

NOTABLES IN THE LIMELIGHT

Claude Kitchin, Who Will Lead House Majority.



Photo by American Press Association.

When the Sixty-fourth congress assembles for its first session—and that may be any time after March 4 next—there will be a new Democratic leader on the floor of the house. This will come to pass by reason of the transition of the present floor leader, Representative Oscar W. Underwood of Alabama, to the United States senate. The new leader of the majority will in all probability be Representative Claude Kitchin of the Second North Carolina district. Mr. Kitchin is the second man on the Democratic side of the great way and means committee and if the usual procedure prevails will become its chairman, which position carries with it the majority leadership.

When Mr. Kitchin first went to congress in 1901 his elder brother, William W., was also a member of that body. Later William left congress to become governor of the Tar Heel State. Congressman Kitchin is a native of North Carolina and is forty-six years old. He is a lawyer by profession and has practiced law at Scotland Neck since his graduation in 1890. He never held public office until elected to the Fifty-seventh congress, and he has been regularly returned ever since, steadily rising in the esteem of his colleagues and becoming a powerful member of the Democratic party. Mr. Kitchin is a good speaker, forceful in debate and is considered one of the best parliamentarians on his side of the house.

Would Aid the Unemployed. Representative David J. Lewis of Maryland, who is preparing a bill for the creation of a federal employment bureau, believes the postoffice should be used to bring the man and job together. "My idea," says Mr. Lewis, "is that state and municipal employment bureaus should be co-ordinated with a national bureau. The federal government already has the machinery to run the federal employment bureau."



DAVID JOHN LEWIS.

In its extensive postoffice department, whose ramifications reach every nook and corner of the land.

Born in Pennsylvania of Welsh parents forty-six years ago, Mr. Lewis has an unusual history. While still a child his parents moved to Maryland, and here young Lewis began coal mining when only nine years old. He learned to read in Sunday school, and he often pursued his studies by the light of his flickering mine lamp, fastened to his cap, as he walked twelve hours a day behind the mules he drove far underground. That his studies took him into law and Latin give a hint of the persistence of the youth. He continued at mining until 1892, when he was admitted to the bar of Allegany county, Md. In 1901 he was elected to the Maryland senate and in 1911 was sent to congress, to which he has twice been re-elected. Representative Lewis is chairman of the House committee on labor.

LIFE IN DEATH

By SARAH BAXTER

I went to bed with a frightful headache. It really seemed that I could not endure the pain. I did not endure it. The agony broke down my nerve strength, leaving me in a condition between sleep and death. At least that is what it seemed to me. I lay in a semiconscious condition till morning, when my maid came into the room, and the moment she looked at me she gave a cry and ran out again. In a few moments every one in the house rushed into the room and on seeing me took on a solemn, some of them a pained, expression.

The first person not a member of the family who came in was my doctor. He looked at me scrutinizingly, felt my pulse, then bent his head down on my chest to listen for a heartbeat. "I think she is dead," he said.

Just before he spoke the words my nurse, Eber Green, came in. I saw him looking at me with an expression which indicated disappointment rather than grief.

"You say, doctor," he broke in, "that you think she is dead? Is there no hope?"

The doctor laid his head again on my breast before replying.

"Yes, she is dead."

Eber turned away, not with a moan. It seemed to me rather with a suppressed oath, and left the room.

I confess that I was too much frightened at the prospect of being buried alive to take an interest in the absence of feeling on the part of my lover at losing me. Had I been free from this fear doubtless it would have affected me intensely. I divided the cause of his bearing toward what he supposed to be my dead body. I was rich; he was poor. He had been acting the lover for the purpose of securing my fortune.

Later in the day my doctor came into the room, where I was lying alone with another man. Both were physicians, and it was plain to me that they were endeavoring to discover whether or not I was dead. After applying several tests, the nature of which I did not comprehend, they came to the conclusion that my burial had better be delayed, but that they would not give out the fact that they suspected I was alive.

During the afternoon I seemed to pass from my deathlike condition into a restful slumber. When I awoke I was myself again. There was a dim light in the room, and my maid was putting to rights a few things that had been scattered about.

"Christine," I called.

Christine started, turned, looked at me and was about to flee in terror when I said again quietly:

"Christine, please bring me a glass of water."

