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New-York Tribune.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 1910.

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—The day in both houses was devoted to exercises in connection with the unveiling of a statue of John C. Calhoun.

FOREIGN.—The Tribune's London correspondent says that the Lords are likely to block Mr. Asquith's plan of restricting the supply votes to six weeks by postponing consideration of the veto measure. ===== All France is excited over the Duez scandal, and further sensational developments are promised. ===== The rush to purchase stocks which promise sensational returns continues in London; safe investments are neglected. ===== The English newspapers expressed no sympathy for James A. Patten, who was roughly treated on the Manchester Cotton Exchange; Mr. Patten sailed from Liverpool for New York. ===== The revenue cutter Tacoma brought into Seward, Alaska, four of the men of the Farallon, wrecked on January 7; the other two survivors are also safe. ===== J. Pierpont Morgan, who is in Rome, was amused at reports of his death and said that he never felt better. ===== It is announced from London that a bank will be opened there officered and conducted exclusively by women and catering only to women customers. ===== The steamer United States, of the Scandinavian-American Line, went ashore off Christiania; the passengers were landed, but fears are entertained for the vessel.

DOMESTIC.—There was a sharp clash between Chairman Nelson and Mr. Pepper, Gifford Pinchot's counsel, at the Ballinger-Pinchot inquiry; Mr. Davis, of the Reclamation Service, made further contradictions of Secretary Ballinger's statements. ===== At least two of the mediums which it was hoped would interpose to settle the Philadelphia carmen's strike failed, and scant hope was held out for peace. ===== A coroner's report made public in Pittsburg gave the cause of death of Thomas K. Laughlin, brother-in-law of President Taft, who died in that city Friday, as "suicide by shooting." ===== Senator George H. Cobb, the newly elected temporary president of the state Senate, spoke at Watertown, N. Y., making his confession of political faith. ===== Attorneys for the International Paper Company secured a temporary injunction from Justice Van Kirk, in Saratoga, restraining the strikers and all the officers of their unions from picketing, patrolling and from intimidating men now employed or who may be employed by the company. ===== An alleged defalcation of nearly $10,000 was discovered in the accounts of the Massachusetts Bonding and Insurance Company, of Boston; O. M. Wheelock, the company's auditor, has disappeared. ===== Two firemen were injured, one perhaps fatally, as the result of a fire at Boston.

CITY.—Stocks were dull and firm. ===== The body of Miss Helen A. Bloodgood was found in Lake Carasaljo, Lakewood. ===== Answering the government's order to show cause in contempt proceedings, the Sugar Trust refused to submit papers asked for. ===== Commissioner Stover said that he would clear the parks of all unnecessary and sightly buildings. ===== Expert accountants were put to work on the books of the Illinois Central. ===== The Bradley-Gaffney-Steers Company will offer to carry passengers to Coney Island for 5 cents if it gets the Fourth avenue subway contract. ===== The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects gave reasons for opposing the new courthouse site in City Hall Park. ===== A plan to eliminate grade crossings was suggested by the Public Service Commission. ===== Edward Eldridge, an English vaudeville performer, committed suicide aboard the Adriatic as she started for Europe. ===== Six couples were turned away at the Marriage License Bureau under a new order barring minors.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 46 degrees; lowest, 35.

THE ADVENT OF RUBBER.

The extraordinary activity in dealings in shares in India rubber companies on the London Stock Exchange recalls a remark which was made by the late Collis P. Huntington to a representative of this paper, perhaps twenty years ago. He was discussing the future industrial developments of the world and the prospective opportunities for the making of fortunes, and the conclusion to which he came and which he unhesitatingly expressed was that no young man could do better than to invest his means in rubber forests or plantations in Central Africa. A good rubber plantation, he declared, was to be preferred to a gold mine. That estimate appears to be verified at the present time, with companies producing rubber at a cost of less than 20 cents a pound and selling it at $2 or more a pound, and consequently paying yearly dividends of from 70 to 80 per cent.

This extraordinary result has been brought about by the development of entirely new industries and economic needs. It was in the latter part of the eighteenth century that India rubber first became known in England and then in the rest of the civilized world, coming from India in half-inch cubes and being used for rubbing out pencil marks—whence its common name. Those little cubes were sold for as much as 75 cents apiece, and for years the total importations of them to Europe amounted to not more than a few pounds. Now the yearly production is reckoned by tens and scores of thousands of tons and is steadily and rapidly increasing, though it scarcely keeps pace with the demand.

