Next Year Will Be Celebrated The Centennial of Photography

And in His Recently-Published Book, "Photography and the American Scene," Dr. Robert Taft Has Not Only Given an Authoritative Account of the First 50 Years of Picture-Taking but Has Made an Important Contribution to the Social History of the United States. @ Western Newspaper Union

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

N JANUARY, 1939, will be celebrated the 100th birthday of "the greatest boon ever conferred upon the common man in recent years." That benefaction, according ^o to John Richard Green, the historian who made this statement, was photography.

Throughout photography's centennial year of 1939 we Americans, who are probably the most "picture-minded" people in the world, will be asking such questions as "Who was the inventor of . photography - how was it started-who were the pioneers in the field-who did most to bring it to its present high stage of development?" Fortunately for us the answers to those questions, and many others, are to be found in a recently - published book, which is one of the most important contributions to the social history of the United States that has appeared in recent years. It is "Photography and the American Scene - A Social History, 1839-1889," written by Robert Taft and published by the Macmillan company.

Six years ago Dr. Taft, who as professor of chemistry at the Uni-versity of Kansas has always been interested in the history of photography from a purely technical standpoint, was reading an account of the explorations of Gen. John C. Fremont, the so-called "Pathfinder of the West." A question arose in his mind as to the first use of photography in the exploration of the West and when he sought enlighten-ment on this point he found a curious dearth of information about it. He then began to accumulate data on the subject. Out of that grew his history of American photography-a monumental volume of 546 pages illustrated with more than 300 pictures, a book as distinguished for its lively and readable style as for the scholarliness of the research back of it.

Importance of Photography. In the introduction Dr. Taft declares that Green, the historian, 'can not be far wrong" in his estimate of the importance of photography to the common man. He says: "Photography affects the lives of modern individuals so extensively that it is difficult to enumerate all of its uses. In addition to preserving for us the portraits of loved ones, it illustrates our newspapers, our magazines, our books. It enables the physician to record the inner structure of man and thus aids in alleviating man's ills. By its means, man has been able to study the infinitely small, to ex-plore the outer reaches of space, to discover planets, and to reveal the structure of atoms. Crime has been detected through its readily as in metal structures. It has recorded the past, educated our youth and last, but not least, it has given us the most popular form of amusement ever devised." Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre, the Frenchman, little re-alized how all of those benefits would come from the process, the discovery of which he announced in January, 1839, and which was to immortalize his name in the word "daguerreotype." He was a painter of the diorama, a succession of scenes painted on a canvas which was caused to pass slowly before the eyes of the observer. Seeking a way to reproduce scenes upon the canvas without the labor of painting them, Daguerre began a series of experiments to find such a meth-Then he learned that another Frenchman, Joseph Nicephore Niepce, was engaged in a similar quest. The two men de-cided to join forces and in 1829 formed a partnership which was ue for 10 years. Niepco died in 1833 but Daguerre continued his experiments which even-tually enabled him to "reproduce the most minute details of a cene with an exactitude and sharpness well-nigh incredible." That was the characterization of his process by Arago, secre-tary of the French Academy of Sciences and the most influential French scientist of the time, who is instrumental in securing om his government an annuity 6,000 francs (later increased to of 6,000 fr: 010,000) for Daguerre and one of 4,000 for Niepce's heirs. In re-turn for this Daguerre was to de-scribe his process publicly and make it available to anyone who



Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph, and his first daguerreotype camera, which is now in the United States National museum. (Photograph by A. Bogardus, New York, 1871.)

rounding shrubbery and houses, Daguerre did not describe his and a corner of the Astor house. process publicly until August 19, 1839, but already word of the new marvel had been spread through The First Portrait.

The author of "Photography and the American Scene" examines the evidence in an at-tempt to answer the question "Who made the first photograph-ic portrait?" That honor has also been claimed for Morse and for Professor John W. Draper who made the famous portrait of his sister, Miss Dorothy Catherine Draper, which has often been reproduced as "the first photograph-ic portrait." But according to Dr.

Taft, it was not. That honor goes to Alexander S. Wolcott of New York, an instrument maker and manufacturer of dental supplies who became interested in daguerreotypy when his partner, John Johnson, secured a copy of Da-guerre's directions for making pictures by his new process. On October 7, 1839, Wolcott made a successful profile portrait of John-son and this Taft calls the "first."

