WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Uncle Sam Manufactures Some Expensive Toys

WASHINGTON.—In the midst of the ponderous national duties which constantly beset him, Uncle Sam finds time to indulge in the occupation of toymaker, an occupation which makes him beloved by children and admired by grown-ups who may never hope to see the mighty originals of the wonderful toys.

Three rooms in a tiny brick building, tucked away in a secluded corner of the Washington navy yard, where the thunder of giant machinery making mighty guns is shut out and the everlasting crashing of metal is faint and dim, constitute the toy shop for things marine.

Six of Uncle Sam's most able assistants, all experts in their line, are employed here steadily turning out the expensive playthings. There is one workman laboriously threading wire into a long cage. Here is another slowly carving with small instruments many pieces of wood that dovetail perfectly once their jigsaw individualities are united in a whole. There is another with a tiny brazier melting small pigs of metal with anxious care, and far in a shadowy corner another is arranging his paints.

A room in the building of the army signal corps is the home of the army toy, the tiny field gun, the mule team with animals complete, all less than three feet long; the miniature field hospital and a horde of other things.

Children going through the war and navy departments cry out in delight when they first learn what a wonderful Santa Claus Uncle Sam can be if he puts his hand to it. One millionaire gravely offered a secretary of the navy $15,000 for a single toy and was refused because Uncle Sam desires that his playthings be enjoyed by all alike.

Hardy plainsmen, visiting fairs in desert towns, stare open-mouthed at Uncle Sam's toys and chuckle with pride at the strength which he has shown them in minature.

Uncle Sam's toyshop at the navy yard is wonderful. Here exact models—on a scale of one-quarter of an inch to one foot—of the mighty fighting craft of the nation are built. Tools no larger than a surgeon's lancet are used to cut and shape the hull, for every line in the miniature dreadnought is made according to the plans of the original. A mistake of one one-hundredth of an inch would be fatal.

Jackson Monument Guns Are Bronze Smoothbores

WITHIN the circular fence which girdles the green mound on which the Jackson monument stands in Lafayette square are four old field guns pointing outward from the corners of the white stone pedestal. They are slightly depressed.

The guns are bronze, muzzle-loading smoothbores, with a caliber of about two inches. They are crusted with the gray-green which comes to cannon with age and lends charm to antique ordinance.

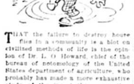
The carriages have been freshly painted, the wood gray and the iron parts black. The carriages are well preserved. It seems impossible that they can be the original carriages of these guns. The wheels have wooden hubs as big as beer kegs, with fourteen spokes and seven felloes. The lynch pin through the spindle is of a pattern that was superseded several years ago by the new artillery hub cap fastening. The elevating screws, square wooden axles, square timber trails, the brackets for trail handspike, the slings for rammer staffs and the trunnion seats and fastenings seem to mark these gun carriages as of the Civil war type of field artillery.

Two of the guns, those at the southeast and the northwest corners of the pedestal, have the ornamented handles that were common in seventeenth and eighteenth century French and Spanish ships' guns and fortress artillery. The guns at the southwest and northeast angles of the monument are without these handles. The guns with handles are chased on the barrel.

The writer asked Col. Spencer Cosby, engineer corps, United States army, officer in charge of public buildings and grounds in the District of Columbia, about these guns. Colonel Cosby said:

"Nine years ago the office made an effort to ascertain the history of the four cannons located at the base of the Jackson statue in Lafayette square, but was unable to learn anything definite either from our own records or from those of the war department."

Says Failure to Kill Flies Is Blot Upon Civilization



THAT the failure to destroy house flies in a community is a blot on civilized methods of life is the opinion of Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the bureau of entomology of the United States department of agriculture, who probably has made a more exhaustive study of the insect than any other scientist in America.

Doctor Howard is watching with interest the campaign against the pest and believes that the preventive methods being urged constitute the ... chief asset, but, in addition, the insects manage to distribute a few hundred thousand tuberculosis, cholera infantum and dysentery bacilli. As a general thing, every fly carries a quarter of a million bacilli and spends most of the summer months in scatering free samples wherever he goes.

A careful collection of garbage in cans, watertight floors for stables, absolute cleanliness and careful inspection by board of health employes are the fly-prevention methods suggested by Doctor Howard.

The final solution of the fly nuisance, he points out, must rest entirely on prevention—that is to say, the breeding places of flies must be done away with. The majority of flies being reared in stable refuse, it is stated, would seem to point the way for the successful abatement of the fly nuisance.

Problem of Feeding the Help in Large Hotels

WEEK'S NEWS IN PARAGRAPHS

ITEMS GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

EVENTS HERE AND ABROAD

Epitome of a Week's Happenings Condensed for the Perusal of the Busy Man, and Arranged in Classified Form.

Washington

Personal

Domestic

Foreign

BLOWN TO ATOMS

FARMERS BLOWN TO PIECES IN DYNAMITE EXPLOSION WHILE BLASTING STUMPS.

LIND NOT WELCOME.

WOMAN SCARED TO DEATH.

STREETS ARE FLOODED.

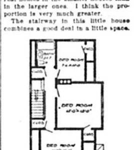
CINCINNATI MARKETS

FIVE OFFICERS ARE INJURED.

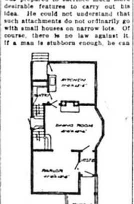
WEAKENED BRIDGE COLLAPSES.

THE AMERICAN HOME

WILLIAM A. RADFORD EDITOR



Second Floor Plan.



First Floor Plan.

The SUITORS OF Mrs. MERRIWID

BY KENNETT HARRIS

MELISSA WOULD NOT JOIN THE ARMY.

"He seems to be a very nice sort of a man," remarked Mrs. Merriwid's maternal maiden aunt Jane, "and as the wife of an army officer you would ..."

"He Looks Very Well in His Uniform, Too."

TURKEYS FOR MARKET

Not Difficult if Proper Attention Is Given to Work.

First Week Is Critical Period in Young Bird's Life—One of Greatest Mistakes Is Overfeeding—Keep Them Growing.

One of the lines of work that is capable of returning good profits is the rearing of turkeys for the markets. Year after year the price climbs upward, which may be taken as an indication that the supply is never quite equal to the demand.

Turkey raising is usually regarded as an arduous and uncertain task, and it is unless the keeper is well posted as to the requirements. Many think it impossible to bring more than one-fourth of the hatch to maturity, but I know that with the proper care it is possible to bring the entire hatch through.

RED KITTEN WHOLE SHOW

Profitable Specimens.

MANGEL BEETS FOR POULTRY

FRUIT TREES AND COWS ARE PROFITABLE

Fine Old Apple Orchard.

(By C. M. SCHULTZ.)

THE KITCHEN CABINET

THERE are hundreds of homes where love is law and wisdom chief ruler, and the child that is born into them is sure of all that highest thought can secure for him in body, soul and spirit. But for the unnumbered thousands where love is not and wisdom has never entered! what shall we do with them? —Ellen Richards.

HOT WEATHER DRINKS.

During the hot weather there is great demand for cooling drinks, and we prefer those made at home with materials which are unquestionable, rather than many which are served in bottles or at the fountains. In the following, there surely will be found one which will suit the palate of all:

DESSERTS WORTH TRYING.

Practical Fashions

CHILD'S DRESS.

LADY'S TWO-PIECE SKIRT.