PEOPLE'S OPINIONS.

POLITICS.

Weed and Platt—An Historical Parallel with Differences.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The similitude drawn by T. W. B. between Mr. Platt of today and Mr. Thurlow Weed of nearly half a century ago, is almost complete. Mr. Weed, representing the New York Whig party, nominated, in 1848, Taylor and Fillmore, as Mr. Platt nominated, in 1894, Morton to be Governor. Taylor took a middle path in the slavery controversy. He died. Fillmore ascended to the Presidency, and endeavored a different path. The "compromise" measures and a more stringent fugitive slave law were the outcome. Fillmore's bonnet was invaded by the Presidential bee. He, his new bonnet, and the New York officeholders began to break away from the New York Whig organization led by Weed. A new party, named the "Cotton Whigs," or "Silver Grey Whigs," hostile to Seward and Weed, came into existence. Its members were the Whig Mugwumps and "kickers" of that day.

The Whig party, nevertheless, elected its candidates for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and a majority of the Senate and Assembly. Henry J. Raymond was made Speaker. A majority of a Whig caucus nominated Hamilton Fish for Senator at Washington. He had just finished his term as Governor. Some thirty Whigs did not attend the caucus. They were Fillmore men, "Cotton Whigs," "Silver Greys," and generally were to be classified as condemning the Whig machine run chiefly by Seward and Weed. When the two Houses met in joint assembly, the Whigs could not or would not unite on Fish. The controversy went on during many weeks. All the Federal Whig patronage was against Fish, ostensibly, for the reason that he would not declare the new fugitive slave law a "finality," but really because he would not denounce the Seward-Weed machine. He occupied much the same attitude toward the regular Whig State organization and the Federal "bolt" worked from Washington that his son, Speaker Fish, now occupies as between the regular Republican State organization, Gov. Morton, and Mr. Platt on one side, and the bolting "Committee of Seventy" and Mayor Strong on the other side. Mr. Fish, the senior, refused forty-five years ago, to utter a word or solicit any one's vote. Mr. Clay, President Fillmore, his Postmaster-General, Collector of Customs Maxwell were drawn into the conflict against him. In the end, Mr. Weed and the Whig machine won, and Mr. Fish was chosen to be Senator. He favored Gen. Scott as Whig candidate in 1852 against Webster, and Fillmore, the last of whom finally became a bolting candidate. The "Silver Grey" Mugwump bolt in New York disrupted the Whig party, and it died a few years later.

There is a mass of letters from or to Clay, Fillmore, Maxwell, Fish, and Weed, throwing light on the real history of that episode in the Whig party, which should be a warning to New York Republicans of to-day, and which THE SUN should obtain and publish. O. L. D.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.

CONGRESS'S GRAND TIP.

Fifty Thousand Dollars a Year to Its Employees for Unperformed Service.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Fifty-third Congress, like most of its predecessors during the the past several years—in fact, all of them, I think, with one exception—passed, the other day, a resolution or something of that sort to pay to each of the employees of the House one month's additional pay—and the Senate does the same thing. Now, as a taxpayer, I would like to know what this is done for? By what right, or by what authority, does Congress take out of its contingent fund so large a sum of money and give it away? It is not for value received, for the beneficiaries all receive comfortable salaries, even for the few extra hours of labor they may be called on to perform.

There are 356 members of the House and ninety Senators, including the two new ones from Utah. To assist the 88 Senators now composing that body there are 219 persons, who are paid $298,576.90 per year, or $24,881.41 per month. These "arduous laborers" consist of a great variety of functionaries, such as secretaries, clerks, messengers, doorkeepers, drivers, mechanics, &c.

In the House, with its 356 members, only eight more persons are needed to do the "chores" than the eighty-eight Senators require, or 227 in all, but they get $39,232.30 per year more, or $337,809.20; at the rate of $28,151 per month.

Considering the hours of work, and the days per year that work is done, and the class of men required to do the bulk of the work, and what labor is worth in the open market, these employees are very well paid, without the extra allowance of $53,032.41 for a month's labor which is not performed.

This allowance, made every year without right or reason, would, if the Congress felt that it must be spent, build a neat and commodious Government building every year in a town where the Government business is now carried on in some cheap and nasty little shop, because Congress is so economical that it cannot afford to spend the money on housing the Government interests properly.

How many unsettled claims of private citizens are in the hands of Congress the Lord only knows, but I know of one for less than $500 which grew out of a loss sustained because Congress made no provision to protect Government funds in a custodian's hands, which has been hanging on for almost a dozen years because Congress feels too poor to pay it, I presume; yet it does not hesitate to give more than $50,000 as a tip to its employees. The question now is, what are the taxpayers of every portion of the country going to do about it? Fold their hands and let this large amount be thrown away every year, or insist upon their representatives shutting it off as it should have been shut off years ago? What do the newspapers say as to the law and equity of its continuance? TAXPAYER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 25.