My tone and the ordinary nature of my request reassured her. I told her I had been conscious of all that had passed. She came to me shivering, looked at me for a few moments, then ran out of the room as she had done in the morning, this time to inform the household not that I was dead, but that I lived.

My doctor was sent for, and when he came he did not manifest any special surprise at finding me alive. He said he had not believed that I was dead, but would not make known his opinion, being unwilling to excite expectations that might not be realized. I was very weak, and he gave me some drug to tide me over my present condition. I did not feel strong enough to take any interest in anything, and after having partaken of a little nourishment, fell into a slumber.

I soon began to gather strength, and with its return my mind took hold of my discovery of the object Eber Green had in desiring to marry me. Our wedding had been set for a week from the day I was stricken. The narrowness of my matrimonial escape appalled me. I had felt the fear some wealthy girls experience of being married for my money, but Eber had been such a consummate actor that he had deceived me entirely. When the doctor had arrived at my return to life he had ordered that I be kept perfectly quiet and no one should be admitted to see me. In a few days I was told that Eber had been anxious to pay me a visit the moment the doctor would permit and that owing to my fiancée's importunities the doctor had consented that he should be admitted for a few moments.

I replied that I did not feel well enough to see him.

My refusal brought me a brief note from Eber, in which he concentrated a world of love. How a man could feel so much depth of feeling, show so much contrast between coldness and learning of my death and joy at my return to life, I could not conceive. I did not reply to his note, and, although I gained strength every day and received others, I sent no message to him and would not permit him to see me.

While I was in what they called a comatose condition my cousin, Will Murdock, whom I had considered a brother, came into my room, stood by my bedside and looked down on me mournfully. Then he bent and kissed me. In these few moments was revealed to me what I had never suspected. I supposed it was Eber who loved me. I discovered that it was Will.

When I recovered I wrote the former that I had changed my mind with regard to him. As for Will, my subsequent treatment of him makes a very pretty love story in itself.

YOUNG FOLKS' CORNER

Six Foot "Pocket" Knives.

A knife large enough to serve as a pencil sharpener for the biggest giant of the fairy tales was recently finished after four years of labor, by a New England mechanic, says Popular Mechanics. When open the knife is six feet seven inches long from tip to tip of the opposite blade. Closed it measures three feet two and one-half inches. It is six and one-fourth inches wide and weighs forty-nine pounds two ounces. The blades are of tool steel, the springs of steel and the tips and inside name plate German silver. The handle is rosewood. It is so constructed that it can all be taken apart and put together again in a few minutes. The maker of this huge tool is a knife-maker by trade employed in a Connecticut factory. He made this knife entirely by hand at home in his spare time in addition to doing other regular evening work. Before beginning this knife he had made many very small ones, one measuring seven-eighths of an inch closed and three-fourth inch open, having two blades and a pearl handle.

Transposition. Express by the same letter a rich fruit and how we would like to buy it. Peach cheap.

Transpose sixty and it will show what every man says his lady love does.

LX—XL (excel). The hardest and almost the heaviest substance in nature transposed will give the lightest.

Rock, cork. What race horses do transposed will give a vessel used in mixing tea and which formerly contained the ashes of persons.

Run—urn. Building a Campfire. There are ways and ways of building a camp fire. An old Indian saying runs: "White man heap fuel; make um big fire—can't git near. Unjun make um little fire—git close. Unjun Good!"

Two things are essential in the building of a fire—kindling and air. A fire must be built systematically. First get dry, small, dead branches, twigs, birch branches and other inflammable material. Place these on the ground. Be sure that air can draw under it and upward through it. Next place some heavier sticks, and so on until you have built the camp fire the required size.

A Story of Washington. Abe Lincoln was not the only president who wished to abolish slavery. George Washington disapproved of slavery and said about the subject, "I wish from my soul that my state might be persuaded to abolish slavery."

One day Washington was out walking with one of his brother officers. A negro slave passed them and saluted the general. Immediately Washington responded by raising his hat.

"What!" said the officer. "Do you raise your hat to a negro?"

"Would you have me lose politeness to a negro slave?" asked Washington.

Maxims of Washington. Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.

