

WASHINGTON LETTER

[Special Correspondence.]
Some persons doubtless have noticed that there are no chimneys on the capitol building; also that none break the skyline of the new senate and house office buildings.

Up to about three years ago the roof or roofs of the huge capitol building were fairly studded with chimneys flecked with all sorts of hoods and other contrivances intended to promote a steady draft. There were ninety chimneys topping the capitol.

Chimneys Disappear.

There was a reason, however, for the existence of all those chimneys and their ugly top pieces. Most of the senators and representatives loved to see cheerful fires in the fireplaces of their committee rooms, and as the big dome dominating the capitol building created numerous eddies, back drafts and burries of air, often blowing directly down the chimneys, the strange devices were erected to counteract the antics of the winds. But all that, under the direction of Elliott Woods, the superintendent of the capitol building and grounds, has been changed, and when the new office buildings were designed it was determined to have no chimneys in them at all; also most if not all of the chimneys on the capitol have disappeared, and an improved system of ventilating, considered the best in existence, was devised and installed.

Capitol Ventilation.

The ventilating system is seemingly simple when it is explained, but the working out of it required much thought and study.

Briefly, air is taken in at the stone towers one sees on the capitol grounds to the west of the building, drawn through tunnels by great fans into chambers heated with batteries of steam pipes and then forced by fans into the house and senate chambers, corridors and committee rooms. By taking the air through the stone towers out on the capitol grounds, away from all contaminating influences, a pure and fresh supply is assured. The main conduits are almost as wide and much higher than any railroad tunnel, assuring a plentiful supply, and when the great sixteen foot double fans are being driven at a velocity of 110 revolutions a minute by the powerful dynamos the current in the glittering white tunnels is powerful enough to sweep a strong man off his feet.

How Fresh Air is Warmed.

The fresh air is first delivered through iron gratings into a chamber where a series of steam coils 200 yards from the intake towers heats it to any temperature desired—perhaps 69 or 70 degrees F. It is then forced against secondary coils and distributed to the various rooms that are to be warmed. The warmed air ascends through two sets of gratings in the roof of the lofty duct (it is probably twenty feet in places to the roof of this passageway or tunnel), one set of gratings leading the air to the Republican side of the chamber and the other set conducting it to the Democratic side. The air passes into a series of pipes which conduct it to the desks of the members and to every desk in the galleries, its escape being provided for through the bronze gratings in the supports of the desks. Each desk is provided with valves, or dampers, so that every member can regulate the warmth distributed to him.

For a New Patent Office.

Construction of a new and "suitable" building for the use of the patent office is recommended in the annual report of Edward B. Moore, commissioner of patents.

He says it could be built out of the surplus of receipts over expenditures in the office since its establishment. He thinks an adequate building is due to the inventors, out of whose pockets practically all this surplus has been paid.

The report shows, among other things, that there were received in the last fiscal year 58,527 applications for mechanical patents, 1,691 applications for designs, 207 applications for reissues, 2,036 caveats. There were 34,902 patents granted, including reissues and designs. The number of patents that expired was 24,270.

There were filed 7,467 applications for the registration of trademarks, 810 applications for labels and 330 applications for the registration of prints. Of these there were registered 6,135 trademarks, 636 labels and 279 prints.

Receipts and Expenditures.

The total receipts of the patent office were \$1,874,180.75. The total expenditures were \$1,608,292.01. The net surplus of receipts over expenditures—the amount turned into the treasury—was \$265,888.74.

The trademarks registered are less this year by 2,663 than the previous year. There have been more patents granted this year by 1,504.

In 1905 10,408 trademarks were registered under the new law, in 1907 8,798 and in 1908 6,135, which latter number will probably be about the normal number hereafter issued.

Surplus Would Pay For Building.

"The net surplus of all years of receipts over expenditures which have been covered into the treasury up to June 30, 1908," says Commissioner Moore, "shows a grand total of \$6,972,070.38. Nearly this whole sum has been paid by the inventors of the country. Inasmuch as they have paid the total expenses for the maintenance of the patent office it is but fair to say they are entitled to have a suitable building provided in which their business can be transacted in a prompt and efficient manner.

