The Sun.

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London Offices of THE SUN,
436 West Strand.
All communications should be addressed to FRANK P. WHITE, 436 Strand, London W. C.

A Suggestive Novelty.

Within the last few days a contract has been concluded for supplying at a price satisfactory to the sellers, six hundred tons of Chateaugay pig iron, to be sent to England for manufacture there; and this may turn out to be only the beginning of what may become at no distant day a very extensive and important trade.

It appears that the cost of making iron in England has risen very greatly. Coke, which only two years ago was sold at seventeen shillings and sixpence or eighteen shillings a ton, is now worth twenty-eight shillings to thirty shillings. Delivered at furnaces it has been sold at thirty-two shillings to thirty-five shillings, and for export at forty shillings. At the same time the best qualities of Cumberland ores, which in 1888 were ten shillings and twelve shillings and sixpence, are now as high as twenty-four shillings to twenty-six shillings, and quite scarce at that.

These changes have been brought about in a great measure by the greater depth at which coal now has to be mined in England, and the increased expense of bringing it to the surface; whence the extraordinary increase in the price of coke. This fact, combined with the present scarcity and expensiveness of iron ores, has raised the value of iron in European markets to such an extent that the cost of producing iron there is quite equal to its cost in this country, notwithstanding the circumstance that labor there is paid one-third less than here.

This renders it quite probable that England and indeed all Europe have reached the point where they can no longer produce cheap iron; and, should this prove to be positively the case, it will open up for the iron producers of the United States an era of unexpected activity. This is the only country which possesses an immense stock of iron and coal, and it is now supplying the entire domestic demand. With the new plants which are everywhere in process of construction, we shall soon be in a condition to supply an immense export trade also.

No industry has been so rapidly developed as that of iron and coal in this country. Twenty years ago it was comparatively unimportant, but in 1890 we shall produce more tons of steel than any other nation.

Spain Ahead of Chicago!

What has become of Spain's COLUMBUS celebration? When the Senate of the United States began to talk of honoring COLUMBUS, under stimulus from the Hon. WILLIAM McS. EVARTS and the Hon. GEORGE FRISBIE HOAR, both of whom remember the great navigator well (we suspect HOAR sailed with him in disguise upon his first voyage), the Government at Madrid was notified. The Minister of State, Señor S. MORET, wrote as follows on July 15, 1887, to the Hon. and Rev. JABEZ L. M. CURRY, then our Minister at Madrid:

"MY DEAR SIR AND DISTINGUISHED FRIEND: In reply to the kind letter of the 4th instant, which you were good enough to address to me, I take pleasure in informing you that the Government has for some time been engaged in preparing the means for celebrating in a manner worthy of its importance the fourth centenary of the discovery of America. For this purpose the Council of Ministers has already examined the question on different occasions, and I, in its name, have consulted with the Duke of VERAGUA, the heir and most legitimate representative of the glorious navigator, as to the means most adequate for this object. I can announce the following decisions:

"First, that Spain will take the initiative in celebrating in the most solemn manner the centenary of the discovery of America in the year 1492.

"Secondly, that for this purpose it will invite all of the natives who people the territories discovered by COLUMBUS to take part in the celebration.

"Thirdly, that Spain is ready, at the same time, to take part in any other celebration and solemnity which may be undertaken on the American continent to celebrate the great event."

So Spain had her plan and scope, if not her site and guarantee fund, nearly three years ago; and not only the Council of Ministers, but also COLUMBUS's heir and most legitimate representative, the Duke of VERAGUA, were at that time preparing to take the initiative in the performance of the pious duty which the Hon. ADLAI E. STEVENSON and Chicago's most legitimate representative, Mayor CREGIER, have now assumed with so much energy and such large promises, but so little money.

Yet we have faith and hope toward Chicago, after all. It is a glorious and cultured town, though sometimes rather previous.

The People Speaking Out.

The resolutions against any kangaroo electoral methods, adopted at the recent meeting of the Democratic General Committee in Brooklyn, are entirely in line with those previously adopted by the General Committee of the Tammany Hall Democracy in this city, and by Democratic Conventions in every portion of this State. "We commend," declared the Democrats of Brooklyn, who have carried their town by a substantial majority in every election for many years, and who gave DAVID B. HILL a majority of 13,797 for Governor two years ago, "We commend the action of the Democratic members of the State Senate who so earnestly and ably opposed the said [SAXTON] bill, and we urge that they continue to put forth every honorable effort to defeat that iniquitous measure, to the end that the American plan of universal manhood suffrage may remain unimpaired."