THOSE POCKET GOPHERS.

Another Contribution About the Literature and Habits of the Geomyidæ.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Being a farmer myself and having also a little smattering of general natural history information, I can well appreciate your laudable efforts to make known to our farmers, and incidentally the public in general, the great boon our Government, through the Department of Agriculture, has conferred upon humanity at large by the publication of Dr. Merriam's monograph of the Geomyidæ. I have read with great interest your editorial review of the work in THE SUN of Feb. 20, and the letter of my farmer friend, James Fitzgerald, in the issue of Feb. 22.

In earlier days it was my good fortune to range over the plains and prairies of the West where these little subterranean fiends most do congregate, and I can speak feelingly on the score of their depredations upon the hard-earned products of my fellow tillers of the soil. For ways that are dark and tricks that are mean, these little underground pests easily take the cake—literally in fact—from the mouths of many of our granger kin. These pouched rats are a pest of no mean magnitude in the region where they occur, which is nearly everywhere in the United States west of the Mississippi River, for they multiply with increasing rapidity as the country is settled and the planting of crops gives them a more abundant feed supply. Nothing comes amiss, from the hard roots of fruit trees to the succulent tuber, while the mounds thrown up from their tunnels are not conducive to an increased yield of grain and grass. The economic relations of these little beasts are thus of importance, and many thousands of dollars have been expended in efforts for their destruction, to say nothing of the loss resulting from their depredations.

That they are of scientific interest is evident from the long array of "monographs" and "papers" written about them, cited by my friend Fitzgerald in THE SUN of Feb. 22, and from your appreciative review of Dr. Merriam's latest and apparently very able review of the subject. Furthermore, it appears that our Government has very kindly borne the expense of publication of nearly all that has hitherto been written about the Geomyidæ, including the republication in several different ways of essentially the same paper by that (formerly) great expert on pouched rats, Elliott Coues. As the latest of these appeared some twenty years ago, and as science does progress in these later days, even along the line of the Geomyidæ, it may be time to take account again of stock, foot up the net gain of information along mechanical lines, and provide names and figures on the kinds of the many new kinds of these pests discovered since Elliott Coues led the advance guard in this rat fight. In fact, we are informed that this elaborate memoir of the technalities of the subject is but an introduction to more genuine literature, it being stated in the letter of transmittal accompanying it that "the results of the economic study of the group will appear as a separate bulletin" of the Department of Agriculture, in which doubtless the habits of these animals, the manner and extent of their depredations, and the weak points in their armor of defence, will be made known, and a plan of offensive, as well as defensive, warfare be set forth for the advantage of those of my farmer friends whose homes chance to be within the geographical range of these wily and evil-disposed pocket gophers.

Your correspondent, James Fitzgerald, evidently wrote under considerable disadvantage, owing to the fact that he was away from home and could not consult his well-selected library, furnished him by a generous Government, on the great family of the Geomyidæ. In fact, he has failed to recognize that two of the three monographs by Elliott Coues are practically one and the same document, and his memory has played him false in respect to "an elaborate work on the same rats, called a 'Monograph of the Geomyidæ,' by S. A. Allen, and published by the American Museum of Natural History of New York city. Vol. V., 1893." As I said at the beginning of this letter, I have a little smattering of natural history information, and chance to possess a full set of the valuable "Bulletin" of the American Museum of Natural History of New York city. But I have looked through the six volumes thus far published, without finding any such title or any such paper, the nearest approach to it being a short paper of about twenty pages on the genus *Thomomys*, which group Dr. Merriam has purposely excluded from his recent memoir.

YONKERS, Feb. 24. THOMAS JONES.

JUSTICE.

Gen. Halleck and the Cullum Memorial Hall.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Honor where honor is due." There appeared in the columns of last Sunday's SUN a little article headed "Cullum Memorial Hall. Plans just completed for a marble building at West Point," stating: "West Point will soon possess another building, the Cullum Memorial Hall, which was provided for by the will of Gen. George W. Cullum." Allow me to state that the building is misnamed, and should be known throughout the country, if there be such a thing as justice, as the "Halleck Memorial," since but for Gen. Halleck's fortune and talents it had never been.

Gen. Cullum's will and "bequest to the States" was widely commented upon when first made public, but while the papers throughout the country told of his generosity and munificence, they were and oblivious of the fact that the whole of the large fortune, estimated at over a million, so lavishly given away in Gen. Cullum's name, without apparent acknowledgment of the source whence it was derived, was, within a few years, the property of the late Commander-in-Chief, Major-Gen. Henry W. Halleck.

This fortune, acquired through industry and talent when Secretary of California, Gen. Halleck bequeathed at his death to his widow and only son, who did not survive his mother. Some years previous to her son's death Mrs. Halleck married Gen. Cullum, to whom at her death she left the entire fortune.

