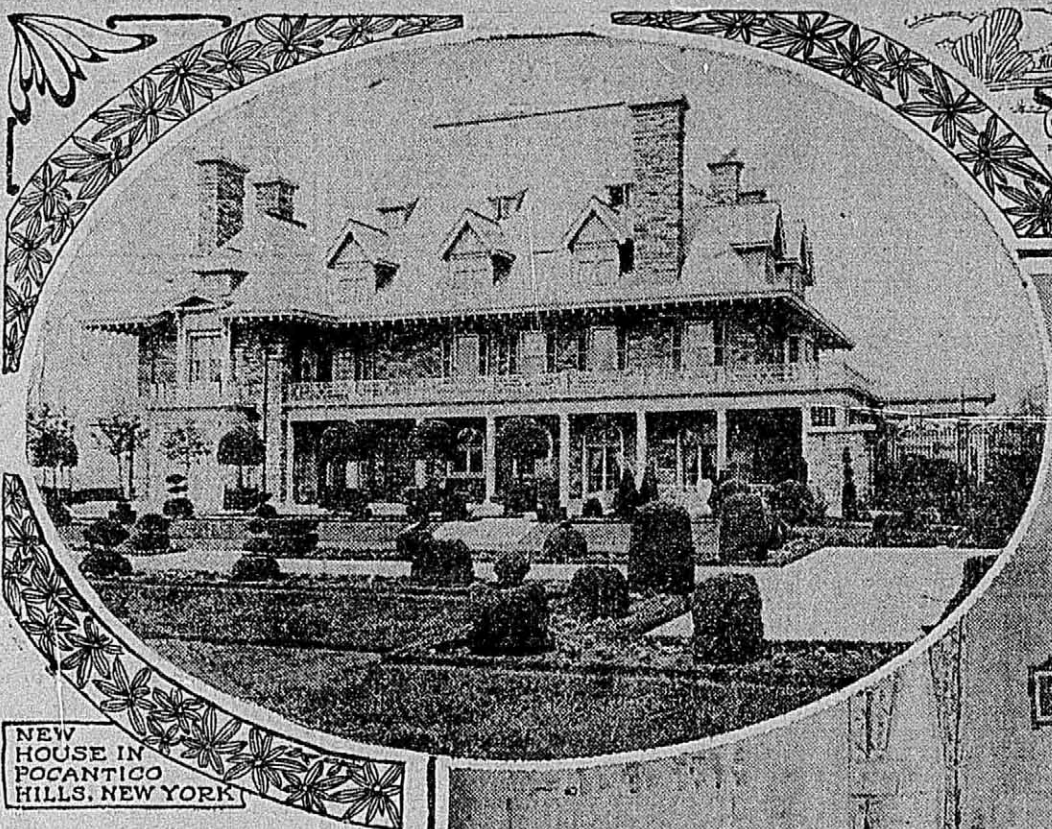


# ROCKEFELLER'S NEW HOME IN THE POCAANTICO HILLS



NEW HOUSE IN POCAANTICO HILLS, NEW YORK

THIS article is about the Pocantico Hills home of John D. Rockefeller. The estate of 6,000 acres, valued roughly at \$5,000,000, is in North Tarrytown, N. Y. And you must get that straight if you contemplate visiting the grounds or the vicinity. There is Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson and North Tarrytown. They are divided by the imaginary line, but between the two there is an irrepressible conflict over many questions, none of which is sufficiently serious to sully the social content that exists between the neighbors. The North Tarrytown folks go to bed harassed by the fear that the element known as the Rough Necks of Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson will invade the hamlet where lives the "richest man in the United States" and carry off the fruit and crops. On election day John D. Rockefeller rallies his employees at the polls, and men are elected who are known to be hostile to any set of men or measures on the south side of the line.