The two Democratic Senators from Kings county and their Democratic colleague from Queens and Suffolk voted to sustain the Democratic position of the Democratic Governor in opposing any abridgment of universal suffrage; and their constituents desired to ratify their act, even though no election was at hand. But in those cities where Mayors are chosen at the election in March, no mistake existed, or could possibly exist, as to the attitude of the Democratic party, reiterated in three State Conventions, repeatedly declared by Governor HILL, and supported by the votes of the Democratic members of the Legislature. Only a week ago, while these municipal contests were pending throughout the State, the attitude of the Democracy was made definite and unmistakable by the vote of Democratic Senators in opposition to the SAXTON bill. In the contest of Tuesday last, the voters of many districts have had an opportunity of passing upon the attitude of the Republican representatives in support of the SAXTON disfranchising measure, and concerning the attitude of the Democratic representatives in voting against it. The results are known; and so sweeping has been the popular endorsement of the attitude of Governor HILL, that it is a matter of no surprise that, immediately following the announcement of the outcome of these elections, the Republicans in the Assembly should have presented an amendment to their own bill expressly designed to prevent it from passing by the concurrent vote of both Houses.

That was on Wednesday; on Tuesday in the Rochester district, which has a Democratic Senator who is in full accord with Governor HILL, the Democrats wrested the control of the city of Rochester, which went against CLEVELAND in 1888 by 2,600, and installed there a Democratic Mayor. In the Troy district, which has a Democratic Senator dead against the SAXTON humbug, gains equally gratifying were observed. In the city of Elmira, which is represented in the Senate by Mr. J. SLOAT FASSETT, the political head and front of the SAXTON measure, the Democrats won by a majority of 800, carrying, as the returns show, six out of the seven wards, and thus rebuking the course of the Republican Senator. Indeed, in every district of the State where elections were held on Tuesday, the Democrats have gained and the Republicans lost. The conduct of the Democratic Senators has been approved; and so far from there appearing to be any popular sentiment whatever in support of the disfranchising scheme of the Republican managers, it seems, on the contrary, that their plan can serve only substantially to unite the Democrats throughout the State, and notably in the large cities, in favor of universal suffrage as an issue upon which Democratic triumph is secure.

Of course the lesson of Tuesday's elections will be entirely lost upon the small but industrious letter-writing faction of Mugwump Democrats, the nondescripts who, to quote the language of the receding Major JONES of St. Louis, favor "sham battles upon sham issues;" but the situation is even for them not without its sunny side. No doubt can exist any longer that the Democrats of New York are substantially in accord with the course of Governor HILL and THE SUN, and that the future is full of hope for the genuine Democracy of the country.

Other States that "Sold Out Cleveland."

If the Democracy of New York can fairly be charged with treachery to the National ticket because it polled 15,000 more votes for DAVID BENNETT HILL than for GROVER CLEVELAND in 1888, let us see if there was treason of the same sort in other States.

The Alabama Democrats gave Mr. CLEVELAND 117,320 votes in 1888, and 61,123 plurality. The same year they elected the Hon. THOMAS SEAY as Governor, and they gave him 155,973 votes, and 111,203 plurality. In Alabama SEAY ran ahead of CLEVELAND by not less than 38,653 Democratic votes.

CLEVELAND's vote in Arkansas was 85,962. At the same election the total Democratic vote for Congressmen in Arkansas was 89,576. About 3,600 Arkansas Democrats went to the polls and voted for Congressmen but sold out CLEVELAND.

In Connecticut, Mr. CLEVELAND received 74,920 votes, and his plurality was 336. Mr. MORRIS, the comparatively unknown Democrat who was running for Governor, received 75,074 votes and 1,415 plurality.

In Florida, CLEVELAND ran 275 votes behind the vote for Congressmen.

The great Democratic State of Georgia, sometimes styled the Empire State of the South, polled 100,449 votes for GROVER CLEVELAND in November. In the preceding month 121,999 Georgia Democrats had voted for Gen. GORDON for Governor. CLEVELAND ran behind GORDON 21,550 votes.

CLEVELAND's vote for President in Illinois was 348,371. Gen. JOHN M. PALMER, on the same day, received 355,313 votes for Governor. About 7,000 Illinois Democrats who voted for PALMER sold out CLEVELAND.

In Iowa, one of the States o'erarched by the rainbow, 5,000 Democrats who voted for Democratic Congressmen refused to vote for GROVER CLEVELAND. The next year, with CLEVELAND out of the way, the Iowa Democrats succeeded in carrying the State.

Five thousand Democrats in Kansas who voted for JOHN MARTIN for Governor withheld their ballots for the party's candidate for President.

The CLEVELAND vote in Louisiana was 85,032. In April, 1888, JAMES JEFFRIES had received 137,468 Democratic votes for Lieutenant-Governor.

In Maine, GROVER CLEVELAND had 50,481 Democratic votes, or just 10,868 fewer than his friend "BILL" PUTNAM received for Governor in September of the same year.

In Massachusetts, CLEVELAND fell a thousand votes behind young Mr. RUSSELL's vote for Governor.

Michigan was another rainbow State. The Democrats there turned out in splendid force. They gave WELLINGTON R. BURT 216,459 votes for Governor, their Congress candidates an aggregate of 215,090, and GROVER CLEVELAND for President 213,469. CLEVELAND ran 3,000 behind the ticket in Michigan, with DON DICKINSON on deck.