It seems strange that a portrait and bust of Gen. Halleck, together with the sword presented him by the ladies of St. Louis, while he was in command of the Department of the Missouri, should have been the only mention Gen. Cullum saw fit to make to the memory of his commander and friend, whose fortune so benefited his declining years.

When we recall Halleck's distinguished services during the war of the rebellion, it would seem just that his brilliant talents and fortune, from which the nation is to derive such benefit, should receive some recognition at the hands of the American people. Throughout the war he stood ever at the President's right hand, as adviser and trusted friend, and does not deserve that his name be passed over in silence and committed to oblivion by the nation he served.

Congress has made the building at West Point, for which that institution had appealed in vain to Congress is to be erected with Gen. Halleck's money, it would be well to remember that but for Halleck's ability, talent, and the death of his only son in early manhood, this good fortune to West Point had never been.

Cannot an appeal be made to the Government that the bequest to the States be known as the Halleck Memorial? It seems fitting that the memory of a man who graduated at West Point with the highest honors, served his country with unswerving loyalty, and made the fortune which is so to benefit West Point should be duly honored. "JUSTICE."

SHALL LIBERTY CONTINUE TO EXIST?

Tenement House Philosophy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* They say this is the age of realism. It isn't. It's the age of pseudo-platonic 'ruptions—that's what it is. In evidence we have the Henry George idea, pop-populism; the Lexow comedy, the tenement house reform fit, &c., &c.—extravagancy, sham, sham.

The tenement house reform be blowed! If philanthropists, or the city, will build fancy tenement houses, and rent airy, well-lighted, sunny, eau-de-cologne apartments at, say, $6 a month—why, bless 'em! But when it is proposed that we poor tenement dwellers shall be compelled to reside in better buildings at a higher rental, we find this nearly as impudent as if it were seriously suggested that we should be permitted to use only "silver" growlers and drink only lager ever so old—good, of course, but more expensive. The broad fact that the dingy tenements are always occupied, while so many of the better ones remain empty, is conclusive evidence that a "reform" which admittedly involves a rise in rental must be peculiarly inappropriate at present. We are doing very well as it is, thank you, particularly if cleanliness and safety are maintained in approximate conformity with regulations already existing.

We have no grievance. But it is reported that there is much sighing and gnashing of teeth in other quarters—by the servants in the homes of many better to do, who reluctantly work in dark kitchens and sleep in stuffy closets. The what-would-become-of-the-poor-girls-in-these-times, don't you know, demands imperatively that a State Commission, preferably composed of expert tenement dwellers, look into and report on the dens of those servants. That's it. Let philanthropy begin where there is money. ZUMBUTTHER.

043 EAST TWELFTH STREET, N. Y., Feb. 23.

DILEMMA OF A TAILORESS.

Can Earn $12 a Week and Can Do Housework, and Wants to Go to Colorado.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I read with much interest the letter in THE SUN of Feb. 10 about "Eastern Girls in the West." If a girl has a relative in Colorado she may take a trip out there for her health, and it is possible that before she has time to recover from her fancied ailment some gallant fellow will have made her his wife. But suppose that a girl has no relatives or friends in Colorado, though well able to take care of herself here in the East, what will she do in a strange and new country like Colorado?

Now take my own case. I have a good trade, I am a tailoress and can do as much work as any other girl working at the same line of business. I can make $12 a week here at home. I know that in a new country like Colorado the men are not the fashion plates that they are here in the East, which would mean that there would not be the same amount of work in my line of business in Colorado that there is here at home. If I was to go to one of the many beautiful mountain parks—that is where I would like to go! I would not find any tailoring establishments, and how would I earn my living? You will at once ask, can't you do anything else? Certainly, I can. I can do housework, bake, and cook just as well as I can make vests. I would like to go to this place of light air and Switzerland scenery if I only knew how to get there. K.

ARLINGTON'S FRIEND FOUND.

He Turned Up in Paterson with Bullet Wounds and a Broken Arm.

PATERSON, Feb. 25.—A man calling himself George Burton, aged 22 years, with one arm broken and in plaster, and with a bullet wound in each arm, was admitted as a patient to St. Joseph's Hospital here last Friday. He said he came from Binghamton to visit friends here, and was shot while acting as peacemaker in a drunken brawl. The real story of his hurts seems, however, to have been found in Brooklyn. Chief of Police Grant read of the finding of Richard Arlington at Washington and Sands streets, Brooklyn, last Thursday night, and telegraphed to the Brooklyn police to send an officer here to look at Burton.

Superintendent Campbell sent Sergeant Hawkins and Capt. O'Toole, who identified Burton as Joseph Holland, Arlington's roommate. Both men boarded at Mrs. Ballard's, at 139 Adams street, Brooklyn. Mrs. Ballard told the Brooklyn police that the young men quarreled and she left the house. As she went out she heard two pistol shots. She declares that she knows nothing further of the quarrel. Arlington has a bullet wound in one arm and a gash on his chin. He refuses to tell how he got his injuries.

