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H. H. MULLIN, Editor.

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The Conservation of Children.

In a few days there will meet at the White House, in response to the president's invitation, about a hundred persons who are interested in the care of dependent children. It will be perhaps the most important of all the conferences relating to the conservation of national resources. The chief product of a country is its people. The children of to-day are the human timber of the future. The young trees with which this conference is chiefly concerned are those which have no natural protection, and which are deprived of normal soil in which to grow and flourish. Among the expert foresters who love and understand this young growth are Judge Lindsey of the Denver juvenile court, Jacob Riis, who has fought the bad tenements where human seedlings are stunted and distorted, Booker Washington, who is laboring to bring up young ebony and mahogany to more stalwart growth, and many other heads of nurseries and child gardens. In old times every man brought up his children in his own way, and the fatherless child was the object of unsystematic charity. In the nineteenth century, half-scientific, half-humanitarian, society learned to regard itself as the universal parent of the next generation, with common responsibility for every individual child. What children are we, the present parent generation, failing to conserve and develop? asks the Youth's Companion. First there are the hundred and fifty thousand orphans in institutions and homes, whose welfare is the avowed subject of the conference at the White House. Then there are the 200,000 children, more or less, condemned to toil in mine and factory. There are thousands not in school. There are countless other thousands not getting the full benefit of school because they are underfed and poorly clothed. The future of the nation depends on all these as truly as upon the child in the comfortable home. As those who asked the president to call this conference say, the problem of the child is indeed "worthy of national consideration."

The fish commission of the United States planted 2,871,000,000 fish in the harbors, lakes, rivers and streams of the country last year. That is a big lot of fish and seems to justify the commissioner's assertion that it will not be long before everybody can go fishing with the chance of catching something. He says in time, and not so long a time at that, he expects the waters of this country to be as populous as they were in the early days. To this end, says the Indianapolis Star, however, he must have the help of state authorities to enforce the fish laws and prevent the wholesale destruction of fish by dynamiters and seiners. State Commissioner Sweeney is right in upholding the need of active official work in this line.

Booker T. Washington makes this strong statement concerning the effect of the temperance movement in the south: "Since the emancipation proclamation by Abraham Lincoln there has been no benefit conferred upon the negroes of the south equal to that conferred by the closing up of the barrooms throughout these southern states." He urges his colored brethren of the south to help in every way in the upholding and enforcement of these laws and to refuse to patronize "blind tigers." Washington well knows where one of the chief dangers to his people lies.

A Solomon come to judgment in London has ruled that a baby has a right to cry and that in exercising this natural prerogative it cannot legally be held as a crying nuisance. A striking piece of evidence in the defense was the forced admission for the lawyer prosecuting the noisy infant that he had once been a crying baby himself.

Tolls to get the American battleships through the Suez canal are stated to have been \$180,000. That looks high; but when the Japanese fleet starts to capture all our Atlantic coast cities we will not let it through the Panama canal for a cent less.

AMERICA'S ROYAL FAMILY

By CHARLES W. ELLWOOD



MISS HELEN TAFT IN THE GARDEN



PRESIDENT ELECT TAFT AND HIS FAMILY

WHEN the name of William Howard Taft was first seriously considered as a White House possibility speculation became rife as to what manner of woman was his wife, and whether or not she would as gracefully preside at the White House functions as did the one woman whose name will ever be a byword when "The First Lady in the Land" is discussed—Mrs. Grover Cleveland.

While the members of the Taft household are not as numerous as the Roosevelt clan, nor quite as spectacular or picturesque, nevertheless the family is an interesting one, and before the regime of the Tafts will have expired they, too, will have a debutante daughter to present to Washington society. Helen, their daughter, has three more years at Bryn Mawr, and upon graduation will be formally presented to society. Robert, the oldest son, is now at Yale, while Charlie, "The Kid," is at a preparatory school getting what his rotund father characterizes as "his bumps." Charlie is quite a character, as unique and interesting in a way as the little Roosevelts, although so far his escapades have not been given the prominence in the daily newspapers as those of Quentin, Archie and Kermit Roosevelt. But, then, it must be remembered, Charlie heretofore has been but the son of a cabinet officer, and when his father becomes president it is safe to assert that the many busy correspondents at Washington will find ample scope for their imaginations in making "The Kid" the hero of their narratives.

