

WHAT HAPPENS AT WHITE HOUSE TALK

Correspondent Tells How President Wilson Receives the 208 Members of the Press Gallery at His Weekly Conferences.

CONTRASTS TACTICS WITH THOSE OF TAFT AND T. R.

Hard to Break the Ice One the Large Room Is Filled—Always Several Moments of Very Embarrassing Silence.

Newspaper men all over the country will be interested in knowing just exactly what happens when the president receives the correspondents and reporters in Washington... Ashmun Brown, correspondent of the Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review, has written this interesting account:

"At the beginning of the Wilson administration the president carried on a practice which has existed in previous administrations of seeing newspaper correspondents twice a week for an informal conference, at which the president would speak freely and answer all implied, understanding that he was not to be quoted or anything without his direct permission.

"Presently the twice a week conference became a once a week conference and then a movable uncertain festival. Ten days following the Lusitania incident in May, 1915, one of these conferences were held. Nothing particular happened there save that the president betrayed some slight annoyance at some of the questions asked, but thereafter there were no conferences until very recently.

"Frankly no great amount of news is obtained at these conferences. In the days of the Roosevelt administration there was straight out, man to man talk, and sometimes the short and ugly word obtruded itself, uttered, of course, only by the president. Sometimes he was sitting in the barber chair, being shaved, when he talked, and one had to stand out of the way to keep from being spattered by lather when the colonel grew vociferous.

Taft a Great Talker.

"Then in the Taft administration there was nothing in the wide world that could not be talked about. President Taft, assuming a tolerant and good natured air of leisure, used to discourse and yarn and answer questions, and tell every body that 'I am afraid that is what is the matter with me is that I am lazy,' when he had been doing a tremendous amount of work, and make all kinds of impolitic remarks that helped out his enemies.

"But the Wilson conferences have always been characterized by an air of restraint. The newspaper men all seem afraid of the president.

"On conference days the correspondents assemble in the corridors of the executive offices, spilling over into that section immediately adjacent to the office of Secretary Tumulty that city in 1911 became known as 'Lame duck alley,' from the presence of the defeated Republican congressmen who were there seeking federal appointments. At the appointed hour one of Secretary Tumulty's assistants and a great service man pop out. One of them announce 'All right,' and championed by Jim Preston, superintendent of the senate press gallery, who is here to see that no 'ringers' get in, the crowd moves into the president's office.

His Desk Always Neat.

This is a large room, simply furnished, with the president's desk in a deep bow window which overlooks White lot to the south. Always the president's polished desk is spick and span and barren of papers. A vase of flowers and a pile of books, a blotter open to view; a blotter, an inkstand and a pen alone adorn it.

The president stands behind the desk, his back to the southern light. Secretary Tumulty, Rudolph Forster, executive clerk, and Tommy Brauer, the chief clerk, range themselves hard by to whisper suggestions to the presidential ear. A stenographer places himself at the corner of the desk to take down the president's every word so that in the event of a permission being given to quote exactly—a permission given rarely—exact copies may be furnished.

The newspaper men range themselves around the wall opposite from the president, crowding close to one another for comfort in the awesome room. The president shows his teeth in a famous smile, waits for an embarrassed moment and then says, 'well,leman, I am at your service,' but doesn't look it a bit. He looks as if he were ready to parry every question shot at him.

Presently some bold spirit gets a notion off his chest. Usually that spirit is Gus Karger of the Cincinnati Times-Star—Charley Taft's brother—who isn't at all afraid of presidents. He knows them and has traveled with them and even scolded them.

That starts it, and other questions come thick and fast. Maybe the president is moved to become humorous with some question or questioner, and he always gets a laugh for his wit. Then the talk lags. The president looks from face to face, there is another silence, an awkward sort of silence, and the fellows nearest the door slide out. The movement become general, and it is all over.—The American Press.

A RARE YEAR IS 1917, WITH SEVEN ECLIPSES

It Hasn't Happened Since 1805 and Will Occur but Once Again Until Latter Half of Next Century.

Eclipses are attracting more than usual attention this year. The reason is that 1917 has the greatest number of eclipses that any year can have. They are seven: three of the moon and four of the sun.

To have seven eclipses in one year is a rare thing. The last time was 112 years ago. In the next 150 years it will happen only twice.

Explanation of Eclipse

Many readers of Current Events wish to know why there are eclipses. What makes them?

It is not a hard thing to understand. First we must remember that the earth and the moon have no light of their own; what they have they get from the sun. If we think of the sun as a great electric light, of the earth as a dark globe some distance away, and of the moon as a smaller globe father from the sun but in the same straight line, we have the condition for an eclipse of the moon. The illuminated or day light side of the earth will of course be the side nearest the sun. On the opposite side of the earth it will be night.