Both the Brooklyn and Paterson police are trying to fathom the mystery surrounding the shooting. Holland is still in the hospital here.

Durable Chalk Marks.

From the Philadelphia North American.

About five years ago an article appeared in one of the city papers stating that when the old city bell was taken down to be replaced by the new one chalk writing was found, plainly written thirteen years before, by a young engineer, in the year 1832 the bridge over the big Gunpowder falls at Ridgeley's iron works, about fourteen miles from Baltimore, was constructed by Albert Barr, considered at that time a famous architect and engineer of New Jersey. When the bridge was erected several persons wrote their names thereon with chalk, and they can easily be read at this day, and the date, "July 4, 1832."

WEINBERG CONFESSES, TOO

SURPRISE FOR THE DEFENCE ON THE FIREBUG TRIAL.

The Man Whose Store Was Burned Out Says that Grauer, the Adjuster, Contrived the Job and Charged $150 for It.

The prosecution in the trial of Insurance Adjuster Max H. Grauer, in the Court of General Sessions, for arson, sprung a surprise on the defence yesterday by producing as a witness Levi Weinberg, the clothing merchant whose store at 178 Canal street was burned on Oct. 28 last. This is the place where the firebugs, Sarah Silbermeister and Louis Rothman, were caught at work. Weinberg disappeared after the fire, but he and Simon Rosenbaum were finally induced to testify against the gang of firebugs, of which Rosenbaum was an active member.

A good deal of the day yesterday was taken up with the further examination of Rosenbaum. He coolly admitted having been one of the Isaacs gang of firebugs before his connection with the Rothman gang, and told of several fires in which he had been interested. After having burned his place out in Seventh avenue he started a store in Brooklyn and got $1,200 insurance on it. The Isaacs gang burned it out for him. He had only $75 worth of stock in it at the time.

When Weinberg was called the prisoner turned livid and moved about uneasily in his chair. Weinberg is a man of 40 years, with high forehead and dark complexion. His face was pale. An officer walked after him, as he is under surveillance. This was Weinberg's story:

"I opened the tailor store at 178 Canal street in April of last year, and kept it until October, when the fire occurred. I was insured for $7,000. There was $1,000 in the Bowery Fire Insurance Company, $2,000 in the Home Fire Insurance Company, and $1,000 in the Farragut Fire Insurance Company. I can't recall the others. Louis Grauer [son of the prisoner] got the policy for me in the Farragut Company. I paid him $20, the premium on the policy. Two weeks after I received a letter from the insurance company saying the premium had not been paid. I went to young Grauer's house in Broome street. There I met Max Grauer, the prisoner. He said he would see about it. Two days later the prisoner called at the store with a receipt for the premium, bought some clothes, and took them away. When I called at his house to get payment for the clothes old man Grauer, Louis Grauer, a man named Lipschütz, and one Kruchinsky were there. After Grauer paid me he said: 'Mr. Weinberg, if you would like to make a few nice dollars you want to do some business with me.' I asked him what he meant, and he said, 'We are in the business of setting fires and making money without any risk. We have fixed the Fire Marshal, and all you will have to do is to tell him the fire took place from the gas.' He said the times were bad, and there was absolutely no risk. Lipschütz said he had had a fire and got his money within ten days. We sat there talking over the matter until after 10 o'clock at night. Grauer said the charge for making the fire would be $150, and I would have to pay the money in advance. I said I did not have any money. Lipschütz said he would lend me $100 if I would give him my note. Grauer said he would be satisfied with $75 down, and would take my note for the rest. I took Lipschütz's $100 bill and handed it to Grauer, who gave me $25 change and I gave him my note for the rest. Then we made the contract. I cannot read and Grauer read it and I put my mark to it. While we were still talking about it Rothman came in, and after a few moments' talk with old man Grauer took some money from him and went out. Grauer said to me that Rothman was his man. After that I went home.

"Do you see Rothman in the court room now?" asked Assistant District Attorney Davis.

Rothman, who is serving fifteen years for having burned the store, was then pointed out from the rear benches with State Detective Jackson. His hair and beard had been shaved off, and Weinberg couldn't pick him out. He continued:

"Two days after I had signed the contract I asked myself, 'What have I done? I have six families in this house, and they are all liable to be burned.' I went to Grauer's office in Pine street and saw both Grauers and another man whom I did not know. I told Grauer that I was sorry for what I had done and said I'd give the gang back my note and would keep the $75, as I did not want the job done. He told me to go home and he would be around to see me in a few days. On a Saturday night a week before the fire, old Grauer and his son and Kruchinsky called at my store. We went into the back room and talked over the matter. I wanted to draw out, but Grauer said, 'Mr. Weinberg, don't make a damn fool of yourself. You know I could put you in a big hole. I was afraid, and I replied that I was satisfied. Then Grauer said that I would be as safe as any man could be. They looked around the store, and old Grauer told me to put a patent lock on the hall door that could be opened only from the inside.

