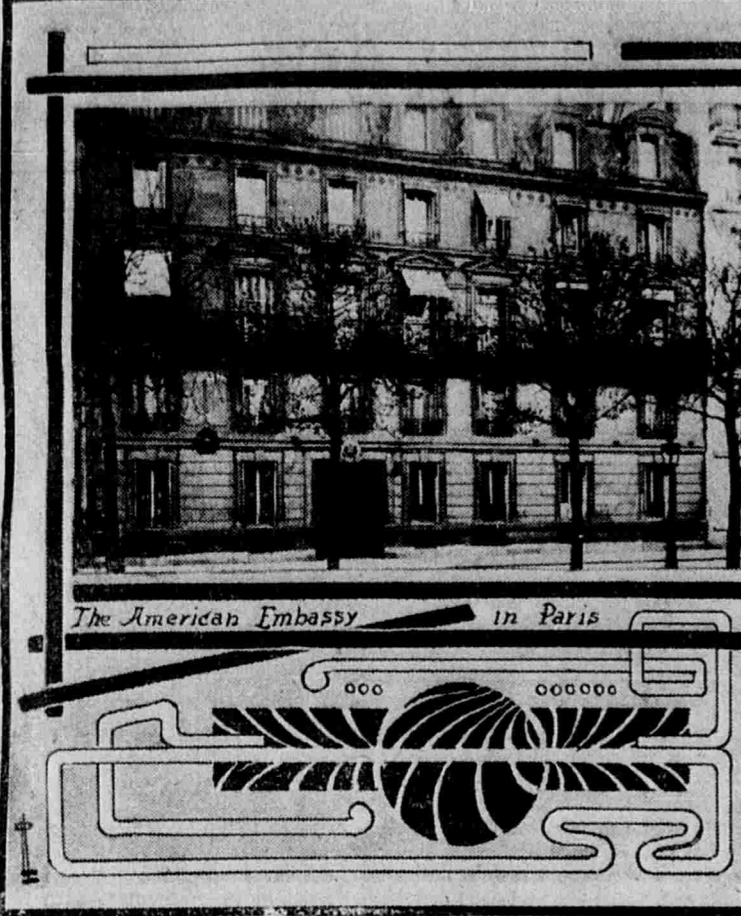
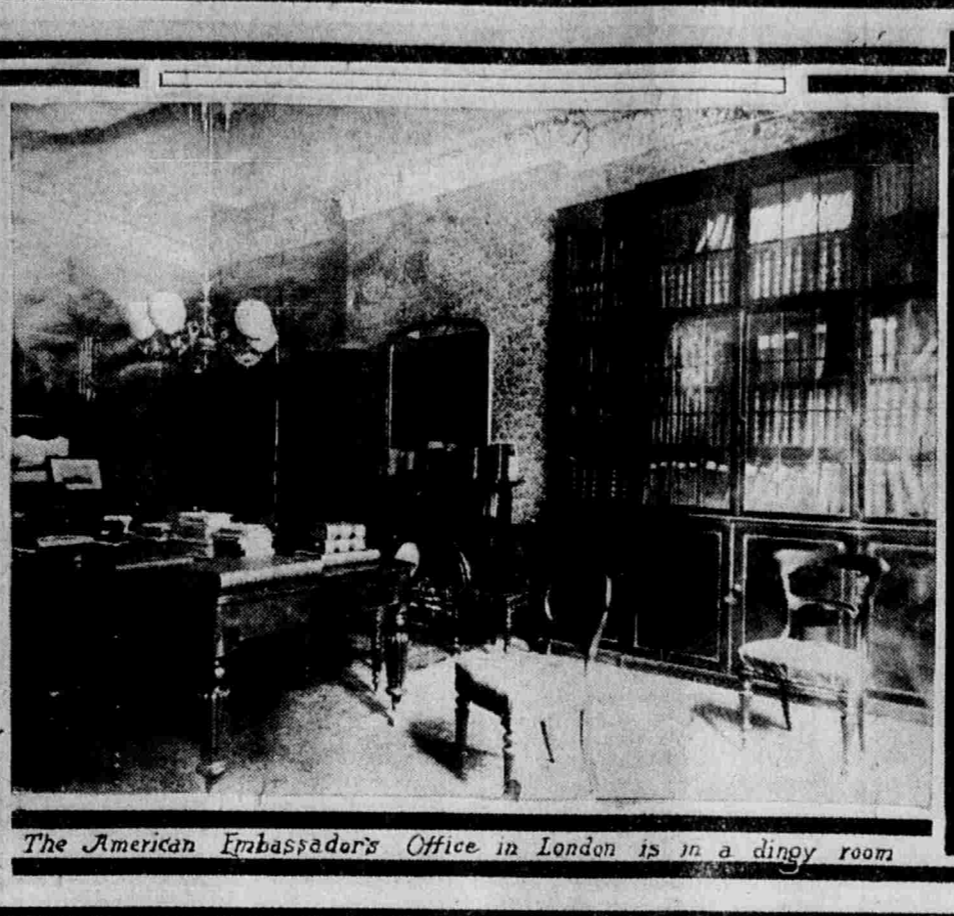


