

Part 2. The Centre Democrat.

MAGAZINE SECTION.

Farm Notes,
Choice Fiction,
Current Topics.

MISS HELEN CANNON.

One of the First Ladies of Official Society at National Capital.

She Often Graciously Presides at War Councils of the Nation's Chiefs.—Democratic in Manner and a Famous Housekeeper.

The distinction of being the best-posted woman in America on politics and statecraft, is generally accorded to Miss Helen Cannon, daughter of the Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives. Speaker Cannon who is genial and democratic in manner, is a man of many close friendships, but no one is so close to him as his only unmarried daughter who has presided over his household since the death of his wife, many years ago.

Miss Cannon emphatically disapproves the theory that a woman cannot keep a secret. As the confidante of the official, who, next to the President, is the most powerful man in the United States, she probably learns more of what is going on "behind the scenes"

When Congress is not in session, Miss Cannon is mistress of her father's home at Danville, Illinois. There, as in Washington, she is always prepared for company, for the Speaker's married daughter with her children, spends much time at the Cannon home, and relatives and friends always feel free to "drop in" at almost any time.

Official Feminine Calls.

In the social life of the national capital, Miss Cannon occupies, by virtue of her father's position, a unique position. Possibly not all our readers are aware of the many unwritten laws that govern the exchange of calls between women whose husbands or fathers occupy prominent positions at Washington. For instance, official etiquette prescribes that the wife of a newly elected Senator or Representative must make the first call upon the wives of all those Congressmen who are her husband's seniors in service. Miss Cannon, however, in accordance with these same unwritten laws, is not compelled to make a "first call" upon any ladies in Washington, save the wife of the President and the wife of the Vice President. All this fuss as to who shall call first may appear ridiculous to persons who are not brought in contact with life at our seat of government, and possibly Miss Cannon who is thoroughly democratic may re-

ICEBERG IN DELAWARE.

Huge Mountain of Ice Towed From Grand Banks of Newfoundland.

The Strenuous Work of a Tug's Crew—One of the Strangest and Perhaps the Most Valuable Prize Ever Taken by a Ship.

In order that the city of Philadelphia might be rescued from an ice famine a powerful ocean-going tug has accomplished the almost impossible feat of capturing a huge iceberg, and towing it into port. Never in the world's history has this wonderful achievement been duplicated, and contrasted with it the fascinating exploits recounted by the marine historian Sinbad, the sailor, appear commonplace and trivial. With its mountain of ice in tow, the tug passed up the Delaware River creating consternation among the floating world on the stream, as observers could not imagine other than that the floating mountain was being driven up the bay by some freak of wind and current, to the great danger of shipping; its approach was responsible for some frenzied telegraphing, which threw the shipping interests into a panic. Orders were issued to hold up the sailing of every vessel due to leave, and messages were dispatched to lower Delaware station to intercept several out-bound steamers and warn them to seek anchorage out of the berg's path.

Maritime Interests Excited.

For several hours maritime interests were intensely excited by the unheeded presence of an iceberg in the bay. Later, when the true story of the wonderful feat was flashed over the wire, it seemed so utterly incredible that the excitement, if anything, was increased. It was not until one of the fastest tugs in the harbor had steamed down the bay and wired verification of the story that the panic was allayed. Only the providential co-operation of the winds and tides, and the most favorable weather conditions enabled the tug to accomplish the feat. In spite of the almost inconceivable risks attendant upon the berg's capture, not a member of the tug's crew was injured.

Two Men Frost-Bitten.

Two men suffered from bad frost-bites, but this was due to their own carelessness in braving the arctic temperature in the berg's vicinity without proper clothing. Their experience was a warning to the rest of the crew, and when the tug with the prize passed the Breakwater every man aboard was muffled as if for a Peary relief expedition.

The length of the iceberg was 500 feet, and it is estimated that it will yield fully 500,000 tons, which is nearly sufficient to make up the shortage in ice crop due to the mild winter. The work of cutting up the mountain of ice will have to be pushed because of the rapidity with which it will melt under the spring sunshine.

The monster berg was captured off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. It was made fast at great risk by the daring men on the tug, who, in small boats tied staunch ropes around the mountain of ice, and then let out a long tow-line from the tug and, with grapple hooks, secured a fastening which held firm after several attempts had resulted in failure. The crew of the tug will share in the money the prize will yield. As icebergs are broken off portions of glaciers, the ice yielded will be of good quality.

School Garden Education.