When Mr. Huntington made the remark which we have recalled rubber was merely beginning to be used in the mechanical arts. There was an increasing demand for it in electrical engineering, and it seemed certain that that use of it would be enormously increased, as it has been. It was also used for the tires of bicycles and to a limited extent of some horse drawn vehicles, but the automobile was as yet only dreamed of, with its great and imperative requirement of the elastic gum. What further development of electrical appliances and of rubber-using vehicles there will be is subject for interesting speculation, in which estimates are not likely to be exaggerated, while it is well within bounds of reasonable anticipation that some entirely new uses will be found for the substance.

There is another reason for the increased profits of the rubber industry, to wit, the superiority of cultivated plantations over wild forests. A large share of the world's supply still comes from the Amazonian wilderness, of course. But extensive plantations are being made not only in various American countries but also in Malaysia, Ceylon, Java, Borneo and elsewhere, with much success. It is found that the cultivated trees produce more gum than the wild, that the cost of gathering and the waste in the process are much less, and that the crude gum is much purer and therefore preferable to that which is gathered in the jungle by primitive methods. It is not surprising, then, that there is a "boom" in rubber shares, though it is quite obvious that much caution is desirable on the part of investors. Bogus rubber companies are as possible as bogus gold mines, and extravagant professions and expectations are as likely in the one case as in the other. The history of "booms" is also a history of reactions and collapses, whether in tulips, silkworms or South Sea shares, and we shall not be surprised to see many over-sanguine and under-prudent investors in rubber shares grievously disappointed, though the general and enduring prosperity of the industry and of discreet investors in it is beyond reasonable doubt.

THE GOVERNOR'S "MORAL ISSUE."

"The Albany Evening Journal," Mr. Barnes's newspaper, in commenting on the result of the caucus to elect a president pro tem. of the Senate, took this characteristic fling at Governor Hughes:

> The last gun of the fight was shot by Governor Hughes, when he came out with a statement yesterday afternoon supporting the position taken by Senator Root in favor of Mr. Hinman. The statement is characteristically Hughes-like, in that it raised "a moral issue." The type of mind which Governor Hughes represents flourished in the Middle Ages, and many were its victims, on the rack and at the stake. That kind of mind believes that disagreement with it is immoral. It has been the one offensive aspect of the present administration, which in public matters has shown in almost every instance a commendable attitude.

"The Journal" for its own purposes confuses moral earnestness with moral intolerance. It believes that because a statesman professes high standards of conduct in politics and lives up to them he must feel and exhibit a certain moral intolerance toward others who fail to reach his exalted level of ideas and action. But this attitude of proscription is generally a figment of the imagination, due to the over-sensitiveness of those who prefer to live in a lower atmosphere and travel an easier way.

Governor Hughes has never attempted to drive anybody to the rack or to the stake in politics because of a disagreement of opinion. He has simply presented his own views as to the policy which the party should pursue and asked for an expression of preference on the part of the voters between his views and those of his opponents. There is nothing of the cruelty and vindictiveness of a Torquemada in that programme. The Governor does not seek to act at the same time as prosecutor, judge and executioner. Whatever sentences to the rack, the stake or to political oblivion are imposed under the Hughes inquisition are imposed by the voters. They have the final voice, and the victims of "moral issues" at Albany for whom Mr. Barnes's heart overflows with sympathy have the same right to a hearing as the Governor, and if they are powerful and persuasive enough can send the Governor and his supporters to the stake on exactly the same sort of warrant drawn in the name of the people.

Governor Hughes does not believe that the fact that other Republicans disagree with him makes them "immoral," but, on the other hand, he does not hold that if other Republicans agree with him whatever they do is beyond impeachment politically and morally. He stands for the judgment of men and measures on their own merits, and not on the false basis that the party must condone for its own protection obvious mistakes in personal conduct and party leadership. The moral issue which the Governor raises and which "The Albany Evening Journal" deprecates is simply one of adherence to enlightened public policy and of good faith to the public.

FUEL FOR WAR VESSELS.

Every now and then the advisability of using oil to generate steam on warships is considered more or less formally by officers of the United States navy. At present the plan is said to be regarded with favor by some of them, though there are no indications of an immediate intention to adopt it for anything but destroyers.