Nevertheless, both hamlets prosper; the people are content; the scenery remains full of rest, and in the midst of all stands the new mansion of John D. Rockefeller, king of Standard Oil, etc. The mansion, as it is called, although the exterior does not warrant so pretentious a title, has been occupied only recently. It commands a view of the Hudson river just below and is one of the marks in the dreamy atmosphere of Sleepy Hollow, in which the spirit of Washington Irving seems to linger. Near by a part of the estate is the spot on which stood the house in which Major Andre passed the night before his capture.

As one now sees the despoils of the old mansion one would never think that the grounds were once the site of a village. It was known in that part of the country as Briggsville. It was a settlement of contented people. When the oil magnate selected the spot for his home he set about to acquire the village and succeeded. It required some time and some sharp deals, but the magnate had the money, and he got what he wanted. There was one exception. John Mellin, a quiet and self-satisfied old German, occupied a bit of ground facing the gateway to the Rockefeller grounds. On the spot stood an unpretentious house in which the traveler or the neighbor might be permitted to looker to run about to repair to moisten his

throat. The house was an exercise on the landscape, and the oil king wanted it removed. Besides, Mr. Rockefeller is a prohibition Baptist, and he was averse to the wassals which occasionally were held within the house of Mellin. Like most Germans, Mellin was foxy. He didn't own the land on which his house stood, but he had a lease. He put up his price when dealers came around to make bargains. It was a long tussle, but not very long ago the German colors were hauled down, and Mellin vamoosed. The last heard of him he was sailing away for a long sojourn in the fatherland. People who knew about Mellin's business related that he never could have sold enough rhine wine and lager to warrant a trip to Europe. The shanty was torn down. The ground on which it stood was annexed to the Rockefeller estate. That's all about Mellin.

## Where Every Prospect Leases.

Meanwhile Mr. Rockefeller was occupying a summer cottage in the park. The erection of the present home was under way. For many months there were busy times about the grounds. At one time more than a thousand men were putting on top soil, setting trees, planting and training shrubbery, laying masonry and cutting grass. A transformation scene has taken place since then. An idea of the extent of the grounds is quickly grasped in the statement that they are larger than Central Park in New York city. The site on which the new home stands is the center of a horizon which includes the scarred sides of Point No Point and the southerly gate to the high-

lands on one side and on the other the ridges, which rise like ocean waves, between the Hudson and Long Island sound. But there is not a single tree to hide the nakedness of the house or soften its lines. This gives the occupant a full sweep of the scenery which holds the majestic Hudson. The whole is inclosed by high stone wall. Scattered signs break out at every crossing. The favorite pastime of the magnate who occupies the house is discerned in the golf course that stretches away over a rolling, closely clipped lawn directly in front and just below the house. Peeking through the treetops are the red roofs of the stone homes of the Rockefeller horses. The bit of color adds to the picture. Down behind the stables are the sunken gardens and the great conservatory. Here and there are pools from which little fountains play. Driveways wind gracefully through the inclosure. Scattered about the estate are seventy-five small houses. These are the homes of the employees of the owner.

## Pocantico's Searchlight.

Mr. Rockefeller has taken every precaution against intruders, such as disturb the minds of all who have great estates and live in the midst thereof. One of these precautions is a searchlight. A story told about it is that it is so arranged that the magnate can be touching a button at the side of his bed floor the entire estate with light on the darkest night if he should surmise that intruders had invaded the privacy of his domain. The entire premises is electrically treated, so that an illumination for pleasure or for defense is the work of an instant.

Tarrytown, as a whole, is kindly disposed to its great rich neighbor. They refer to him as "the old gentleman." Many boys in the vicinity tell of a silver dollar handed out by the magnate for some little attention or suggestion. The community has been the beneficiary of its rich neighbor's liberal contributions. Anybody who lives up that way will point out many improvements which Mr. Rockefeller made. One of these is a system of roads which cost "the old gentleman" \$40,000. There is a beautiful little lagoon in the village which is occupied during the week as a library and on Sundays for church services, the understanding being that all denominations may worship there. "All by Mr. Rockefeller," say the citizens of either Tarrytown.

