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THE PRESIDENT'S **RIGHT HAND MAN** 

Forster, Executive Clerk, Most Valuable Aide,

# VAST KNOWLEDGE OF POLICIES

Most Important Post In the White House, For Which Woodrow Wilson Will Select Another Active and Resourceful Man-Nobody Is More Continuously "on the Job."

On the president's desk in the White House are six push buttons. The one most worn from pressing of his heavy forelinger sounds a buzzer at the desk of Ralph Forster, his executive clerk.

As Mr. Forster is the solution of many a White House problem, when the president in the course of his morning's work desires to know why a certain appointment was made, who recommended it, what will happen if an incumbent is not reappointed, his hand instinctively moves toward the well worn push button. Mr. Forster is at his side in tive seconds. Usually he supplies the information without leaving the room; if not, he knows where to get it.

The public knows about the secretary to the president. Under Mr. Lamont. Mr. Cortelyon, Mr. Loeb and Mr. Hilles this office has come to be as important as a cabinet portfolio. But outside of Washington little is known of the other members of the White House staff. headed by Mr. Forster. Yet upon the shoulders of Mr. Forster devolves a great part of the business of the presidential office.

#### He Bears the Shocks.

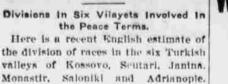
He is the buffer between the presi dent and hundreds of thousands of American citizens who have correspondence with the White House. Obviously the president cannot give detailed attention to the many questions on which he must act. He requires that the salient facts of a given question be presented to him so that he may act wisely.

The influence of Mr. Forster in public affairs is great, but exercised always with unswerving loyalty to the chief executive, whoever he may be. His is the responsibility for the prep-

aration of the White House mail. All the letters that are received pass through his hands on the way to the secretary and the president. Every nomination that goes to the senate, every commission the president issues to his appointees, every bill which congress passes and sends to the president for approval or disapproval, he carefully notes.

Service at the White House since the first day of the McKinley administration in 1897 has left in his capacious mind a vast knowledge of the policies and politics of three presidents. The widely divergent characteristics and temperaments of these men would seem to have given Mr. Forster a glimpse of every side of administrative duty.

Sometimes Advises the Cabinet. This explains why he is frequently called into the cabinet meetings to anquestions about various situations



whose fate is involved in the peace terms. Greek church Bulgarians, 1.367,000 numerous in all the vilayets except

Scutari and Janina. Pomaks or Mohammedan Bulgari ans, chiefly south of Adrianople. 255,000.

Greek church Serbs, 200,000. This is undoubtedly an underestimate. There may be two or three times as many.

Arnauts or Mohammedan Serbs, 40, 000; again probably a decided under-

estimate. Mohammedan Turks, 800,000; less than one-third in every vilayet. Greek church Turks, 3,000.

Orthodox Greeks, 554,000. Greek church Wallachians, mostly the widely scattered "Kutzo-Vlachs,"

279,000. Moslem Albanians, 900,000.

Catholic Albanians, chiefly of the seven highland clans of the Malissori, near Scutari, 170,000.

Greek church Albanians, 110,000. Gypsies, mainly nominal Mohammedan, 50,000.

Jews, 66.000.

Besides these, there are an unknown number of Montenegrins just over the line in the hills, 30,000 Armenians, speaking and writing Greek, Armenian or Turkish, but mostly Greek church in religion, and others.

To divide these mees is impossible They are all mixed together. The Roumanians are mostly numerous farthest away from Roumania. The Turks are a thin layer everywhere. The Greeks are more numerous in Adrianople, to which they have no claim, than in Saloniki and Janina, part of which they expect to get.

An independent Albania would solve the worst single tangle, as only in the Albanian territory in the west are the Mohammedans clearly in a great majority. But there are more than 200. 000 Christian Albanians; they are chiefly in the north. They "prove their doctrine orthodox by apostolic blows and knocks" at the 900,000 Mohammed an Albanians.

# BEATS MARK TWAIN'S FROG.

Started to Jump After Being Petrified a Thousand Years.

Workmen clearing and blasting rock on the L. D. Loomis property in Santa frog imbedded in solid limestone, three feet beneath the surface. It had been incased in rock for probably several thousand years.

Apparently petrified, the amphibian was taken by the astonished workmen and laid in the sun. In a few seconds, it is solemnly averred by those who stubbornly hold to the truth of the story, it suddenly showed signs of life. After several minutes it blinked confusedly, drew a long breath and in long leaps traveled 100 feet before the workmen could recapture it. Just think of that! It certainly beats Mark Twain's historical frog.

# WALKED NINE MILES ASLEEP.

Eleven-year-old Girl Barefooted, Wen Over Unfamiliar Road.

tuxedos. It is nothing uncommon to see an American appear at an evening function in a swallowtail coat. a broad expanse of white shirt front, set with gold buttons, and a black tie.

'Out on the coast I was struck with the custom of clubmen, who would ar. Citizen. One year's subscription to ray themselves in evening dress and this paper, \$1.50, will bring you a Kingsley, The Works of Charles parade the streets with topcoats their dress, as much as to say, 'Look who I am."