By the substitution of petroleum for coal several minor advantages would be secured. Less time would be required to take on a supply of fuel than is now needed. Space in the vessel which could not be utilized for coal could be filled with oil. Less labor would be demanded in the boiler room, and the business of stoking would be more cleanly than now. An even more important recommendation of liquid fuel is that it promises greatly to increase a ship's radius of action. If the room now devoted to the storage of coal were given up to oil, more power could be generated by the boilers before it would be necessary to visit port for supplies.

Before the government makes any radical departure from existing usage, it will doubtless consider the question whether it cannot secure the principal benefit here mentioned in another way and at the same time be enabled to enjoy others. Advocates of gas power for the propulsion of ships claim that it will double the distance a vessel can travel without stopping for fresh supplies. They also declare that gas power is much cheaper than steam power. It has repeatedly been announced that the apparatus for manufacturing gas for engines from bituminous coal has been perfected. As yet for one reason or another the new system has not been adapted to marine service on a large scale, but there is no telling how soon it may be. If coal gas promises to be more economical than oil and at least equally efficient, a little delay to discover its possibilities would seem to be dictated by sound policy.

Another question to be answered is, Where can a considerable amount of petroleum be obtained? Wells in the Eastern states yield less plentifully now than they did twenty or thirty years ago, and so much of their product can be used for illuminating purposes that its sale for fuel is hardly profitable. Oil from the region which includes Kansas and Texas is better suited to the proposed service and can be piped to the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, but how long will the supply from that source hold out? Can any one guarantee its continuance for fifteen years? Supposing that for warships on the Pacific depots were established in Hawaii and the Philippines for California oil, how long would that resource be available? Does not the fact that coal can be procured in almost any port in the world and that the known deposits are likely to last for centuries afford a strong argument for the use of gas power?

IN THE WORLD OF LETTERS.

The pre-inauguration season of retirement at Mount Clemens, Mich, is to be succeeded by a post-inauguration season of recuperation at Hot Springs, Ark. Hot Springs is further away, yet the United States mails are delivered there, and doubtless hundreds of "Dear Chief's" disconsolate associates and admirers will send him their observations on men and events in the metropolis to fill his leisure hours with edification. We do not know whether the lid is to be clamped down safely this time on the waste basket. If it is, though the rights of privacy may be properly vindicated, literature and humor will be the losers.

We should all delight to hear, through devious but authentic sources, how the administration of "his royal highness" presents itself in these early spring days to the censorious view of Tammany critics who have lived the winter out on half rations. Every one would be glad to know whether the obliging "Skell" finds tender-hearted officials in or near the City Hall to whom he can "lift his hat" with genuine satisfaction. It would please many devotees of letters to discover what progress has been made in "heating" up the Frawley clubhouse, and how "King Menelek and "his young son, the Prince of Pilsen, "Abraham II," are going to find themselves through another period of "abstemiousness" while the Great Chief drinks the hot waters of Arkansas's famous health resort. How are "Tom" and "Jerry" surviving the barbarities of life under the reformed order, and what politico-social golf matches has "Yankee Doodle" recently been arranging?

We wish the literary effusions which will follow Mr. Murphy to Hot Springs no misadventures. But if they fall through the bottom of a carelessly guarded waste basket we trust that they will be found to contain as generous an output of wit, humor, sagacity and opportune worldly wisdom as were exhibited by the contributors to the famous Mount Clemens symposium.

THE "BLUE LAWS" MYTH.

We are not sure but that Mayor Gaynor is approximating the need of a word of caution in his use of that vein of humor the development of which we have hitherto remarked upon with pleasure. Humor has not infrequently been characteristic of the minds of eminent jurists, but it has generally been of a peculiarly subtle kind, doubtless because of the subtleties of logic with which the legal mind habitually deals; and this latter quality appears to dominate the Mayor's gift. Thus his deft observations the other evening upon the apocryphal "blue laws" of Connecticut, reinforced with actual exhibition of the antiquated tome in which the statutes were recorded, were invested with so fine an assumption of seriousness that his hearers were almost persuaded against their better knowledge of the actuality of those mythical laws, and not one of the assembled attorneys and counsellors ventured upon a single exception to his honor's rulings.