The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.



The American Embassy in Paris



The American Ambassador's Office in London is in a dingy room



In Berlin, it is in an outclassed building

King's Greatest Chum Charmed By a Famous English Beauty.

Special Correspondence. LONDON, July 9.—Marquis de Soveral, Portuguese ambassador to Great Britain, and the king's greatest chum, has laid his hand and heart at the feet of Muriel Wilson. But it is an open secret that Muriel does not approve of marriage for herself, at least. Since the day she threw her engagement ring in the face of Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, now the husband of the elder daughter of Mrs. Harry Higgins, she has determinedly sent every would-be suitor that suggested matrimony right about. De Soveral has, however, been the most persistent of the bunch. All this season he and the fair Muriel have been together and now I hear it is possible that their engagement will be announced in the near future.

I understand that Muriel Wilson did not meet with your approbation as a beauty when she visited America some years ago. In England, however, she is regarded as the handsomest spinster in society at the moment. Debutantes hate her, for she has the art of throwing them completely in the shade and mothers with younger daughters care to omit her from their parties.

De Soveral has been angling for as much as any man in England. As the king's pal, no country house party is complete without him. He could have married almost anyone. "That is precisely why I have not married," he has frequently explained when the king and others have chaffed him on remaining a bachelor. "There was never a man born who wanted anything that was at his feet." He pines for Muriel Wilson because she does not chase around after him. Her friends say, however, she shows signs of yielding. The fact that she has lately taken up the study of Portuguese is suggestive. She is already the most accomplished French scholar in British society.

JEAN REID'S MARRIAGE. Never did the marriage of an American girl cause more weeping and wailing of disconsolate suitors than did that of Jean Reid. She was extraordinarily popular for her own sake, but the fact that she was a very great heiress and in the very front rank of society had a great deal to do with the fact that suitors swarmed around her. At one time she gave a good deal of encouragement to Lord Acheson, who has been one of those hard hit over her great preference for the fact that they have had preference for the American heiress some years ago and at that time was a frequent caller at West Park and Dorchester House. For some time now, however, his attentions have been engaged elsewhere.

CURE FOR DOUBLE CHINS. How marvelously youthful Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, Mrs. John Leslie and a few other society women are looking this season is the comment on all sides. This, it seems, is accounted for in the fact that they have had every trace of double chin and undue fat about their necks removed. The double chin has ever been the most formidable of keep her youth and had to fight. Massage was all very well for a time but its effect on the fatty tissues was not lasting and the "patient" had to go through frequent repetitions of treatment. The new operation is neither difficult nor expensive. A small slit is made just under the chin and the fatty tissues are drawn out.

DISCONSOLATE PRINCE. There is no doubt that Prince Arthur of Connaught had a decided penchant for the daughter of the ambassador and it was observed on all sides, both at the wedding as well as at the festivities which followed it that he was looking anything but happy. He stood about in corners and spoke to very few. Such behavior is quite foreign to the nature of the young prince who has the good spirits of his father, Lord Delmegey, Lord Rosebery's son and he showed great preference for the American heiress some years ago and at that time was a frequent caller at West Park and Dorchester House. For some time now, however, his attentions have been engaged elsewhere.

FERNS PRESERVE FOOD. Europeans Successfully Use the Leaves in Many Ways.

Consul-General Richard Guenther, of Frankfurt, advises that a newspaper of that German city states that the fern plant, which grows almost everywhere, is an excellent preservative for packing articles of food, fruit, etc. A summary of the article follows:

People who have lived in England know that the English have used it successfully for many years. Valuable fruit, fresh butter, etc., are no longer sent in the English markets packed in grapevine leaves, but almost always in fresh fern leaves, which keep the articles excellently. This is done where grapevine leaves are to be had in abundance. Everyone posted well in botany knows the high preservative power of fern leaves with reference to vegetable and animal substances.