"On the Saturday before the fire Rothman came to my store and pretended to buy some clothes. He walked around the store and tried the new lock. The next Sunday morning Rothman came with a woman and two children. He bought a lot of clothes for the children, and paid $5.50 for them. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon Kruchinsky came and told me that if the man and woman who had been in the store in the morning called again I was to leave them in the store and lock them in. I went away at 4 o'clock that afternoon, after speaking to my brother-in-law, Nathan Nathanson, and giving him the key of the store. I went to 91 Essex street to a meeting of a society to which I belong. That night I heard of the fire [the firebugs were caught at their work] and I went to old Grauer's house. He was crying and said to him: 'Mr. Grauer you have killed me and my wife and my seven children.' Grauer shoved me out, saying: 'I don't want you to come here.' I met Lipschütz in the street and ran away with him."

On cross-examination Weinberg said he had never had a fire before.

Q.—You made this contract, you say, because you thought you could make money? A.—Yes.

Q.—You thought that the making of few dollars was a matter of importance than the lives of all the families and children in the house? A.—Yes, but I did not think what I was doing.

Q.—What were your thoughts while you were at the society meeting in Essex street? A.—My heart was broke when I heard of the fire. I could not help myself. They had me by the neck.

Q.—Why did you not go to the police or Fire Marshal and tell the authorities of this attempt, like an honest man? A.—I don't know. I'm an honest man, and I can get more than 100 men to prove I've been honest in business.

Weinberg said he remained in this city a month after the fire, and then went to Providence to avoid arrest. He went from Providence to Boston, and had been working there for a man named Bergman at 99 Salem street. Bergman came on to this city with him on Saturday morning. Weinberg said his wife had been writing to him asking him to return, and she said she had had a talk with the District Attorney, and had been told that her husband would "get clear out if he told the truth." Weinberg said further that he owed $2,400 at the time of the fire, but that his creditors were not pressing him.

Q.—Then you had no reason under the sun for setting fire to your place? A.—No.

Q.—How much stock was there in the store? A.—$8,000 worth.

Q.—Have you any conscience? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Do you mean to say you don't know what it is to have a conscience? A.—I don't know what it is.

The witness replied in such a manner as to indicate that he did not literally know what the word conscience meant.

Rosenbaum, the Fire Marshal's stool pigeon, was brought forward, and Weinberg was asked if he had ever seen him before. The witness said he had, once, in Grauer's office. The trial will continue to-day.

THE BOWERY A GRAND HIGHWAY.

Its Railroad Lines and Its Traffic as Proofs of Its Position as a Thoroughfare.

To fully appreciate what a noble thoroughfare the Bowery is it should be studied in the block between Delancey and Spring streets. There are the up and down cable tracks of the Third avenue road; outside of those the up and down tracks of the Fourth avenue horse line; outside of those the up and down tracks of the West Twenty-third and Grand street ferries' horse car line, which swings in at Spring street going east and at Delancey street going west; outside of these the up and down tracks of the Third avenue road; and at last the supporting pillars, and outside of them all the two roomy sidewalks; and with those eight transportation tracks there is left on the roadway of the Bowery room for unobstructed vehicle traffic second in extent only to Broadway probably. It is a grand highway, of which New York is justly proud and concerning which, in the unenlightened provinces, there reigns cimmerian darkness.

Not the Old, Old Story.

From the Boston Herald.

Mr. Dumbleton, who is too economical to keep any extra collar buttons on hand, and who devotes a good share of his matin moments to hunting for these wayward essentials of male attire, startled his wife the other morning by a more than usual overdose of emphatic language.

"What's the matter now?" she exclaimed.

"Matter enough," he returned with a series of paralytic gasps. "I've swallowed my collar button."

"Thank goodness," snapped out Mrs. D., "for once in your life you know where it is."

LAWS FOR THE RED MEN.

Needs of the Navajoes—Various Provisions of the Indian Appropriation Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—It required parts of four days to dispose, in the Senate, of the Indian Appropriation bill, and so prolonged a discussion, when time is now so scant, shows the deep interest felt in it. It is now in conference, with literally scores of amendments to be adjusted.

Fortunately a great part of these are merely formal or clerical. The bill as it came from the House had a slouchy form of construction, by which, for example, the phrase "treaty of July 20" was habitually written "treaty July 20," and literally dozens of amendments were required solely for the purpose of supplying in such cases the omitted prepositions. Many other amendments were made for the sake of similar improvements in grammar. But there are also scores of amendments that go to matters of substance and will cause more prolonged consideration in conference.