The proverbial persistence of erroneous traditions and superstitions, however, makes it worth while to print, as we do elsewhere in to-day's Tribune, a letter from a correspondent reminding us of what Macaulay would have said "every schoolboy knows," that the so-called "blue laws" of Connecticut never had any existence outside of the imagination and the imaginative writings of a man whom we may describe as a sort of forerunner of both Mrs. Trollope and Dr. Cook and who was regarded by a most judicious contemporary as "of all "men with whom he was acquainted "the least to be depended upon as to any "matter of fact." In short, the "blue laws" were and are a myth and nothing more. Dean Chase's letter, with its historical citations, is a welcome companion piece to the Mayor's speech, with its subtle humor, displayed against a background of legal and scholastic minds which at times seemed to hesitate between remonstrance at the apparent seriousness of the speaker—which they must have known he did not mean—and enjoyment of the humor in which they must at heart have known he was indulging.

MAXIM'S AEROPLANE.

That England's pioneer in experiments with the aeroplane should resume them after an interval of twelve or fifteen years is an incident of no small interest. Sir Hiram Maxim, like Professor Langley, had great faith in the principle of the heavier-than-air machine. The two men fell short of convincing the world of the correctness of their opinions by only a small margin. There is reason for believing that the "aerodrome" built by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution for the War Department would have realized his expectations had not his launching mechanism failed to work properly. Sir Hiram, on completing his machine, planned his tests of it in a logical order. He wanted to discover if his engine and propellers were powerful enough for the duty assigned them before he sought to rise from the ground. Accordingly, he placed the aeroplane on a short section of railway. When steam was turned on such headway was developed that the aeroplane lifted itself from the track, fell over on one side and was badly damaged by an accident against which the inventor thought he had amply guarded. Had not Sir Hiram abandoned experiments after that mishap he might have achieved the distinction now enjoyed by the Wrights.

From the descriptions of the new machine published in the London papers it appears that on trifling departures have been made from Sir Hiram's original design. Slight alterations in shape have been effected in the hope of securing increased buoyancy. A gasolene motor, not a steam engine, will now supply power. It would be strange if Sir Hiram's own ingenuity and his observation of the faults and excellences of American and French aeroplanes had not suggested other improvements on his first model. Yet the product of his recent study is still an aeroplane. For these reasons and because of the high reputation he has won as the inventor of automatic ordnance the public tests of his latest work will be awaited with peculiar eagerness.

Woodruff was so angry at the Root telegram to Senator Davenport that he sent back a hot message telling Senator Root in effect that he had no business to communicate any orders to the Republicans in New York State through any Senator. The state chairman, Woodruff said, was the proper medium of communication between a United States Senator and New York State politicians, and this should be remembered in the future.—Albany news dispatch.

When Senator Platt in 1901 sent his much paraded orders about that bridge bill to Jotham P. Allds did he realize what a breach of etiquette he was committing? How fortunate for him that George W. Dunn rather than the present incumbent was state chairman! Otherwise an interesting spectacle might have been exhibited of the Hon. Thomas C. Platt being sharply "called down" by the Hon. Timothy L. Woodruff!

The action of the Russian Douma on the Siberian exile system appropriation suggests the fact that Russia really has a parliament at last.

Chicago proposes to make it a misdemeanor for a woman to wear a hatpin sticking more than half an inch from the side of her hat. It ought at the same time to make it a felony for a man or woman to carry an umbrella horizontally under the arm.

A monument to J. A. MacGahan would be a memorial of an American's splendid initiative in winning for the Balkan states freedom from the Ottoman yoke.

Whether the machine employed by Paulhan at Jamaica really infringes the Wright patent is a question which a federal court will eventually decide. Still, his inability to dispense with the use of those features of the Farman aeroplane on which the Dayton inventors base their case will produce an unfavorable impression on the public mind. If the Frenchman does not need the rear rudder and wing warping device, why did he not dispense with them in his flights over Long Island?

Senator Allds's recollection of where he got his money is not so good as his recollection of what he did with every minute of his time on a certain day in April nine years ago.

Getting drunk three times a year may not incapacitate a man for making a legal will, but there are many who will challenge the judicial *obiter dictum* that that is not too often "for a gentleman to get drunk." The opinion widely prevails that to get drunk once is once too often for a gentleman.

Not everything that is written in the Democratic platform is Democratic. Free silver was not Democratic, centralization of power at Washington is not Democratic. Populism is not Democracy.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Why didn't the last Democratic National Convention employ some competent authority on Democracy to prepare a genuine Democratic platform?

To object to a law prohibiting gross abuses of motor cars on the highways seems much like being in favor of the law but against its enforcement. It has long been obvious that to a certain class of misdemeanants a fine is little more than a joke, and a term in jail is the only effectual deterrent.