Speak not ill of the absent. It is unjust.

Commerce and industry are the best mines of a nation.

I never wish to promise more than I have a moral certainty of performing.

I shall never attempt to palliate my own follies by exposing the errors of others.

Boy Scouts' Game. First aid for spilling down is a good game for boy scouts. Two leaders are selected, and they choose sides. Everybody is in it. Sides line up. Scoutmaster announces the first aid subject, and one leader gives first symptom and second leader next point. It goes back and forth as in the old-fashioned spelling bee. When case is finished another is named. A scout missing a point sits down—Scout.

The Study of Astronomy. A sharp schoolboy home for the holidays, wishing to inspire his little brother with awe for his learning, pointed to a star and said: "Do you see that small luminary? It's bigger than this wide world." "No, 'tain't!" said his brother. "Yes, it is," said the youthful scholar. "Then why is it that it don't keep the rain off?" was the triumphant rejoinder.

An Apt Answer. "Where did Washington live after he retired from public life?" asked the teacher after reading the story of Washington to her class.

There was silence for a moment. Then little George Brown at the end of the class popped up. "I know, teacher. He lived in the hearts of his countrymen."

Washington as a Marksman. One story of Washington's marksmanship in his youth is to the effect that he could sight and fire a rifle with one hand. This was an extraordinary feat, indeed, for the firearms of that day were heavy and cumbersome, and the loading of the piece was a long and difficult operation.

Girl's Name Puzzle. My whole, of course, you've often heard; A name to many dear. Read carefully and scan each word; You'll find it plainly here. Answer—The initial letter of each line spells the name—Mary.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR HOUSEWIVES

Combined Stove Brush and Bleaching Container.



A combined stove brush and bleaching container relieves the task of bleaching the stove of much if not all of the scrub and soil which it has heretofore been accompanied with. The bleaching, in the form of a solution, is contained in a reservoir which is attached to the back of the brush, occupying a position along its length, where it also acts as a convenient handle to be grasped by the operator. After the desired quantity of bleaching has been freed on the stove top it is distributed by means of a dabber, which is affixed to one end of the combination.

Household Hints. When poaching eggs always put a little vinegar in the water.

Oranges and lemons keep well in hung in a wire net in a cool, dry place.

If currants are dried in flour after having been washed they will not stick to the bottom of a cake.

If when chopping nut you add a little ground rice to it, it will not stick to the chopper, but can be minced quite easily.

Clean white enameled woodwork with whitening or a moist cloth.

Every room in the house should be thoroughly aired once a day.

Buying Kitchens. Avoid buying ware which has "seams," cracks and joints where food particles can accumulate. They are harder to wash and likely to become insanitary sooner. A saucer should have a "lip" on two sides. One piece straight handles are better than three "ball" kind, which becomes hot as it hangs to the side of the pot. Never be tempted into the supposed economy of buying "seconds" in kitchenware. There is always some weak spot, some uncoated place or a "bubble" where the surface is weak.

Omelet, Southern Style. Separate the whites and yolks of three eggs, beat the whites stiff and dry, beat the yolks until light, then beat into them eight tablespoons of thick white sauce and a splash of cayenne and salt. Fold this into the beaten whites. Fold in six tablespoons of ground baked ham and turn into a hot buttered baking dish. Bake until firm. Take care not to overbake or it will be dry. Sprinkle ground ham around the edge of the dish, stick an sprig of parsley in the center and serve immediately.

Chicken Pie. Line sides of a baking dish with a biscuit dough. Cook chicken until tender, season with salt and pepper and a little sage if desired. Put meat into dish lined with the dough, pour in a part of the gravy and cover dish with biscuit dough. Cut a hole the size of a dollar in the cover, and cover this with a piece of dough. While baking remove this piece often to examine interior. If pie is dry put in more chicken gravy.

Fresh Fish Balls. With a silver fork pick some remnants of cooked fish and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Pass through a vegetable ricer a few hot boiled potatoes; to these add a little fish stock or suet over cream, also salt, pepper, and beat as for mashed potatoes. To the fish add just enough of the hot potato to hold the fish together. Shape into balls, roll in crumbs and eggs, then in fine crumbs, and fry in deep fat.

