a long horseback ride during the af ternoon. While the Chief Executive usually goes to his office Christmas morning to give attention to the more important affairs of state that may be ssing for attention the remainder of the day is given over to a holiday vacation and thus he is enabled to de vote more time than usual to his daily horseback ride. The President's Christmas excursion also differs from his ordinary daily outing in that in stead of being attended, as is usually the case, by the army sergeant, who acts as the President's orderly, he is accompanied by Mrs. Roosevelt or by

a party of personal friends.

The dinner to which the President
and his family and guests sit down
about 7 o'clock in the evening is served in the private dining room which is located in the northeast cor ner of the White House. The state dining room where are served all the great banquets given at the Presidential Manis spacious and imposing but lacking in that coziness and cheer which is essential to a Christmas feast and so the Xmas dinner party, which numbers perhaps fourteen to sixteen persons is served with the traditional yule-tide delicacies in the family or private dining room.

Colored Walters at the White House The scene of the President's Christmas dinner is the smallest room on of exploration to give it a name. the main floor of the White House, although it is fully twice as large as the dining room in the average private residence in the land. The room is arid parts of the land where it has



KNOWN AS THE SAGE HEN AND COCK OF THE PLAINS, A TYP-ICAL AMERICAN BIRD.

Savory Roast.

tive American bird. It is, of course, not as exalted and heroic as the eagle, and is not spread over so wide an all that the desert grouse is typically American. The bird is more familiarly known to travelers, dwellers in the arid and semi-arid regions of the United States, and sportsmen, as the "sage hen," and, as a matter of course, where there are sage hens there are sage cocks. Often the bird is referred to as the prairie chicken, but the reference is inaccurate. It is a game bird of great beauty. It was named "Cock of the Plains" by Lewis and Clark who, though perhaps not the first whites to make the acquaintance of this bird, at least were the first white men to identify it as a distinct ornithological species and to pause long enough in the ardous business

Found Throughout the Arid Region. It is seen in all the arid and semi-

east. It has the dust-green color of sage, smells like sage, tastes like sage, and animals that feed on its leaves and yellow flowers flavor their flesh with sage. Well, wherever this plant grows the desert grouse may be found. The grouse feeds and fattens on sage. Feeds Mostly on Sage—Has a Handsome Coat of Plumes and Makes a

There is nothing he likes better. He
must have it. Let the sage be destroyed and the bird moves on. The
desert grouse is the largest grouse of the western world and it is exceeded The desert grouse is a representa- in size only by the great grouse of Europe-the capercailzie. It is very superior in size and strength to the common prairie hen or the pinnated area as the common chicken, but for grouse, usually weighing twice or thrice as much as that bird. It will measure two or three feet from tip of ly marriage, on grounds such as these, wing to tip. Living in a gray land, nature has provided for the protec-tion of the bird by making it also gray. It is curious now nature looks after its creatures by making their color, as a rule, harmonize with the landscape. In grouse-land there is a great deal of alkali in the soil and over that grows the gray-green shrubbery. The sage grouse seeks its safeconcealment rather than in in

Hanasome Though not Brilliant. Though the general color effect of the grouse is gray yet it has markings of white and black. A large black patch underneath the bird's body is reature of the desert grouse. On his shoulders be wears epauletts of white. The reason for these white shoulders is that in browsing through the sage brush all his days the heavy gray feathers are worn off, exposing the fine white nether feathers.

The grouse, though not a highflyer and not so agile on the wing as his eastern cousin, possesses great leg power. He is active and speedy as a runner, rather quick to take fright and is an expert in losing himself among the brush. It should not be understood that these birds do not rise from cover. They often do. Hunters seek so to frighten the birds that they will rise. It is not difficult shooting then.
The grouse of the desert has that
general grouse trait ,the "whirr".

