

Famous Folk

Beckham of Kentucky and the Senatorship - Congressman Elect McMillan - Hitchcock, Foes of Grafters. Wilbur D. Nesbit - Mansfield's Latest Hit - Wolf, the Baby Congressman



THE governor of Kentucky, John Creps Wickliff Beckham, whose victory at the Democratic primaries indicates his choice as the next senator from Kentucky, is but thirty-seven years of age, and it is said he will be the youngest occupant of a senator's seat when the Sixtieth congress assembles. He has been governor of Kentucky for nearly seven years. It was the shooting of Governor Goebel, which almost led to civil war in the Blue Grass State, which raised Beckham, then lieutenant governor, to the gubernatorial office at the early age of thirty, and he has been twice elected to succeed himself, something unprecedented in the history of Kentucky.

In retaining his post as governor of Kentucky he has met and defeated the most astute politicians of the state. He has swept ruthlessly from his path Joseph Clay Stiles Blackburn and James B. McCreary, the senators from Kentucky. Blackburn tried to crush him. Instead Beckham sent him back to private life and sent Judge Thomas H. Paynter to the senate to succeed Blackburn.

Then Beckham decided to go to the senate himself. Senator James B. McCreary, who was a member of congress before Beckham was born, was his opponent. When the Democratic primary returns came in it was soon seen that the youthful Beckham had added another victory to his list and McCreary's scalp to his belt.

In addition to the fact that he goes to the United States senate at such an early age, it must be remembered that he has won the Democratic nomination, which is equivalent to election, on the temperance issue and after a fight with the whisky interests, which are said to have spent \$250,000 in the effort to defeat him. That he should do this in Kentucky, of all states, will cause the outside world to wonder.

While the recent political campaign was in progress death removed from the ranks of the contestants for office the congressman who represented the Twenty-first New York district in the lower branch of the national legislature.



John Henry Ketchum. It was necessary to fill his place on the ticket with promptitude in order that the vacant seat might be occupied during the present session, and the nomination was given Samuel McMillan, who after a canvass of scarcely more than twenty-four hours won an SAMUEL McMILLAN election to the house. He is a Republican and has for his constituents the residents of four counties in New York's "southern tier." His predecessor, Mr. Ketchum, was a veteran of both war and politics and was serving his seventeenth term in the house when he died.

Next to collecting paintings (only the old masters have any interest for him) Pat Sheedy likes to make epigrams. He keeps on hand a large stock of epigrams, some of which also are said to be by the old masters, though many are his own. These he utters to it occasions. He is witty and a wide reader. One of his favorite books is "The Simple Life," which he carries around in his hip pocket, where most gamblers are supposed to carry an implement containing six capsule doses of the strenuous life.

Secretary Ethan Allen Hitchcock of the interior department, who is scheduled to retire from the cabinet ere long, is one of the oldest members of President Roosevelt's circle of advisers. He and Secretary Wilson of the agriculture department are the last of the McKinley cabinet. Though in his seventy-second year, Mr. Hitchcock has been a very able and aggressive secretary, and the grafters who supposed that he was growing sleepy as well as old found that they had made a mistake in their reckoning. Mr. McKinley in 1898 promoted him from the Russian ambassadorship to his present post, and Mr. Roosevelt continued him in office in spite of the efforts of certain politicians of shady associations to secure his removal. The land and timber thieves of the west were against him from the first, but it was not known at that time that so much thieving had been done. These plunderers had many influential friends at Washington, and indeed, some of them were themselves in congress. The influence of prominent politicians in several states of the west was therefore brought to bear against Mr. Hitchcock, but fortunately, as the event



proved, Mr. Roosevelt's mind was not poisoned against him. Mr. Hitchcock remained, and in the course of time he got the land thieves on the hip. His investigation and search for evidence bore fruit, and prison doors opened for various eminent citizens. Some who escaped jail were pretty badly frightened, and thus, largely in consequence of Mr. Hitchcock's efforts, another get-rich-quick industry has been mostly broken up.

Wilbur Dick Nesbit, the poet and journalist, whose first novel, "The Gentleman Ragman," has just been published, was born in Xenia, O., in 1871. He began his career as printer and later worked as a reporter. His reputation has been won largely as a contributor of verse to magazines.

While Nesbit was finishing "The Gentleman Ragman" he was spending a few weeks in a country town in Indiana. He had sent nearly all of the revised manuscript to his publishers, but certain details of the completion of the plot had been the subject of discussion between himself and a friend connected with the publishing house.

One day a telegram for Nesbit was received at the village telegraph office. It read:

"What are you going to do about Annie Davis and Pinkney Sanger?"

Annie is the heroine of "The Gentleman Ragman," Pinkney is the villain, if there is one in the book. The local telegraph operator personally delivered the message, and Nesbit wrote this reply:

"Will marry Annie Davis and shoot Pinkney Sanger as soon as I return to Chicago."

The operator stared at Nesbit wondering when he read the message, but Nesbit did not fathom that stare until the morning when he took the train for home, when the village marshal stepped up and said meaningly:

"Mr. Nesbit, I would advise you, as an officer of the law, sir, not to do anything rash when you get to Chicago."

Richard Mansfield's success in Ibsen's "Peer Gynt" is one of the leading topics in dramatic circles. He has scored one of the greatest hits of his remarkably successful career in this production. Originally he planned in his Chicago engagement to play various dramas in his repertory after a week or two of "Peer Gynt," but he was compelled by the demand to devote all six weeks of the engagement to Ibsen's work.

It is notorious that theatrical people, managers, find it hard to get on with Mansfield.

"Come, be my manager," this prince of American actors is said to have exclaimed to a friend who was having supper with him one night at a Chicago hotel. "Manage me and make our fortunes."

