

PEOPLE OF THE DAY

New Minister to China.

Charles R. Crane of Chicago, who has been selected for the post of minister to China by President Taft, is well acquainted with affairs in the far east. Until recently Mr. Crane was a Democrat in politics. It is said that Mr. Taft is the first Republican candidate for president for whom Mr. Crane voted.

It was while on an extended tour of the world in 1879 and 1881 that Mr. Crane acquired the keen interest in the east which he has ever since retained. At that time he visited India, Java, Burma, China and Japan, spending the greater part of two years on the



CHARLES R. CRANE.

journey. He spent several months in China and traveled extensively in the interior when travel there was not so easy and comfortable as it is now. Later Mr. Crane made journeys to other parts of Asia.

To go to Pekin Mr. Crane will be compelled to resign the active direction of the Crane company, which employs 6,000 people. For six years Mr. Crane was president of the Chicago Municipal Voters' league. He is president of the marine biological laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass.; is a member of the Chicago club and University club and the Century club, New York. Mr. Crane is a native of Chicago and fifty-one years old. He will leave for China early in the autumn.

Gompers Tells a Story.

Samuel Gompers was talking about a recent attack on a rich corporation. "It was a cruel attack," Mr. Gompers chuckled. "It was as cruel as the Jonesville Clarion's paragraph about old Deacon Hiram Ludlow." "This paragraph headed the Clarion's obituary column. It said: "'Deacon Hiram Ludlow of Frisbie township, aged eighty-two, passed peacefully away on Thursday last from single blessedness to matrimonial bliss after a short but severe attack by Maria Higgins, a blooming widow of thirty-seven summers.'"

An Arctic Wanderer.

To find Dr. Frederick A. Cook, explorer, is the quest of a rescue expedition fitted out in New York to invade the frozen regions of the north. Dr. Cook, who has had much experience in explorations, both in the arctic and antarctic, went north in the summer of 1907. John R. Bradley of New York, an amateur explorer and sportsman, fitted out the expedition. Mr. Bradley left the party at Resseleer harbor in August of that year, returning to New York in October.

The last actually seen of Dr. Cook was in March, 1908, when he left his base of supplies at Annatok, on the northwestern coast of Greenland, and disappeared toward the north over Ellesmere Land into the little known regions of the north Arctic ocean.

He left his only American companion, a young German American named Rudolph Francke, at Annatok, twenty



DR. FREDERICK A. COOK.

miles north of Etah, which is the last inhabited settlement on the west coast of Greenland. Two weeks later he sent a letter to Francke by a native saying that if he (Dr. Cook) did not return by June Francke should return to New York. The letter reached Francke on May 7, 1908. He was picked up by Peary's steamer Erik and brought to Newfoundland. In this letter Dr. Cook stated that he was allowing three months for his trip over the polar sea and his return. When he started north he had 150 dogs and was accompanied by eight Eskimos. He had about a year's provisions at his disposal.

Dr. Cook is a native of Brooklyn and a veteran traveler in polar regions. He has spent several summers and at least three winters in the far north and was a member of one of Captain Peary's expeditions. He was also a member of the Belgian expedition that spent a winter in the Antarctic ocean.

WASHINGTON LETTER

(Special Correspondence.)

The news that Rock Creek park is open to campers came as a welcome message to those unable to leave the city for a summer resort. As a matter of fact, though, this privilege has been theirs for years. The only trouble has been that they have never cared to take advantage of it. Either through ignorance or disinclination they have failed to inquire of the commissioners as to their rights as campers in Rock Creek park and by so failing have deprived themselves of the ideal camping ground of Washington.

May Tent in Rock Creek Park.

Concerning their privileges as campers on the reservation, Commissioner McFarland explains that "Rock Creek park belongs to the people, and every part of it should be enjoyed by them." He furthermore urges the tract north of the military road as the perfect camping spot because of the absence of vehicles in that particular district. In his opinion it is the prerogative of every District taxpayer to use as much of Rock Creek park as he wants whenever he pleases.

Sanitation problems will have to be worked out should the crowd of campers become large, but with such a magnificent tract of land it is improbable that these problems would be difficult to surmount. The camp life itself will afford a relief to the man not possessing a large salary. The commissioners say that Rock Creek park should at all times be at the disposal of the District taxpayers, to be used by them as they see fit.

An Ideal Camping Place.

There is no pleasanter place near Washington than Rock Creek park. Filled with large shade trees, possessing hundreds of those fascinating by-paths that wind their way tortuously in and out through fields and glades, and with the tiny creek and its numerous small tributaries running wildlike throughout its length and breadth, it makes a perfect haven for him who longs to camp for camping's sake alone. In urging the tract north of the military road the commissioners call attention to the fact that this tract is safe from the noise of touring cars, and it is peaceful.

An Air Cooling Device.