Still another rainbow, perhaps the brightest of the gorgeous series, spanned the Minnesotan skies. That State was particularly and peculiarly the field of CLEVELAND effort. On election day 104,385 Minnesota Democrats voted for CLEVELAND, 108,010 for the Democratic candidates for Congress, and 110,251 for the Democratic candidate for Governor. CLEVELAND ran behind the ticket 6,000 votes in Minnesota.

The story is the same in Mississippi as in the other Southern States—a small vote and the party leader running more than 3,000 behind the party vote actually cast for other Democratic candidates.

In Missouri, CLEVELAND received the full party vote; but his tariff message, with the help of Major JONES's frantic efforts, cost the Democracy the three St. Louis districts in Congress.

In Nebraska, CLEVELAND was away behind MCSHANE, the Democratic candidate for Governor, by 5,000 votes.

In Nevada, he ran behind the Democratic candidate for Congress, and he lost nearly half of the vote polled for him in 1884.

New Hampshire Democrats gave 43,456 votes for CLEVELAND and 44,093 votes for their candidate for Governor.

The Democratic vote in North Carolina for members of Congress was 148,344. The CLEVELAND vote was 147,902.

In Texas, Mr. CLEVELAND received 16,000 fewer votes than ROSS, the Democratic candidate for Governor in the same year.

The case of Virginia is still more striking. CLEVELAND pulled through in that great Democratic State by a plurality of only 1,539. His total vote was 151,977. Did FITZHUGH LEE attempt to sell him out? Twelve months later the Democrats swept the State with a total vote of 162,654 for MCKINNEY and the State ticket, and a plurality of not less than 42,177, with MAHONE fighting for life.

Finally, in Wisconsin, where the Hon. WILLIAM F. VILAS superintended the rainbow, Mr. CLEVELAND ran more than a thousand votes behind the aggregate vote of the party as cast for the Democratic candidates for Representatives in Congress.

This exhibit tells the whole story. Just as GROVER CLEVELAND was sold out by the Democrats of New York, so was he sold out by the Democrats of nearly every State in the Union. Instead of lending strength to the party, the party suffered disaster because he was a weak candidate. He was weak everywhere. He was an incubus, a burden, a milistone. The Democracy, holding the position of advantage, and starting out with magnificent prospects of success, was crushed down into the mud simply because GROVER CLEVELAND was too heavy a load for it to carry.

Yet the foolish and deluded man is anxious to mount the party's back again!

The Block System for Closing Liquor Shops.

A very stringent method of restricting the liquor traffic in the cities and villages of this State is provided for in a remarkable bill which has been introduced in the Legislature by Mr. WILLIAM H. KIMBALL of the Second Assembly district of St. Lawrence county.

This measure applies the idea of local option not merely to particular political divisions of the State but to separate blocks in cities and villages, a block being defined to be "any one section of a city or village which is separated by streets from the remainder of the place." Whenever a majority of the residents of any such block shall desire to stop or prohibit the sale of intoxicating beverages, or desire to close any saloon where liquors are sold, or prevent the opening of any such saloon, they may do so by securing "an affirmative vote by the petition in writing of a majority of the residents of said block in any city or village in favor of the prohibition of such liquor traffic in their neighborhood." The form of the petition is prescribed in Mr. KIMBALL's bill. Notice of the proposed act must be published in the official paper of the county at least a month before the vote is taken, and like notice must be given "as to when application will be made to a Judge of the Supreme Court, or the Mayor of the city, or the President of the village, for an order directing the enforcement of the petition;" and it is made the duty of the local authorities, when notified of the vote, to close and keep closed all saloons or places where the liquor traffic is carried on in the specified block.

The queerest provision of this queer bill relates to the conduct of the authorities in case any conflict shall arise as to the accuracy of the count of the written vote by petition. In that event the Judge, Mayor, or President is empowered to appoint a commission of not less than three citizens, "who shall be prominent and reputable residents in said block," and whose duty it shall be to verify or correct the vote; and upon the return of the verified or corrected petition to a Judge of the Supreme Court, he must issue an order to the proper authorities for the enforcement of the decision authorized by the bill if he is satisfied that a majority of the residents of the block have voted in favor of prohibition.

It will be noticed that the three citizens who are to verify or correct the vote must be not only reputable but prominent. Prominent for what? We venture to say that this is the first time that any distinction of the kind indicated by the word prominent has ever even been suggested in legislation in this country.

Another interesting provision of this bill is that which prescribes the qualifications of voters. "Persons above the age of twenty-one years who shall be residents of the block affected shall be entitled to vote upon this question without regard to sex." Citizenship is immaterial, and a woman who has lived one day in the neighborhood will have the same right to vote as a man who has lived there ten years.

This is local option run mad.

No More Pan-American Excursions.