The Taft family is an interesting one from its head to the youngest boy, and with a woman of so many accomplishments to preside over the White House, it is safe to assert that the Taft regime will in nowise suffer by comparison, for Mrs. Taft was born to rule, and rule she will. Many of the little problems that have proved so perplexing to her predecessors will be quickly and happily solved by her, for no one woman, from her youngest girlhood, has been better trained for the exalted position she is about to assume than Mrs. Taft, for years one of Cincinnati's reigning belles.

The White House has had two mistresses since the Cleverlands took their departure for the more secluded and exclusive life of Princeton, leaving behind them memories of a regime where Mrs. Cleveland was concerned as tender and hallowed as those surrounding the peerless Dolly Madison.

Mrs. William McKinley was Mrs. Cleveland's immediate successor, but the delicate state of her health compelled her to keep well in the background, and the more arduous duties confronting the nation's hostess fell to the lot of others, the wives of cabinet ministers or other women of the official family delegated by Mrs. McKinley to represent her at the hundred and one public functions that are annual White House fixtures. Then came Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, and whereas she is known far and near as a charming hostess, yet it is a well-known fact that Mrs. Roosevelt is far happier when surrounded only by members of her immediate family than when presiding at state functions, where officialdom is her guest.

Mrs. Roosevelt has tact—abundance, in fact—and she is a keen observer, too. This was clearly demonstrated by the wholesale sweep she made when she entered the White House as its mistress. Mrs. Roosevelt has as little regard for precedent as her husband, and this is proved by the rattling of dry bones and snapping of red tape that followed the general house cleaning when she became the nation's "first lady." New York may thank Mrs. Roosevelt for its present police commissioner, for Maj. Bingham had ruled the White House with unbroken sway for many years prior to the advent of the Roosevelts. His word was law, even to the choosing of the floral decorations to grace the table at luncheon and dinner when the official family were to entertain.

Mrs. Roosevelt's first act was to select as her social aid-de-camp Miss Belle Hagner, a young woman of rare charm of manner, tact, beauty



PRESIDENT ELECT AND SENATOR LODGE

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and birth, all of which admirably fitted her for the post to which she was appointed. As a result of a clash between Miss Hagner and Maj. Bingham, the latter received his conge and orders issued from the war department deposed him as major-domo of the White House, and he once more resumed his duties afield.

A change quite as radical as that between the McKinley and Roosevelt regimes is looked forward to when Mrs. Taft usurps Mrs. Roosevelt's place. Events of the past few weeks have clearly demonstrated that Mrs. Taft is not only a woman of grace and charm, but one of brains as well. Long identified with official Washington she has had ample opportunity to study conditions there existing, and what woman who has ever been an integral part of official Washington has not indulged in that dream: "If I were the first lady of the land!" This Mrs. Taft will be in every essential. She has made a splendid start by allying herself with that great organization, the National Civic federation, and, taking a commanding lead in that body, she has endeared herself to that class of women who are sometimes slightly referred to as "society-minded." The mother of two sturdy sons and a daughter, the latter now a freshman at Bryn Mawr college, she must appeal strongly to the type, for those who know her best will readily testify that she is the best chum her boys and girl ever had, and this she will continue to be in spite of the manifold calls upon her time in the course of her reign at the White House. In a recent speech made in New York at a Civic federation meeting Mrs. Taft plainly showed that she has brains and uses them without in any sense being aggressive or pedantic. A glance at her was sufficient to win to her side the hundreds of women who attended that meeting with the avowed purpose of dissecting their guest of honor to the minutest detail. Her personality and general appearance won them instantly to her side, even before she took the floor to make her maiden speech in public.

Mrs. Taft talks well and looks well when she is talking. Her smile has the charm of intelligence, that quick flash of recognition, distinct from the stereotyped smile peculiar to women in official life on whom social duties make many demands, even to that of continuously "looking pleasant." She has a generous mouth and handsome teeth, a straight nose,

well proportioned to her other features, a broad forehead, above which her brown hair is arranged in a soft pompadour. Mrs. Taft is a book lover and has been a student all her life simply because in the home in which she was reared the books came down from their shelves

under the wing of Mrs. Taft and chaperoned in Washington, should Mrs. Roosevelt decide to reside at her New York home in the course of her husband's invasion of the African jungles.