The rentals to employees are quite satisfactory. Besides, Mr. Rockefeller has little extras which enable any employee to make a "few" on the side. For example, Mr. Rockefeller does not like strange dogs. For every such dog brought to the dust the killer gets a bonus of \$2. It is \$5 for every person detected in stealing fruit. It is \$25 for every automobile caught trespassing.

Mr. Rockefeller's other homes are—none in Cleveland, one at Lakewood, N. J., and one of 17½-acre tract in New York city. The Cleveland home is said to be Mrs. Rockefeller's favorite. That at Pocantico Hills is the favorite of the oil king. The interior decorations and furnishings of the Pocantico Hills home are not entirely complete. Mr. Rockefeller's idea of a home runs more in the direction of comfort than to luxury.

Nevertheless he is fond of paintings and books, and, above all, he likes plenty of room. It is not generally known that he is a fair violinist, and when there is a musical in his house he does not hesitate to take down the bow and play some old airs, provided no skilled musician is present. He likes best of all outdoor sports, and one of the new additions to the grounds the coming winter will be a skating pond. HOMER RIVERS.

## THE ROUND WORLD.

### Railroad Pensions.

The following figures are brought out in the annual report of the pension department of the Pennsylvania railroad company:

More than 2,000 employees of the Pennsylvania railroad were receiving pensions from the company on Jan. 1, 1909, and the payments authorized to be made to them during the year of 1908 amounted to \$544,245.08. Since the pension department was established in 1900 the sum of \$2,445,792.77 has been paid to retired employees.

A total of 367 employees were retired on pensions in 1908, while 211 men who were already on the pension list died during the year. The number of retired employees on Dec. 31, 1908, was 2,176, or 156 more than at the close of 1907. The average age of those receiving pensions is seventy-three years and three months, while the oldest employee on the list attained the age of ninety-two years in 1908. Of the 153 employees retired from

active service under the physical disqualification clause (men between the ages of sixty-five and seventy years) 132 were relieved at their own request and upon the recommendation of their employing officer, and the balance, twenty-six, were relieved upon the recommendation of their employing officers alone.

Uncle Sam's Farthest Point North. Point Barrow, Alaska, is Uncle Sam's farthest point north. A letter from Detroit to Point Barrow goes first by train to Seattle, 2,500 miles; then by ocean steamer to Valdez, 1,600 miles farther north and west; then dog sleds, over ice and snow, 2,700 miles more to the north and west. The letter travels in one direction over 6,800 miles, all the distance in American territory.

### A Military Secret Out.

Great pains are taken by the German military authorities to exclude all foreigners from obtaining any acquaintance with their new field artillery, but it has become known that its caliber is 77 millimeters, or 2 millimeters higher than is usual for field guns. It is of course a breechloading quick fire, equipped with a hydro-pneumatic brake. The German name for the gun is Rucklaufscheschuetze.

### Colleges Bad Fire Risks.

Colleges are now regarded as rather undesirable insurance risks, and it is probable that the rate will be generally increased. In eighteen years 784 fires have occurred in college buildings, entailing a loss of \$10,600,000 in money and a heavy loss of life. This makes the average money loss over \$13,000.

### Few Mountain High Waves.

When writers speak of waves "mountain high" they are merely indulging in poetic extravagance. A wave exceeding thirty feet in height is seldom encountered. Some have been

seen on the Atlantic that reached a height of forty-four to forty-eight feet, but that was entirely exceptional.

Telephones in Alaska. There are 130 camps and roadhouses in Alaska provided with telephones, in addition to many business houses, residences and cabins situated within the limits of the larger cities. The main exchange is at Nome. Sitka and White Horse are connected by telephone.

Profits in a Sperm Whale. The average sperm whale is about fifty-nine feet long and weighs 140,000 pounds and will yield 60,000 pounds of blubber, from which 45,000 pounds of train oil can be made, and 2,000 pounds of whalebone.