The success of the great Pan-American excursion through the Northern and Western States, as organized by Brother BLAINE and personally conducted by Mr. WILLIAM ELEROY CURTIS, was not so illustrious as to warrant the proposed repetition of the experiment this spring through the South.

The excursion in October and November cost the Government a good deal of money. That is all right; charge it to national hospitality. But the plain truth is that the affair was so managed that it was not only expensive but also unsatisfactory. The excursion was a junket. For every delegate who went along to study the geography and resources of this republic three or four supernumeraries, mainly interested in the products of the California vineyards and the tobacco fields of the Vuelta de Abajo, were carried along on the train. An exact census of the Travelling Congress in last October showed that out of sixty-five guests of the Government on the excursion just fifteen were delegates from other countries.

From the time when the Hon. ERASTUS WIMAN captured the expedition and carried it off into Canada to the stupefaction of the men in charge; and from the time when Mr. CURTIS made a halt at Erie, Pennsylvania, in order to show the Spanish Americans the town where he had wooed and won a bride, down to the final parade of the visitors past JOHN WANAMAKER's bargain counters under the leadership of President HARRISON's venerable father-in-law, the journey was one almost unbroken succession of absurd or scandalous incidents.

Better not risk it again.

Mr. AUSTIN CORBIN imported some fine old port wine not long ago. When the cases were opened at the Public Stores it was found that a number of bottles had been stolen. Mr. CORBIN thereupon made complaint to Collector ERHARDT. It seems from the Collector's reply that there is small likelihood of tracing the thieves. It may be some consolation to Mr. CORBIN for the loss of his wine to read Collector ERHARDT's sorrowful confession that Civil Service Reform detectives are worthless:

"One would suppose that the Government would have in its employ trained detectives to investigate cases of this kind and detect the offenders. There are two vacancies for detectives at the Public Stores, but unfortunately applicants must pass a civil service examination before appointment. The last Administration removed one of these detectives for worthlessness, and made a recommendation for the appointment of a detective in his place, but it was denied on the ground that the law provided that he must undergo a competitive examination. My administration found the other one here. He remained some eight or nine months, and was found to be of absolutely no value in that capacity, and was removed.

"Application has been made to the Civil Service Commission to take the office of detective out of the classified service. Then when one is needed his identity shall not first be proclaimed to the whole world while he is passing a civil service examination, and his features known to the men he may have to watch. The real test for fitness ought to be the results he has already accomplished in the detective line, and not how he stands in his class. My experience convinces me that the best detectives are often illiterate."

The Collector also took occasion to relieve his mind as to the effect of the pig-tail system in the selection of another sort of officials:

"I have the same difficulty, it may be added, in regard to engineers, who also must pass a civil service examination, while it is apparent, especially to a railroad man, that many a train would be ditched if the engineer who pulled the lever was placed there by reason of a civil service examination on general culture. I allude to these matters not in a spirit of fault-finding with the civil service, but only to show you the difficulty under which I labor. The salary attached to an office ought not to fix its classification, but the character of the work should determine this matter."

It was very diplomatic in Col. ERHARDT to write that he is devoid of a spirit of fault-finding with civil service reform, and at the same time to show what ample reason for fault-finding exists. Mr. CORBIN will not find out who drank his wine, but he knows now what a sweet boon literary civil service examinations are to the Custom House and the country.

THE GUNS OF THE VESUVIUS.

One More Effort to be Made to Secure an Adequate Trial of Them.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The detail by Secretary Tracy of a Board of three naval officers to test the battery of the fast torpedo boat Vesuvius will accomplish at least a part of what was originally desired. It has singularly happened at the previous trials of this craft that almost everything has been done except the right thing. First her engines were tried, and she made magnificent speed. Her contract, however, did not call for speed, but for a specified horse power; and although the test had been ordered for the express purpose of ascertaining that power, in the general enthusiasm over the number of knots she was logging nobody noticed, or, at any rate, officially reported her indicated horse power to the department. Accordingly, the test of the engines must be repeated, although nobody questions that the result will be highly satisfactory.

So, too, guns like those of the Vesuvius were fired again and again from a shore station with dynamite in the shells; then the guns of the Vesuvius were fired to show their degree of accuracy, but with only dummy or sub-calibre shells; then they were fired at another time on the vessel with similar projectiles to show that they could be worked as rapidly as the contract called for. But the one thing that included all the rest was never done, which was simply to fire these guns, not from the shore, but from the vessel; not with make-believe projectiles, but with real ones, with the actual amount of dynamite required as their bursting charge, with the rapidity called for by the contract, and with a demonstration of accuracy in aiming by the helm. Accordingly this still remains to be done. And until it is done there will be no record of the real efficiency of the pneumatic gun afloat, although it is all right ashore.

It is true that only a wise caution has been observed thus far in introducing this entirely new invention. It has been improved by degrees from its primitive form and made more valuable. Experiments ashore could be conducted with precautions not attainable aboard ship, where a single mistake might send the craft and all the gunners to the bottom. One accident, in fact, was of such a character as to vindicate the use of dummy shells, since had dynamite been employed there is no saying what might have happened. Still, as it would be of no use to attack an enemy with sham projectiles, it has been necessary to appoint the present Board in order to have a trial of just what the contract calls for.