The many admirable services of the federal Bureau of Labor as an arbiter of labor disputes have now been supplemented by a settlement of the controversy which has been raging for some time between the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and its employes. Commissioner Neill, assisted by Commissioner Knapp, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, has satisfactorily adjusted all outstanding differences. This peaceful arrangement is in happy contrast with the useless, wasteful and violent methods employed to settle the controversy between the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company and its men.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

An undersized German attracted attention in City Hall Park by the clever way he balanced a heavy round box on his shoulder, carrying it as safely as if with his hands. Two men stopped to comment on the feat. "Great stunt," said one. They turned to watch the German. "It is more than that," said the other observer, as he read the single word on the back of the box. "See what it says." It was stencilled "Limburger." That generally walks.

Teacher—Johnny Jimson, why were you not at school yesterday?
Pupil—Please, ma'am, I was convalescin'.
Teacher (in surprise)—From what, pray?
Pupil—Three apple-dumplin's an' a packet of cigarettes.—Tit-Bits.

The French navy has been divided into factions on the question of whiskers. A bitter campaign has been waged for some months by the supporters of a petty officer in the Moroccan naval division, who insisted on wearing a beard fourteen inches long in spite of all official threats and entreaties. For eight months the man has not left his ship, and meanwhile his beard has grown steadily. Now a decree is being prepared by the Ministry of Marine which will limit all beards to two and one-fifth inches in length.

POETRY, AND SO FORTH.

[Note: "The Yale Alumni Weekly" having said that a poor man can no longer be a poet, "The New Haven Journal-Courier" says that the job should be turned over to the idle rich.]

The idle rich be poets?
They can't. By heck! if they
Went in for writing verses
Because it didn't pay,
The age is so commercial
An inquirendo de
Lunatico would jug them
For bughouse lunacy.

Envoi.

What's that you say? A poet
Is crazy, anyhow?
Well, butt in if you want to—
We didn't start the row.

W. J. LAMPTON.

"Queer habit Miss Passay has when you're talking to her."
"Why? Doesn't she listen?"
"Oh, yes, very attentively, but she keeps nodding her head and interjecting 'yes, yes,' all the time."
"I think she has fallen into that habit waiting for some man to propose."—Catholic Standard and Times.

In a little house in one of the poorer streets at The Hague there lives in quiet retirement, according to "Figaro," General Vergensius, who once held the office of Secretary of War in the Royal Council of Holland. A paralytic stroke robbed him of the use of one side of his body and of the power of speech. The old man's only pastime is to sit at his window and watch the few pedestrians and vehicles as they pass before it. Some time ago the general's sad condition became known to the Queen, and the next day, while taking her usual drive, she gave orders to pass the old man's window at a slow pace. She was seen, and returned the soldier's salute with a smile. Since that time the passing call has been almost a daily occurrence. Recently Wilhelmina sent word to the general: "Do not fail to be at the window to-morrow," and when the royal carriage came to the house the next day the Queen saluted, as usual, and then held up the princess, Juliana, who shook her little hand in greeting to the veteran in the window.

"What about the assailant struck you as extraordinary?" asked the judge of the plaintiff in an assault and battery case.
"His fist, sir," was the answer.—Buffalo Express.

THE "BLUE LAWS" MYTH.

Canon Chase Adduces Authorities on Old Connecticut Code.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: He would be a brave clergyman who would endeavor to instruct Mayor Gaynor upon the subject of law. But even an ex-judge and honored Mayor may be deceived upon the question of evidence, and before I accept as true the statement that there ever were ridiculous blue laws in Connecticut I would like to know the evidence upon which he believes it. I write, therefore, to ask if you know what are the title, the editor and the date of the little book from which your paper of to-day says Mayor Gaynor quoted last night before the alumni of New York University Law School and in the presence of the Governor and the justices of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. It is possible that Mayor Gaynor has been putting too much confidence in his little book, which may become the dead fly in the ointment of his honor's views concerning Sunday.

My reason for asking for this is that, so far as I have been able to ascertain, there never were in Connecticut any such blue laws as has been commonly supposed.

It may be that I am mistaken; but Horace Scudder, on page 105 in his "History of Connecticut," refers to such laws as the "blue law myth."

