

# NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

## American Gibraltar in Manila Bay



WASHINGTON.—About two years hence if passengers on steamers entering Manila harbor and passing between the several small islands that guard the principal port of the Philippines should inquire with indifferent interest as to the name and use of a small dun-colored rock, hardly discernible any distance away and looking much like an irregular shaped house-boat floating on the ocean, they will be told that they are looking at El Fraile island. Perhaps, also, they will be told that the little island, scarce two hundred feet square, is the most diabolically effective fortification of its size in the world.

For eighteen months army engineers have been directing the work of fortifying what is intended as the backbone or keystone of the strong defenses in Manila harbor. They have resorted to a plan suggested by a young engineer officer after their superiors had thrown up their hands in despair at the prospect of attempting to fortify the rock which showed its head above the water for so small an area. It involves the leveling of the island almost to the surface of the sea and erecting a structure in the form of a battleship deck stripped for action. The artificial fortifying will be of steel and cement.

The defenses of Manila bay entrance

present the most picturesque as well as the most complete set of fortifications Uncle Sam possesses. Stretching across the mouth of the harbor are a series of islands. The largest of these islands and the one which will be used as a base of supplies for the others is Corregidor, from which the first hostile gun was directed against Admiral Dewey's fleet in 1898. On Corregidor the army is installing a 24 cannon post. Warehouses of a capacity to contain supplies for a whole year for 20,000 men have been built. This island is considered impregnable from the sea side.

But the most interesting of all the islands is the El Fraile, at present a tiny rock rising in a pinnacle 180 feet above the bay. The shape of the island will, as stated, be changed by means of steel and concrete walls which will extend below the water line, to resemble the hull of a battleship. No section of the island ground will be exposed to fire. It will be surrounded and covered over by steel and concrete walls, about fifty feet thick on the sides and almost solid steel on the top. On the surface of this "deck" two turrets will be placed, each turret containing two 14-inch guns. Besides the four large guns, four six-inch rapid fire rifles will be placed in embrasures at the seaward end, and like batteries of small guns will be placed at other points of advantage. Quarters will be provided for only a sufficient number of men to work the guns and machinery. The cost of this powerful little fortress, the most dangerous fort of its size on earth, will be \$3,000,000, guns, walls, turrets and all.

## Treasury Building Is Overcrowded



WHEN the small army of architects and artisans has finished the work now in progress on the United States treasury building, the beautiful old structure will show the first material change since 1869. Architecturally it still will represent a pagan temple, indicating, many folk say, the American people's worship of money.

But visitors to the nation's capital who have not seen the treasury in 40 years will find some changes for efficiency and economy.

The nucleus of the present building, located where President Jackson, irritated by the procrastination of congress in choosing a site, put his hickory stick down with a thump and exclaimed, "Put 'er there, on that spot," will remain unchanged, but the double-stone staircase leading up to the colonnade on the Fifteenth street side has been torn away. Architects said it spoiled the beauty of that side of the

## Big Job to Fill the Supreme Bench



THE seven justices of the Supreme court of the United States, led by the venerable Justice Harlan, called on President Taft the other day to pay their respects. This annual call of courtesy reminded the president of a duty which is uppermost in his mind and occupying it almost to the exclusion of any other consideration, for the president is called upon to remodel the highest tribunal in the land.

The president has appointed two justices already—Hughes in place of Brewer, who died, and Lurton in place of Peckham of New York, also dead. These deaths removed a Republican and a Democrat, and their successors were of the same political faith. Since then Chief Justice Fuller, a

## Society Soldier Out at Fort Myer



ALBERT J. MYER, the American army's gentleman soldier, is no longer wearing the uniform of an enlisted man. He has left Fort Myer, the army reservation named for his illustrious grandfather, and has gone back to Boston.

Not only was the passing of the dandy soldier sudden and unexpected, but the manner of his going sensational. Mr. Myer, who was a corporal in the signal corps, has been in the guardhouse since August. A recent verdict of a court-martial which tried him sentenced Corporal Myer to be reduced to the ranks, to be confined at hard labor for three months and to forfeit \$50 of his pay.