Even this trial, although it will doubtless show that the Vesuvius should be accepted, may not show all that the Navy Department needs to know before putting pneumatic guns on other cruisers. It has been said, for example, that the trial will have to be made with gun cotton instead of dynamite as the filling charges of the shells, since the company has not a sufficient supply of the latter on hand. Possibly this report is a mistake, because it appears that there is plenty of suitable gun cotton to be had, and the same is probably true of other high explosives. Besides, since the necessity for the trial was first announced, the required material might have been imported half a dozen times, and it could still be waited for. Such a trial would also fail to do the gun full justice, for, although the phrase "dynamite or other high explosive" would let in gun cotton for fulfilling the contract, yet one of the points urged to show the inferiority of the submarine to the air torpedo, which the dynamite gun practically is, has always been that the former uses 100 pounds of gun cotton only, while the latter uses explosive gelatine and dynamite. Finally, it has recently been announced that the company was soon to ship material for its Shoeburyness trials, so that it presumably has enough. Should the report as to gun cotton prove correct, it will be easy to have another set of trials when the Government owns the vessel, with the sort of explosive which is to be used against an enemy.

Again, it appears from the published announcements that if the contract shells are used in the forthcoming trials the contract rapidity of firing will not be attempted, and that no effort also will be made to test the accuracy of the guns, the former firing with the dummy shells being construed as having fulfilled all reasonable requirements in that respect. This, too, is well enough for the immediate purpose, namely, the acceptance of the vessel. The pneumatic gun is a great invention, and its American origin is something in which the country can take pride. Quite independently of its possibilities afloat, its success in forts is assured. Hence everybody will favor the most liberal interpretation of the contract which regulates the acceptance of the Vesuvius and the payment for her. But when the Government once acquires her, there should be no more trials on the installment plan. Her battery should receive a thorough test with many rounds for each gun, using full bursting charges of dynamite and explosive gelatine, whether those charges are to be considered 200 or 500 pounds, and with at least half of the shots at the stipulated rapidity. This same trial should include accuracy tests and the measure of destructive power. Are such tests to be ascertained, not by mooring a wooden hulk at a carefully measured distance, but by employing some craft like one of the single-turret monitors as a target. With such a vessel set adrift and with other simultaneous conditions such as have been indicated, a good idea of the real accuracy, efficiency, and range of the pneumatic gun afloat could be obtained. Should it be thoroughly satisfactory, the country would want scores of such weapons.

Commander McCalla.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: I have been in two vessels with Lieutenant Commander B. H. McCalla, both before the mast and as an officer, and, although a strict disciplinarian, he was to my mind one of the most efficient and just officers I have met in the service, doing his duty always without regard to personal feeling. There are certain parties who are always ready to find fault with such officers as Lieutenant-Commander McCalla, but generally they are of the class called landsmen, who enlist in the service when they can do nothing on shore, who have never been subjected to any kind of discipline previous to their enlistment and protest when they find their berth on board ship is not as easy as they expected. If Lieutenant Commander McCalla has done what he is charged with he has greatly changed since I sailed with him, for I always found him an excellent officer and courteous gentleman, and I think you will find when he has a hearing facts will place him in a different light. G. HASKIN.

Chicago's Growing Trouble.

From the Hartford Courant.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—There are discouraging reports about Chicago and the World's Fair in Congressional circles, and the opinion is expressed by certain members that the amount necessary to properly conduct the project cannot be raised in that city. But $4,400,000 has been subscribed so far, and there does not seem to be any great alacrity to put up more. A bond and stock loan is proposed, but as no guarantee can be given for the redemption of the stock, there is not much inducement offered to subscribers. Unless Chicago makes a better showing before the World's Fair Committee than is now reported she may not get the Fair after all.

Mr. Cowles and the Egg that One Hen Laid.

From the New York Times.

One of the choice traditions of the Cleveland press is absolutely true, and well illustrates Mr. Cowles's inability to understand a joke. A reporter upon one occasion, after describing an immense egg which some bucolic friend had sent in that it might have its size sounded in the trump of local fame, added this explanatory note: "It is perhaps needless to say that this egg was laid by only one hen." When Mr. Cowles reached the office on the morning following he sent for the city editor, and, laying his finger on the offending paragraph, demanded, "Who wrote that item?" Mr. M., was the reply. "Send him here immediately." Mr. M. appeared and acknowledged the authorship. Mr. Cowles looked at him for a moment in amazed disgust, and then thundered: "Only one hen! Don't you know that two hens couldn't lay one egg?"

A Good Day for Genuine Democracy.

From the Albany Times.

Looking all around the horizon, yesterday seems to have been a good deal of a Democratic day. And it was the anniversary of the inauguration of President Harrison at that!

