

NEWS FLASHES

Nation Wide Happenings Briefly Told

Six automobile bandits held up the First National Bank of Finleyville, Pa., near Pittsburgh, last week, escaping with over \$100,000.

The cost of the United States control of railroads is estimated at \$900,478,000.

A thief gagged and then administered ether to Morris Goldstein, a Philadelphia tailor, in order to rob his establishment of \$500 in cash.

A member of the famous White House sheep herd, a big ram, became disgusted with things in general one day last week and after chasing a secret service guard into the executive offices, butted Secretary Tumulty's automobile several times.

A bill authorizing the sale of 2.75 percent beer has been signed by Governor Smith of New York.

The Pennsylvania Railroad was penalized \$100 by Federal Judge Orr at Pittsburgh, for compelling one of its employes to do 21 hours work, broken up by short periods of rest.

The bodies of six Philadelphia soldiers were among those which arrived from England last week.

One boy was killed and another seriously injured at Harrisburg, Pa., last week by bullets from a supposedly empty machine gun in the hands of the newly organized Company of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Thirty were injured in a rear end collision between two trolley cars near Stratford, N. J., last week.

More than 1,000,000,000 tons of goods were hauled by motor trucks in the United States last year.

The average length of time for a 10,000 ton steamer to unload and reload in New York harbor is 12 days.

The London Daily Express is offering a prize of \$50,000 to aviators making a flight from Britain to India and back.

The productive power of Canada during 1919 was greater than any previous time in this country's history, being in excess of \$5,000,000,000, or about double that of five or six years ago.

America's First Public Building

The White House at Washington was the first public building erected at the new seat of government. The architect was James Hoban, who drew his plans closely after those of the Duke of Leinster, near Dublin, Ireland. Washington himself selected the site and laid the cornerstone October 13, 1792, and lived to see it completed. It was burned in 1814 by marauding British troops but the general opinion that the walls of the building were afterward painted white to obliterate the scorched marks is not exactly true according to "A History of the National Capital." It is stated in this work that the walls were originally painted white even before the burning by the British. The name "White House" was in current use prior to its destruction by the British.

The east room or state parlor is used for receptions and 50 feet wide, 82 feet long and the distance from floor to ceiling is 22 feet. It is lighted by three massive crystal chandeliers and among other beautiful furnishings contains two royal blue Sevres vases presented to President McKinley by the president of the French Republic. The blue room of the White House is oval in shape the walls of which are covered with rich blue corded silk and the window hangings are blue with golden stars in upper folds. On the mantle in the blue room is a clock of gold presented by Napoleon I to Lafayette and presented by him to Washington.

Walls covered with green velvet with white enamel wainscoting is the color effect of the green room and contained in this is a laquer cabinet presented by Japan when her ports were opened to world commerce by Commodore Perry's visit to that country in 1852. It also contains a rare old screen of Gobelin tapestry presented to Mrs. Grant by the emperor of Austria. A gilt clock and two gilt vases which were presented to the White House by Grant are also in the green room. Draperies on the walls and windows of the red room are of red velvet and hanging above the mantelpiece of this room is a rare copy in oils of the famous Stuart painting of George Washington which Dolly Madison took from its frame when the British applied the torch to the building, and escaped with it in safety across the Potomac, also contained in the red room is a richly decorated piano presented to the White House by a New York firm of piano manufacturers.

Paneled in dark English oak and decorated with heads of American big game, the state dining room contains verse from Virginia in praise of hunting on the walls. All banquets are held in the state dining room which is equipped with a massive mahogany table capable of seating 100 guests.

The President's room and the cabinet's room are in the executive office in the west of the White House, and throughout the entire mansion, but principally in the red room and the green room, are hung the paintings of the Presidents which will be visualized in "Our Presidents."

Has Stones from Famous Battlefields

Leading to the historic sundial in his garden in Germantown, Philadelphia, Charles E. Jenkins has two pathways of stepping stones to each of which a history attaches.

On the left, in the "historical way," are stones from the scenes of the battle of Germantown, from the Brandywine battlefield, from Gen. Wolfe's rocky pathway to the plains of Abraham at Quebec, from the homes of William Penn and Anthony Wayne, from Valley Forge and Washington's headquarters at Chadds Ford, from the site of America's first paper mill, built by Rittenhouse, near the Wissahickon, and from other spots round which associations thickly cluster.

On the other side of the dial is the "ancestral way," now numbering 14 stones; but, that number will presently be enlarged, for Mr. Jenkins finds he had 128 ancestors here before 1700 who left footprints in the sands of time, if not in rock formation.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Keeps Balls Clean

A pressed steel hole rim for golf courses is so designed that it keeps the balls from falling into mud that may accumulate at the bottom, and can be readily adjusted to the desired height by turning a removable key, furnished with the outfit, says Popular Mechanics. Within the cup, which forms the rim proper, is a small cylinder, with threaded surface, which fits into a hole in the bottom of the cup and into the upper end of which the ball falls. The threads referred to cause the cup to rise or descend when it is turned. Steel shoes are provided which can be attached to the iron or bamboo markers so that they fit snugly in its inner cylinder. In this way pointed rods that cut up the putting greens are eliminated.

