

BRILLIANT INAUGURAL BALL.

Magnificent Gowns Worn by Mrs. Taft, Miss Helen Taft and Mrs. Sherman. Gowns and Jewels Magnificent. Those of Empire Period are Most in Evidence.

The gorgeous gowns of the women made the memory, indeed, a "dream of fair women," for truly fine feathers make fine birds. They were, with few exceptions, modeled on those of the empire and directoire period, with long slender lines and jewels worth more than the ransoms of several kings.

The gowns were a revelation of the dressmaker's art, and the keynote of the season's fashions was sounded in the costumes of the first and second ladies of the land, and those of the lesser lights of the Cabinet circle.

The embroidery was done in silver thread and appears also in the court train of satin. The sleeves were of rare old rose point lace which was also used effectively on the bodice.

Miss Helen Taft, the next debutant of the White House, wore a gown of girlish simplicity, which might well teach a telling lesson to less prominent mothers. It was of white embroidered mousseline over a plain princess slip of white silk, made with a modest round neck, edged about with narrow point lace, and tiny bowknots of pale blue ribbon placed so as to hold the fullness and drapery, and giving a touch of color.

Mrs. Sherman, wife of the Vice-President, a woman known more for her modesty and womanliness than her social success, wore a gown of white satin and silver, made with panels back and front of the satin edged with a wide band of silver embroidery, the back panel falling from the shoulders, forming a sort of court train effect. The long narrow train was also finished with the silver embroidery.

General News.

On the special train carrying the 400 Kentucky Republicans who attended the Inauguration, J. W. Calvert, of Pewee Valley, Ky., died Saturday morning, near Hinton, W. Va., of Pneumonia which developed as a result of marching in the snow and rush of Inauguration Day. He was 81 years old.

Another heavy snow storm prevailed over Northern Virginia Saturday. The fall amounted to several inches. With the fruit trees covered with snow a fall in the temperature will cause great damage to the fruit crop.

A State-wide prohibition bill has been introduced in the Missouri Legislature.

Seven negroes were hanged in Louisiana last Friday for murder and one for criminal assault.

Five hundred shipbuilders and boilermakers are on strike in Chicago because of a 10 per cent wage cut.

The American colony at Chihuahua, Mexico, has sent to ex-President Roosevelt an immense big stick, handsomely carved and colored, with a wish that he may be recalled to office to use it.

Indianapolis telephone companies in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, New York and Michigan, will organize a \$2,500,000 long-distance company to connect their systems.

Near Death in Big Pond.

It was a thrilling experience to Mrs. Ida Soper to face death. "For years a severe lung trouble gave me intense suffering," she writes, "and several times nearly caused my death. All remedies failed and doctors said I was incurable. Then Dr. King's New Discovery brought quick relief and a cure so permanent that I have not been troubled in twelve years."

Nobody but a fool thinks he can teach good sense.—New York Press.

GRAPES, from their most healthful properties, give ROYAL its active and principal ingredient. ROYAL Baking Powder Absolutely Pure. It is economy to use Royal Baking Powder. It saves labor, health and money. Where the best food is required no other baking powder or leavening agent can take the place or do the work of Royal Baking Powder.

Oak Forest School Closes.

On Saturday, March 6, 1909, this school closed one of its best sessions. It was taught by Mr. C. F. Hall, of Benson. Mr. Hall is a fine young man and one of our best public school teachers.

First on program was the public debate between New Hope society and Oak Forest. The query was Resolved That education is advancing faster in North Carolina than any other pursuit. As it rained so some of the debaters from New Hope could not get there, the discussion was left entirely with Mr. J. A. Massengill on the affirmative for Oak Forest and Mr. P. E. Johnson on the negative for New Hope society.

Mr. Massengill and Mr. Johnson are well known in Johnston county. They were school mates and class mates. They debated with and against each other in school and since then. They are both good school teachers and taught for several years. Now they are both leading farmers of their community, strong friends to education, as well as other pursuits.