Perhapses in Politics.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

The *Boston Herald* thinks that the Democrats of Massachusetts will have their turn some day, "perhaps." In view of the Australian ballot and other methods of reform, the "perhaps" is the most emphatic portion of the *Herald's* remarks.

Surprise in Old Missouri.

From the Kansas City Times.

Over 800,000 gallons of whiskey were sent from this country to Africa last year. We had no idea that the missionaries were so numerous on the Dark Continent.

Beautiful.

"It's the loveliest spot on earth."
"What?"
"The ace of trumps."

The Evanescence of Fame.

From the Omaha Republican.

The champion card player of Manning was bested in a game of old sledge by a trained pig.

RIVER TO RIVER THROUGH THE PARK.

That's the Project that Now Delays the Transverse Road Railroad.

Among the letters upon President Hutchins's table at the opening of the meeting of the Park Commissioners yesterday were a lot of bids for the contract to build a street railroad across Central Park, from Eighty-fifth street and Fifth avenue to Eighty-sixth street and Eighth avenue. Since the bids had been advertised for the Corporation Counsel had withdrawn his approval. Mr. Robb said with some energy at yesterday's meeting:

I want to make it clear that Mr Clark's action in withdrawing his support from the plan is only another of the many obstacles which have purposely been thrown in the way of the building of this very necessary road. It is a year since we first undertook to put a road through Central Park, and we have met nothing but opposition. Our first opponents were the Sinking Fund Commissioners. We asked for $20,000 to build the road. They put it off on one plea and another. At last they said they would let us have $12,000, and we accepted it, resolving to make up the difference from the Maintenance Fund. At this time the Corporation Counsel approved our plan. So we advertised, and everything was moving smoothly, when suddenly Corporation Counsel Clark, a few days ago, withdraws his approval on the ground that he proposes to introduce a bill in the Legislature clothing this body with power to build roads in Central Park and in adjoining streets. This is nothing more nor less than an attempt on the part of the Corporation Counsel to prevent our building the road at all. We have been accused of delay, and I have stood under the accusation as long as I propose to. Now I want the public to know where the fault really lies. Such a bill as Corporation Counsel Clark proposes has never been introduced into the Legislature before, and it is the Corporation Counsel who must take the responsibility for it.

Commissioner Gallup asked Mr. Robb how he knew that Mr. Clark wanted to prevent the building of the road.

Mr. Robb replied briskly that he had gathered the information in conversations he had had with Mayor Grant in the Mayor's office. Commissioner Gallup asked a little sharply how he knew that Mayor Grant had anything to do with Corporation Counsel Clark's action. Mr. Robb said:

I know that the Mayor sent word to Corporation Counsel Clark asking him to withdraw his approval. This is the measure of his honor's idea of benefiting the people who live up town on either side of Central Park and I want the fact known to the public. It is produced by the same spirit which is endeavoring to curtail our powers in the annexed district and elsewhere, and I propose to remonstrate against it right on the spot.

"I do not think that the Mayor ought to have been brought into this," said Mr. Gallup. "But I must ask you again for your authority for all these statements."

"I know them to be true," replied Mr. Robb, "because the Mayor told me so himself at a meeting of the Sinking Fund Commissioners. That's how I know what I'm talking about."

"I must confess," said Mr. Gallup vigorously, "that I still doubt the existence of your statement. Any way, you won't deny that the building of this road across the Park will benefit the Fourth Avenue Railroad Company?"

"It is none of our business whether it does or doesn't," retorted Mr. Robb. "We want to give the people around Central Park a chance to get across the Park easily, cheaply, and quickly."

Mr. Gallup said that he didn't believe in the Board doing anything about the matter. He said he would see the Corporation Counsel.

"The Corporation Counsel has given his opinion already," said Mr. Robb, with unchecked energy, "and has given it in our favor. Now, however, he stops us on the threshold. I repeat that his action is precisely in harmony with the same spirit that wanted to take from us the control of Central Park for the World's Fair and the annexed district. And I assert that that spirit is inspired by the Mayor of New York for his own purposes."

The bids were not considered. Mayor Grant afterward denied emphatically to THE SUN reporter that he was opposed to having the street railroad run through Central Park. He said:

I live up that way myself, and I am constantly put to a lot of inconvenience because there is no road through the Park. I am the last person to oppose the road. I confess that I suggested to the Corporation Counsel the proposition to have a bill passed through the Legislature. It was for this reason. The Park Department scheme consists in laying tracks through the highway between Fifth and Eighth avenues. We have no power to lay tracks in the streets. It is then proposed to turn the tracks over to a company to operate. The result would simply be that the company would have the city at its mercy for that line of tracks inside the Park boundaries, beginning nowhere and ending nowhere, would be worse than useless without outside connections. The city would probably have to pay a company to operate its tracks. Now, I don't believe in that. My idea is to lay a line that will be valuable in itself, and then lease it to the highest bidder, thus making it a source of income as well as a public convenience. I want the line to extend across the city from river to river. This will accomplish the same object as the Park Department's little scheme, and will make the road a valuable property in itself. To build such a road it is necessary to have Legislative consent, and I suggested to Mr. Clark to draw up a bill which would give the Park Department power to build from river to river, the privilege of operating the road to be leased by the city to the highest bidder. These are the two plans. One provides a dreamy three-blocks of tracks which you've got to pay somebody to operate; the other, a complete valuable property and a source of income.