An air cooling device which can reduce the temperature in an apartment twelve degrees in a few minutes has been perfected by Dr. William J. Manning, medical and sanitary officer of the government printing office. The device for rapidly lowering the temperature of the air has been erected in the emergency hospital at the government printing office, which institution is also of Dr. Manning's creation. Daily demonstrations of the simple and inexpensive device are made. During recent days when the mercury in the thermometers was soaring well up to the hundred mark and humanity sweated in the grasp of the hot wave the temperature in the little hospital at the printing was reduced by the Manning method to a degree of comfort.

Evaporation Lowers Temperature.

The cooling apparatus is based on the principle of the cooling effects of the evaporation of water. Suspended from the ceiling of the emergency hospital in the government printing office is a strip of cotton twill in a vertical plane three feet wide and forty feet in length. Through a hem in the upper edge is run a tube one inch in diameter and perforated on the bottom with holes one inch apart and one-eighth of an inch in diameter. At the lower edge of this strip of cloth is a metal trough. Connecting the tube with the water faucet by means of a common rubber hose, water is passed through and percolating through the holes, trickles down through the fibers of the cloth, thoroughly saturating it in a few moments. The trough is inclined slightly, and the flow from the cloth is run off through an outlet at the lower end. Thus a moist area of great extent is produced, and all that is necessary is to induce rapid evaporation.

This is accomplished by Dr. Manning by means of two electric fans, one at each end of the strip. As these are set in motion the cloth screen, saturated with water, rapidly vibrates and ripples and waves in the breeze created by the fans. Thus the water is quickly evaporated, and as the flow is continuous the process of cooling goes on without interruption.

Parks to Line Potomac.

In line with the general movement "for a more beautiful America," as advocated by the American Civic association, plans are pending in congress for a thorough improvement of the river front of the nation's capital. These provide for a park system along the picturesque Potomac and the beautification of both sides that will be a credit not only to Washington, but to the nation.

Commissioner Judson's plans include the building of stone or concrete docks in place of the wooden structures and shanties that now mark the busiest part of the city. It is proposed in time to have a splendid driveway and promenade, a scheme which, it is believed, will lead to the extension of the city to the other side of the Potomac.

Potomac Park Only a Beginning.

Potomac park itself was established upon the flats, the elevation being made with the mud and clay dredged from the river when the channel was deepened. This park is only the beginning, and stellar recreation places will be established along the river front now available for commercial purposes. Along the upper Potomac, too, it is proposed to make parks. CARL SCHOFIELD.

THE SPORTING WORLD

Summers' Good Record.

Ed Summers, the Detroit American League young right hand pitcher, is making good all predictions made for him last season. Last fall Manager Hugh Jennings declared that with another year's experience Summers would



ED SUMMERS.

make the pitching stars of the American league look to their honors. Summers' recent feat, when he twirled an eighteen inning game against Washington, allowing but seven hits, was a remarkable performance for a youngster. In the fall of 1907 Jennings obtained this youngster from the Indianapolis club of the American association. Last season Summers made a splendid record in the box, winning twenty-four games out of thirty-six pitched.

Unique Baseball Decision.

Baseball players and experts on the technicalities of the national game agree that a decision by Umpire Clarence Owens in Louisville, Ky., recently which gave Louisville the winning run is unique. Peitz was at bat for Louisville with two on bases, and McSurdy, pitcher for Toledo, after a conference with Catcher Land, decided to give Peitz his base. Three wild ones were thrown to Peitz, and before the fourth was pitched Land deliberately stepped "out of line" and received an exceptionally wide throw. Owens promptly called it a ball and signaled Sullivan, on third, to come in with what proved to be Louisville's winning run. The rule on which Owens based his decision was passed several years ago and is said never to have been called into force before.

Blackburn Natural Athlete.

Russel A. Blackburn, the new shortstop of the Chicago Americans, is one of that natural type of athletes who break into the game now and then and make famous names for themselves. Blackburn is naturally adapted to baseball, football and basket ball and is a strong player at the latter game. He was one of the stars in the big professional league in the east. He did not play last year, being unable to come to terms with the club to which he was assigned. He is as good a pitcher as he is a shortstop. Fast, hitting infielders of class are so rare there is little chance of his being called on to pitch. It is as an infielder that Comiskey wants him in his effort to build up a fast young team.

Syracuse May Meet Harvard.

According to a current report in intercollegiate rowing circles, Syracuse may meet Harvard next year in a two mile race. The orange oarsmen, it is known, are anxious to meet the crimson and have been after Harvard for some time to arrange a race. It is said there is a possibility of a meeting between the two colleges, as it is said that Columbia will not meet Harvard next year.

The only objection to the race would be that Harvard may not wish to row two preliminary races before meeting Yale. Coach Wray, it is said, is in favor of only one preliminary race, and that with Cornell.