This consisted of songs, drills, declamations, recitations, dialogues, etc. This program all through showed the good taste of the worthy teacher and good work for the pupils several of which we would like to make special mention if we had time and space. Then came the awarding of the prizes by Prof. Royal. The first prize was won by Miss Alda Massengill, the best speller in school, 2nd to Miss Viola Hayes, second best speller, 3rd to Mr. Jasper Massengill for the best all-around scholar in school. Then the treat for all by the teacher. This was a large one and much enjoyed by the school.

Mr. Hall thanked the people for their kindness and support during the school in a very appropriate manner. Then Mr. H. R. Hayes, one of the committee, responded with thanks to the teacher in behalf of the district and to the audience for their good behavior and the Lee string Band for music for the occasion which made it much more enjoyable, for the Band plays well.

A VISITOR.

Many things are advertised and many promises are made, but it is not always that these promises are made in good faith nor can they always be kept. With a laxative remedy like Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, it is different. This remedy will cure constipation, indigestion, liver trouble, flatulency, heartburn, sour stomach and all other diseases of the stomach, liver and bowels, in old or young. A rich company is behind every statement made. It is absolutely guaranteed to do what is claimed, and if you want to try it before buying, send your address for a free sample bottle to Pepsin Syrup Co., 119 Caldwell Bldg., Monticello Ill. It is sold by Hood Bros. at 50 cents and \$1 a bottle.

"That play had some very natural touches." "Drama of domestic life, eh?" "Yes; they had a new servant in every scene, and the heroine was a brunette in Act I and a blonde in Act II."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Colds contracted at this season of the year are quickly relieved with Bees Laxative Cough Syrup. Its laxative quality rids the system of the cold. Pleasant to take. Best for children for coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough. Sold by Hood Bros.

ITCH cured in 30 minutes by Woolford's Sanitary Lotion. Never fails. Sold by Hood Bros., Druggists.

State News.

It may not be generally known that there is a glove factory in the State. It is at Ashboro, makes fabric gloves and is conducted by W. C. Rush & Co. New machinery is to be put in and the capacity of the plant enlarged.

A number of towns in the State have offered inducements for the location of the Pythian orphanage, soon to be established. North Wilksboro has offered 100 acres of land on the Brushy mountains and \$1,000 in cash. The committee of the Pythian grand lodge, which has the matter in charge will meet in Charlotte on the 23rd to consider propositions.

The Governor has pardoned A. D. Norton, of Robeson county, who has served almost 12 years of a 30-year sentence for murder in the second degree. Two men were charged with this crime and both submitted. The other man died in the penitentiary a few days ago and just before death confessed that he alone committed the crime and that Norton was an innocent man. Hence the pardon.

The Wilksboro Chronicle says that a little child arrived at a Mr. Hendrix's home in Elk township last week, which boasts of 12 toes and 13 fingers, 25 in all.

The Goldsboro Headlight says that Constable Julius Jernigan and a posse of four, of Grantham township, captured Monday noon a moonshine still near the Wayne, Sampson and Johnston county lines, containing about 450 gallons of beer and six gallons of whiskey, but the operators made good their escape.

SHELBY COUNTY GOES "DRY."

Indiana Well in Hands of the Temperance Element.

Indianapolis, March 6.—Shelby county, adjoining this city, known for many years as one of Indiana's liberal spots, voted dry today by a majority of about 1,500.

A hard fight was made at Shelbyville, the county seat, by the liberal element, but the temperance wave was too strong.

Wayne is still the only county that has voted wet. Fifty-two of the ninety-two counties have been made dry and a total of 2,266 saloons outside.

Jingles for Bride-to-be.

For the girl who is being urged to name the day, the following jingles may help in the selection:

Married in January's hoar and rime, good things will come, if you wait your time.

Married in February's sleety weather, life you'll tread in tune together.

Married in March winds whine and roar, your home will be on foreign shore.