"The cost of this building and ground could be entirely paid for out of this surplus. I most earnestly urge that congress be asked to make provision for an adequate building for the use of the United States patent office."
CARL SCHOFIELD.

Figures In the Public Eye.

M. Constans, French Ambassador to Turkey.
Mrs. J. Ellen Foster and Her Campaign Work Among Women.



M. CONSTANS.

THE French ambassador to Constantinople, J. A. E. Constans, who will figure in the conference of the powers over the situation in the Balkans and the rights of Turkey, was born in 1833 in the south of France and has had a notable political and diplomatic career. In 1886 he was appointed French ambassador to China, where he obtained for his country several modifications of the treaty of Tientsin. Returning to France in the following year, he secured the post of governor general of French Indo-China, but a difference of opinion with the colonial office speedily brought about his resignation. General Boulanger was the next object of his attack, and after a prolonged struggle the general was forced to fly the country a defeated man. Three years later, after a violent scene in the chamber, M. Constans resigned and lived in retirement till called upon to represent France at Constantinople in 1890. M. Constans believes that there are but four notes in the human keyboard—namely, vanity, timidity, sentiment and interest. To his skill in finding which note to play M. Constans largely owes his success. When he made war against Boulanger he made it so earnestly that that impetuous politician grew afraid of his implacable antagonist. "I must kill Constans or Constans will kill me," said the general one day. Some one carried the remark to Constans. He smiled. "That is the first sensible remark Boulanger has ever made," he said.

Women have been prominent in the 1908 campaign, and all the parties have utilized their services. In the Repub-

lican camp the work of organizing clubs and crystallizing sentiment for the benefit of Judge Taft's candidacy has been in charge of Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, whose career as a political speaker extends over a period of a quarter of a century. She was born in Massachusetts, and her father, a Methodist minister, was prominent in the anti-slavery movement. Her husband, E. C. Foster, was a lawyer, and under his direction she studied law and was admitted to the bar, being the first woman admitted to practice in the supreme court of the state of Iowa, where her residence was at that time. She first became prominent as a speaker in temperance work conducted by the W. C. T. U. In 1892 she was active in the campaign of President Benjamin Harrison for re-election.

In 1900 Mrs. Foster was appointed by Secretary of State John Hay to represent the United States at the International Red Cross conference at St. Petersburg. In 1905 she accompanied the Taft party to the Philippines and made a special report to President Roosevelt on the condition of women and children there.



MRS. J. ELLEN FOSTER.

Mrs. Foster then made a trip around the world, in the course of which she studied the condition of women and children in China and India. As a speaker she is possessed of much argumentative power and of a very ready wit. Once she was arguing in behalf of the industrial interests of women before a congressional committee.

"Remember, you who have gold in your teeth," she said in closing, "that the poor working girl hasn't any."

Needs All of It.

"I never saw anybody as cool, self possessed and quick to act in time of imminent danger as that man Globbo." "Chaufeur?" "No; just a common pedestrian."—Chicago Tribune.

The Fleet in the Far East.

When the Pacific fleet reached the waters of the far east, thinking men at home considered that it had entered upon the second well defined stage of the mysterious cruise. Even with a peaceful end on the whole an uneventful ending this stage was confidently expected to prove the most important of all and to reveal the administration's purpose for the extraordinary demonstration. Of the first stage nothing was to be expected beyond the criticism and perhaps the indirect protest of the nations. There were no possible enemies and no chance of entanglement between Hampton Roads and San Francisco nor between our Pacific home ports and the ports of the Philippines. Where, then, earlier than the departure of the fleet from the Philippines could apply the covert warning of the president to Admiral Evans at the time of the sailing last December when he said, "Your cruise is a peaceful one, but you realize your responsibilities should it turn out otherwise?" Hunters are not sent into the forest with full ammunition pouches and empty game bags for nothing, even though prohibitive game laws are in force.

The second stage of the cruise could not well stop short of a revelation of the attitude of the United States toward China. The Chinese looked for that apparently when they extended an invitation to visit Chinese waters. The attitude was revealed in part when it was felt in Washington that the invitation could not be ignored without incurring ill will in Peking. This incident alone showed the sensitiveness of the situation. Japan's invitation followed the acceptance of that from China and, of course, could not be ignored without at once emphasizing the superior importance of our interests involved with China. The visit to Japan was merely friendly, but to the Chinese the friendliness of the United States has deep significance. The traditions of the past eight years give the Chinese ground to hope for active support from Washington in their efforts to preserve their sovereignty over provinces occupied by foreign powers and to maintain the integrity of the Celestial empire. What grounds might still be left them for hope could not well be kept in the dark beyond the close of the second stage of the world cruise, the departure of the fleet from the waters of the far east.