Cleveland's New Southpaw.

On the recommendation of Scout Jim McGuire the Cleveland club has purchased Pitcher Gregg of the Spokane (Wash.) club of the Northwestern league. Gregg is a southpaw, twenty-one years of age, weighs 184 pounds and stands six feet two inches in height. He has terrific speed and a good assortment of curves. He will not report until next spring, as Spokane does not feel that it can spare him this season.

Roseben Never to Race Again.

The mighty sprinter Roseben will race no more. Duvy Johnson has decided to let the "Big Train" pass the remainder of his days at the farm of James W. Wadsworth in the Gennessee valley, Tenn. Roseben broke down hopelessly in the forelegs after his race at Sheepshead Bay, N. Y., recently.

The Scrap Book

The Cause of the Delay.

English is full of pitfalls for the foreigner who wrestles with it, and the language gets some severe jolts at times, as this anecdote from India shows. The story is to the effect that when a battalion of the Middlesex regiment was ordered to take part in a recent ceremonial parade at Delhi the commanding officer determined to refit it with new boots. He accordingly telegraphed to a Calcutta firm:

"Send 1,000 pairs of boots for Middlesex by next train."
Days passed, and no boots arrived. The colonel's anxiety increased hourly. Just when he had become almost frantic the Babu manager in Calcutta sent him this telegram:
"Order received, but not comprehended. Male sex I know; ditto female sex; middle sex, however, not known. Please send specimen."

Price.

Could one ascend with an unheated of light
And skyward, skyward without limit soar.
As if the pinion of a god he wore,
The earth were left a dwindling star,
Whose light
Flaw faint upon his track—at last his height
All height would vanish. There in
depth of space
Were neither upper nor inferior place,
Distinction's little zone below him quite.
Oh, happy dreams of such a soul have I,
And softly to my heart of him I sing,
Whose seraph pride all pride doth over-
wing.
Soars unto meekness, reaches low by
high
And, as in grand equalities of the sky,
Stands level with the beggar and the
king!
—David A. Wasson.

Foolscap Paper.

Doubtless many boys and girls who have had occasion to write upon foolscap at school have wondered why this quality of paper is thus called. The watermark gives the explanation, and a watermark, as every one knows, is the maker's trademark, visible in the paper when a sheet is held up to the light. The watermark of foolscap is supposed to be a figure of Britannia supporting a cap of liberty on a pole. The resemblance of the cap of liberty to a dunce's cap led to the common use of the name which the brand of paper now bears.—Chicago News.

Fishes of the Sea.

The players sit in a circle, except one, who represents the sea. Each player takes the name of a fish. The sea walks slowly outside the ring, calling her companions, one by one, by their fish names. Each one, on hearing her name called, rises and follows the sea. When all have thus left their seats the sea begins to run about, exclaiming, "The sea is troubled, the sea is troubled," then suddenly seats herself. The others follow her example as quickly as possible, and the one left without a seat becomes the sea.

Conundrums.

Why is the wick of a candle like Athens? Because it is in Greece (grease).
Why is a fire fender like Westminster abbey? Because it holds the ashes of the grate (great).
What is that which a coach cannot move without, yet is of no use? Noise.
What is the difference between a light in a cave and a dance in an inn? One is a taper in a cavern, the other is a caper in a tavern.

A Growing Sundial.

In the grounds adjacent to Wentworth castle in England is to be seen a unique sundial, which is composed of a fine yew tree for the pin and closely cropped box bushes for the Roman figures and borderings. It was planted more than 200 years ago and is still in a good state of preservation. Its time keeping compares favorably with sundials of more modern construction.

The Fish's Joke.

"If you wish a visit from me," said the little fish to the little boy, "just drop me a line."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Watch Cat.

At night you see me out on guard.
The watch cat brave am I.
My fierce green eyes, my pricked up ears,
Let no marauders by.
There's not a wicked lightning bug
Nor night moth, how'er rash,
Would dare my claws. I am so quick
I'd have him in a flash.

And all the field mice fear to pass
Within our garden gate.
Behind a tree, as still as death,
They know I lie in wait.

I crouch behind the shrubbery
Or pace the shadowy yard.
No fear this household ever feels—
The watch cat is on guard.
—Youth's Companion.

Profuse Perspiration.

Some of its most unpleasant effects may be allayed by bathing the parts affected with a lotion made of one part of boric acid to twenty of hot water. Boric acid in the form of powder may also be dusted on the skin and will be found a valuable agent in overcoming the trouble. Sleeves which are too tight, either along the arms or in the armbolts, frequently occasion excessive perspiration of the hands. For the latter use a spoonful of ammonia in the rinsing water and then before putting on gloves bathe the palms with the following solution: Powdered alum, one-half an ounce; boiling water, one pint; spirits of ammonia, one teaspoonful.

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