I am sure Mayor Gaynor did not mean to reflect upon Connecticut as being more severe in the punishment of trifling crimes than other countries, for Connecticut could not thus be justly accused. On March 2, 1819, Mackintosh, speaking before the British House of Commons, said: "I hold in my hand a list of those offences which at this moment are capital (punishable with death), in number 223." One hundred and fifty years before that time the offences punishable with death in New Haven and Connecticut had been reduced to fifteen. A little volume containing the code of 1650 was published in Hartford in 1822, with an appendix of twelve pages, in duodecimo, entitled "New Haven Antiquities, or Blue Laws." But there is nothing in this that is of a fanciful or rigorous nature.

Palfrey's "History of New England," Vol. II, page 32, says: "The existence at any time of a code containing provisions (blue laws) such as are quoted above is a mere fabrication, nor is there any record of so much as single judgments pronounced agreeably to the tenor of those provisions." The existence of such a code has been believed upon the authority of a loyalist and refugee, who is known to have been utterly unreliable, who published his book in London in 1781. Trumbull, a conscientiously exact historian, of Connecticut, who lived in the same town with Peters and went to college with him, said of Peters that, "of all men with whom he was acquainted, Dr. Peters was the least to be depended upon as to any matter of fact." The trustworthiness of Dr. Peters may be judged from his description of a scene on the Connecticut River: "There water is consolidated without frost by swiftness between the pinching, sturdy rocks to such a degree of induration that no crow can be forced into it. Here iron, lead and cork have one common weight" (page 127 of "General History of Connecticut," by S. A. Peters, edited by S. J. McCormick in 1877).

The earliest code in Connecticut related only to capital offences, and was practically the same as in Massachusetts, which was adopted a year earlier. During this time the courts made their decisions in accordance with rules of equity and Scripture.

The fundamental agreement, or "Original Constitutions of the Colony of New Haven," adopted on June 4, 1639, contained a provision which held that "the Scriptures do hold forth a perfect rule for the direction and government of all men," and that the "Word of God shall be the only rule attended unto in ordering the affairs of the government." The first constitution of Connecticut was adopted by a General Assembly of the planters of the three towns of Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor at Hartford on January 4, 1638. The oath of office of the Governor or magistrate was that he would "further the rule of justice according to the rule of God's Word."

The fundamental orders of Connecticut of 1644 had this provision: "The judicial laws of God, as they were delivered by Moses, and as they are a fence to moral law, being neither typical nor ceremonial nor having any reference to Canaan, shall be accounted of moral equity, and shall generally bind all offenders and be a rule to all courts in this jurisdiction in their proceedings against offenders till they shall be banished out into particulars hereafter."

J. Hammond Trumbull in 1876 published a book entitled "The True Blue Law of Hartford and Connecticut and False Blue Laws Invented by Samuel Peters," which one should read before he puts credence in the "blue law myth."

There seems to me, so far as I have been able to learn, nothing in the early history of Connecticut to justify the ridicule which has quite commonly been hurled against the blue laws.

It is possible that some individual judges in early Connecticut made ridiculous and bad decisions, but even our own city and our own time have not wholly escaped from that calamity.

The wicked conspiracy of grafters to-day in New York to avoid the enforcement of the laws designed to protect each citizen in his right to one day of rest from labor and business in every week ought to solder us a little when we are inclined to laugh at early Connecticut.

WILLIAM SHEAFE CHASE.
Brooklyn, March 11, 1910.

THE CITY'S WATER SUPPLY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Our city can easily save over $100,000,000 by abandoning the scheme of getting water from the Catskills. The scheme is a monumental mistake. New Jersey can utilize the water to better advantage than our city and supply Staten Island. The United States Geological Survey has made a thorough examination of the underground water of Long Island and reports that there is an ample supply for all time.

It would be interesting to know why a law was enacted prohibiting the getting of any more water from the east side of the Hudson. The expense of a pipe line or aqueduct connecting Lake Champlain with the Croton system would be a bagatelle in comparison to the present scheme, and we would have a never-failing supply and no more reservoirs. The $100,000,000 or more would come in handy for more subways.

TRUTH.
Brooklyn, March 10, 1910.

[Lake Champlain is 95 feet above sea level. Parts of Manhattan Island are almost 250 feet above the sea. It is over two hundred miles to the southern end of the lake. After its waters reached New York through a series of deep and expensive tunnels under a tract of country higher than the lake it would not have sufficient pressure to flow into the basement washtubs of half the houses in the city, to say nothing of a head for fire protection or other purposes.—Ed.]

MUST BE.

From The Rochester Herald.

A New York newspaper credits a woman traveller with carrying her hat in a collar box. We suspect it is a horse collar box.