When he rises it is said that he whirrs louder than the eastern grouse. When thoroughly roused to his task he is a pretty strong flyer and can go a mile at a stretch, alternately sailing and

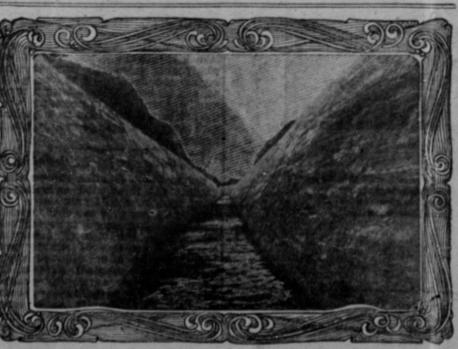
The flesh of the desert grouse is good when not too sagey. The young birds, when feeding on grass-hoppers, are unsurpassed for tenderness and flavor. The older birds, as with all the other feathered tribes, are not so tender as the young. When feeding exclusively on sage their flesh is strongly impregnated with the flavor of shrub, somewhat unpleasantly so. One is reminded of the taste of partridge meat when that bird has been feeding on resinous buds in the autumn.

He Trusted Rockefeller.

Dr. Gustav C. E. Weber, of Clevevery a young man who required a surgical operation, but explained that he was only getting fifty dollars a month and the would have to pay by install.

One most important factor in defendexterminated, and is very

gions of the United States is to say only a short time ago he sent for how extensively it is distributed, for Weber, asking for medical advice, there everybody who knows anything about the country, knows how vast is that empire laid down on the early maps as "desert". The word desert as applied to the unwatered reaches of the medical student could do it and that west is misleading. On those deserts there is plenty of vegetation and feller opened a drawer, counted out animal life. Though in many places \$500, and handing the roll to Weber animal life. Though in many particles water is scarce, life may be easily sustained in these American deserts. Irrigation shows how fertile these lands clined the money, saying he wished no fee for a friendly visit. "Take it," said All over dry lands grows that wild Rockefeller, "and give to some poor shrub, called by botanists artemisia, but which everybody else calls sage his education." Weber remarked in telling the story that he couldn't think of any struggling medical student just then and—, but what was the ailfamily as does the garden sage of the tion?



THE FIRST COMPLETED GOVERNMENT IRRIGATION CANAL.

The extent of the government irri-gation problem is indicated by a rec-which place the additional area which ent schedule issued by the Reclama- can be irrigated at from 75,000,000 to tion Service of the Interior Depart-ment, showing that the work of re-law is to store the flood waters of the House patronage is not confined to any one merchant. In preparation for the Christmas dinner it is presumably not necessary to purchase any coffee, sugar, sait or other staples, for all such supplies for the Presidential mansion are purchased in quantity and kept in a storeroom adjoining the kitchen, which looks like a full-fledged grocery store. All in all, the White House Christmas festival comes pretty near being a counterpart of the old-time, old-fashioned institution of our forefathers.

It is well on toward 8.30 o'clock 'ere the last piece of mince pie has disappeared, and then the entire party, from the President to Quentin, the youngest occupant of the White House, makes a bee line for the big East Room, where a rousing frolic winds up the holiday.

House patronage is not confined to any one merchant. In preparation for the Christman the two the Christman the content of the work of reclaiming the work of reclaiming the desert is well under way. At this time the government plan in wait to store the flood waters of the claiming the desert is well under way. At this ime the government plan in waitous stages of progress requiring the expenditure of \$32,870,000, which is the expense being \$17.50 per acre. Other government the cost of the construction of each project, so that the actual expense to the government will all be paid. The final each of the United States, and out of w.lch might be to more than one-third of the United States, and out of w.lch might be to more than one-third of the United States, and out of w.lch might be to more than one-third of the United States, and out of w.lch might be to work in the inverse requiring the kitchen, which is always back to the government the cost of the construction of

CATHOLIC DIVORCES.

VATICAN ANNULS MARRIAGES IN CERTAIN CASES.—ATTOR-NEYS OF ST. PETER.

It is stated on authority that the Vatican will always annul a marriage if it can be proved to its entire satisfaction that one or the other of the parties to the alliance was not a free agent in the matter. One of the most notable cases of annulment of a princewas the dissolution some years ago of the marriage bonds of the reigning Prince of Monaco and his first wife, Lady Mary Hamilton, At the same time the Vatican pronounced the marriage null and void it also pronounced that her son was, in every sense of the word, legitimate. Princess Mary, whose mother was a princess of the reigning honse of Baden and whose father was the English Duke of Hamilton, was forced by her kinsman and guardian,



POPE PIUS X.