The Longworths are quite as firmly entrenched in Cincinnati's most exclusive circles as the Tafts, therefore it is but natural to suppose that the present president's son-in-law and his wife will continue to be conspicuous figures in Washington society.

The army set will have its innings with the



MR. TAFT TEEING OFF

and made the worlds, they contained part of the domestic environment. Music, perhaps, is her favorite art, and while she does not regard herself as sufficiently a practice to perform for a critical audience, she has by no means lost her skill and frequently plays for her children and husband during their evenings at home, and these are far more frequent than one might at first suppose. Mrs. Taft was one of the original founders and patronesses of Cincinnati's famous musical organization, the Symphony orchestra. Other avenues through which her artistic tastes are directed are her love of pictures and her appreciation of wood carving. Charles P. Taft's world-renowned art collection has no more appreciative admirer than his sister-in-law, the wife of the president-elect, and there are many canvases hanging on the walls of this gallery of her selection.

Mrs. Taft has one advantage over her many predecessors, her knowledge of languages, and what accomplishment is more essential to a woman occupying so exalted a position as that to which Mrs. Taft will succeed in a city where as many tongues are spoken as were at the Tower of Babel? Mrs. Taft is, perhaps, one of the best informed women in America, and when asked how it is possible for one with so many demands upon her time to keep up so thoroughly with the events of the world she, unhesitatingly replied: "By reading the daily papers."

This she does assiduously and intelligently, and when the papers that are brought to her boudoir each morning are cast aside Mrs. Taft has absorbed all that is interesting, instructive and healthy contained in their pages. As a man is judged by the company he keeps, so may one's estimate of a woman be formed by the style of woman she selects as her closest friend. Mrs. Taft's friends in Washington are reckoned by the hundreds, but her intimates are few. Of these Miss Cannon, the daughter of the speaker of the house of

representatives, may be mentioned first. Both are devotees of bridge and each takes the game seriously, having mastered all of its many intricacies. Mrs. Taft and Miss Cannon are frequently seen in public together. They drive frequently, this being one of Mrs. Taft's chief diversions, and then, too, they are invariably seen together at the many concerts given in Washington throughout the official season.

Another of Mrs. Taft's intimates is Hallie Erminie Rives Wheeler, wife of the secretary of the American embassy at Tokyo. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler recently spent several months in this country, a part of which time they were the guests of the Tafts. Their friendship goes back to long days of travel in the far east, when they saw for the first time many strange things together, thereby discovering a sympathy in the point of view. Gen. and Mrs. Corbin and Gen. and Mrs. Edwards will be prominent figures in the White House social set during the Taft regime. There, too, will be found the Longworths. The latter will conserve the relations between the past and present White House occupants and this may be strengthened should Ethel, the debutante daughter of the Roosevelts, be taken

under the wing of Mrs. Taft and chaperoned in Washington, should Mrs. Roosevelt decide to reside at her New York home in the course of her husband's invasion of the African jungles.

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advent of the Tafts for aside from the Corbins and Edwardes, previously mentioned, Gen. Bell, as well as Gen. Garlington and Mrs. Garlington, are among the closest of the Tafts' friends. When Mrs. Taft demagogically walked forth from her home in Lafayette square the morning of that bright June day on which her husband was nominated for the office he is about to assume, it was to the war department that she directed her steps, and entering the office of the secretary of war, her little son Charlie at her side, she was there greeted by Mrs. Garlington and her attractive daughter, Sallie, who had been invited to share the good news with the candidate's wife.

Saved Washington's Home.

The idea of purchasing Mount Vernon and preserving it to the nation originated with a southern woman, Anne Pamela Cunningham. When its last owner announced his intention of selling it this patriotic woman at once secured the refusal of it for a stipulated period. She then appealed to congress for the purchase money, but her request was denied. Upon this she immediately circulated an appeal over the signature of "The Southern Matron," urging all the women of America to join her in this patriotic work. Later she secured a charter from the Virginia legislature, organized an association, became its regent, and through vice-regents of the association in the different states began to collect the requisite funds for its purchase. Soon from every part of the United States contributions poured in, and eventually the money required was raised.