But more important than estab-lishing these "historic firsts" is the complete story of the development of the various photo-graphic processes which Dr. Taft's book gives—"not primari-ly from a technical viewpoint, but from that of social history" as he explains. "I have endeavored to trace, however imperfectly, the effects of photography upon the social history of America and in turn the effect of social life upon the progress of photography.'

So in this book we read how Yankee ingenuity soon made the American daguerreotypes superior to those made in any other country and how this first phase of photography reached its zenith in the work of Mathew B. Brady to whose studio came all of the great and near-great, as well as distinguished foreign visitors, to have their portraits made. Brady's greatest fame, of course, rests upon the work he did in making a pictorial history of the Civil war. Dr. Taft, while giving full credit to him as a photo-graphic historian, also rescues from oblivion the names of many of the operators in his employ who made the photographs cred tied to Brady, as well as other Civil war photographers, Nota-ble among these were Alexander Gardner and T. H. O'Sullivan, who in the early morning of July 4, 1863, made the picture of the Battlefield at Gettysburg which was to become famous under the

title of "The Harvest of Death."

In so far as Dr. Taft's book is the direct result of his curiosity as to the first use of photography in the exploration of the West, it in the exploration of the west, it is especially fitting that two of the finest chapters in it deal with "Photographing the Frontier." The first instance of the use of a camera on a government expedi-tion was when the distinguished artist, John Mix Stanley, accom-panied the party which in 1853 began surveying the northern railroad route to the Pacific un-der the command of Gov. I. I. Stevens of Washington Territory. When Fremont set out upon

Fabric Into Use.

Shortly after the faded blue shirt was lost on a highway, the cotton road came into existence. The shirt

was covered with asphalt when the

Then came torrential rains and

Engineers reasoned that more

shirts—or something else made of cotton—might produce a better longer-lasting road if laid under an asphalt or tar bed.

First Tested Near Memphis.

An experimental road to try it out

was built near Memphis. Today road builders throughout the nation are following the test with interest,

as is the cotton industry, and be-

Although still in the experimental

stage, these smooth black highways made from snow-white bolls of fluffy

cotton plucked in fields of Dixie

promise to use a large part of fu-

The road near Memphis was laid

in September, 1937, and it appears to have passed the time test. Each day

the road is traversed by automo

biles, trucks, and wagons, and driv-

ers say the three-tenths of a mile strip of cotton pavement is the best

Cotton roads have proved less ex-

pensive to lay than concrete or as-phalt, and it is believed that the

upkeep will continue to be less. How-

ever, more time is required to prove

The federal government now is

Vast Outlet Seen

Experts say the United States has

2,000,000 miles of unimproved dirt roads, 900,000 of which would war-

rant a bituminous surfacing employ-

ing cotton, with a possible consump-tion of 13,000,000 bales. Roads re-surfaced annually could utilize 400,-

In building a cotton road, a foun-dation is laid, then sprayed with a coat of asphalt or tar. This seeps through the foundation to dry and

harden. Huge rolls of loosely woven

cotton cloth then are laid on the foundation and "nailed" down. A

second coat of asphalt or tar then is

sprayed on the road to bind the

cotton to its base. This is covered

with a layer of fine gravel, then

Experiments are proving that this

single layer of cloth will help to make a better road. Not only does the cotton reinforcement strengthen

the surface mat, but it develops into

a water-resistant skin which keeps the foundation free from moisture,

eliminating the most common cause

Cotton fabric gives necessary strength to road edges—usually the weakest point of a highway.

WASHINGTON .- Although 77 per cent of all books read in the United

States in the course of a year come

from public, school, or rental libra-ries, 45,000,000 Americans are with-

45 Million Persons in

A

ginning experiments of its own.

ture crops.

this.

of states.

000 bales.

rolled.

of road failure.

of the entire road.

the road was washed away-all ex-cept the part in which the farmer's

use for cotton.

road was repayed.

shirt had been buried.

his expedition in the same year he persuaded S. N. Carvalho of Baltimore, an artist and daguerrotypist, to accompany him. Car-valho wrote a lengthy account of his experiences and one sentence from it is significant of the handicaps under which these pion photographers of the frontier worked-"To make a daguerreotype view generally occupied from one to two hours; the principal part of that time was spent in packing and reloading the animals."

Although the Civil war halted government exploring expeditions and therefore expeditionary photography, both were resumed after the war and from that time on the photographer was an important member of the personnel of any exploring party.