Our National Song.

Just when we were reading what Professor Sloane of Columbia had to say about our need of a national anthem and our lack of one a Tokyo dispatch told of 10,000 Japanese children "singing the American anthem." Samuel Francis Smith, whose centennial was celebrated on Oct. 21, has long been recognized as the author of America's national hymn. His "America" is seventy-six years old, and the "Star Spangled Banner" of Francis Scott Key antedated that by about twenty years.

Both the song of Key and the hymn of Smith are often referred to as the "national anthem." Professor Sloane intimates that 10,000 persons could not be found in this country to sing Key's words through. On the other hand, the hymn has been popularized by frequent repetition in church. If the one the people sing most is the national anthem then "America's" position is assured.

Testing Electrical Motors.

Electrical power for railroad purposes is still in its infancy, judging from recent experiments by the Long Island railroad. This road is promoting elaborate tests of motors, devices for transmitting currents and every variety of machinery invented to make electricity do work in place of steam.

The Long Island company has a difficult transit tunnel problem to solve. It is wisdom to make the experiments privately and not at the expense of the public. So far the attempt to move heavy trains by electricity for a long distance has not been successful. An electric monorail system is also to be installed near New York shortly for experiments. We may be on the eve of new developments in motoring by rail.

Fortunately the last Thursday in November is far enough away from the first Tuesday to enable all hands to think it over and find something in the election results to be thankful for.

Having served a term at pole hunting, the Duke of the Abruzzi will have one familiar road to nowhere when he gets tired of the limelight.

Cruel to think that the big comet is going to be on view just when children have to make believe sleep or be slighted by Santa Claus.

The "zone of death" may be a fallacy in war, as Hudson Maxim says, but it's a "dead sure thing" in politics.

Anyway, prolonged warm weather kept the odor of moth balls out of range a few weeks longer than usual.

Canker Remedy.

For canker sore mouth burn a corn-cob and apply the ashes two or three times a day.

WOMAN AND FASHION

A Useful Directors Coat.
Steadily more slender grows the fashionable figure ideal. For the happy hipless woman this attractive director coat is a particularly graceful



FOR A GRACEFUL FIGURE.

model. From a little close fitting, short waisted body the long skirts of the coat fall almost to the dress hem.

The big covered buttons, exaggerated cuffs, pocket flaps and revers are of contrasting fabric embroidered with soutache.

Russian Fish Net.

The new veil is startling, but it is so becoming that few women will object to it. It is made of coarse net with squares over it. The newest material brought out for it is made of Russian fish net, which is coarse and comes in dull cream, although it is dyed in all colors.

It is seven-eighths of a yard wide in order to fit the new hat. The majority of it lies over the brim. It must not dangle around the neck, and by no means must it hang in plaits at the back. This method, however, is very much out of style.

The ornamental ones have big chenille rings of self color in them. These sell at about \$1 a yard. The advantage of such a costly veil is that the mesh is so coarse and the width so advantageous that the veil outlasts a half dozen ones made of flimsier materials.

Modified Fashions.

Fashions are becoming modified. The sensational sheath skirt is already a thing of the past, though the influence of its lines is felt in fall and winter modes. Practical women are discovering methods of using empire modes in moderation. Many of the best pattern houses display a great collection of designs which show all the best points of the empire mode without too much of a tendency to extremes.

Nearly every woman thinks at first that an empire gown must of necessity be a long gown. But it is really wonderful how the designers have overcome this obstacle in making thoroughly practical clothes. The possibility of the short gown as an empire frock is being demonstrated in new designs every day.

A New Collar.

Checked and striped dimity is used for neck wear for blouses of thin materials. The collar shown in the sketch



OF BLUE AND WHITE DIMITY.

is of blue and white with a wide ruffle at top and a cravat of blue messaline at the base.

Three Gowns in One.