"Mr. Mansfield," was the frank reply. "I'll take the job when you bring me an affidavit that we will not quarrel in ten days."

"Then I must manage myself."

"Excuse me, my friend, but the task is beyond you entirely. You have not even the satisfaction of crying with Byron's hero, 'Lord of myself, that heritage of woe.'"

Mark Twain was talking of war and of the hardships and privations of sieges, says Harper's Weekly.

"A Frenchman," he said, "called one day on a woman who had two dogs. They were ugly little brutes, and when they came near him the man pushed them out of the way with his foot.

"I perceive, sir, you are not very fond of dogs."

"The man started in surprise.

"I'm not fond of dogs," he exclaimed. "Why, madam, I ate more than twenty of them during the siege of Paris!"

The governor elect of Nebraska, George L. Sheldon, was the Republican nominee, and he was born in the state in 1870. He graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1892 and from Harvard university in 1893. He has served two terms in the state senate and has been prominent in the Republican party organization of the state for some years.

Frank C. Wachtler of Baltimore, who represents the Third district of Maryland in the present congress, will give place to a young man named Harry B. Wolf when the Sixtieth congress assembles. Wolf was not long since a newsboy. He graduated from selling papers into the legal profession and quickly rose to prominence in it. Then he started out to go to congress and has won a seat in that body from an old campaigner, W. W. Johnson, a man who was postmaster of Baltimore when Wolf was an urchin yelling: "Extra! Buy a paper, mister?" Wolf was elected, too, in a district that had not gone Democratic before in years. All this he has accomplished before reaching the age of twenty-seven, and, it is said, he will be the youngest man who ever sat in the house of representatives at Washington.

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Porto Rico

What Uncle Sam Has Done For the Island - People May Be Citizens Soon - New Schoolhouses and Good Roads - Eight Years Versus Four Centuries

IN all probability the present session of congress will confer American citizenship upon the inhabitants of Porto Rico. It is therefore worth while to glance at this island and see what Uncle Sam has done for it in his eight years of guardianship. Porto Rico became absolutely American territory at the close of the war with Spain. It behooved the United States government to do its level best in bringing chaos out of chaos in that island. Porto Rico was to be a test. Success or failure there meant much. This fact was properly appreciated by the administration at Washington, and that administration put its best foot foremost right at the outset.

Porto Rico in 1898 was a sorry affair. For 400 years Spain had misruled the island. The people were for the most part only semi-civilized. This little island, only a hundred miles long and scarcely forty miles wide, had a population of nearly a million people. Only about 16 per cent of them could read or write. The rest were densely ignorant. They were also an exceedingly filthy lot. Modern sanitation had not touched the easternmost Pearl of the Antilles. In the cities the people were housed together like rabbits in a warren or pigs in a sty. In some instances three or four families lived in one room, and some of the families took boarders. Hundreds of districts had no schools whatever, and such Spanish schools as did exist were chiefly for the rich or the well to do. Porto Rico was a dark spot on our map.

The United States began work at once. The first thing necessary was to clean up the island towns and teach the inhabitants that filth meant disease and if they would live long they must keep clean. The next thing was to build roads. Practically all of

out by the heavy rains. The new government has kept constantly at work, constructing hundreds of miles of excellent macadam, so that now practically all the interior of the island is opened to transportation. Large and rich coffee, sugar and tobacco districts have been developed by these roads.

Even before the road came the schoolhouse. The Porto Rican child could follow a goat path to school. Uncle Sam made all the schools free, established about 800 new ones, built several hundred model schoolhouses and sent hundreds of American teachers, both men and women, to teach the young idea how to shoot as Uncle Sam prefers. English was taught in these schools, and thousands of young natives have become very fair "Amer-lemos." They have learned much of our laws and institutions. At first many of the older Porto Ricans were suspicious of us, and some of them demanded independence, but gradually they came to understand that the Yankee is a benevolent assimlator and was disciplining them for their own good.

When President Roosevelt visited the island in November he was greeted with great and gorgeous welcomes all the way from San Juan to Ponce and back again. The people crowded about him, clamoring to be made American citizens, and the president assured them that he was doing and would do all in his power to make them citizens. In eight years Porto Rico and its natives had been transformed, made over, built up into acceptable raw material for citizenship. The present governor of the island is Beekman Winthrop.

Porto Rico now has more than a million people. About three-fifths of them are whites. The rest are mulattoes and full blood negroes, though of the latter class there are not more than 60,000. Illiteracy has been greatly reduced. Disease has been combated by cleanliness with surprisingly beneficial results. The new Porto Rico has advanced further in eight years than the old Porto Rico advanced in four centuries.

Buttermilk and the Skin. Buttermilk as a cosmetic and general beautifier is highly recommended by certain persons who have experimented with the use of this fluid. After any outdoor sport or a late dance, when the body needs refreshing, the buttermilk bath is the thing, says one of these enthusiasts. But to produce really significant results one must bathe in it nightly, first wetting the body all over thoroughly and letting the milk stay on a few minutes, then carefully drying it by patting with a soft towel. The effects are refreshing in the extreme. For removing tan and sunburn in summer and chapping and roughening in winter there is nothing quite so good as washing the face in buttermilk, according to the experience of this experimenter.

Thread. Many sewers err in using too coarse cotton both on the machine and in hand sewing, and sometimes it is so coarse that the cloth will tear away from it. The thread should be chosen with regard to the thread or fabric of the goods and the object of the work. For buttonholes and sewing on buttons a coarse thread is needed; for gatherings, medium coarse; for stitching on the machine, fine, and for hand hemming, finer still. Many sewers will find that No. 80 will be better where they have been using No. 60. Keep the workbasket always well supplied with all commonly used numbers of cotton and plenty of needles of all sizes, different darning needles, millinery and glove needles.



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