Outstanding among these pho-tographers were T. H. O'Sullivan, already well known for his work during the Civil war, and John K. Hillers, who accompanied Maj. J. W. Powell on his historic trip down the Colorado river through the Grand Canyon of Arizona. But the best known of all Western photographers was a man who is still living in New York-95 years young and still keenly interested in photography!

William H. Jackson is his name. A native of New York, he went west after the Civil war. He opened a studio in the growing frontier town of Omaha in 1868, but becoming dissatisfied with the sedentary life of a vilfurnishing cotton fabric for experi-mental roads in more than a score lage photographer, fitted up a traveling dark room on a buckboard and toured the country around Omaha photographing Indians.

In 1869 he took a trip along the newly completed Union Pacific railroad and this brought him into contact with Professor F. V. Hayden who was engaged in making one of the United States geological surveys of the West. From that time until 1879



Jackson was the official photographer of the Hayden surveys and in that role did some of his

of Indians which are interesting historically because they are among the relatively few that were made of the red man be-



(3) A crowded subway train .

Next to you the most wonderful girl

you have ever seen . . . You can't resist . . . Timidly you blurt out . . . "I think you're gorgeous . . . Marvelous" . . . She replies . . . "You know . . . I was hoping you would speak to me."

Gotham Glimpses: At Grand Cen-

tral terminal, a young man study-ing a photograph and intently watch-

ing passengers leaving a train from Boston . . . Finally he runs up to an aged woman and, embracing her, calls, "Mother" . . . On Sixth ave-nue, in front of the RCA building, a mult decode mean taking a circretic

well-dressed man taking a cigarette butt out of his pocket, lighting it

and remarking to a friend that the penny city sales tax has sharpened his sense of economy . . . A keen-eyed clocker at Fifth avenue and

Forty-second street, counting pass-ersby-a whale of a job . . . A

belligerent pushcart peddler being chased from his Third avenue post and demanding that the cop show his credentials. (Thanks to Andre

. . .

Manhattan in the Rain: News-dealers covering their papers with leather tarpaulins . . . Policemen running to the nearest stores for

their black raincoats . . . Crowds huddled under awnings and mar-

quees . . . Bus drivers peering in-tently through blurred windshields

lines in the streets . . . Storm darkness causing lights to flash on

in windows of skyscrapers . . . Sub-way kiosks blocked by men and

women waiting for a lull that they may make a dash for destinations

with newspapers . . . Doormen with

big umbrellas . . . Umbrella ped-dlers springing up like mushrooms . . . Horses of traffic officers shak-

ing the water from their gleaming bodies. (Thanks to Joan Edwards.)

Hard-Hearted New York: Hungry

men looking into the windows of restaurants . . Blind musicians picking their way carefully through indifferent crowds . . The Bowery with its scores of human derelicts

. . . Clusters of woebegone would-

be workers clotted before employ-ment agency "help wanted" cards . Mongrel dogs digging in vacant lots for non-existent bones . . Beg-gars eking out a miserable exist-ence . . . The human flotsam of the

city-drunkards, drug addicts, im-

beciles and morons mingling with street crowds . . . Pale, ill-fed tene-ment children playing in the streets.

Soft-Hearted New York: A police-

Soft-Hearted New York: A police-man halting a stream of Park ave-nue traffic so a puppy can cross in safety . . A taxi driver turning up his radio so passersby can hear race results . . A bakery giving its day-old bread to the hungry . . A trolley car stopping in the middle of the block to pick up a crippled, old woman . . . A pneumatic drill on-

woman . . . A pneumatic drill op-erator working on a new building stopping work so his buddy can hear

Taxis suddenly forming long

Women protecting their hats

Baruch.)

Come to Sunny California Lot us help flat a opportunities, tarms, homes. Pres partientary california Comers Listing Brows, Mines Pres partientary

AGENTS WANTED

New Discovery by Used Car Deale Descenter y by Occur on Decen car owners millions in repairs. Placed rincough spark plug openings is guarante py knocks and oil pumping, add pep as r. ave cost of reconditionit. FAR as r. ave cost of reconditionit. FAR as in a second of the second period of mention package and agents propositio MOTIVE SPECIALTY MFG. CO., Atlanta, C motor through an to stop knocks power: may come easily made sel demonstration p



Germless Brushes. - Once a week pour a little peroxide of hydrogen over the toothbrushes to sterilize them. Rinse with cold water and hang up in their places. We pay so much attention to the teeth and so little to the brush these days.