Every child likes to play in the mud and dirt, to make sand houses and caves, mud pies, and even to plant a garden, breaking off the twigs of trees and pulling weeds, which are carefully planted and watered, furnishing diversion and pleasure for the day. It is an easy matter to direct the youthful mind a little further along this line and interest it in a real miniature garden. It is not an untried theory, but a fact, abundantly proven in all the large and many of our small cities. Philadelphia has what are called "Municipal Gardens." Boston has a dozen "School Gardens;" Chicago, Detroit, Washington, Cleveland, Los Angeles, in fact, almost all cities have successfully worked out either the school garden or the vacant lot cultivation idea, two separate propositions, it is true, but closely allied. The school garden idea opens up an easy and agreeable avenue to what proves the more of a diversion than a task to the young. New York has only one such farm garden, but on its one or two acres, the children plant and raise both flowers and vegetables, while in an extemporized cook-house they prepare the vegetables for the table and enjoy the flavor of the fruits of their labor. Besides this instruction in the culinary art, a bedroom in miniature furnishes an opportunity for the girls to learn how to care for rooms. In Philadelphia the relation of the municipal gardens and the schools is intimate. But to see this idea worked out, perhaps, at its best one must study it as it is in Boston. There, a private organization known as the School Garden Association, for six years or more has been developing little centers where the children delight to plant and cultivate, furnishing object lessons of the utility of such work which it is hoped, may lead to its addition to the school curriculum, and with this idea in mind these school gardens are located quite generally on land adjacent to school-houses, some of the regular school teachers gladly acting the part of instructors. The effect upon the little workers in these plots is in every way happy and should lead to their more general use.

URGES EASY SPELLING.

Supreme Court Justice Joins With Other Well-Known Men—Carnegie Gives Fund to Aid Cause.

Associate Justice David J. Brewer of the United States Supreme Court is deeply interested in the adoption of a scientific regulation of English spelling.

Justice Brewer is a member of the board of which Brander Mathews, of New York, is chairman. About 750 have agreed to adopt for customary use in their own personal correspondence the following twelve simplified spellings, heretofore recommended and used by the National Educational Society, namely, program, catalog, decalog, prolog, demagog, pedagog, tho, altho, thoro, thorefare, thru and thruout.

In May and June, 1905, many distinguished scholars, literary men, and scientists signed the promise, and now the committee has been permanently organized, under the name of the Simplified Spelling Board. Funds adequate for the purpose have been given by Andrew Carnegie, the Justice thinks, to the amount of \$15,000, the income of which is to be devoted to the interests of the organization.

Among the members of the board are E. Benjamin Andrews, chancellor of the University of Nebraska; David J. Brewer, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University; Andrew Carnegie, Samuel I. Clemens (Mark Twain), Thomas Wentworth Higginson, William Dean Howells, Prof. Lowmbury of Yale, Prof. James of Harvard, Benjamin E. Smith, editor of the Century Magazine, W. H. Ward, editor of the Independent, and Andrew D. White.

MADE FORTUNE IN WORMS.

Maine Florist Returns to Sweden After Breeding Bait.

By far the most popular bait for all kinds of fishing in Maine are living earthworms, which have the odor of the ground about them and which seem to be choice tidbits, not only for trout and landlocked salmon, but also for pickerel, perch, black bass and, indeed, every species of food fish that swims in fresh water. As the Maine soil is deficient in humus and lacking in decaying vegetable matter, angle worms are not plentiful.

More than ten years ago Carl Beers, a florist of Bangor, went into the business of rearing earthworms for the purpose of selling them to the local fishermen, as well as for shipment to Boston. He imported a breed of dark purple worms from Belgium, which were prolific breeders, although coarse and strong flavored, and later he secured a box of giant angleworms from India. In the course of a few years he was able to supply live worms by the million to his customers.

Those shipped to Boston were sold in job lots of 75 cents a pound. To the home customers he sold worms of average size for 10 cents a dozen. Though his green house was a small one, and though his trade in flowers was never extensive, he made money rapidly from the sale of worms, until last year, when he retired and went to his old home in Sweden, a wealthy man.

Sidney Cook, of Presque Isle, the inventor of several diving appliances used by men who work in deep waters, was the next man to attract attention as a public benefactor in the bait line. Mr. Cook says his invention was made possible through having watched the Indians of Canada when they sought worms for bait.

"All earthworms come to the surface at night," said he, "and feed on the grasses and rotting leaves near the entrance to their burrows. While the worms were busy eating, the Indians of Canada had a habit of dragging a blanket with its under side smeared with bird lime along the surface of the land, thus picking up the fat worms together with sticks and lumps of earth and small pebbles." "After dredging the land for a time the Indians carried the blanket to the camp, poked off the worms, and added another coating of bird lime. Though I have been praised very much for my invention, it is not mine by rights, as I gained the idea from Indians."