"No; the American knows nothing of And the reason is that he does dress. not know how to harmonize colors. Why, darn it, an American will pass a show window and be attracted by the very color scheme which the mer-

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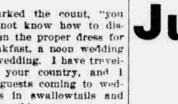
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perplexing to the administration, the president often calling him to conferences with public men.

His telephone is constantly ringing. as senators and representatives call on him for all sorts of information. Sometimes senators and representatives, finding the president busy, are glad to take the matter up with Mr. Forster, who, in turn, brings it before the president.

The White House is a busy place, but nobody is more constantly "on the job" than Mr. Forster. He works quietly, but swiftly. His remarkable memory enables him to answer an inquiry or dispose of a problem without having to stop to search for facts and figures.

Never rutiled, never rattled, his etticiency is oil to the cogs and bearings of the executive machine. His appointment as a clerk at the White House in 1897 was due to Mr. Cortelyou's desire to reform the business methods of the White House offices

#### Knows Much About Affairs.

His selection was nonpolitical, as was his promotion to the post of assistant secretary to the president in 1907 and his further advancement to the newly created office of executive clerk under Mr. Taft From three presidents he has absorbed a large view of national affairs.

And the question in Washington is, Who will succeed him? There are several newspaper men who have been discussed for the operous place, but of ganization was necessary because there course no one but President Elect Wilson knows upon whom the selection "fills band. will fall-that is, if he has already picked the man.

#### German Collie to Stalk Deer.

That a German collie can make a good deer stalker is the opinion of Arhur K. Nimick, who recently brought from Europe Flors, a cross between the German collie and police dog, with the intention of taking the animal south with him in an endeavor to prove his theory while shooting deer.

Flors is one of a breed that, according to Mr. Nimick, is rapidly dying She is a big, shaggy animal, gray out. and black in color. Her owner says that the German collies are gradually changing in color and taking on a reddish tinge, the original breed becoming with Purp

Mary Ruth Smith, eleven-year-old daughter of Dr. and Mrs. L. L. Smith of Urich. Mo., recently walked nine miles while asleep.

She retired at the usual hour. The next morning her uncle. Walter Waugh north of Maurine, found her on his front porch clad only in her night gown and an old coat of her father's. Her uncle asked her how she came there, but she only remembered hav ing dreamed some.

She made the trip barefooted and over muddy roads. It is very doubtful if she would have been able to stand the trip if she had been awake. Also she was not well acquainted with the road.

## QUANTRELL SURVIVORS.

The Famous Band Passes Into History as an Organization.

The famous Quantrell band passed into history as an organization when a little group of white haired, stoop shouldered old men. Quantrell surviv ors, met recently in Kansas City, Mo. and organized as the survivors of the Second Missouri cavalry, commanded by Colonel Upton Hays, of which the Quantrell band was a part.

The new organization will have a membership of about fifty. Cole Younger, former bandit chief, was chosen as one of the officers. He said a new or were so few survivors of the old guer

### His Father 140 Years Old.

James Berry, seventy years old, of Bond, Miss., declares he is the youngest of twenty-six children, all of whom are living. His father, he says, is 140 years old, and his mother died at the age of 120. Berry has papers from prominent men from his native county in North Carolina to verify his state ments.

Mine Laying Ship For Atlantic. The navy department is considering the construction of a mine laying ship for the Atlantic coast or the conver sion of some appropriate vessel. The San Francisco at present is the only mine laying ship in the navy, but has an in service on the Pacific coast.

pink shirt and a green tie. It is awful, "But the American is being lifted up

by the American women. In England John Bull always goes first, while his wife follows. In America things are turned around. The woman goes first. and she is lifting up her husband. She says, 'Brush up there; shine up a bit. and the man has to do it. But you can't blame the American. He has been too busy with his machine shops and meals to give consideration to dress.

"When I make these comments I am not taking the highest or lowest strata of society, but that great middle class which is the great average in all nations.

### His Ideas on Marriage.

The count also has some well defined ideas on marriage. He is a widower and says that he expects that he will remain one, since it does not seem probable that he will discover a "partner" whose views accord with his own. "Woman has gradually been raised through several stages until now she stands on a parity with man," he added. "Way back in the dark ages she was chattel property, then man spoke of her as the female, later as the wife. and new he is coming to regard her as the partner. In those former stores we had marriages of the eye. We are now coming to the era of marriages of reason. In this era man will seek his wife for a partner and not be guided by his physical appetites. "Personally I believe that men and

women should weigh experience and wealth against each other in making their choices-that is, if a man has had experience in the ways of the business world and finds a woman with capital and no experience, they are well matched. I do not think that the man should ask, or, if he were the proper sort, would wish, that the woman should convey to him her property, but he should allow her to retain it intact. "If I remarry I shall be guided by these ideas, but probably I shall not find a person with similar ideas and consequently expect to remain unmarried."

Just Like the Bulgarians, At a dance given by Mr. and Mrs Frank Browne Keech of New York the ruests all wore Balkan costumes. For supper they had turkey.

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