Speed of Telephone Sounds. When the telephone wires are overland the speed of transmission is at the rate of 16,000 miles a second. Where the wires are through cables under the sea the speed is only 6,000 miles a second.

Glued Garments in Korea. The Korean tailor does not stitch garments. He pastes the edges together and presses them down. Koreans carry glue around to stick their clothes together when they are torn.

Possibilities of Bad Sight. Bad sight is given as the reason for men going wrong. Defective vision has been proved to be the cause of lack of self-control, alcoholism and drug taking.

No Golds in the Arctic. No arctic explorers ever have come until they return to civilization. Then one and all, they are prostrated by severe influenza.

No Newsboys in Spain. There are no newsboys in Spain. Women sell newspapers in the streets.

## Obituary of Hannibal Hamlin

Tablet to the Memory of Lincoln's First Running Mate to Be Unveiled at Paris Hill, Me., Aug. 27.

THERE is a school that affects to belittle the vice presidency of this country. Hannibal Hamlin, like some others who held the office, was an example that proved the importance and usefulness of the place to which he was elected at a critical time in the history of the country. With a slight change in the political scale he would have been president. But, aside from this slip of fate, he was a forceful factor and played a strong part in the affairs of the nation. He was the commanding figure in

This is the centennial year of the birth of Hannibal Hamlin, and the home folks of the state, as well as those who are to return very soon to participate in the "old home week" of the Pine Tree commonwealth, are going to honor his memory Aug. 27 by unveiling a tablet in Paris Hill, where he was born. Paris Hill is still called by Maine folks "the Switzerland of America." The occasion will be a notable one in the state and indirectly will have national interest. It will probably bring together for the last time many of the old civil war soldiers of Maine who were beneficiaries of

count of Hamlin's close affiliation with Lincoln.

In the list of the favorite sons of Maine—which comprised Blaine, Fessenden and Reed—Hamlin was the acknowledged "great commoner." His strong personality leveled differences. For reasons not necessary to revive, Reed for many years opposed Hamlin in politics with characteristic bitterness. During the contest the two met by accident. From the hour of that meeting Reed, who was not a man to be easily turned, admired Hamlin, and they became steadfast friends. Long before Hamlin died Reed said of him: "He of whom I have learned to tell a lie to be dishonest. He simply couldn't tell a lie."

For some time before the civil war Hamlin was a Democrat, and it is remembered by old politicians that he was a presidential possibility of that party in 1856. The question of slavery caused him to change his political creed.

At the time of his nomination with Lincoln and during the remarkable campaign he was almost if not quite as picturesque a character as the "rail splitter from Illinois." In a political way he was better known in the east and south than Lincoln. In 1833 he was a country editor in Paris Hill. He served his state in the legislature and his district in congress. He was elected to fill a vacancy in the United States senate in 1848, and when the time for which he was elected expired he was returned in 1851. He resigned his seat in 1856 to be a candidate for governor and was elected. A month later he was elected to the United States senate again for the full term. He measured up well to the giants who were in the upper branch of congress at that time.

When Hamlin became vice president Lincoln needed men whom he could trust. His relations with Hamlin were intimate. He called him as a counselor, and it is affirmed by some who picture the character of these dark days that Lincoln trusted some important missions to the vice president, which were filled satisfactorily. Hamlin was shown the emancipation proclamation before it was issued, and it is one of the stories which have been contradicted that he suggested some changes in the document which Lincoln accepted.

That Hamlin did not become president is, in the opinion of many, almost as strange a political accident as the one which placed Roosevelt in the presidential chair on the assassination of McKinley. Why Hamlin was not re-nominated with Lincoln was a political puzzle at the time, and it is still a disputed question. It was asserted that Johnson was named because Lincoln did not want Hamlin. This was denied by men who were in the confidence of Lincoln, chief of whom was John Hay, who at the time was Lincoln's private secretary.

