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## THE COLUMBIAN. ESTABLISHED 1866. THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1909

### Cannon's Throne.

Country's Laws Are Really Determined in His Sanctum.

The House of Representatives—where is it? Not in that big hall where the high-priced guide leads you; no, it is in a comfortable red-upholstered room just back thereof. This is the House of Representatives! It is the throne room of Uncle Joe.

It used to be the room of the Ways and Means Committee, but a while back the House recognizing it was unbecoming to have the most absolute monarch on earth conduct his business in a cubby-hole, assigned this room to Uncle Joe. The greatest absolute ruler on earth? Why, yes; in Russia the Tsar is hedged about by bureaus; in Persia the Shah holds his throne by main strength; the President of the United States has to take counsel with Cabinet, Senate and House, and the boss of Tammany Hall with his district leaders; but the "Yes" of the Speaker of the House of Representatives passes a bill and makes a law, and the "No" kills it.

And all of this is done, not in the House, but in the red room. In the House, true, a lamentable farce-comedy is enacted after the Speaker has decreed the fate of a measure. A man who has seen him in the red room two hours before arises and says, "Mr. Speaker." The Speaker bangs his gavel and says, in a surprised fashion, "For what purpose does the gentleman rise?"

"I rise, Mr. Speaker," the man on the floor volubly assures him, "to ask for the present consideration of the following bill."

Sometimes the man who has made the arrangement with the Speaker is not there. He has gone out to see a constituent, or get a drink, or buy a cigar, or eat lunch. The Speaker, unaware of that fact, but consulting the little pad in his hand giving the list of bills that have been passed in the red room, says, "The gentleman from New York."

A short pause. An alert clerk whispers to the Speaker that the gentleman from New York is not in the House. The Speaker flushes, bangs his gavel, and says, "The gentleman from New York asks the present consideration of the following bill."

The Democratic leader—Williams, or now Champ Clark—sees a chance to have a little fun. He arises and demands to know of the gentleman from New York—absent all the time—what is the purport of this bill. He does this, knowing that the gentleman from New York is elsewhere on that lunch-bent errand. But meanwhile the Speaker's scouts have been scurrying restaurant-ward for the forgetful member, and he comes dashing into the hall, wiping the last remnants of pie from his mustache, and explains. If he is not there in time the Speaker delays the proceedings till he arrives.

**CASTORIA.**  
The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Beware of cheap imitations.  
Signature of *Wm. D. Mitchell*

## WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 22, 1909.

The President elect and Mrs. Taft have arrived in Washington and are staying at the home of Miss Mabel Boardman, whose connection with the Red Cross Society of which Mr. Taft is President makes her name known throughout the country. The President elect is a welcome visitor at the White House and has spent a large part of his time there since his arrival. He has presented his report on conditions in Panama to the President who appears to be highly gratified by it and he has had several conferences with Senator Knox who will be his Minister of State. The question of Mr. Knox's eligibility for that position has been settled by Congress both Houses concurring in the passage of the bill repealing the salary of the Secretary of State and reducing it to the sum paid before the salary increase was made. Mr. Taft has not doubted the willingness of Congress to make this concession but he has feared that Mr. Knox might feel called upon to withdraw to avoid unpleasant criticism. After the conference Tuesday though it was stated positively that Mr. Knox would accept the portfolio and it is not believed that the Administration will be embarrassed by any question to be raised in the courts later as to the Senator's eligibility.

Mr. Taft accompanied to the White House the Engineers when they presented their report on the Panama Canal. The canal report contains twenty typewritten pages and indorses in every particular the lock type plan of construction and approves the progress and management of the work there. It was sent to Congress by President Roosevelt Wednesday with a special message concerning the Canal in which the President says that a change now to the sea level plan would be inexcusable folly.

These are busy days at the White House. The President's family after a seven years residence there are collecting their Laredo and Penates preparatory to their removal to the home at Oyster Bay and the confusion that prevails in the upper and private rooms of the house can only be imagined by those who find it cheaper to move than to pay rent. All of the furnishings of the Executive Mansion belong to the establishment and to separate these from the personal belongings, the gifts and acquisitions of a seven years residence makes the task more difficult and complicated. Preparations are under way also for the reception of the incoming President and as the social season is at its height and there are receptions and dinners and dances to be given or attended every day and every night there is probably not a busier or more distracted family in the country than that of the Roosevelts. As there is also much to be done in getting ready for the long trip which the President and Mrs. Roosevelt will take immediately after the inauguration every moment is filled with work. The President and his wife will sail for Naples on the thirteenth of March and the precision with which their plans are made is evidenced by the fact that they will not return to the White House after the inaugural ceremonies at the Capital but will leave immediately on a special train for Oyster Bay. It has long been the custom for the President elect to ride to the Capitol on Inauguration day and to return along the route of the parade with the new President occupying the right hand seat with the retiring executive at his left, the reverse of the relative positions in which they made the trip to the Capitol. Two innovations will be introduced this year inasmuch as Mr. Taft will return to the White House alone and instead of using a carriage will use new automobiles provided for the occasion.

Mr. Taft is busy writing his inaugural address but a not less important matter in the Taft family is the selection of the gown that Mrs. Taft will wear at the Inaugural ceremonies. It is to be made in New York and Mrs. Taft will go there this week for the absorbing

work of having it fitted and to plan also her costume for the Inaugural ball. Mrs. Taft is not unlike Mrs. Roosevelt in her lack of that subtle instinct called style and both are rather condemned by the smart set for their want of chic and fashion. Mrs. Roosevelt has apparently never failed to select the most unbecoming clothes obtainable and while she patronizes skillful dress-makers and tailors and buys always the most elegant stuffs she seldom achieves consummate sartorial effects. Mrs. Taft whose allowance for dress has always been limited and who is consequently accused of believing that economy is the root of all virtue leans to the selection of cloths that will wear well and bear being made over and she wears them with indifference as to their effect. Both however never are on the side of the flashy or obtrusive and if they fail to make the most of their charms they are always simply and appropriately gowned.