When a man is in trouble, two-thirds of his alleged friends are willing to help him stay in it.

Coordination of Illegitimacy Laws is Advised by U. S. Children's Bureau

Legislation Bearing on Father's Obligations Backward in Majority of States

Washington—Fair play for "no-body's child."

That is the basis of a movement backed by Miss Julia Lathrop of the U. S. Children's Bureau (or a revamping and co-ordination of the illegitimacy laws of the different States. The English common law, which regards the child born out of wedlock as the "child of no one" still prevails in many States and deprives the child, not only of a name, but of the substantial rights of inheritance and support.

"While the stigma of illegitimacy can be lifted only through radical changes in public opinion," says Miss Lathrop, "everything within legislative power should be done to alleviate its hardships."

According to a report compiled by the Children's Bureau, laws in North Dakota and Minnesota are the most advanced in the eyes of child welfare experts.

The North Dakota law declares every child the legitimate child of its natural parents. The first case under

this law has just been completed in the Cass County courts and a child born out of wedlock has received its father's name and been declared his legitimate heir.

Insufficient Support
Legislation bearing on the father's obligations have been particularly backward in most States, according to the report. Six States and Alaska still have no provision whatever for compelling support by its natural father. In one State only a single payment of \$50 is required; in another \$90 distributed over a period of three years. The two most liberal States have allowances that total in one case \$2750 for the first 18 years of the child's life; and in the other \$1750 for the first 11 years.

At least 32,000 illegitimate white children are born each year in the United States and not more than 70 percent of these children survive the first year of life. In European countries the mortality rate among the same class of children is twice as high as that of children of more fortunate birth. In the United States it is three times as high.

MAKING A FLAG

BY OLIVER ROBERTS

When Dr. Anna Howard Shaw was chairman of the woman's committee of war defense, she wrote from Washington: "I get many letters from teachers, in country school particularly, which say: 'We love our country and we want to help it; what can we do to serve it?'" She continued: "I have one answer to make: 'Stick right on your job.' There is no work that any woman can do for her country today that is more needed, more patriotic than to stay by the school and teach patriotism to the youth of the country." This is just as true today as it was during the war.

Young children of kindergarten age can carry into their homes love and appreciation for our nation, as shown by the following story. A certain kindergarten located in one of the "doubtful" districts of Chicago was in charge of a most enthusiastic and patriotic kindergarten. On the first Memorial Day after our entry into the world war each child in the kindergarten made a little American flag. They were delighted to take this bit of handwork home to their fathers and mothers.

A few days later the kindergarten noticed that one little 5-year-old boy had been absent, so she decided to

visit him. His address brought her to a rather disreputable looking saloon in a neighborhood in which several arrests had been made for unpatriotic utterances. Finding herself in such surroundings, she hesitated and then strengthened her courage by realizing that any home welcomes the person who is interested in its children.

She knocked at the side door which evidently led into the living apartment. The mother of the child opened it and the young kindergarten was invited in. The mother stated that she had kept the little boy at home because he had not been well. Then the chat drifted into talk about the kindergarten and the pleasure which it had brought him.

"Finally, rising eagerly to her feet, the mother said: 'Just you come here—I show you what my man has done.' Timidly tiptoeing, as if she herself was afraid, she led the way to the door which connected with the saloon and, opening it cautiously, said in a whisper: 'Just look there. He has put little Fritz's flag on his big looking glass.'

Fritz's father was a man who had been known to utter bitter denunciations of the American government before the war began and in his saloon many inflammatory meetings had taken place.

Spring Treatment for Hardwood Floors

The displacement of the old tacked down carpet as a floor covering created a new standard in floors. Not many years ago the carpet was a part of the decorative scheme of the room. Now rugs play the part, but not entirely; the floor itself must furnish an artistic background.

As a natural consequence, this demands that the floor receive the same care and treatment as the furniture, and the woman who does not neglect it has a real setting for the home beautiful.

If new floors are being finished great care should be taken that the natural beauty of the wood is not subdued, but rather intensified, and yet so mellowed that the furniture will almost be mirrored therein. It should also have a hard, protective covering that will preserve the wood from scratches and wear. And last, but most important, it should be a floor that can be easily taken care of and not add to the complexity of modern housekeeping.

Giving a Floor a Good Start
If you are fortunate enough to have a hand in the finishing of new floors, consider it a privilege. First the floor should be scraped and sanded perfectly smooth and clear.