The court-martial was a little slow and Myer escaped its imprisonment penalty, having been discharged in

# New News of Yesterday

by E. J. Edwards

## Grit That Won Great Contest

How "Tommy" Holcombe's Nerve, When One Eye Was Disabled, Decided Famous Rifle Match In England in 1903.

Some weeks ago the cable brought the news from Peking that an American team had won over all competitors in an international rifle match open to teams of all the legation guards in the Chinese capital. The captain of the Yankee team was Capt. Thomas Holcombe, Jr., who was a member of the victorious American team that competed in the great international rifle contest held in England in 1903—the most famous contest of the kind ever held. And it was at this contest that Captain Holcombe displayed the grit that, on the authority of the captain of the team, Leslie C. Bruce, ultimately gave America the victory. It is a story that hitherto has escaped publication.

"Seven teams took part in the match," said Mr. Bruce, "and America had been the victor in every similar contest held previously, a very honorable but nevertheless very earnest attempt was made to take the prestige away from the United States. Especially did the Englishmen go in with the idea of wresting this glory from their American cousins, with the result that when the shooting was finished at the 800-yard range they had us distanced by three points. I have been told that when the cable dispatches informed our countrymen that we had been beaten at the 800-yard range the general impression was that at last an end had come to America's victories. To us of the team the outlook was somewhat gloomy, I must confess, and as captain I was considerably worried as to whether or not we would be able to manifest at the nine hundred and one thousand yard ranges that esprit de corps which plays so important a part in winning contests in which teams are engaged."

"I was still wondering whether this particular kind of enthusiasm, or confidence, which is so hard to describe in words, would be with us, when

Tommy Holcombe took his position at the nine hundred yard range. Of course we watched him with intense interest, and you can imagine the horror that rose in our breasts when, just before it came time for him to fire, his smokeless powder cartridge exploded prematurely and the gas from it saturated his right eye, so to speak, closing it completely.

"As speedily as possible I got a cloth and some cold water and bathed the burning eye, while bitter thoughts ran through my brain, for I had counted greatly on Tommy Holcombe's shooting at the nine hundred and thousand yard ranges. But the water did the eye no good—the pain was too severe, it was burning like fire, I afterwards learned—and so I finally had to say to Holcombe: 'Tommy, I guess you'll have to retire and let me put a substitute in your place.'

"Tommy jerked his head around and with his good eye looked into mine. 'Not much,' he retorted, grimly. 'As long as I have got the good eye I can make the mark.'

## Stage Venture Improved Mails

Fast Trans-Continental Trains Originated With the One on Which Palmer and Jarrett Took Lawrence Barrett to San Francisco.

This hitherto unpublished story of how the country's mail service was vastly improved through the medium of a theatrical idea was told to me by Henry M. Jarrett, one of the greatest theatrical managers this country has ever had, about two years before his death, which occurred several years ago when Mr. Jarrett was an old man. With my partner, Mr. A. M. Palmer, we had been playing George Rignold and a very fine company in 'Henry V.' at Booth's theater in New York city for an entire season," said Mr. Jarrett. "Rignold wanted to go

to Australia at the end of the season, and I suggested to him that he stop over at San Francisco for a few weeks and give 'Henry V.' there. He wouldn't listen to it. His success had been so great in New York that he had got a case of badly swelled head.

"But the idea was born, and Mr. Palmer and I undertook to carry it out in another way. We saw Lawrence Barrett, and offered him the part of Henry V., on our part agreeing, when he consented, to furnish a great company and as perfect stage settings as it was possible to procure. Then we determined to see if the railroads would undertake to carry us from New York to San Francisco in half a week's time.