That Hamlin was still in the affections of his state was shown when he was returned to the senate in 1868. In 1881 he was sent as minister to Spain by President Arthur and re-

mained at that post until 1883. One of the noted acts in the political life of Hamlin was his introduction in congress of the famous Wilmot proviso, one of the great issues that impelled the civil war. The author of the bill, Mr. Wilmot, was absent and left the introduction of his bill to Hamlin. It was tenaciously contested, and that it finally passed was due to the strenuous fight which Hamlin made in its behalf.

It has probably escaped the recollection of many, except Maine people and the older politicians, that Mr. Hamlin's death occurred on the Fourth of July. He passed away in the home of his son in Bangor in 1891. "He has lived to see his country united, and long before his death he was known to be friendly to the south. He was a giant physically, as straight as any was in his state, and so rugged that he was never known to wear an overcoat even in the winters for which Maine is noted. This overcoat story is ancient, but it has never been denied.

The town where he was born and where the tablet is to be unveiled stands in the Androscoggin valley, which, broken by forests and villages, stretches to the range of hills and mountains that almost encompass the village. The foothills of the White mountains are seen in the west, and when the atmosphere is clear the snow tops of the mountains can be seen glistening in the sunlight.

### HAROLD FESSENDEN.

### MOTOR ACCIDENTS BY MOONLIGHT.

An examination of serious automobile accidents in the last year shows that over 100 happened at night, half of these when the moon was shining brightly. Of these probably twenty-five were brought on by optical illusions caused by the moon's deceptive light.

CHINA'S PRESERVE INDUSTRY. In China the natives preserve vegetables by coating them with salt and drying them in the sun. Hams are cured by means of an alkaline earth and common salt. Pickled eggs are preserved with a compound of common mud, salt, saltpeter and soy bean sauce.

MINING IN JAPAN. Japan's mining production last year, according to returns published by the Japanese department of agriculture and commerce, amounted to \$52,120,884. In 1886 the corresponding value was \$5,000,000. The value of Japan's mining output is trebling every decade.

ROMAN STYLES IN MADAGASCAR. Women in Madagascar drape their shawls as the old Roman senators did their togas.

CABBAGES OF CUBA. Cabbages in Cuba grow to such size that a single head often weighs twenty pounds.

## THE FOE OF GRAFT

John E. Wayman, the Chicago Attorney Who Has the City's Police Department in a Hot Box, Began Business a Few Years Ago as a Clerk at \$10 a Week—An Interesting Figure.

JOHN ENCELL WAYMAN—he has a third given name that he does not use—is the latest graft hunter in official life. He is state attorney of Cook county, Ill., and Cook county means Chicago. Graft has raised its head in all cities, but it has been more determined in Chicago than it was in New York city or San Francisco. In Chicago it relied on the police department for protection and got it. If the latest developments are verified.

Investigation begun by Wayman has just brought about the indictment of Police Inspector Edward McCann, who for many years was regarded as one of the most efficient men connected with the department. The charges are accepting money from divekeepers in Chicago for protection and malfeasance in office. McCann has been suspended by his superior, Acting Police Chief Scheutler. He was released on \$20,000 bail. McCann's detective, Jeremiah Griffin, was also indicted, the charge being that he acted as collector for McCann in the notorious resorts known as the levee of the west side, McCann was inspector at the Desplaines street station, and that is on the edge of the famous Haymarket massacre. The bills returned by the grand jury were the direct result of confessions made to Wayman by the keepers of dives who had the protection.

Information supplied to the prosecutor shows that sums ranging in estimate from more than \$200,000 to nearly \$700,000 every year have been collected within the First and Second police districts, comprising only that part of the south side north of Thirty-ninth street, for police and political protection. The places worked for graft include 250 hotels, flats, rooming houses, massage parlors, disorderly houses, concert saloons, opium resorts, pool rooms and Chinese gambling houses. The graft obtained from these places are not in McCann's district, but they are a part of the system. The number of resorts in McCann's district which have been worked is 190, and all are declared by the prosecutor to be vicious.