The earth's night does not end near the earth; it is a shadow thrown hundreds of thousands of miles out into space on the side opposite the sun. The shadow forms a cone of darkness whose base is a cross section of the earth. When the moon in its monthly journeys around the earth passes through this shadow or "cone of darkness," we have an eclipse of the moon. If the moon is partly in and partly out of the shadow we have a partial eclipse; if it is wholly immersed we have a total eclipse. It was a total eclipse on the morning of January 8.

Eclipses Comparatively Rare

Why then do not have an eclipse every month? One would think that whenever the moon in its monthly circling around the earth reaches that side which is opposite the sun, it must pass through the earth's shadow and be eclipsed. That indeed would be the case if the sun, earth and moon were all traveling in the same plane, like marbles rolling on a floor. But the moon does not move in the same plane with the earth and sun. The moon's plane cuts the sun-and-earth plane at a slant. When the moon is opposite the sun, therefore, it is usually either above or below the cone of darkness and so escapes eclipses.

Strictly speaking, we never see the moon quite full, for at times when it would be absolutely full it is always in eclipse. What we call the full moon is when the illuminated half is almost wholly turned toward us.

We are asked how often there is a year of seven eclipses. On the average there is one such year in seventy. This is not regular. The next time it comes uncommonly soon, only 17 years hence. Sometimes the interval is more than 250 years.

Touching Consideration

The famous author and the author who was not so famous, says the New York Times, traveling together to the seaside inn. The proprietor of the inn had had the famous author for a guest before, and he welcomed him back cordially. On the second day the famous man summoned the landlord for a confidential interview.

"I want to talk to you about this young friend of mine," he said. "He is new in the writing game and earns very little money. As a favor to me, I wish you'd make his bill as small as possible."

The landlord highly gratified at the great man's friendly attitude, promised. Two days later he was sent for again.

"By the way," said the great man. "don't you let my bill be any bigger than his. It would humiliate him. Boys like that are extremely touchy."

Her Reason.

"Is it because she lacks nerve that she declines to wear her dresses décollete?" "Oh, no! Quite the contrary! She really has too much backbone!"

ELECTORS HAVE CHOSEN WILSON AND MARSHALL

Real Presidential Election Came This Month, Not in November

Woodrow Wilson was not elected President of the United States last November. He was re-elected on Monday, January 8. On the same day Thomas R. Marshall was re-elected Vice President.

This is confusion to many people but it is really simple. Under our electoral system the people in November do not elect the President and Vice President; they only elect "electors." In January the electors meet each State group in the capital of its own state, and vote for President and Vice President. This is what was done Jan. 8.

The vote of each State is forwarded to Washington, sealed, and the result is theoretically a secret until the envelopes are opened in the presence of both Houses of Congress. But it isn't a secret. Everybody knew, as soon as the people's votes had been counted in November, just how the electors would vote in January.

Going to Extremes.

Blonde—Gerty Giddigad certainly has the shopping habit developed to a science.

Brunetta—Likes it, you mean? "I mean that she always insists on going where she can get the most for her money."

"That's natural, isn't it?" "In most cases, yes, but there are exceptions."

"I'd like to know what they are?" "Well, for instance, the other day I found her in the arcade trying to ascertain which machine would give her the most for her money when she weighed herself on the scales."

Wake Up

Stop Your Dreaming About Hard Times. The ARK Has Come To Your Rescue and WILL SAVE YOU MONEY.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free. Sold by Druggists. Price 50c per bottle. Tax—Hall's Family Pills—50c per bottle.

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Naturally. "I suspect those contributions are for a yellow dog fund." "Hence the howl about it?" —Exchange.

This Winter. "Did the water pipe burst?" "Yes, and the landlord charged extra because it makes a rink." —Clipping.

Best Remedy. Tramp—Lady, I'm suffering from indigestion. Lady of House—What can I do for you? Tramp—Gimme something to digest. —Enfield Progress.

Irate Business Man—"You book agents make me so angry with your confounded nerve and impudence that I cannot find words to express my feelings." Agent—"Then I am the very man

I want. I am selling dictionaries. —Litt.

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WOOD'S Seed Catalog for 1917, tells about the best Farm and Garden Seeds and gives special information as to the best crops to grow, both for profit and home use. The large increase in our business which we have again experienced during the past year is the best of evidence as to the high quality of WOOD'S SEEDS. Write for catalog and prices of Grass and Clover Seeds, Seed Potatoes, Seed Oats or any Farm Seeds required. Catalog mailed free on request. T. W. WOOD & SONS, SEEDSMEN, - Richmond, Va.

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