Cleaning Windows. The easiest way to wash windows during cold weather is to wipe them with a soft cloth or sponge which has been dipped in kerosene; then in a few minutes go over them with tissue paper or soft newspaper and rub out most of the oil and dirt, after which with fresh water give them a good polishing. They will soon be clear and bright.

POPULAR MECHANICS

Canadian Fellows.

During the past few years the reports of Canadian fellows in the United States have been prominent. The student of Montreal was announced in the Economist in 1910 when the amount named was \$100,000. The first trial shipment of this sort of fellows in 1910 was not a success. The second shipment, 1000 men, arrived in 1911. This year the amount will reach 10,000 men. The entire production of Canada is estimated to be from the district about twenty miles north of the city of Kingston. It is used in the large paper mill at Trenton, N. J., and East Liverpool, O., and is recent years the Cooper grade has been employed in manufacturing low grade and some—Commerce Reports.

Uses of Tungsten. Tungsten is used principally as an alloy of high speed steel—that is, steel used in making tools used in metal turning which running at high speeds to which it imparts the property of holding temper at higher temperatures than carbon steels will, according to the United States geological survey. Tungsten is practically useless in all the common acids. Its melting point is higher than that of any other metal. Its specific gravity exceeds that of iron and nickel. It is paramagnetic; it can be drawn in smaller sizes than any other metal except iron, and is also diamagnetic. Its specific gravity is 70 per cent lighter than that of lead.

Assembling Piston Rings Properly. Piston compression on a gasoline engine is due in many cases to the fitting up of the piston rings—that is, all slots are located so that they fit in line with the length of the piston. This forms a path for the gas to escape. Trouble of this nature can be easily avoided if care is taken when the engine is overhauled and reassembled. The slots of the rings should be staggered, and in addition the right and left slots should be alternated. Then even if the slots should happen to line up the path of the escaping gas is broken up more or less and very little compression is lost.

Where Our Nickel Comes From. Although the United States produces more nickel than any other country, practically all the ore used comes from Ontario and New Caledonia, Australia. It is there refined to matte, according to the United States geological survey, and then shipped to this country for further reduction to metal. The only domestic nickel produced is a small quantity obtained from blister copper as a byproduct in electrolytic refining, and even this small quantity is not mined as to source that what part of it is of domestic origin and what part of foreign origin cannot be determined.

Danger of Unleash Gas Pump. Some automobile fires are caused by neglect to clean the machine carefully. In one instance what might have been a disastrous fire was caused by not keeping the rod clean, says Popular Mechanics. While cranking the motor a backfire ignited the oil in the rod pan, and great damage was avoided only by the quick action of the garage owners. It was apparent that the owner had not cleaned the rod pan for several months, and the accumulation was so great that it easily produced a large flame. It is well to clean out the oil dripping frequently.

Many Spring Wheels Invented. An average of thirty-five patents on spring wheels for motorcycles and trucks have been granted per month since early last year, says the Scientific American. Not in several years has been as numerous as at present. About one out of twenty gets a real test, and less than one out of a hundred survives the trial stage. There are at present ten spring wheel designs in commercial use, four of them being often seen in New York city. The rest are born, reared and die with unfulfilling regularity.

Restoring Color of White Shells. If kept in the cans white shells will often lose their color and turn a rusty brown. It can be restored in the following manner: Four it into a wooden pail and stir with a long stick reaching to the bottom of the pail, at the same time adding dry oxalic acid, until the whiteness returns; then strain through cheesecloth into another can. White shells, if kept in glass, stoneware or wooden jars, will not lose their color readily.

Alaskan Survey Finished. The work of surveying and marking the boundary between Alaska and the Yukon territory, which was begun in 1904, has been finished. This line stretches approximately 1,000 miles over mountain ranges and tortuous rivers and was one of the biggest and most difficult jobs of surveying ever undertaken.

New Paint For Ships. Red oxide of mercury is now being incorporated in marine paints for coating ship's bottoms. The poisonous nature of the mercuric oxide prevents the growth of sea plants and other organisms which foul a ship's bottom and cause the vessel to lose speed.

Cheese Tubes Are Poor Economy. It is false economy to purchase cheap cheese tubes, for they will quickly get an expensive making in the soup pan.

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