"My, when I think of it, that was a daring proposition. This was in 1878, and the railroads, in the far west at least, were far from being as perfectly equipped as they are at the present time. However, the idea appeared to appeal to the railway managers, and they made the contract. We were to leave New York one hour after midnight and be delivered at San Francisco three and one-half days later. And the contract was kept to the letter. But I never want to ride again as we did then.

"Of course, that trip has become a tradition. Now I am going to tell you of another feature of it which has never been published. It occurred to me that, if we could get the postoffice authorities to consent, we would undertake to deliver a mail, made up in New York, in San Francisco three and one-half days later. I went to see Thomas L. James, then postmaster of New York, in fear and trembling lest he might turn the proposition down.

Instead of that he grew enthusiastic. 'That's a great idea, Mr. Jarrett,' he said, 'and by means of it we can show the government the feasibility of establishing a fast railway mail service that will bring New York and Chicago within less than twenty-four hours' communication, New York and Omaha in less than thirty-six, and New York and San Francisco in less than four days. We will make up mails for Pittsburg, Chicago, Omaha, Ogden and San Francisco. We will have the postmasters at those places on the lookout for the mails. Then we will make reports of the result to the government, and I think the reports will give us the long desired fast mail trains.'

"Do you know," continued Mr. Jarrett, "that the head of the express company which had the contract for carrying mails from the railway stations to the New York postoffice himself actually drove the mail wagon, rich a man as he was, from the New York postoffice to the Pennsylvania station? We took on the mail just before one o'clock at night. Before eight o'clock that morning the mail for Pittsburg was delivered and within an hour distributed. By nine o'clock in the evening Chicago, for the first time, received a mail the same day that it left New York. Omaha got its mail early in the morning of the second day, and San Francisco's mail was distributed on the afternoon of the third day.

"That experience demonstrated to the government the feasibility of adopting through fast railway mail trains. And as I recall the history of the passage of the theatrical special from New York to San Francisco in as yet unbeaten time, I am convinced that, after all, the greatest service that it performed was to show both to the government and the railroads generally that the latter were capable of cutting down time for the delivery of mails by one-half."

Successful Aviating.  
"An airship is a strange place for a cat."  
"Oh, I don't know. A cat always lands right side up when it falls."

Furnishing London's Gas.  
There are seven London companies furnishing gas, and the charges vary from 49 cents a thousand cubic feet to 69 cents, the illuminating candlepower being from 14.8600 to 16.9200. There is a discount allowed by most of the companies from 2 1/2 to 5 per cent. to large consumers, 10 to 20 per cent. for power and 10 to 25 per cent. for gas engines.

## President as Night Watchman

How General Arthur Kept Guard Over the Nation's Treasury Department While Regular Man Did an Errand for Him.

Shortly after Gen. Chester A. Arthur succeeded to the presidency of the United States, he took into his cabinet, as secretary of the treasury, Charles J. Folger, whose predecessor in the portfolio, William Windom, had resigned in order to undertake a canvass for a seat in the United States senate from Minnesota. For years President Arthur and Judge Folger had been intimate friends, and with the latter a member of the cabinet that friendship served to secure Mr. Folger unannounced entrance to the president's room at any hour of the day or night. The president, too, showed his friendship by calling upon his secretary of the treasury informally whenever the spirit moved him. General Arthur, incidentally, was unconventional and informal in his relations with his cabinet as Lincoln was with his, and he was the first president in years to accept invitations of a social nature at private houses.

It so happened that one afternoon, about an hour after the treasury department had closed for the day, the president, having some business to talk over with Judge Folger, determined to call upon him at the department. Walking thither unaccompanied and gaining the long main corridor of the building, he made his way along the deserted passageway to a point near the door which opened into Secretary Folger's private office. Here he met a man who seemed to be of some minor authority.

"Do you know whether or not Secretary Folger is in his office?" asked the president.

"No, sir, I do not," was the reply.

"Well, are you employed here in the treasury department?"

"Yes, sir, I am. I am one of the night watchmen, and I have just gone on duty."