Then apply a "wood filler"—a paste is preferable to a liquid. After the filler has been smoothed off and allowed to dry for about 24 hours, apply a thin coat of wax. This is applied in the following manner: Place a goodly quantity between two or more thicknesses of cheesecloth, forming a sort of bag. Then allow the wax to work through the meshes of the cloth as it passes over the floor, thus insuring a thin, even coat. Allow this to dry about 10 minutes. Rub to a polish with a clean soft cloth or with a brick with a cloth wrapped around it. Polish first across the grain of the wood, and then with it, in an hour or two a second coat should be applied in a similar manner.

Be sure to get a wax that brings out the natural beauty of the grain of the wood without changing the color of the floor. If the wood is light, however, and you prefer it a darker shade, stain the floor to the desired shade after the filler is applied. A thin coat of wood alcohol shellac should be applied over the stain to act as a binder. Then when the shellac has thoroughly dried, apply the wax as directed.

Old Floor Made New
If you have old floors and want to

refinish them, the treatment given depends on their condition. If they are varnished or shellacked and in only fair condition, first clean with what is known as a "brightener." Then apply a thin coat of wax and rub to polish with a soft clean cloth. Allow to remain an hour or so and apply a second coat. The former surface will be protected from scratching and the improved appearance will delight you.

If the same kind of floor is in extremely bad condition, remove the old finish with a varnish remover. Take out all stains with a stain remover and fill all cracks with a special substance furnished for this purpose. Don't use putty. Then apply wax and finish in the same manner as before.

If your floors are oiled they should be scraped down as far as the oil has penetrated, then finished the same as a new floor.

If waxed floors need care they should be cleaned thoroughly with the brightener, using a stiff brush, and polished for about 10 minutes. Then add two thin coats of wax.

Soap and water should never be put on floors which you wish to keep in good condition. The water will in a short time destroy the life and luster of a shellacked varnished or waxed surface, and it will also "raise" the grain of the wood.

The careless and extravagant use of oil is even more injurious. The oil darkens the wood and collects dust and dirt and eventually ruins the lustre. A liquid cleaner which contains no oil is to be preferred. It should be something which not only cleans, but polishes, brightens and protects the floor.

If there are worn spots which appear in the floor where it has the hardest usage these places should be watched and a little wax applied frequently. The new wax does not show and yet protects the floor. Do not try to cover these spots with varnish or shellac, as they will show up and look patchy and unattractive.

Going over the floor with a dry cloth or the felt-covered tool of the vacuum cleaner once or twice a week will keep a properly prepared floor clean, and waxing twice a month in addition will give the last word in a perfectly kept floor.

Some people are satisfied to take what they can get, others get what they can take.

SPRING NOISES

There is a splendid clamor in the wood. That is not known among the city marts, A crying language never understood. Save by untrammelled, untrammelled woodland hearts. The oak trees shout against the close of day.

And there are cries from flowers still unborn, From ferns, rocks, hills and all the fine array, Of colors that announce a sounding morn.

The ponderous beeches swell the hymn along, The latent sap makes music as it stirs, And far away the moss-clad cliffs are strong, To echo back the woodland choristers: Awake, awake, O world, awake and sing. And shout the glorious music of the Spring.

—Gernet Laidlaw Eskew, in Harrisburg Telegraph.

Your Ironing Board

Did it ever occur to you that a well-equipped laundry is one of the surest instruments toward having careful laundry work? In fact, it has been known to happen that a thoroughly efficient laundress ceased to work for one woman because she had a badly covered ironing board and went to work for another woman who was very particular to see that there was always the wherewithal to keep the ironing board in the pink of condition.

The honors seem to be about divided between the plan of using old sheets for ironing board covers or buying new material for that purpose. If you get new material, select unbleached muslin. The board should be well padded with felt before putting on the cover, and this may be fastened by tacking it along the back if you wish, although this method has the disadvantage when you want to remove the cover to wash it that it must be unattached. And, of course, the cover should be washed frequently if you want your clothes to be spotless.

Some housewives make ironing board covers and sew heavy snappers to them with corresponding parts of the snappers attached to the felt on the board so that the cover may be quickly taken off and put on again. Here is an old fashioned rule for making a cover for ironing board: Pad board smoothly, bringing padding over small end of board and tack securely. Some articles are more easily ironed if just slipped over the small end of the board. Cut muslin the shape and length of board, allowing enough to bring over edge and under about three inches. Then take a piece about 12 inches long and cut to fit small end of board, allowing for thickness of board and seam. This is for the bottom. Sew to top, turn seam in and you have a slip which will fit snugly over the

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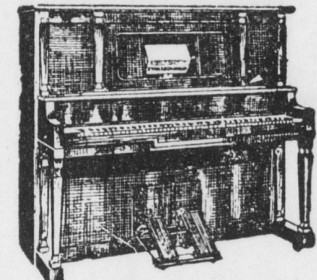
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