Married 'neath April's changeable skies, a checkered path before you lies.

Married when bees o'er May's blossoms flit, strangers around your door will sit.

Married in the month of roses—June—life will be a long honeymoon.

Married in July, with flowers ablaze, bitter-sweet memories in after days.

Married in August's heat and drowse, lover and friend is your chosen spouse.

Married in golden September glow, smooth and serene your life will go.

Married when leaves in October thin, toil and hardship for you begin.

Married in veils of November mist, fortune your wedding ring has kissed.

Married in days of December's cheer, love's star shines brighter from year to year.—Boston Herald.

DO YOU WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE? If so we can help you. We have already put hundreds through college by means of our plan. Write today for full information regarding our offer of a free scholarship in any school or college. Address, Robert J. Sherlock, 29-31 East 22nd Street, New York City.

STILL CARRIES MAIL AT 92.

Has Driven Same Horse for Twenty Years, and Would Only Swap for an Auto and \$100 to Boot—Has Had the Same Route for Fifty-Six Years, and Still Feels Young.

West Barnstable, Mass., Feb. 20.—On the Cotuit and Osterville road about a quarter of a mile from the depot stands the oldest house in West Barnstable. It is the old English type with brick ends and gables. The grounds are surrounded with a hedge of the evergreen English privet, which is well pruned into different shapes and forms to suit the location.

It is the home of William F. Jones, the oldest known mail carrier in the United States. Mr. Jones, or "Uncle Bill," as he is known by all the Cape people, has just passed his ninety-second birthday and has placed a contract for four more years as a mail carrier between this place and South Sandwich.

In speaking about his younger days "Uncle Bill" said: "Well, I was born right here in West Barnstable, but was different from most of the boys that I grew up with, as they all went to sea and I stayed with my father on the farm and helped keep the family, which was a large one.

"After I left the farm I went to Brockton and learned the blacksmith's trade, which I followed for a number of years. About the time that the railroad was put through from Buzards Bay to this place I came home to look after the old place and took up farming again.

"At that time the mail for Cotuit, Osterville and Centerville was taken off at Sandwich and driven over the road through Mashpee. After the train got to coming here I went to some of the business men of the town and told them that if the mail was taken off here I would deliver it to the villages on the South Shore an hour earlier than they were now getting it, and for the same money that was then being paid for its transportation.

"That was in the fall of 1852, and the following spring I secured the contract and have had it, or a part of it, ever since, and, by the way that I am feeling this winter, I am good for a few terms more, as I don't feel a day older than I did when I was fifty."

"I will tell you how much I think of automobiles. If any one should offer me the choice of an auto or an ox to carry the mail, I would take the ox, as I have driven oxen long enough to know that they are sure, and I have also lived long enough to see that an auto is not. I will tell you what I told an agent that came here to sell me one. After he was through with his speech, that no doubt had taken him all the winter to learn as to the merits of his car, I said: 'Well, mister, I have got an old mare out there in the barn I raised, and if she lives to see next spring she will be twenty-seven years old; of course, she ain't as sound as she might be, but if you want to give me \$100 and the automobile you are cracking up I will trade, but I won't do it for a cent less, as I can carry the mail with her and make a dollar, but the only thing that I could use the auto for would be to go to ride with when I did not have any place to go, and did not care when I got back.'

"Uncle Bill" said in his fifty-six years as common carrier he had never missed a train or had an accident of any kind or forgotten the mail.

Five Great Presidents.

Mr. Roosevelt will rank in history as one of the five great Presidents of the United States. We would name as the preceding four Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Cleveland.—Charlotte Observer.

Plea for the House Cat.