NIAGARA FALLS IN DANGER.

Joint Resolution in Congress For Their Preservation.

Proposal to Unite With Canada in an Effort to Stop Further Depletions Which Will Destroy the Scenic Grandeur.

At last the national law-makers have come to a realizing sense of the danger which threatens Niagara Falls, the most beautiful of all the world's natural wonders. By a joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives the International Commission, created under the River and Harbor Act of 1902, was requested to report to Congress, at an early day, what action was, in their judgment, necessary and desirable to prevent the further depletion of water flowing over Niagara Falls and were further directed to exert, in conjunction with the members of said Commission representing the Dominion of Canada, if practicable, all possible efforts for the preservation of the falls in their natural condition.

Report of Committee.

This Commission promptly reported that if any benefit was to be derived by legislation, immediate action was necessary and outlined a plan which it believed would have the desired effect, providing Canada would unite with this government in curbing the greed of promoters and speculators. The report says, in part: "As a step in that direction we recommend that legislation be enacted which shall contain the following provisions, viz: "The Secretary of War to be authorized to grant permits for the diversion of 28,500 cubic feet of water per second, and no more, from the waters naturally tributary to Niagara Falls."

All other diversions of water which is naturally tributary to Niagara Falls to be prohibited, except such as may be required for locks in navigation of canals. The foregoing prohibition to remain in force two years, and then to become the permanent law of the land, if, in the meantime the Canadian government shall have enacted legislation prohibiting the diversion of water which is naturally tributary to Niagara Falls in excess of 36,000 cubic feet per second."

Dependent on Canada.

It will be noted that unless the British government unites with this country in its effort to save the natural

remedy for the evil which is being done, and one which is not dependent on Canadian co-operation. This remedy could be accomplished by New York State alone, and would be to deepen the river channel south of Goat Island, between that island and the American Falls would divide with the Horseshoe whatever water was not diverted from its natural bed. The Treaty of Ghent places the American boundary at a point well out into the deep part of the river channel and affords ample opportunity to make necessary excavations.



(From sketch in Ladies Home Journal.) HOW THE AMERICAN FALLS MIGHT APPEAR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

If anything is to be accomplished in the matter it is necessary to act at once, for if more corporations obtain control of the water rights it will be impossible for either the nation or New York State to repurchase them without an absolutely enormous expenditure of money.

Lack of Interest.

It is certainly to be regretted that the American people have so long neglected the most beautiful fall of water in the world, and have allowed any part of it to be converted to private gain or corporate greed. Even now, in the face of all that has been said and written on the subject, there seems to be an attitude of half-heartedness on the part of the people to act, which is well illustrated by the fact that Senator L.H. Morrison of the New York State legislature, has asked the Senate to kill his bill restricting the taking of water from Niagara River above the falls for power purposes and says in defense of his action, "I cannot find any sentiment in favor of protecting Niagara Falls, and I'm tired of being attacked on the subject of my bills relating to this subject."

MAMMOTH INCUBATOR.

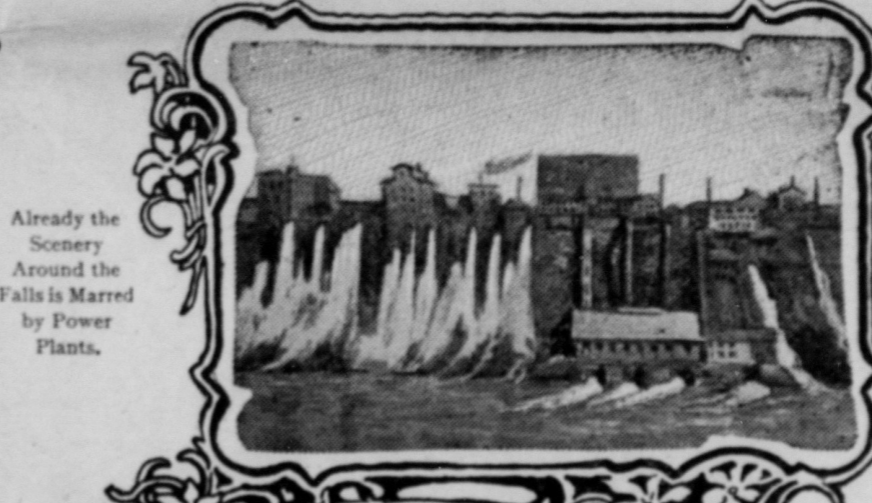
A Hatching Machine That Does the Work of One Thousand Setting Hens.