Fresh meat is also well preserved by fern leaves. It would seem as if the highly preservative qualities of fern leaves are due to their high percentage of iron. No larvae, maggots, etc., approach fern, as the strong odor keeps them away.

SHABBY AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN THE EUROPEAN CAPITALS

While the Ambassadors Usually Rent Gorgeous Houses at Their Own Expense, The Actual Offices of the United States Government are in Most Cases Dingy, Mean, Crowded and on Back Streets.

Special Correspondence. LONDON, July 9.—While so much has been said about the gorgeousness of some of the American ambassadors and their private homes in the various capitals of Europe, discreet silence has been maintained about the actual American embassies. The fact is, it is usually supposed that the embassy offices are where the ambassador lives, and that is the case with most of the other powers, which own big houses—sometimes palaces—where their ambassadors live free and have their offices, too. The German embassy in London, for instance, is a magnificent \$15,000-a-year mansion in Carlton House Terrace, just beyond William Waldorf Astor's home and across the street from the mansion of Sir Gilbert Parker, who luckily has a rich American wife. The Italian and French embassies here are also worthy of princes; but the American embassy is crowded into a few particularly stuffy, ill-lighted, grimy rooms in an office building in Victoria street, affording a marked contrast to the splendor of Dorchester House, where Mr. Reid lives, 10 minutes' walk distant.

The embassy is located between a second-rate furniture shop and a second-class restaurant, and occupies the basement, ground floor and one or two rooms on the top floor of an unattractive brownstone, second class building. The outward appearance of the embassy gives one an impression of melancholy decrepitude, which is more than confirmed by the interior. All the offices are furnished with the most shabby of American furniture. Even the ambassador's private sanctum appears shabby.

NO PRIVACY. When in his office the American ambassador in London sits in a ground floor, front room, which is literally right on the street. From the top of a London "bus you can peer down into the ambassadorial sanctum. Besides the lack of privacy, there is the additional discomfort of street noises made by lumbering motor buses and other traffic. The whole impression conveyed by the embassy is one of cheapness. Considering the immense amount of business done, one is surprised at the utter lack of up-to-date modern office equipment.

APPEARS DOWN AT HEEL. "Our embassy in London is one of the poorest business propositions I have ever come across. Besides the whole down-at-heel appearance of the place, it lacks certain necessities which even a second-rate business concern in a backwoods town would possess. There is not even a vault at the embassy to keep state papers in; and the most valuable books and documents are placed promiscuously about the office where any one with a little ingenuity could abstract them if he wished. If there was a fire at the embassy, papers of the utmost importance would be lost simply for the want of the most ordinary business foresight.

"The American embassy holds its offices on a yearly lease, at a cost of \$1,500 a year, and any time the landlords may give the occupants of the chief quarters of America in Europe a notice to quit. As a matter of fact, the offices of the American embassy are held in London today on a sort of charitable lease. Both buildings immediately adjoining it are rented as shops at \$5,000 a year and several others at higher rents have been made to the landlords—a banking institution—but they have so far not turned the American embassy out from a feeling of sentimental courtesy.

SHABBY AND WOEBEGONE. "Everyone who goes to the American embassy notices the woebegone appearance of the whole show. It is not 'good business' on the part of the American government to slight its own embassy, for in these days of modernity appearances count for a lot. Not long ago a prominent British business man asked me where our embassy was, I said in Victoria street. 'Oh, yes,' he exclaimed, 'down there among the

other colonies.' It is pretty rough on us to be classed as a British colony. SIMPLY DISGRACEFUL. "The embassy in London is about on a par with other American embassies I have visited. For instance, up to a short time ago our embassy at Constantinople was simply disgraceful. It was in a positive slum, and the Turkish authorities, during the last outbreak, said they could not protect us unless we moved into a decent part of the city. In Tehran the same conditions prevail. In Teheran we occupy a veritable shanty, and there is no way of protecting our property. If anyone thought it worth while to steal our code book or other state papers it would be simple enough. In Tokyo our embassy is very shabby and certainly fails to inspire the Japs with the idea of our greatness. The only decent embassy in the east is in China.

