of the mountain to the rest camp, so overcome were they with the altitude and the exertion. The two English scientists reached a point 12,000 feet above the sea level, and the French tourists were able to go only a little beyond the snow line.

Fell So Hard Can't Sleep.

Spokane, Wash.—F. W. Middaugh, a newspaper reporter, filed a claim for \$150 damages against the city with the city clerk. He says that on January 16 he fell on a sidewalk at Sprague avenue and Post street, which is alleged to be defective, sustaining injuries which are permanent, and which prevent him from sleeping.

Although the complainant says he has been damaged to the extent of \$800, he is willing to settle with the city for \$150.

Town with \$30,000 License.

Atlanta, Ga.—Waycross, Ga., with a population of 9,000, has no poorhouse, nine out of ten of the white population own their homes and 93 per cent. of the children attend school.

Incidentally it may be stated that the saloon license has annually for the last 15 years been fixed at \$30,000—and no one has offered to pay the amount for the privilege of opening a saloon.

FEW MINUTES HE HAD SPENT.

Statistician's Passion for Figures Got Him Into Trouble.

He is one of those persons with a mad passion for figuring out "How much," "How long," etc., and was waiting for his wife, who was waiting for her hat before the mirror. They were going to the theater, and had ten minutes to catch their train. Presently a spark came into his eye, and he fished a pencil and paper from his pocket. That kind of man always has a pencil and paper, even in his evening clothes.

"Do you know," he said presently, looking up at his wife, who had finished adjusting her hat "that I figure, basing my figures on observation, that a girl from 16 to ten spends an average of seven minutes a day before her mirror, from 10 to 15, a quarter of an hour, from 16 to 20, 22 minutes. A woman of 70 will have spent 5,862 hours, or eight solid months counting day and night. Now, a woman of your age has spent—"

"Never mind what I've spent," she said coldly, removing her hat. "You have spent 15 minutes figuring it out, and we have missed that train."—Sun day Magazine.

SLIM PASSENGER A SKEPTIC.

Story of Wonderful Surgical Operation Received with Doubt.

It happened on a Pullman car between New York and Chicago. Dinner having been finished, the gentlemen assembled in the smoking room to enjoy their cigars. "During the time I was in the war," said the quiet man, "I saw a wonderful thing in the line of surgical operations. A friend of mine was shot through the right breast, the bullet passing clear through him. The presence of mind of his companion undoubtedly saved his life. He wrapped his handkerchief around the ramrod of his gun, and, pushing it through the path made by the bullet, cleared the wound of all poisonous lead. I know it is hard to believe, but gentlemen, the man still lives to tell the tale." "Which man?" inquired the slim passenger on the other seat, quietly. "The wounded one, of course," exclaimed the old soldier, scornfully. "Oh, I beg your pardon; I thought it might be the other."

Saving on Drink.

That men will drink less while they have something to look at or to listen to is proved by the sobriety which attends public amusements in England. Non-consumption of alcoholic refreshments is allowed in the auditorium, and it is rare that the patrons leave their seats for a drink at the bars—indeed, many of these resorts are conducted on strictly temperance lines. At the theaters, too, the consumption of alcoholic refreshments during the intermissions has lately been reduced to a minimum. Midway in the pantomimes, the descent of the curtain is contemporaneous with the appearance of trim waitresses and the tea tray. Even in the theater bars the lords of creation prefer "the cup that cheers" to whisky and soda.

Playing at Divorce.

A curious case is being played upon the divorce question in America. A mother came into the room and found her two children quarreling about a doll. She said: "You must stop quarreling, or I shall take the doll away." "We aren't really quarreling, mamma," said one of the little girls, "we're playing Jennie's suing me for divorce, and we're trying to decide who'll have the custody of the child." When it is remembered that 1,300,000 divorces have been recorded in the United States in a period of 20 years, perhaps it is not surprising that children should play at divorce as they play at going to school.—Dundee Advertiser.

Too Much Clothing.

The chief quarrel which hygiene has with clothing is that there is too much of it. Garments come down too far, are too tight, too heavy, too hot, writes Dr. Woods Hutchinson. We do much more harm to our health by overloading ourselves with clothing and by overdressing ourselves in the luxury of warmth—cramping the movements of the body, interfering with the respiration, depriving the skin of its most inalienable right, the right to fresh air, absorbing the perspiration and making a refrigerating cold pack for the body after exercise—than is done by wearing tight stays or tight boots.

How Red Herrings Came.

The first red herring was accidentally produced in England many years ago by a fisherman, who, having a surplus of fresh herring, hung them up in a smoky shed to dry and then forgot all about them. When he looked at them some time after he found that they had changed in color. The king, to whom the fishes were presented, was so interested that he gave permission to the fisherman to exhibit them around the country as strange monsters.

Development.

"Wiggs, Wiggs," said the census taker, turning the leaves of his notebook hurriedly. "Quincy A. Wiggs—blacksmith census before last—bicycle repairer last census—that's the man, ain't it?" "Yes, that's pa," said young Miss Wiggs. "Well, how shall I put him down this time? Same as before?" "Oh, no," said Miss Wiggs haughtily. "Pa is an automobile mechanic now."