People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, March 12.—The President has called for evidence and proof of the charges against William T. Stone, Collector of the Port of Baltimore, within the next ten days. Two weeks from to-day he will announce his decision.

The Secretary of the State and the members of the Tariff Board spent some time with the President discussing tariff relations with Canada and France. The French Ambassador told Mr. Taft yesterday that he hoped an agreement would be reached before the adjournment of the French Parliament, on March 25, six days before the termination of the present tariff agreement.

President Taft added another engagement to his Northern trip to-day, accepting the invitation of C. R. McCauley, Frank McBreen and John C. Hemmet to deliver an address at the opening of the New York Press Club on March 22.

Senator Root took luncheon with the President, and discussed the New York political situation. New York politics was also discussed by Representatives Fish, Dwight and Driscoll.

Among the White House callers were Senators Lodge, Stephenson and Crane, Representatives Crumpacker, Coudrey, Kronmiller, Pearre, Smith, of Texas; Slayden, Stephens, Gillespie, Humphrey, Hanna, Gardner, Gregg, Jamieson, Hughes, of New Jersey; Davidson, Sherley, Rucker, Reeder, Slemp, Burleson and Garner, ex-Senators Long and Dryden, ex-Representatives Wachter and Watson, Lewis Nixon, of New York; Mrs. Belva Lockwood, and the Rev. Ferdinand C. Iglehart, New York City superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, March 12.—The Minister from the Netherlands and Mme. Loudon gave a small musical to-night at the legation, George Harris, tenor, and Barrington Branch, pianist, being the soloists. They entertained the Minister from Switzerland and Mme. Ritter, and the house guests of the latter, Mr. and Mrs. Emil J. Stehli, of New York, at dinner preceding the musical.

A number of diplomats went to Mount Vernon this afternoon, the Minister from Switzerland and Mme. Ritter and Mr. and Mrs. Stehli being in the party.

Major von Livonius, German military attaché, entertained a "stag" dinner party to-night, and later gave a "beerfest," the beer having just been sent from Germany. Senator Elkins, Senator Warren, Senator du Pont, the Minister from Sweden, the Minister from Norway, the Minister from the Netherlands, the Minister from Switzerland and Emil J. Stehli, of New York, were among the guests.

Mme. von Livonius will sail from New York for Germany on April 16, to be absent all summer. Major von Livonius will join her later.

The Minister from Bolivia will leave here to-morrow for New York, and will go from there to Cambridge to deliver an address at Harvard. Señorita Calderon will accompany him as far as New York and will await his return there.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, March 12.—Senator and Mrs. Depew entertained at dinner to-night the Minister from Sweden and Mme. de Lagercrantz, Senator Gallinger, Senator Warren, Senator and Mrs. Rayner, Representative and Mrs. Longworth, Representative Hamilton Fish, Miss Fish, the Assistant Secretary of War and Mrs. Oliver, the Solicitor General and Mrs. Bowers, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nelson Page, Mr. and Mrs. Woodbury Blair, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Townsend, Mrs. Norman Williams, Mrs. A. C. Barney, Miss Mabel Boardman and Prince Koudacheff, Russian first secretary.

Mrs. L. Z. Leiter entertained the French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand and other guests at dinner to-night.

The British Ambassador and Mrs. Bryce and Justice and Mrs. Lurton were among the guests entertained at dinner to-night by Mrs. Samuel Spencer.

Mrs. Stephen B. Elkins, accompanied by her son, Stephen B. Elkins, jr., left here for a short stay in Atlantic City to-day.

Miss Margaret Cameron and Miss Catherine Cameron entertained a number of guests at dinner to-night to meet their house guests, Mrs. William B. Leeds and Mrs. Belmont Tiffany, of New York. Mrs. Leeds and Mrs. Tiffany will return to New York on Monday. Their hosts have invited a number of guests to meet them at luncheon to-morrow.

Mrs. John R. McLean entertained a number of the season's debutantes at luncheon to-day to meet Miss Adelaide Heath. She will have thirty guests at dinner to-morrow night and additional guests for a musical later in the evening.

At the marriage of Miss Constance Hoyt and Baron von Stumm, which will take place at the bride's home at noon on March 20, Mrs. Philip Hichborn, her sister, will be matron of honor and her only attendant. Herbert von Stumm will be best man for his brother. In company with another brother and his sister, Maria von Stumm, he is now on his way from Germany. The bridegroom's sister will be the guest of Miss Hoyt while in this country. The Rev. Roland Cotton Smith will officiate.