### Our Coal Supply.

It was feared at one time that the rate of coal consumption would soon outgrow the rate of production, and there was talk of curtailing the use of coal in many industries. But the inventor proceeded to coal mining machinery which lessened the labor of extracting the raw product from the earth and increased the output tenfold. England to day bases her hope of extending the period of her profitable coal-mining upon the invention of machinery that will compensate for the added cost of deeper mining. In America coal-mining machinery has doubled and tripled the output. A coal-digger cuts and extracts the coal from its bed as fast as three or four skilled miners could formerly do; it falls automatically upon cars, which swing upward like elevators to the light of day, and deposit their contents into chutes. Down the sooty mass tumbles to the breakers, where it is pounded and broken into sizes suitable for commerce. Thence it slides on to the washery, and comes out at the other end to be dumped on cars. The cars quickly cross the country to some river or bay where canal-boats are waiting. The transference from the cars to the boats, and from the boats to the wholesale and retail dealers' coal-yards, is performed automatically. Even when the coal comes into our homes it is shot down chutes into the cellar, and not carried there in buckets and baskets as of old.

And yet for all this simplifying of labor, this invention of machines to reduce the dust and ashes, nobody likes coal, and we all pray for the time to come when its use may be abolished. It is not a popular article of commerce; it is a clumsy and dirty fuel, and in this age of invention and discovery it seems woefully out of date. It is not new machinery to increase the output that we are longing for, but the discovery of some new method of obtaining heat and power. George Ethelbert Walsh in March Lippincott's.

### The Secret of Happiness.

The moment we set about the task of making every human being we come in contact with better for knowing us—more cheerful, more courageous, and with greater faith in the kindness of God and man—that moment we begin to attain the purpose of life—personal happiness.

Would you possess the magic secret of the alchemist which transforms all things to gold? It is unselfishness—or to use a better word, selfishness. He who goes forth bent upon being always kind, always helpful, in the little, daily events of life, will find all skies tinted with gold, all his nights set with stars, and unexpected flowers of pleasure springing up in his pathway. And all his tears shall turn to smiles.—Boston Globe.

### To Paint Highest Building.

James Rowe, of Hazleton, who is a famous steeple jack, has gone to New York to paint the flag staff on the top of the tower of the Singer building, the highest structure in the city, its height being 475 feet. Rowe is an expert in such work.

## The February Sale of FURNITURE AND LINENS

Began at Pursel's  
Monday, February 1st.

In this Sale we have "buzz-sawed" Furniture prices and "torn" a good bit off Linen prices! But then you EXPECTED THAT, and we only mention it to emphasize the importance of this Sale to every person having a home to furnish. Your main interest will center 'round THE VALUES. You already know that Pursel Furniture, like Pursel Linens, is of "first" quality—that goes without saying.

### Linens of all Kinds at Big Reductions.

BLEACHED TABLE LINENS.	MERCERIZED TABLE DAMASK.
56 in. bleached table linen reduced to 22c, was 28c	58 inch mercerized table damask reduced to 39c was 50c.
56 in. bleached table linen reduced to 49c, was 59c	58 inch mercerized table damask reduced to 49c was 59c.
72 in. bleached table linen reduced to 60c, was 75c	70 inch mercerized table damask reduced to 59c was 75c.
72 in. bleached table linen reduced to 72c, was 85c	
72 in. bleached table linen reduced to 85c, was \$1	
72 in. bleached table linen reduced to 90c, was \$1.15	
72 in. bleached double damask reduced to \$1.15, was \$1.39.	
72 in. bleached double damask reduced to \$1.25, was \$1.75.	
72 in. bleached double damask reduced to \$2.00, was \$2.50.	
72 in. bleached double damask reduced to \$2.19, was \$2.75.	
	<b>TOWELINGS.</b>
	These prices are merest hints of the prices, but should suffice to convince you that now is the time for buying all the towelings you will need for months to come. Best Cotton Toweling 4 1/2 yd. Brown linen crash reduced to 8 1/2c, was 10c
	Stevens' 22 inch crash reduced to 12 1/2c, was 15c
	Stevens' 20 inch crash reduced to 11c, was 14c
	Bleached Russian crash reduced to 11c, was 12 1/2c
	Unbleached Russian crash reduced to 10c, was 12 1/2c
	Red border bleached crash reduced to 10c, was 12c
	<b>READY MADE TOWEL BARGAINS.</b>
	Plain all linen Hucka back Towels, 18 x 40 inches, (very heavy) reduced to 22c, regular value 12 1/2c

**F. P. PURSEL.**  
BLOOMSBURG, - PENN'A.

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## Tickling in the Throat

"Just a little tickling in the throat!" Is that what troubles you? But it hangs on! Can't get rid of it! Home remedies don't take hold. You need something stronger—a regular medicine, a doctor's medicine. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral contains healing, quieting, and soothing properties of the highest order. Ask your doctor about this. No alcohol in this cough medicine. J.C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

Constipation positively prevents good health. Then why allow it to continue? An active liver is a great preventive of disease. Ayer's Pills are liver pills. What does your doctor say?