A very economical and at the same time very elegant Parisienne has a gown of plain black liberty satin, cut with a tight tunic upper part and a deep kilt of the same satin forming an underskirt. The open gumpes and tight sleeves of cream tulle and lace she uses for only very smart occasions, but when she wishes to appear more simple her underbodice is of black chantilly lace. Yet a third under part may be of plain black tulle. And thus three gowns equally smart and suitable at once for three different occasions may be made out of one.

Humor

HER MESSAGE TO SISTER SUE

Mrs. Chatter's Instructions to Hubby Were Long Drawn Out.

"Henry, dear," said little Mrs. Chatter to her husband while he was drawing on his top coat preparing to make the rush for the train that was to take him into the city. "You know our phone isn't working this morning, and I do want to send Sister Sue a message in regard to meeting her this afternoon in the city. Could you, dear, ring Sue up on your phone in the office and give her a message from me? You can as well as not? Thank you, dear. Well, tell her that if it doesn't set in to rain and if Cousin Em doesn't come to take me to ride in her auto this afternoon, as she said she might, but you know how reckless Cousin Em is with her promises, and it wouldn't surprise me if she never thought of it again, but if she should come I don't want to miss the ride, and I'll try to get Sue on the phone by that time and let her know if I go to ride, or if Lillie Brayton doesn't come over to have me help her on that programme we are arranging for the benefit of the day nursery. Tell Sue I will meet her in the waiting room at Ridgeley's at 3, or it may be a quarter after or a quarter before, or if she'd rather have me meet her some place else tell her to try to ring me up and let me know. I guess our phone will be working by that time. Tell her it wasn't working this morning and that is the reason I didn't ring her up, as I said I would, and tell her to try to think to bring me my hatpin and my lace handkerchief that I left when we stayed all night with her Monday night, and ask her if I didn't leave one of my gloves there, and tell her that, after all, I think we'd better meet at some place other than Ridgeley's because that is so far from where we are going, and ask her to try to think to bring me the recipe for that new kind of cake we had at dinner Monday night, for I'd like to try a loaf of it when we have the Brynlys here to dinner Friday. Yes, yes, of course you must get your train, dear. Run along. Only be sure to ring Sue up and tell her that she'd better ring me about noon, and—goodby! Don't forget!—Puck.

Future Peril.

Terrified Passenger (on ocean liner)—Captain, why is the steamer going so slowly and using its searchlight?
Captain—Don't be alarmed, madam. The ship is in no danger. But in a fog like this we are always likely to run into somebody's blooming old balloon and make a nasty mess of it.—Chicago Tribune.

Proof.

Gritty George—Ah, lady, at one time I was a prosperous dentist.
Kind Lady—How can I believe you, my poor man?
Gritty George—How can you doubt me, mum? Why, even de dog shows his teeth when I am around.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A Dreaded Verdict.

Mr. Patterson (as sounds of weeping come from the laundry)—Gracious, dear! Who is that crying?
Mrs. Patterson—The washerwoman, John. She has sued for divorce and is afraid the judge will order her to pay her husband alimony.—Lippincott's Magazine.

Chief of Them All.

"He tried to flatter me, but I'm proud to say he couldn't."
"No? You're a greater flatterer than he is, then, aren't you?"
"How do you mean?"
"You flatter yourself that you can't be flattered."—Catholic Standard and Times.

An Old Family.



"You must be proud of your ancestry. Does it go back very far?"
"Oh, yes! To the reign of terrier."—Browning's Magazine.

Tommy's Regret.

Tommy was about to leave the school where he had spent his first years. He went to the teacher to say goodby and added: "I am awfully sorry to leave this school. I've had such good times at recess."—Lippincott's Magazine.

A Useful Institution.

"Do you believe in such a thing as luck?"
"Of course," answered Miss Cayenne. "Otherwise it would be impossible to explain the success of people we don't like."—Washington Star.

One Was Enough.

"Will you tell me why you treat me so coldly, Miss Green?"
"There are quite a number of reasons, Mr. Mumble. The first is that I don't like you."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Serious Ailment.

"Yes," said Mrs. Lapsling, "my husband is much better now. For a day or two, though, he was threatened with tuberculosis of the lungs."—Chicago Tribune.

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