The largest incubator in the world, with a capacity of 15,000 eggs, has just been completed by W. P. Hall of Pembroke, N. Y. It is 102 feet long, and 4 feet 4 inches wide. Partitions divide it into 100 compartments, each accommodating two trays. The trays have wire bottoms, and hold 75 eggs each. To fill this incubator a single time with common—not thoroughbred—eggs would require an expenditure of \$6,000, for eggs of the requisite freshness would cost forty cents a dozen. As one hen covers fifteen eggs for hatching, the incubator does the work of 1,000 fowls, or has the capacity of one hen sitting constantly for nearly ten years.

The incubator is heated by means of a coil of eight steam pipes passing over the top of the egg chamber on one side and returning on the other. These pipes are connected, at one end of the structure, to a water tank and heater. The water flowing through the pipes is heated to exactly the right temperature, a thermostat attached to the stove opening and closing the drafts to make this possible. The only attention required by the heater is supplying it with coal night and morning. The thermostat is an expansion tank, 10 by 18 inches, which stands over the heater. The tank is filled with oil, in which is a float. As the heat of the furnace warms the water, the water in the jacket surrounding the heater expands, and the float in the oil rises. This movement closes a throttle attached to the floatarm, and shuts the draft of the heater; another lever at the same time opens the cold-air draft of the furnace. In this way the temperature is regulated automatically, with extremely little variation, the eggs being kept at 102 degrees F.

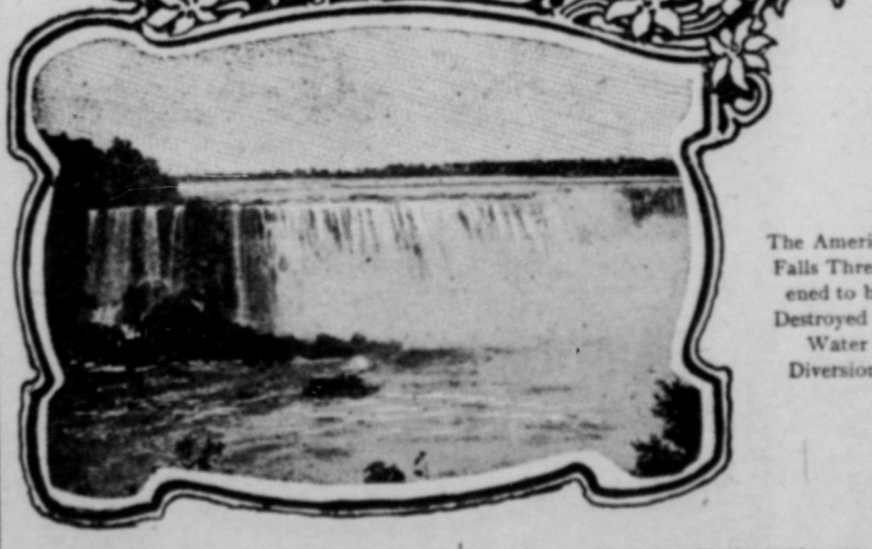
A second novel feature is that the heat of the eggs is regulated by raising or lowering them in the egg chamber, which is nearly a foot high inside, burlap separating it from the pipes. The egg trays rest on double frames hinged by galvanized arms or levers. As the chicks develop, the trays are lowered on these supports, the first drop being made in six days, and others at intervals, until, on the twenty-first day, the trays are resting on the bottoms of the chambers. All fertile eggs are tested out on the seventh day.

Mr. Hall built small incubators at first, but the oil bill for forty of his small incubators, with 8,000 eggs capacity, was \$150 for a season, while a large incubator was run three months at an expense of less than \$5 for coal.



Already the Scenery Around the Falls is Marred by Power Plants.

The American Falls Threatened to be Destroyed by Water Diversion.



The only change I have made is to go out with a light giving forth a violet color and allowing it to shine for a few minutes upon the land to be visited with the smeared blanket. Most lights frighten earthworms and drive them underground, which is the reason why they feed in the dark, but a light that carries a blue or a violet blue shade seems to soothe the creatures and makes them careless of danger.

"Or perhaps the worms are hypnotized by the strange glare and cannot get away. That is the way a dash lamp acts upon deer at night, and I think a deer should know as much as an anglerworm."

IN ROCKEFELLER'S CLASS.

Chief Quana Parker, of the Comanches, has all the great man's horror of the camera. While waiting for a train at Stanton, Okla., a young man began making photographs of him. The Indian grew angry, opened his pocket knife, and threw it at the camera man. As this did not deter the latter, Parker went indoors, took a revolver from his valise, and started on the warpath. The police had to disarm him.