Thus in the provision for an additional blacksmith and an additional harness maker among the Sioux, the Senate wisely gives the preference in this employment to Indians. The Senate also makes immediately available, instead of waiting for July 1, the extra sum of $25,000 which the House had added to the usual appropriation for the Navajoes on account of representations that some of them are suffering and almost starving. It was known that the droughts of the last few years have been injurious to the great flocks of sheep which these Indians hold, and which they will only kill under the pressure of great necessity. The low price of wool last year was also a great drawback to them. Their agent, Capt. Williams of the army, has shown that there was serious suffering among these people, who number perhaps 18,000, and that they cannot resort to a sale of their famous blankets, as weaving them is a matter of months, it being done by hand. They use the shuttle, as Mr. Teller said, "made by staking out on the ground a loom, pounding the threads in by hand, shoving them through the woof, the filling, and the warp, and then pounding them up." As, in addition, the blankets are wonderful affairs, the suggestion that the squaws should begin making a supply of them for their immediate necessities was very weak. Their corn, too, of course, suffers from the drought. About thirty years ago, when these Indians went on the warpath, the troops found that the only practical way of subduing them was to destroy their food and supplies, and Senator Teller says that Kit Carson told him that it took him and his men from daylight to sundown to cut down the corn which the Indians had planted at one settlement, and even then the work was not finished. With the drought making such ravages in their possessions, and with the irrigation works intended for them still incomplete, there ought to be no hesitation in making the sum of $25,000 immediately available for their wants.

When the provision for the Pueblo Foncas was reached an amendment was made as to the manner of dividing the sum of $15,000 among them, and it was agreed that the balance should be distributed per capita among all the members of the tribe in the Indian Territory, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Again, as to the Seminoles of Florida, the Senate has agreed that half the sum appropriated to them shall be expended, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, in procuring permanent homes for them, as many of them are now living in the everglades.

Amendments offered in the Senate to the provisions regarding the land claims of the Choctaws and Chickasaws and the Wichitas caused a very long discussion, and it remains to be seen what the conference will do about these matters. Another debate resulted in striking out the sum of between $800 and $900 awarded by the House to a contractor for beef named Richards. Again the Senate disagreed to the House provision ratifying the Quapaw allotments, making them inalienable for twenty-five years, and allowing the surplus to be alloted from time to time. The large sum of $400,000 was appropriated by the Senate for surveys in the Indian Territory, and $20,000 for surveys in South Dakota. The Senate also agreed to try to obtain the lands for the Iowa band from the Otoes and Missourias or other Oklahoma Indians. But much more important was an amendment modifying considerably the provision of the House for suspending the removal of the intruders in the Cherokee country.

The great topic of discussion was naturally Indian education, and it became somewhat heated over a motion to strike out the House appropriations for educating 120 Indian pupils at Hampton and 100 at Lincoln Institution, as being sectarian schools, and also on account of their distance from the reservations. This motion was defeated by a vote of 21 to 32. Then came an important change, namely, the striking out of the declaration in the House bill that it is the policy of the Government was to abolish its support of the contract schools entirely in five years. But the withdrawal of one-fifth of the support during the coming year was concurred in.

The Senate made appropriations with the San Carlos Indians for ceding their coal lands was a noteworthy Senate interpolation. One offered amendment that might have been difficult to dispose of in conference, namely, the bill now pending for the reorganization of the courts of the Indian Territory, was kept off on a point of order. The subject is very important, but it must be doubtful whether the bill can now be enacted before the close of the session.

Provisions for paying $187,030 to the Crow Creek Indians and $484,268 to the Miamis are considerable additions made by the Senate, but these are outdone by $590,000 voted to the Creeks.

An interesting amendment made by the Senate was that Indian girls may be employed as assistant matrons and Indian boys as farmers and industrial teachers in all Indian schools where it is practicable to do so. The last amendment was Mr. Hill's, already referred to, for the purchase of the rights of the Ogden Land Company in two reservations of the Seneca Indians in New York.

Many other Senate amendments were made to the House bill, not to speak of the many that perished under points of order against them. The task set for the Conference Committee, therefore, in adjusting this mass of conflicting legislation, apparently calls for much industry and skill.

THE NORTH SEA CANAL.

It Will Be Opened with Imposing Ceremonies on June 20.

An interesting event will be celebrated in Germany on June 20. The canal between the Baltic and the North Sea will be opened by Emperor William in the presence of the highest dignitaries of Germany and representatives of other countries. The principal nations will also be represented by men-of-war. It is expected that the pomp and ceremony will rival the scene at the opening of the Suez Canal. The Hamburg-American line will join in the naval parade with two of their twin-screw express steamers, the Augusta Victoria and the Normannia.

The line of the canal starts at Kiel, on the Baltic Sea, and, crossing the Prussian province of Holstein, joins the Elbe at Brunsbüttel, below Hamburg. Work was begun on June 3, 1887, and over 8,000 men were employed during the summer months, while in winter the number was reduced to about 4,700. The plant consists of 61 locomotives, 242 car, 66 dredgers, 133 lighters, and 55 cranes. The estimated cost was $47,440,000. The estimate has not been exceeded.