"From the business man's point of view the American embassies all over Europe reflect on our country. What we need everywhere abroad are permanent homes with good offices for holding state documents. The ambassador should be decently housed at the expense of the state, on a par with other plenipotentiaries with whom he deals.

WORSE THAN SECOND-RATERS. Berlin, June 30.—In Berlin the American embassy is housed in a flat over a book store, for which the rent paid is \$125 a month. As the business premises of the American embassy—or "chancellery" as the place has been called for dignity's sake—Unter den Linden 68, one flight up, has sheltered United States diplomats for more than 100 years, it is without exception the shabbiest establishment of its kind maintained not only by any of the so-called great powers but even by second-rate nations like Spain, Holland and Turkey. At the corner of an insignificant side street leading to the north side of Unter den Linden, it occupies the second floor of an ordinary four-story business building, which was imposed upon the city by the Prussian government when it was built in the 18th century. It is not only shabby but even by modern standards it is a disgrace.

DARK AND DINGY. Barring the corner room, which the ambassador occupies for his private office, the "embassy" has the doubtful honor of being one of the darkest and dingiest apartments in all Berlin, and some Congress apostles of ambassadorial plainness who might try to pick his way along the passage leading from the three-by-five "reception room" facing Unter den Linden to the stumble heading in the dark. The rooms occupied by the first and second secretaries are smaller than the quarters allowed in American business houses. The American embassy in Berlin is a shabby, dingy, dark, and narrow "chancellery" which has been too small to provide room for the naval and military attaches, who must rent quarters outside and are therefore seldom to be found at Unter den Linden 68, where they belong.

"SNIDE" HEADQUARTERS. The "snidiness" of Uncle Sam's diplomatic headquarters in Berlin becomes painfully apparent when American visitors riding around town on "rubber-neck" seeking Berlin automobiles have pointed out to them the magnificent quarters of Russia, Great Britain, France and Japan. The czar's embassy, a splendid, white stone palace, fronts Unter den Linden for a length of nearly 200 feet, stands almost directly opposite the American "chancellery" as if to shame by its contrast the quarters of the great republic. Around the corner, in Wilhelmstrasse, its great Ionic columns forming one of the architectural attractions of that famous thoroughfare, is the establishment of Great Britain, a beautiful building in which King Edward's diplomatic representatives are housed at their government's expense in manner befitting the dignity of the mistress of the seas. A block away, in Pariser Platz, is the chateau-like house of France, now presided over by M. Cambon, who formerly lived at the residence of the French ambassador in Berlin. The lower floor is given over to suites of offices for business purposes, the rest of the building being for the residence of the ambassador's family and for social representation. F. W. WILE.

DEPRESSING PLACE IN ROME. Rome, June 29.—In Italy, where everything is usually so bright and cheerful, the American embassy presents a depressing contrast. It is an old, dingy, and forgotten flat in Europe are housed in a rented flat occupying the ground floor in one of those great mansions built centuries ago, and which most Italians now shun. It must not be forgotten that Rome is chiefly a modern city, and yet the American embassy seems to overlook the fact. The rooms are too few, too small, and too unbecomingly cluttered with the paraphernalia of an ordinary commercial concern; much less for representatives of a great country. The naval and military attaches, who should have offices at the respective embassies—like "outsiders," and they have to be sent for when any business requires their presence. The second secretary has no office, and the chief clerk has to "chip in" with the ambassador's private secretary. The only decent rooms are those of the ambassador himself and that of the first secretary; all the others are dark, chilly and dingy.

ISABELLA COCHRANE. IN ST. PETERSBURG. St. Petersburg, June 29.—The chancellery of the American embassy in St. Petersburg has been moved many times from one part of the town to another. It is at present situated in the Gentry, a fine, comfortable neighborhood at the back of the splendid houses on the English quay where the Spanish embassy is situated. It has a desolate and gloomy appearance, which is accounted for by the fact that as it is not American property and the proprietor may at any time be disposed to sell it, it is not worth while to make improvements.

When Ambassador Tower was at St. Petersburg the chancellery was in a house adjoining the Winter palace, the present premises appear adequate for the purpose for which they are retained, but the chancellery ought to be in a more central position and, above all, it should be American property. At the present time you have to ask a policeman where the American embassy happens to be simply because it has been moved so often, and 10 chances to one the policeman will have to "look it up."