Corporation Counsel Clark said that the reason for his going back on his approval of the Park Department project was Mayor Grant's suggestion of a river-to-river road. Such a road, he thought, could be rented for $35,000 or $40,000. He said that Assemblyman Blumenthal already had introduced the bill at Albany.

CAN'T WAIT; MUST REPAVE.

Mr. Gilroy Will Probably be Authorized to Go at These Streets at Once.

Commissioner Thomas F. Gilroy sent to the Board of Estimate yesterday a list of the streets which he thinks should be repaved first, together with a letter in which he recounts some of the difficulties of thoroughly improving the streets. Among these difficulties are the excavations frequently made by private corporations and individuals, the building of electric subways, and the centre-bearing rails used on the surface railroads.

Mr. Gilroy thinks it would be well to postpone, as far as may be, the repaving of streets traversed by railroads. In the mean time he promises to do all he can to induce the railroad companies to remove the objectionable rails. He will also try to learn their intentions about change of motive power. The Broadway Company has agreed to reconstruct its road and to change its motive power to cable traction, and to lay grooved rails which shall be supplied by Mr. Gilroy. Mr. Gilroy recommends for repaving with granite blocks:

Broadway, from Bowling Green to Thirty-second street; Canal street, from Hudson street to the Bowery; Greenwich street, from Chambers to Canal street.

The streets recommended for repaving with asphalt on a concrete foundation are:

Eighth avenue, from Thirteenth street to the circle at Fifty-ninth street; Madison avenue, from Park street to Madison square; William street, from Beaver to Wall street; Fifty-eighth street, between Fifth and sixth avenues, and Sixtieth street, between Lexington and Fourth avenues.

With asphalt on the present stone-block pavements:

Thirty-third street, from Madison avenue to Broadway; Thirty-sixth street, between Fourth and sixth avenues; Thirty-seventh street, between Fourth and Sixth avenues; Thirty-eighth street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues; Forty-ninth street, between Madison and Sixth avenues; Fifty-third street, between north and Fifth avenues; Fifty-first street, between Madison and Sixth avenues; Fifty-third street, between Madison and Sixth avenues; Fifty-fourth street, between Madison and Sixth avenues; Sixty-eighth street, between Third and Fourth avenues, and Sixty-ninth street, between Lexington and Fifth avenues.

The total area to be repaved is 218,510 square yards, and the total cost is estimated at $957,200.

On Monday Mr. Gilroy will probably be authorized to go on and pave the streets he has selected.

WHAT WE ARE ALL TALKING ABOUT.

A letter signed Albert Edward Guelph was received by Florist Thorley recently. It came through Drexel, Morgan & Co., and it contained a check for $100 and an order from the Prince of Wales directing him to send two baskets of flowers of the value of $50 each to two ladies whom he had met abroad, and who are now living in Fifth avenue near Central Park. The flowers were duly delivered. One basket was filled with Lilies of the Valley and maiden hair fern, the other with Pharleyensis ferns and American Beauty roses.

At Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan's dinner the other evening each of the 140 pieces of silver recently presented to him by the Vanderbilts was filled with flowers. The centre piece was the large cup, to lift which it requires two muscular men.

Among the Police Captains of this city there is but one who is clean shaved. A proposal made on Tuesday to transfer him from one precinct to another produced the first deadlock in the Police Board this year.

Judge James Fitzgerald delivered his first official charge to the Grand Jury this week, and its vigor and incisiveness attested anew how great was the loss to the bar and to politics when he was elected to go upon the bench.

The public mass meeting for ballot reform held at the Mount Morris Academy, Third avenue, between 116th and 117th streets, on Wednesday evening was attended by thirty-seven persons, including Simon Stern, the coachman who drove his cab, and a sun reporter. The district cast in 1888 25,000 votes.

Amerigo Vespucci, the man whose name was given to a continent, but whose memory is yet to be perpetuated by a New York street, was born on March 8, 1451, just 439 years ago.

A Modern Improvement.

"We've got a better scheme now than holding up a whole train," remarked a Western train robber to a friend.

"What is it?"

"We simply kidnap the Pullman porter and hold him for ransom."

SMUGGLING CHINESE IN.

An Underground Road for the Benefit of Celestial Immigrants.

DETROIT, March 6.—A despatch from Port Huron, Mich., gives particulars of an underground route for importing Chinese into the United States. On last Thursday several Chinese were arrested there by Detective Day of the Treasury Department. On Wednesday he received information that an invoice of "opium" or "raw Chinese" might be expected to cross the river there that night. Day and Inspector Green watched and their vigil was rewarded by finding four Chinese who had just been brought over from Sarnia. They headed for Tick Chung's place, the local Chinese laundry. After seeing them safe in, the officers broke open the front door and arrested the proprietor and a stranger, one Wa Sing.