Cleaning Behind Stove. - To clean the painted wall behind the refrigerator or stove tightly at-tach a soft cloth to a yardstick, broom handle or fishing pole, dip it in warm water and soap suds and poke around at will. To clean linoleum under refrigerators or stoves, dip the cloth in floor wax. This polishes as it cleans.

Washing Dingy Bath Towels .--Bath towels that have become din-gy should be put into boiler of cold water, soap added and a little lemon juice. Heat water to boil-ing point. Rinse towels in lukewarm blueing water and hang in the sun. ...

Toast Animals. - Cut animal shapes out of bread with animal cookie cutters. Spread with but-ter and toast a light golden brown under the broiler. Serve these to the children to eat with their soup.

Economy Note.-Save all celery tops, wash and dry them and place in the oven, turning them now and then. Store the leaves in an airtight tin. Use them for flavoring soups, salads, etc.

Beware Coughs from common colds

That Hang On No matter how many medicines you have tried for your common rough, chest cold, or bronchial irri-tation, you may get relief now with or promulsion. Serious trouble may be brewing and you cannot afford to take a chance with any remedy less potent than Creomulsion, which goes right to the seat of the trouble and aids nature to soothe and head and aids nature to soothe and head and to loosen and expel germ-laden phlem. Even if other remedies have failed.

and to loosen and expel germ-laden phlegm. Even if other remedies have failed, don't be discouraged, try Creonul-sion. Your druggist is authorized to refund your money if you are not thoroughly satisfied with the bene-fits obtained. Creonulsion is one word, ask for it plainly, see that the name on the bothe is Creonulsion, and you'll get the genuine produce and the relief you want. (Adv.)

Safe From Cajolery

Willie-Because you can't pull

Schoolmaster-Why do we speak

W. H. Jackson and his working outfit along the line of the Union Pacific railroad in 1869.

most important photography.

He took thousands of pictures

MATHEW B. BRADY

might wish to use it.

the popular and scientific press of

France and England, and the

news reached America as early as March, 1839. The editor of

the Knickerbocker, a New York magazine, declared that the da-

guerreotype's "exquisite perfec-tion almost transcends the

Enters S. F. B. Morse.

American newspaper (the New York Observer for April 20, 1839)

was written by a man who was

to play an important part in the

development of photography in

this country. He was Samuel Fin-

ley Breese Morse, destined for fu-

One of the accounts in an

bounds of sober belief."

ture fame as the inventor of the telegraph. Morse, who had already achieved fame as a portrait painter, had gone abroad in the summer of 1838 to secure patents in England and France for his "electro-magnetic telegraph" on which he had been working for several years. After securing a French patent, he re-mained in Paris for several months while negotiating with the Russian government for a con-tract for his invention and during this time Daguerre made his historic announcement.

Morse, who as a portrait painter had experimented, unsuccess-fully, with the same idea, was im-mediately interested in the Frenchman's discovery, and sought an interview with the suggestion that if Daguerre would show him his daguerreotypes. Morse would demonstrate his telegraph. Daguerre consented and om this interview grew the story that the Frenchman "gener-ously imparted the secret of the new art to the American by whom it was carried across the ocean and successfully introduced into the United States."

After examining all of available evidence in regard to the claims made in behalf of Morse and others for the title of "the first person to make a successful first person to make a successful daguerreotype in the United States," Dr. Taft awards that dis-tinction to D. W. Seager, an Eng-lishman living in New York in 1839. On September 27, Seager made a picture which showed a part of St. Paul's church, the sur-

After the era of the daguerreotype came the era of the ambrotype, the tintype, the carte de viste, which Oliver Wendell Holmes once called "the social currency, the sentimental 'greenbacks' of civilization" and the stereoscope, which in its day was found in the parlor of virtually every American home. Then came the day of the cabinet photograph and finally the new era began with the introduction of the sensitive dry plate and the flexible film. All of this, appro-priately illustrated, is told in Dr. Taft's book, which in its 500-odd pages recreates more vividly than has ever before been done the story of American life during the five most picturesque and most interesting decades of its entire history.

fore he was forced to live on a reservation and his picturesque native life was greatly modified by contact with the whites.