The presence of a cat, to those who care for him, is tranquillizing and a mental restorative. A cat asleep in the most comfortable chair in the room or drowsing on the window seat suggests reposefulness as almost nothing else can do. A cat's purr spells profound contentment, and is the synonym of perfect peace. No other domestic animal has such soft fur to stroke. If it is a weakness in a human to care for a cat, the cat lover errs in the excellent company of the good and great of all the ages.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The Lurid Glow of Doom

was seen in the red face, hands and body of the little son of H. M. Adams, of Henrietta, Pa. His awful plight from eczema had, for five years, defied all remedies and baffled the best doctors, who said the poisoned blood had affected his lungs and nothing could save him. "But," writes his mother, "seven bottles of Electric Bitters completely cured him." For Eruptions, Eczema, Salt Rheum, Sores and all Blood Disorders and Rheumatism Electric Bitters is supreme. Only 50c. Guaranteed by Hood Bros.

Improving the Quality, Increasing the Quantity of Tobacco Crops

The ambition of every tobacco planter is to secure the largest possible crop of the best possible quality—and this is most surely, easily, and quickly accomplished by the use of

Virginia-Carolina Fertilizers

As a rule the more liberal the amount of these fertilizers used per acre, the better the results. Mr. John F. Cunningham of Cunningham, N. C., probably one of the largest tobacco growers in the world, says: "I have been using your fertilizer for twenty years. I have sold tobacco made by this fertilizer as high as 90c a lb. Virginia-Carolina Fertilizer is used by the best tobacco farmers in the Tobacco States. It stands upon its merits. There is no better fertilizer made or used in the United States. I take great pleasure in recommending it not only to the farmers of Virginia and North and South Carolina, but to all the tobacco growers in the Union."

The best results are invariably obtained with the use of Virginia-Carolina Fertilizer. Over one million tons were sold last year.

Be sure and get the 1909 Virginia-Carolina Farmers' Year Book from your fertilizer dealer, or write our nearest sales office and a copy will be sent free.

Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co.

Sales Offices: Richmond, Va., Norfolk, Va., Columbia, S. C., Atlanta, Ga., Savannah, Ga., Memphis, Tenn.



Sales Offices: Durham, N. C., Charleston, S. C., Baltimore, Md., Columbus, Ga., Montgomery, Ala., Shreveport, La.

No Hot Air About This Proposition

A straight out and out business opportunity which is found by the public only occasionally. The NEWEST of the NEW in spring clothing—The Choicest of the best in fabrics—The SNAPPIEST of the SNAPPY in style—The most MODERATE of the POPULAR in price—

Our "Better Clothes" For Men and Young Men,

Comprises all the qualities of the higher priced models and have not the extravagance in price. The new spring colors—Bronzes, Greens, Slates, Daubes, Browns, in fancy striped materials—pretty enough for the King. Most of the Coats are made in the new dip-front, single-breast styles. They have fancy cuffs and fancy pockets. Collars are made wide to give them a snappy attractive appearance. Trousers are made peg top, with side-buckles and belt loops.

And the Price is Only \$10.00

We've got them cheaper and we've got them better, but we respectfully call your attention to our TEN-DOLLAR "BETTER CLOTHES."

Gulley & Gulley, Clayton, N. C.

Two : Big : Stores

We have opened a full line of Furniture of all kinds, next door to our large Hardware store, and have new Furniture at lowest prices. Buck Stoves and House Furnishing Goods sold from this store. This store is in charge of Mr. Crosby Smith who will be pleased to have his friends and the public generally to call and see him. Don't forget that we have a full stock of Hardware at same stand. The prices are right.

Hall Hardware Company,

Benson, N. C.

Loth's Stoves

Loth's Cook Stoves Wherever sold are conceded to be the best as they are made of the best of material and gives the customer absolute satisfaction. We now have a complete Loth's Stoves stock of which are selling fast and giving the best of satisfaction. If you are in need of a Cook Stove call to see us where you will always find anything you want in

Furniture

necessary to furnish your home from the kitchen to the parlor

Wire Fence

We have just unloaded another car of American and Ellwood fence which we have in any style or height you desire. Yours truly

Rose & Co., Benson, N. C.