As no trace of the others who were seen to enter was found, the officers returned on the following day and made a thorough investigation. The missing Chinese, however, were nowhere to be seen until a mattress was lifted from the bed. There lay three Celestials, who were also locked up. On their persons and among their belongings were found twenty-six letters addressed to different firms in Canada and the United States. All the Chinese had cards showing where they were to go, the lot being addressed to "Wang Wah, 22 Bunker Hill street, Charlestown." The party also had a complete opium joint outfit.

It was learned that Tick Chung had agreed to pass 200 of his countrymen, for which services he was to receive $20 per capita. On Sunday, Feb. 23, five passed the border and came to Detroit; on Tuesday two others followed, and on Wednesday the officers caught four. There is a gang engaged in this importation, and it is closely connected with the opium smuggling gang.

On Saturday the four Chinese were brought before United States Commissioner Harris on a charge of illegally entering the United States. Their attorney pleaded guilty for them, and a deputy marshal was ordered to return them to Canada.

PROPOSED POSTAL TELEGRAPH.

A Bill Providing that the Government Shall Build or Purchase the Lines Required.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—Representative Taylor of Illinois to-day introduced in the House a bill to provide for the establishment of a system of Government telegraphs for the use of the Government and people, and to be operated as a part of the postal system. It provides that a Board, consisting of the Secretary of State, Secretary of War, and the Postmaster-General, shall cause to be built or shall buy lines of telegraph where, in its opinion, such are needful. It shall be the purpose of the Government that these Government telegraphs shall yield no earnings beyond the cost of operating the same, and at all times to keep the outgo and income as nearly equal as may be. To this end, as soon as may be, the Postmaster-General shall name such rates at which messages may be sent as shall keep the total earnings and expenses as nearly equal as may be, or as shall make the lines self-sustaining, and the Postmaster-General shall from time to time so change the rates that they shall conform to this requirement.

It is provided further that until it shall be known what rates must be charged in order to carry out the above requirement, the rates shall be as follows: All Government telegrams or private telegrams sent over a single circuit or unbroken line of telegraph without relay, and requiring but one operator at either end, without regard to distance, one cent for each word, counting the address and signature, but not the date; but no telegram so sent shall cost less than 15 cents. For each additional circuit or relay requiring an additional despatcher and an additional receiver, an additional charge equal to the charge for sending the same message over one circuit without relay shall be made.

Report of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration.

ALBANY, March 6.—The annual report of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration is issued. It says that there has been a marked and gratifying diminution in the number of strikes and lockouts as compared with previous years, as well as a change for the better in the character, duration, and consequences of such labor disturbances as have occurred. With the exception of the surface street railway tie-ups in Brooklyn and New York at the beginning of the year, upon which a special report of the testimony taken is given, and a similar tie-up in Rochester, the differences between employers and employees have yielded readily to settlement by the intervention of the Board.

Such a favorable condition is largely attributable to two causes. First, the general acceptance of arbitration, in one form or another, as enforcing the true principle of settlement of disputes, especially in productive industries, where the interests of capital and labor are mutual; and, secondly, the power of investigation invested in the Board, which has been exercised wherever circumstances warranted, and which has had the moral effect of deterring parties from making undue exactions or imposing unjust conditions.

Publicity through the press has been a great means of quelling incipient unjust action. The troubles in the shoe trade in Rochester and the railroad in Brooklyn are cited in their final settlement as conspicuous illustrations of the fact that the lesson of arbitration is having great effect. Many large corporations have adopted a provision agreeing with their men to submit all questions of dispute to the State Board in case the men selected by them do not come to an agreement. The destructive policy of a blow first is gradually being reversed, and strikes and lockouts are coming to be regarded as a very last resort only, and as an extreme measure.

The Board finds that other States are modelling laws after New York State laws, and find them good to work under.

Funeral of Ex-Gov. English.

NEW HAVEN, March 6.—The worst storm of the season prevailed during the hours of the funeral service of ex-Gov. James E. English. From 11 A. M. to 1 P. M. the body was viewed by a large number of prominent citizens. At 2 P. M. services were held at the house for the relatives. After this the body was taken to St. Paul's Church and a public service followed. The large church was filled. There was no decoration or display of any kind save a few palms placed about the altar rail. The ritual of the Episcopal Church, which followed the service, was conducted by the Rev. F. S. Lines and the Rev. D. Parker Morgan. The interment was in Evergreen Cemetery. The pall bearers were Clarence H. Seward of New York, George A. Lewis of Naugatuck, and John C. Hollister, Richard Peck, Daniel Trowbridge, Luzon B. Morris, Hiram Camp, and Charles R. Ingersoll of this city. Nearly