There will be two locks, one at the Baltic end, open all the year round except during twenty-five days; and another at the Elbe, open three to four hours during every flood tide, so that it may almost be termed a tide-water canal. Its length is 53¾ miles, average depth 29½ feet, width at bottom 72 feet, width at water level 213 feet.

At Brunsbüttel, on the Elbe, there is an outer harbor 1,312 feet long by 328 feet wide; then follows the lock, 492 by 82 feet and 32 4-5 feet deep, and then an inner harbor 1,640 feet by 656 feet.

Two fine suspension bridges cross the canal nearly 138 feet above water level, so that railway traffic will not be interrupted.

The speed allowed on the canal will be 5.3 miles per hour, making the time of passage about 11 hours before, 7½ hours after. The tolls will be 70 pfennigs, or 18 cents, per net register ton (loading capacity). It is expected that about 18,000 ships will make use of the canal annually, representing about 7,500,000 tons. Hitherto about 35,000 ships passed every year through the Skager Rack and the Cattegat, between the Baltic and the North Sea, so that the estimated percentage seems fair. The saving of time will be considerable, since for all ships bound to or from any point south of Hull, the distance will be reduced by 238 miles, while Bremen ships will save 322 miles and Hamburg ships 424 miles. But more important than the saving in time is the avoidance of danger, the passage through the sound between the Scandinavian peninsula and Jutland being considered one of the most dangerous in Europe. Statistics show that about 200 vessels founder every year on these coasts.

The strategic value of the canal is, besides, of the greatest value to Germany, because its men-of-war will now be able to pass from the North Sea to the Baltic with ease and safety, avoiding the passage through foreign waters, and permitting rapid concentration on the north or west coast.

The National A. C. Have an Amateur Circus.

A successful entertainment in the form of an amateur circus was held last evening at the home of the National A. C. on Cedar street, near Bushwick avenue, Brooklyn. The handsome gymnasium was packed to the doors. Prof. Henry Zoettler, physical director of the club, was an efficient ringmaster, and the spectators witnessed the following athletes exhibit their proficiency:

Tumbling—R. O. Woodruff, O. Ladner, and the Steiner brothers. Leaping—J. T. Fitzgerald, G. Seuss, T. G. Graham, J. Zoettler, J. Young, and H. Zoettler. Flying Rings—Robert Stoll, R. O. Sandford, William Hass, and G. Steiner. Club Swinging—T. J. Harris, amateur champion. Aerial Feats—Edward Zoettler. Flying Rings—Frank La Rose. Club-swinging Feats—George Greis. Double Horizontal Bars—Henry Zoettler and R. O. Sandford.

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WHAT WHEELMEN TALK ABOUT.

Racers Like Asbury Park Dates—Want Intermediate Records to Count.

The recommendation of the Asbury Park Wheelmen to the Racing Board of the L. A. W. that they be allotted dates for the national championships between July 8 and 15 has been received with favor by the racing men. During that period the leading riders will be quartered in the vicinity of Boston, Hartford, and other Eastern points. The Riverside Wheelmen of this city have applied to the Racing Board for the privilege of holding a meet on July 6, and in the event of receiving a sanction the racing men will be enabled to go direct from this city to Asbury Park and enjoy several days' rest before the championship events. The respective divisions of the L. A. W. are already planning to visit Asbury Park, and indications are that the meeting will be in every way highly successful.

The Manhattan Bicycle Club gave up their club house in the vicinity of Central Park last spring, and the strong numerical and financial strength of the organization has induced the officers to seek new quarters. The majority of the cycling clubs of this city find the expense of city houses too great, so the Manhattan Club have decided to adopt the English club system. The leading cycling clubs abroad select headquarters at some prominent hostelry in a desirable section, and at a small expense have a room apportioned off for their exclusive benefit. This practice has been so successful that the Manhattans propose to select quarters at some near-by road house and make it a club rendezvous.

Opposition is developing in some sections of the country against the adoption by the Racing Board of rules to disregard new records for intermediate distances in trials. The *Referee*, in criticising the recommendation of the Racing Board, states:

> The Racing Board makes the singular recommendation that hereafter, in attempts at records, the title distance shall be the distance ridden. A rider who should ride for a twenty-mile record and should beat all previous times at all distances, he could only be credited with the time for twenty miles. This rule is absurd and would never be recognized by the press or the public unless some far better reason than we have been able to imagine is forthcoming. The Racing Board should consider the matter in a better sense light and remember that if a man makes a record, properly authenticated, no technicality can alter the fact that he made the record.

Racing men say that the adoption of such a rule would be a great injustice to them. A prominent rider, in speaking of the matter to THE SUN reporter yesterday, said: "Suppose I were to try for the five-mile record and created new figures from one to four miles, and then met with some mishap that would prevent the rear me from finishing my fifth mile. Why, my entire trial would be a failure." This is unfair to the racing men. The limitation of special periods for records is all right, but the Racing Board cannot consistently adopt such a rule regarding intermediate distances, for the reason that it would injure racing.