The Secretary of the Navy has invited Mrs. Larz Anderson to be sponsor for the torpedo destroyer which is to be named for her father, Commodore George H. Perkins. The launching will take place at the Fore River shipyards on April 9.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

From now on until Easter, a fortnight hence, entertainments will be mostly of a charitable order; that is to say, for the benefit of some of those many philanthropic enterprises that owe their origin and maintenance to the liberality of New York society. Many are taking advantage of the interruption of gayeties to visit Washington, various Southern resorts and the West Indies, with the object of obtaining a brief rest before the resumption of the round of hospitalities at the end of this month.

As for those who have remained in town, women and young girls are busily engaged in preparing for the numerous weddings that are set for April, and which will come in for a large share of the attention of the fashionable world. New York's suburban resorts are just now at their best. Most of the cottages and villas at Tuxedo and at Lakewood are the scenes just now of series of house parties, and there is plenty of social activity at the various country seats in the Westchester County districts along the Hudson Valley, and on Long Island, especially around Meadow Brook, where hunting is now in full swing, with meets on four days of the week.

Baron Rosen, Ambassador of the Czar, and the members of his staff will be present at the concert to be given at the Waldorf-Astoria on April 4, under the auspices of Archbishop Platon, of the Russian-Greek Church in America, for the benefit of the Home for Christian Russian Immigrants in New York. Tickets may be obtained from Miss Doane, No. 18 West 34th street.

Archbishop Farley, accompanied by his secretary, Monsignor Lewis, has left town for St. Augustine, where he is staying at the Ponce de Leon.

Announcement has been made by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ives Cobb, of No. 128 West 59th street, of the engagement of their daughter, Miss Leonora Cobb, secretary of the Junior League, to Robert Amory, jr., son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Amory, of Beacon street, Boston, and a graduate of Harvard, class of '06.

The Right Hon. Sir Edgar Speyer, who is at Washington for a few days, returns to town on Wednesday next. Sir Edgar, who is a member of King Edward's Privy Council, is a brother of James Speyer.

Among those who sailed yesterday for Europe were E. C. Grenfell, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton W. Mabie, Mr. and Mrs. Francis A. MacNutt, Mr. and Mrs. Rollo Ogden, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Curtis and Mrs. John P. Logan, jr.

Mrs. Henry F. Dimock, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mrs. Moses Taylor Pyne, Mrs. William Wood and Mrs. Charles B. Alexander are among the patronesses of the entertainment, which takes place on Tuesday at 1:30, at the Lyceum Theatre, for the benefit of the Art Workers' Club, of which Miss Constance Curtis is president. Among the features of the programme are a one-act comedy entitled "The Bracelet," in which Miss Billie Burke, Miss Hilda Spong and Fred Kerr will appear.

Mrs. Langdon Geer will figure in the title role of the performance of "Milenka," which takes place at the Waldorf-Astoria on Friday evening, April 15, and on the following Saturday afternoon and evening for the benefit of the Big Brothers Society. Mrs. Geer will be supported by Mrs. G. Maurice Heckscher, Miss Virginia Duane, Miss Elizabeth Claflin, Miss Lisa Stillman, Miss Ruth Davis, Miss Dorothy Hurry, Miss Dorothy Bull and Miss Leonie Alexandre. Mrs. Vanderbilt, Mrs. Herbert L. Satterlee, Mrs. Hilborne L. Roosevelt, Mrs. Howland Davis and Mrs. Charles R. Huntington are among the patronesses.

Many dinners will be given in connection with the Grande Fete d'Aviation, which takes place at the Hotel Astor on the evening of March 28, for the benefit of the blind. Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, Mrs. Levi P. Morton, Mrs. Robert Livingston and Mrs. Vanderbilt are among the patronesses, and the committee in charge of the affair comprises Charles A. Dana, Stuyvesant Fish, jr., Stephen Van Rensselaer, Philip Schermerhorn, Alexander Dallas Bache Pratt and Moses Taylor Pyne.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, who are leaving town this week, will reach Washington on Friday, where they will stay for several days with Hamilton Fish.

E. Eugene Gallatin will give on Tuesday next a large dinner at Sherry's in honor of Lord Fairfax, who has come to the United States for a brief visit.

Captain the Hon. Montagu Parker, brother and heir of teh Earl of Morley; William P. Burden and E. F. Darrell are spending the week end at