the late Emperor Napoleon, to give her hand in marriage to Albert of Monaco. The latter showed himself a singularly neglectful and unkind husband, and her life at Monte Carlo became so intolerable that she took to flight, carrying her infant child with her. She sought refuge at Florence, where the Italian police, acting on behalf of the Prince, made a sensational attempt to take the boy away from her. The plot was frus-trated by the Grand Duchess Marie of Russia, who took mother and infant under her protection and defied the Italian authorities to cross the threshold of her residence. Princess Mary, after that, married Count Tassilo Festetics of Tolna, one of the magnates of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, who occupied an excellent position at the Court of Vienna. Prince Albert of Monaco married again, the next Prinland, Ohio, recently consul at Nurem-burg is one of the ploneer doctors of a daughter of a New Orleans banker, a daughter of a New Orleans banker,

> "The Attorneys of St. Peter." It is safe to say that nine out of ten people in this country have never heard of this order of legal counsellors of the Vatican, which, in this country, is represented by some of the brightest legal minds. It is composed of eminent Roman Catholic lawyers in different parts of the world, with branches in the various great capitals. The order was founded by Pius IX., and the first of the statutes of the order indicates its object, restricting, as it does, the membership to those members of the legal profession who have given adequate proofs of their unselfish devotion to the interests of the Church, espetal pompous man swelled up and remarked, to the interests of the Church, especially in legal matters. The only insignia of the order is a medallion showing a violet cross on a white enameled you," responded the Prince. "I am ground. I believe I am correct in say-ing that Cardinal Rampolla has charge

Our Ambassador at the Court of St. James, Mr. Whitelaw Reid, has at last appointed his chief lackey. He is the Hon. William Walsh. The post bestowed upon the Hon. Walsh is that of controller of Mr. Reid's household, an office quite unknown in this democratic country of ours, but which exists in many aristocratic families in England and in all royal establishments, from the King's down. In reality, the comptroller is a species of upper servant, ranking several degrees higher * than a chief butler, whose business it is to see that all domestic matters run smoothly. Mr. nowadays, when they pay for it out of their own pockets, Mr. Reld is really to be congratulated on his success in obtaining the services of the son of a belted earl as his chief lackey. The Hon. Walsh is the third son of Lord Ormathwaite. Third of peers are usually no t well off. The Hon. Walsh is to be com-

mended for doing something to each an honest penny. If his pay is much, his duties are not particularly onerous, and if ambitious he will have plenty of spare time in which to look around for a better job. Meanwhile he is comfortably domiciled at Dor-Ambassador Whitelaw Reid appoints chester House, the marble palace in son of English Earl as Chief Lackey - The Tipping Question. Other For- has taken as his London residence. Park Lane, which Ambassador Reid The Hon. Walsh is engaged to be married to Lady Norah-Spencer-Churchill, the youngest sister of the Duke of Marlborough. Though she can hardly be called youthful, she is several years younger than her flance. As far as pedigree counts for anything, however, the Hon. Walsh is no bad match for her, for he can boast ducal blood, too.

If the Duke of Devonshire's rule

against any of his servants accepting 'tips" could be successfully introduced in this country all would be well. There are a few of the old nobility of England who set a laudable example of prohibiting their servants accepting gratuities from visitors or guests. The Duke of Devonshire, for instance, makes it an inflexible rule that no servant of his shall take a tip. When, however, a party of Americans recent-ly visited Chatsworth, the Duke's Derbyshire seat, and were entertained to luncheon and shown over the beautiful grounds by the Duke's steward, the leaders of the party thought the usual "shell out" must be the climax of the day's enjoyment. The party consisted of four men and three women, and among them \$35 was subscribed. With endable discretion the money was not offered to the steward, who, of course, is above accepting recognition of the kind, but to an underfootman, who saw the party to and from the railway station. But the footman pointed out that it was against the rules of the Duke's establishment to accept gratuities "in money." That seemed to suggest a way of getting around the rule. The next day various articles of jewelry reached the stew-ard from London with the request that they be distributed among the staff at his discretion. The leaders of the party were Edmund H. Abbott, of New York, and Alexander Cattanach, of Salem, Mass., and both had introductions from Sir Thomas Lipton. The Duke and Duchess were not in residence at Chatsworth at the time of the visit, but the latter sent one of her maids specially up from London to look after the ladies. The beauties of Matlock Buxton and Bakewell were fully explored before they returned to town,