A. G. Morrison, who has been elected Second Vice-President of the L. A. W., has been Chief Consul of the Wisconsin division for two terms. Chief Consul Gerdt of the New Jersey division of the L. A. W. estimates that there are 30,000 wheelmen in his State.

The Paris-Bordeaux road race will be held on May 11.

The Scottish Cyclists' Union have adopted the L. A. W. system of racing by taking up the classification rules.

The annual election of officers of the Atalanta Wheelmen will be held next Monday. The following ticket is nominated: President, L. A. Smith; Vice-President, J. E. Elfridge; Treasurer, E. F. Millar; Secretary, W. V. Belknap; Trustees, L. N. Thorne, F. Leflingwell, W. A. Drabble, F. H. Hovey, F. F. Eagles, E. O. Chase, and C. H. Buhr.

President Kirkpatrick of the Cycle Board of Trade has called a meeting for to-morrow at 12 o'clock, to be held at the Hardware Club. This is the first meeting called since the annual conference, and business of importance to the cycling trade will be transacted. At this meeting reports of all the committees will be read, details and arrangements and time and place for holding future cycle shows will be settled. Arrangements will also be perfected for securing permanent headquarters in New York city.

STRAWBOARD BOX HIEROGLYPHICS

Passengers in a Cable Car Relieved by a Sharp Messenger Boy.

He was a keen-faced shop messenger boy in a smart livery, and attracted every one's attention in the Broadway cable car, chiefly because he carried a flat strawboard box much bigger than himself. As it rested on his lap it extended nearly across the car aisle, and the conductor and every one else who had to pass found the way nearly blocked, which occasioned the boy much amusement and satisfaction. One after the other, nearly every passenger became interested in the inscription scrawled in heavy black charcoal lines on the cover of the box. The inscription was this:

25-15-4:30-1,202-112-E 17 2 fbs short. W. Hurry. C. O. D.

Passengers craned their necks to decipher this, and some audibly discussed its possible meaning. An old gentleman who sat opposite the boy, and whose knees nearly touched the box, became so mentally involved in his study of the inscription that he grew pale and purple in turn, and finally took out a ten-cent piece, laid it on the box, and hoarsely whispered:

"Little boy, that is for you if you'll tell me what that marking means."

There was an intense silence in the car and every one strained his and her attention toward the messenger. That young person eyed the old gentleman cautiously, took the dime, examined it carefully, pocketed it slowly, and then said, reading the figures upside down:

"Twenty-five' is the day of the month."

"To be sure," said the gentleman with a breath of relief. "To be sure, that is a key to the puzzle which I should have observed."

The boy half closed his eyes and scrutinized the gentleman closely, as if to discover whether or not he was being "guyed," and then, observing everybody's seriousness, resumed:

"And '15' is me number. See?"

He pointed to a metal badge on the lapel of his jacket bearing these figures.

"Several people said 'Ah,' and 'Of course,' and 'To be sure,' and the boy went on:

"And '4:30' is the time the package was given to me to chase with."

All the men and women in the car hastily consulted their watches, and were delighted to find that it was a little after that wonderful hour. The boy squinted at the figures again, and continued:

"'1,202' is the delivery department entry in the delivery book, see; and '112 E. 17' is easy—that's where I'm going with it."

"Splendid!" exclaimed the old gentleman. "It's quite a relief," and the other passengers smiled upon him approvingly. The remarkable boy resumed:

"'2 fbs short,' means that there is two more feathers what belongs to th' goods what ain't in th' package, but th' lady wanted it, anyhow, and th' feathers comes to-morrow."

"Wonderful! wonderful!" the old gentleman, once more the boy:

"The 'C. O. D.' means——"

"Oh, we know what that means," said the old gentleman, and the other passengers laughed with him in a friendly way, as if they had been acquainted for years.

BROOKLYN.

Mayor Schieren has gone to Baltimore to look after some of his private business interests in that city.

Catharine Helm, the aged widow who was so badly burned at 10 Fourth street on Sunday morning, died yesterday in St. Peter's Hospital.

Fire Commissioner Worster has been authorized to provide the fire department with a water tower and with a suitable building in which to keep it.

CELLIST HEGNER'S TRIALS.

HE'S AGAIN IN TROUBLE WITH THE MUSICAL UNION.

It Was His Case that Caused Walter Damrosch Such Embarrassment a Year Ago, and Now He Has Again Incurred the Wrath of His Brother Musicians.

Anton Hegner, the 'cellist who raised ruction in the Musical Mutual Protective Union in December, 1893, shortly after he was brought to this country by Walter Damrosch, then the leader of the Symphony Orchestra, is in trouble with the union again. He has informed the union, so one of the officers says, that it can go to shed, and he is in danger now of being expelled.

The trou