



## *major-domo*

PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE W. VASSAR FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE

THE tradition of the White House hospitality rests on the shoulders of Raymond D. Muir, Chief Usher, who represents the President of the United States at the great front door. It is the same job the late Irwin (Ike) Hoover held for 42 years until his death last fall. Ray Muir greets all visitors who call on the President and the First Lady, sorts them out, and eliminates those he must. Here come the famous folk you see in the newsreels, the sight-seers, the cranks (one wanted to suggest that all people born on February 29th should be exempt from taxes), and the souvenir hunters. When the White House entertains, it's up to the major-domo to announce the guests, to see that the twenty Army and Navy aids under him are preventing crushes, providing chairs. Busiest time, from November to April. Born in Somerville, Mass., 36 years ago, his career is colorful. Little red schoolhouse in New Hampshire. Newsboy in Boston (you

guessed it—"From Newsboy to White House"). Served in the Navy during the World War on a sub chaser. A job (later) in France, and married a French girl. Then to Washington (with his bride) and into the Veterans' Bureau. From there he was assigned to the White House as Ike Hoover's assistant. Studied law at night, and had the distinction of receiving his degree last summer from the Washington College of Law at the same time Mrs. Roosevelt was given an honorary doctorate. Some day he is going to practice, but not just now. The White House is too interesting, he says.