To John E. Wayman is due the credit for turning the light on this condition of affairs in Chicago. When the first intimation of the system reached Wayman he instituted a quiet investigation. In several instances he was being talked about and was in demand. He was sent out through the state, and the campaign was over his fame had grown to such an extent that he was the favorite for the grand jury holds. He did not seek the nomination through any organization. He is a college man, but he never relied on that for his advancement. When he entered college, at the age of

was his first work as a prosecutor, but before he was elected to his present position he had attracted the attention of the better class of politicians. Found Himself on the Platform. In 1900 he "found himself" as a platform speaker. He offered his services to the county committee, and after he

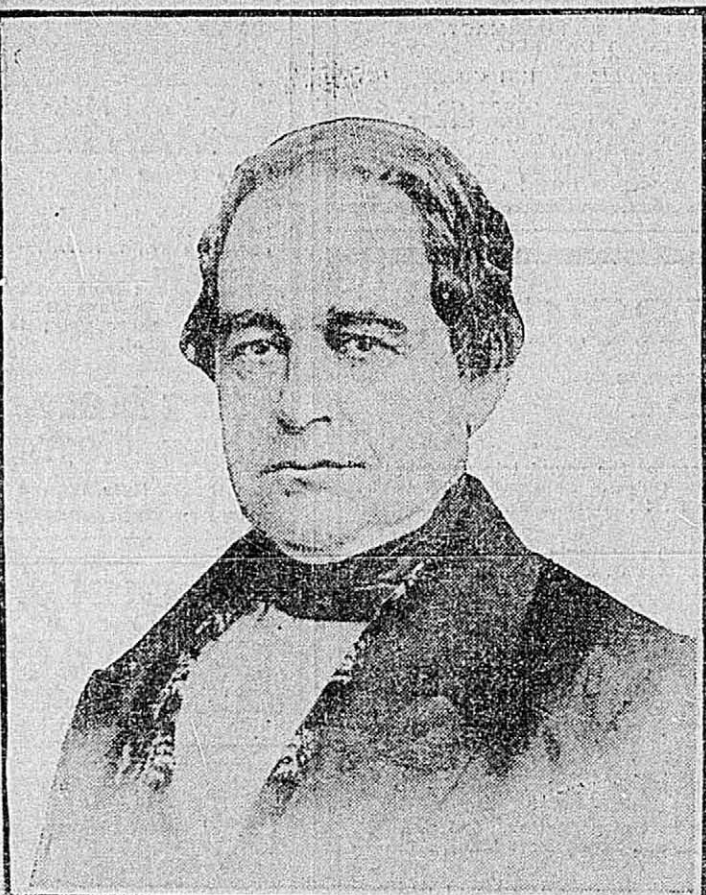
had made two or three speeches he was being talked about and was in demand. He was sent out through the state, and the campaign was over his fame had grown to such an extent that he was the favorite for the grand jury holds. He did not seek the nomination through any organization. He is a college man, but he never relied on that for his advancement. When he entered college, at the age of



J. E. WAYMAN, STATE ATTORNEY FOR COOK COUNTY, ILL.

had made two or three speeches he was being talked about and was in demand. He was sent out through the state, and the campaign was over his fame had grown to such an extent that he was the favorite for the grand jury holds. He did not seek the nomination through any organization. He is a college man, but he never relied on that for his advancement. When he entered college, at the age of

many of the schedules now operative were originated by him. Meanwhile he was studying law at night. When he finished the campaign was over his fame had grown to such an extent that he was the favorite for the grand jury holds. He did not seek the nomination through any organization. He is a college man, but he never relied on that for his advancement. When he entered college, at the age of



HANNIBAL HAMLIN, FIFTEENTH VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

the state of Maine before, during and after the civil war. He came nearer the presidency than any man of his state, with the possible exception of Blaine, who was not a native.

Hannibal Hamlin's devotion to the cause for which they went out and battled. The exercises are to be under the direction of the Loyal Legion. The event will be of special interest on ac-