ROTHAY REYNOLDS. SECOND-FLOOR FLAT IN PARIS. Paris, July 1.—In Paris, while the embassy occupies an excellent location at 18 Avenue Kleber, close to the Arc de Triomphe, the rooms allotted to the representatives of America could be much improved. The Paris embassy pays \$1,500 per annum for its accommodation, which is in what is called the "entresol" of the building—that is, a sort of mezzanine floor. Naturally, the ceilings are low, but there is no remedy, as the American embassy is not allowed sufficient rent to pay for better rooms. The office consists of two apartments thrown into one, making 12 rooms in all, and each of the 12 members of the staff has a separate office.

It cannot be said that the chancellery of the American embassy in Paris is very much better or very much worse than that of the other American embassies. It is not dingy; it is not shabby. On the other hand, it is neither handsome nor luxurious. The two largest rooms are those set apart for the ambassador and the public. They are fairly spacious. The naval and military attaches have their rooms on the ground floor.

As for the furniture and fittings, they are simple and such as you find in any office. On the whole, it would be unkind to criticize the Paris chancellery too severely. It is not, I think, as commodious as the American consulate general in the Avenue de l'Opera.

Countess Starts Tobacco Farm, New Irish Industry's Boom. Special Correspondence. LONDON, July 9.—Irish tobacco, to all intents a new industry, is attracting considerable attention just now. Among others, a countess is running a farm and in several parts of the Emerald Isle the industry is making great progress. American growers will have to look to their laurels if the Irish industry is developed in the future at the same rate as it has been in the recent past. As a matter of fact, it is owing mainly to the introduction of American methods that Irish tobacco growing has received such an impetus.

A few years ago, Prof. Harper of the Agricultural college of Kentucky, visited about tobacco in Ireland, and reported most favorably on the prospects of Irish tobacco. He said that both soil and climate were suitable for producing some of the best grades and advocated the introduction of American methods of curing and cultivation. Prof. Harper stated in his report that the climate of Ireland was even better suited than that of Kentucky, for instance.

TRUST AGAINST IT. One of the greatest difficulties encountered by Irish tobacco growers, however, is not so much the raising of the plant as the marketing of the product in opposition to the tobacco trust. The trust has, up to this time, absolutely refused to allow its travelers and salesmen to handle Irish products, having their own farms, which they control the output and regulate prices, the combine looks with alarm and disfavor on any attempt of "outsiders" to break into the ring. Irish tobacco growers are now beginning to unite for the purpose of selling their wares independently, but the trust controls so many stores, and can cut its prices so low, owing to its control of the organization, that Irish tobacco will have to put up a stiff fight in order to do business.

EXPERT IMPORTED. The farms started in Kilkenny by Countess Desart, daughter of the Earl of Harwood, was not a success until an American tobacco expert was "imported" from the States. The main difficulty has been in the "curing" of the weed, which, up to that time in Ireland, was little understood. With the coming of the American tobacco planters, however, a revolution was wrought. Not only did the farm operated by Countess Desart commence to pay, but other experimenters throughout Ireland began to follow the titled lady's lead and there are now in Ireland no less than six "imported" Americans who have practical charge of their respective farms. Perhaps her daughter, Mrs. Desart, cutting one of the few titled Englishwomen who have married Americans, helped advise her in the matter.

PASSES EXPERIMENT STAGE. When Countess Desart started her experimental farm at Desart court, Kilkenny, she had much difficulty in inducing Irish peasants of the few titled nobles to follow the titled lady's lead and give tobacco growing the proper attention. The farm laborers of the district looked on the experiment as a mere fad, and they would not "put their heart" in it until her American manager demonstrated that a tobacco farm meant employment for nearly everyone in the district. As girls are more industrious than men for certain processes connected with the curing, many young girls are now engaged on the "countess" land. Tobacco leaves are now being cured before they are hung in the drying house, and there are many operations for doing things which men would fall to do well.

The Desart land is now passing its experimental stage, and promises, before long, to be one of the principal tobacco farms in Ireland. The largest farm at present is that belonging to Mr. Everard. It is at Rathdown, in County Meath, and is said to be producing tobacco almost as good as that which comes from some of the best Virginia plantations. What has been some of his responsibility, everyone predicted that his experiment would come to grief. But he has succeeded beyond even his own most sanguine expectations, and now has a factory which is turning out large quantities of cigars, cigarettes and smoking tobacco every year.

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