Humor of King Edward. Returned tourists who have been in

Van Calava.

touch with the nobility in Europe bring back a few good stories of King Edward. One tale runs like this: The King was driving alone in a dog cart near one of his country palaces one day and caught up with an old fish woman, who was trudging to the village to sell her wares. She did not recognize the king and asked him for a lift. He responded graciously and helped her into the cart. As they drove along she begged him to buy monial venture, however, turned out her fish pleading poverty and a big as unfortunate as the first, a divorce family at home. The king said he had Mrs. Roosevelt in out-of-the-way local sage brush grows. To say that this ties in Virginia and Maryland. The bird has its home in the droughty redinner is served by colored waiters gions of the United States is to say and the table is laid with Mrs. Roose-The king said he had machine, is the order or society of portrait would not buy shoes for the "The Attorneys of St. Peter." It is children," said the old woman. "Oh

Cost of Discovering America.

The great extent and value of Queen Isabel's jewel bag, the proceeds of which fitted out Columbus, is more or less of a myth. But in these days, when millionaire yachtsmen spend a hundred thousand dollars for a little racing yacht and think nothing of it, the expense of Columbus's whole fleet seems entirely insignificant. The sum of \$3,000 covered the whole outlay necessary to secure and equip the three ves-sels, while the Great Admiral's salary was \$300 per annum. The two other commanders were paid \$200 each, and Reid is the first American ambassa-dor to employ such a functionary, but no other American ambassador to the Court of St. James has lived in so much style as Mr Reid maintains. As that is what Americans seem to ex-pect of their representatives abroad "shore leave," so that their wages were

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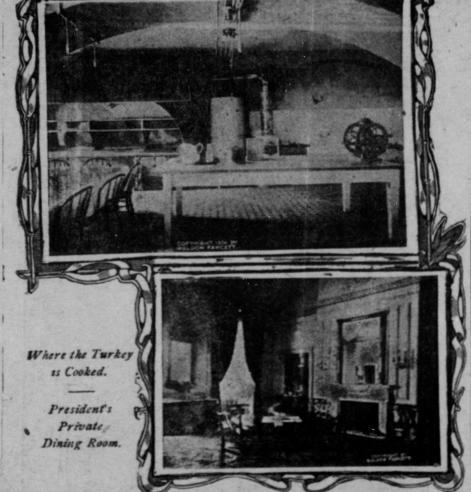
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velt's new china—delicate ware taste-fully ornamented with a Colonial pattern in gold, each piece bearing a tiny representation of the seal of the

United States in colors. The dinner is prepared in the re-atted White House kitchens, which are located in the basement directly below the private dining room. There are two kitchens, one about 25 by 40 feet in size and, opening from it, a smaller kitchen of about one-half the size. Ordinarily the equipment of the smaller or family kitchen is sufficient for the preparation of the dinner for a select shrub, called by botanists artemisia, party at the Executive Mansion, but but which everybody else calls sage preparation of the dinner for a select at Christmas the great hooded range in the larger tiled kitchen is brought into use for the roasting of the thirtypound Christmas turkey, sent by Hor-ace Vose, the Rhode Island farmer who or thirty-five years past has sent each year a magnificent specimen of the king of fowls for the President's

Gobblers from Far and Wide.

Christmas dinner.

Indeed, the President's Christmas dinner does not cost him very much, for Uncle Sam pays the wages of many of the White House employees who have a hand in preparing it and almost all of the "goodies" which grace the festive board are donated by admiring friends of the President, Not only does Horace Vose send a prize-winning turkey, but gobblers that rival it in size come from poultry raisers in other sections of the country, and there are ionations of cranberries from Cape Cod, a parcel of the famous "Rooseve potatoes" sent by the farm hands on the President's estate at Oyster Bay and other delicacies sent by "neighbors" far and near.

Such marketing as is necessary to fill out the menu for the President's Christmas dinner is done by Henry Pinckney, a colored man who holds the position of White House Steward and draws a salary of \$1,800 a year from the government for managing the domestic affairs at the White House. A day or two before Christmas Steward Pinckney sets out in the unpretentious vehicle which serves as the President's private market wagon and makes the round of the markets—for the White House patronage is not confined to any

Feeds Mostly on Sage.