"Do you suppose you could find out for me whether or not Judge Folger is in his office? I'll stand watch for you while you are doing so."

"Yes, sir, I will try to find out for you." And putting his actions to his words, the night watchman disappeared, leaving the president of the United States standing guard in the corridor of the treasury building.

Presently the night watchman returned. "No, sir, Secretary Folger is not in. He has been gone for about half an hour."

"I thank you very much," said the president. He touched his hat to the man before him and was leaving, when another night watchman came along the corridor and, with a profound bow, paid his respects to the president of the United States. In another moment the newcomer had turned to his fellow employe. "Do you

# POULTRY

## FOR TWO HUNDRED LEGHORNS

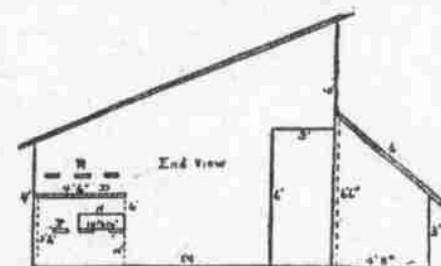
Structure Shown in Illustration Proved Entirely Satisfactory During Severe Winter.

During the severe weather of last winter the house shown in the illustration gave us entire satisfaction, writes F. T. Tiffany in Country Gentleman. In this house we had 185 pullets and 15 cockerels, and had no trouble with colds as was the case with an open-front house.

This house is 30 feet long, 14 feet wide, 10 feet high in front, and 5 feet high in the rear; on the front side of the house, facing south, are two openings 3 by 4 feet 6 inches each; these openings are covered on the outside with inch mesh wire to keep out the sparrows; these openings have frames on the inside covered with muslin, which on cold nights is placed over the openings.

The addition in the front is 12 feet long by 4 feet 8 inches wide, and is 6 feet 6 inches high where it joins the building, and 3 feet high at the lower side. The roof of this comprises a hot-bed sash 3 feet wide by 6 feet long. This is used as a dusting room; and the roof furnishes light for the rest of the building. These sash are made so they will slide down in hot weather or when we wish to put in new dust. There are also in front two openings 18 inches high to let the fowls out; these openings have sliding doors on the inside.

On one end of the building we have a door 3 by 6 feet for entrance. All weather boarding is white pine German siding, except on the north side, which is boarded first with barn boards and then with siding over it. The roof is covered with shingles. Inside the house on the north side is the roosting place; the dropping-board is 2 1/2 feet from the floor and is 4 1/2 feet wide and runs the length of the building. Under the dropping board are the nests, 14 by 16 inches. These



Practical Poultry House. R, Roosts; D, Dropping Board; N, Nests; P, Perch.

rest on a platform composed of two fence boards about 4 inches apart and can be taken out separately to be cleaned. In the rear of the nests is a board 4 inches wide for the hens to light on to enter the nests. The nests are 15 inches from the floor; in front of the nests is a muslin curtain which hangs within 9 inches of the floor; this makes the nests secluded. The roost poles are about 6 inches above the dropping board and are one foot apart and run the length of the building.

This house can be built for less than \$2 per fowl.

## PROFIT IN MIXED POULTRY

Most Money is Made Where Chickens Are Kept as Adjunct to Other General Farm Crops.

There is no doubt but that the greatest profit is made where poultry is kept as an adjunct to the other farm crops. On the general farm the feed item and the labor item, as well as the item of land, are of smaller account than on larger poultry farms. To the farmer who is willing to give as much attention to the poultry as he does to any other part of the farm operations, there is a good profit to be made with very little expenditure of time and



Plymouth Rock Cockerel.

money. Wherever it is possible the colony house system is strongly recommended for the general farm. It has the advantage of being able to move poultry to any part of the farm, and many times a corn or stubble field for the fowls to range over would mean a great saving in the feed bill. The drippings would also help to fertilize the land, as they are richer than that of any other domestic animal. Poultry kept in this way and receiving the proper attention should prove to be one of the best paying branches of the farm.