But even more important work was done by Jackson in another field. The Hayden survey of 1871 was in the region now known as Yellowstone National park. "In fact, the park probably owes its present status to the Hayden survey of this year," declares the author of "Photography and the American Scene" and to Jackson



W. H. Jackson as he is today.

belongs the distinction of taking the first photographs in the re-gion of scenic wonders that has become such a "picture-taker's paradise." The next year he took the first photographs in what is now the Grand Teton National park and in 1874 he and Ernest Ingersoll of the New York Tribune discovered and photographed the ruins of the cliff dwellings what is now Mesa Verde Naout any type of library service, ac-cording to Carleton B. Joeckel, of the University of Chicago.

U. S. Are Short of Books

Joeckel's study was published here by the advisory committee on

Joeckel found that the rural section of the country suffers most heavily from lack of access to book facilities, since, of the 45,000,000 Americans deprived of libraries, 40,-000,000 are classified as engaged in agricultural pursuits. This constitutes three-quarters of the farming population of the United States.

"The book resources of this country are at least as unevenly distributed as its economic resources writes Joeckel. In support of his statement he points to the fact that the entire population of Massachusetts has access to public librarie while the number of similarly priv-ileged people in West Virginia is only 12 per cent of the total popula-tion.

the telephone . . . A young girl stooping to tie the shoelace of a blind chewing gum peddler.

Finale: Four men at Sixth avenue and Forty-ninth street singing the quartet from "Rigoletto" A Roxy doorman reading the cap tions on lobby displays to a man and woman obviously foreign . . . In the RCA building, a swarthy man with a turban on his head inquiring at the information office for the mayor of Radio City . . . A man standing on a parapet 12 floors up making repairs on a Broadway building . . . Below a candid camera fiend waiting . . . on the chance that he'll fall. (Thanks to Benay Venuta.) © Bell Syndicate.-WNU Service.

Fossil of Pod Seems to

Be Linked With Coal Age

ST. LOUIS .- A fossilized seed pod,

believed to be a connecting link be-tween the fernlike plants of the coal

age and the present day flowering

plants, has been discovered by Hen-

ry Andrews, botany instructor at Washington university, in oil shales near Edinburgh, Scotland.

The fossil, one of about 2,500 found

by Andrews while doing research work last summer for the Belgian-American Educational foundation, is

about 400,000,000 years old, accord-

ing to Andrews. The find has been

added to the botany collection at the

added to the botany collection at the university. The fossilized seed pod is tulip-shaped, black in color and about 2½ inches long. A species of coal age plant life which preceded the rela-tively sudden later appearance of the flowering plants, its discovery is considered of some importance since such finds of evolutionary links between the two type plants are ex-ceedingly rare; Andrews pointed out.

MOTHERS, ATTENTION! If your child has WORMS, the best remedy to drive them out is Dr. Peery's "Dead Shot" Vermifuge. Good for grown-ups also. 50c a bottle at drug-gists or Wright's Pill Co., 100 Gold St., New York, N. Y.

of the wisdom of a serpent?

its leg, sir.

Death Bearers A fit of anger is as fatal to dignity as a dose of arsenic is to life.-Holland.

GAS SO BAD CROWDS HEART

"By brevit wer as inspired and my many bird and the second second second the first bird and the second second second the first bird and the second second second the first bird bird more that a second terminate the second second second second second terminate the second second second second terminate the second second second second terminate the second second second second terminate terminative to second second terminate and second by many doctoos for the storage and second by many doctoos for the second and the second second terminate terminative to terminate terminative terminate terminative to second second second terminate and second by many doctoos for the second and the second second second terminate terminative to terminate terminative terminate terminative terminate terminative terminate terminative terminate terminative termin

GUIDE BOOK to GOOD VALUES • When you plan a trip alread, you can take a guide book, and figure out es-scily where you wunt to go, how lang you on atay, and what it will cost you. • The solverthements is this payer are welly a guide book to good values. If you make a habit of reading them cor-nelly, you can plan your shapping trips and are yourself time, comery and meany.

application of alcohol can intoxi

Intoxication Produced By External Method HOUSTON, TEXAS .- External

cate a person, Supt. J. H. Stephenson of the Jefferson Davis hospital has proved to his amazed staff

Stephenson and his workers investigated the case of a woman who became intoxicated after four pints of 70 per cent alcohol was applied to a wound on her thigh over a 36-hour period.

An analysis showed 260 milli-meters of alcohol in 100 centimeters of her blood and 180 millimeters in the spinal fluid. The average ratio for intoxication is 100 millimeters of alcohol to the 100 centimeters of blood.