The Sun.

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The New York Ship Canal.

The report of Major SYMONS of the Engineer Corps upon the proposed ship canal through the State of New York will be a hard blow to those who advocate a wholly new waterway, suitable for ocean-going vessels, from the great lakes to the Hudson, as a grain route from the West.

The project is one that has been before Congress, and, in fact, the investigation by Major SYMONS was ordered by that body. Various routes have been suggested, and much interest has been manifested in one that proceeds down the St. Lawrence to some point not far from Ogdensburg, thence utilizing Lake Champlain, and so going to the Hudson at Troy. This route, however, Major SYMONS discards as impracticable, though, in an engineering sense, it is possible. Then there is another ship canal route, by way of the Niagara River, Lake Ontario, Oneida Lake, and the Mohawk, which, he thinks, is better, yet "not worthy to be undertaken by the general Government."

As to the estimated cost, $200,000,000, doubtless the advocates of a ship canal will not consider it prohibitory, and we recall that a bill was introduced into Congress in April of last year in which the limit of bonds and stock for a company which was to construct such a canal, under a Federal charter, was exactly that amount. But it would be an enormous expense for the Government to incur, especially since, as Major SYMONS says, the canal would have no military value.

But those who are not advocates of wholly new routes will read with interest Major SYMONS's tribute to the greatly increased value of the Erie Canal with the improvements recently undertaken by the State of New York at its own expense. He also says that, if further improved, and made navigable by very large barges, it would enable freight to be transported at a lower rate than by a ship canal to be navigated by great lake and ocean vessels. Such an enlargement he thinks worthy of being undertaken by the Federal Government, and its expense would be only a small part of the cost of the proposed ship canal.

England's Merchant Marine.

In a recent speech Senator ELKINS set forth with much thoroughness the various elements which combine to perpetuate England's mercantile power on the seas.

First comes her enormous tonnage, which far exceeds that of all other nations together. This is supported by "the British Lloyd system of surveys and classifications, discriminating in favor of British-built vessels." That system, in turn, leads to discriminations by the insurance underwriters, favoring English ships. Then come mail subsidies, "amounting to about $4,000,000" a year, on which Great Britain is willing to suffer "a seeming loss of about $2,500,000" annually; while subsidies to steamships as auxiliary cruisers add about $250,000 a year.

Again, she mans her ships more cheaply than we man ours, according to Mr. ELKINS, employing fewer men to the ship, and giving lower wages. Her ships are surer of cargoes, having markets everywhere. While the tax rate and insurance are low, the income from ship ownership is high, compared with the current rates of interest on money. The ship's supplies are "taken from goods in bond, or duty free." In repairs, the ships have an unequalled dock equipment, with low rents for the docks and a low cost of labor.

Other advantages which Great Britain holds are those of national pride and interest in marine affairs, giving the Government a free hand in shipping matters; the possession of the beaten track of commerce and an enormous foreign trade covering the world; a banking system greatly accommodating the debtor nations, and tremendous in the capital and surplus of its banking houses; an excellent consular system; a national Board of Trade which has full executive power; a very extensive system of submarine and other wires; a system of great colonies all over the world, creating and supplying markets; finally, a powerful navy for the protection of the merchant marine, if needed.

The wage-earning power of the British merchant marine is put at $75,000,000 annually, and the freight and passenger earning power at $500,000,000, while all this gives remunerative employment for supplying coal, iron, and steel, and profits in building and repairing ships.

These points are not enumerated by way of discouragement, but merely as a rational explanation of existing British maritime supremacy. They are hard facts, and it was with a reliance on existing facts that the London *Times* recently declared, in reviewing the discussions of the proposed revival of American shipping, that "the Union Jack is not likely to have anything to fear from the Stars and Stripes for a long time to come."

But the true lesson is that, with Great Britain thus strongly intrenched in the world's carrying trade, no ordinary measures will restore to us a fair share of it.

An Important Presidential Election.

Gen. ROCA, who has been nominated as a candidate for the office of President of the Argentine Republic by the Nationalist party, is a politician of intelligence, ability, experience, pacific temper, approved patriotism and great popularity. There is already satisfactory assurance of his election, as the party by which he has been put in nomination is powerful and united, which cannot be said of the Radical party. ROCA is the representative of the conservative spirit of the republic. His success is of importance more especially because of his promise that, in case he shall be elected, he will make it the chief concern of his Administration to correct the disorders in the Treasury, and secure the adoption of measures which shall bring about an improvement in the financial condition of the country. He made this promise in a manifesto which he issued before his nomination, and he has renewed it with emphasis since he was nominated. This question has been more serious than any other in Argentina ever since the disastrous financial collapse that occurred there a few years ago; and it was mainly because of the promise he made in regard to it that he was selected as the candidate of the Nationalist party.

It is probable that Señor URIBURU, who now holds the office of President, and who has served his country well in that place, would have been nominated for another term but for a provision of the Argentine Constitution that a President cannot be reëlected. The term is six years in length, and the election is by representatives of the fourteen provinces, equal to double the number of Senators and Deputies combined. This system has proved satisfactory in practice.

The Argentine Republic has had a number of Presidents of unusual ability, among whom may be named Col. SARMIENTO, the schoolmaster; Dr. SAENZ-PINA, who resigned, and the present Executive, Señor URIBURU. The adherents of Gen. ROCA believe that he will be a worthy successor of the most distinguished of these men. The thing most to be desired is that, in the event of his election, he shall observe his promises, and shall give proof that he possesses the financial wisdom which, it may be said, is now a necessary qualification for a President of Argentina.

Why Is Whitelaw Reid Suspected?

This mysterious and possibly significant remark is attributed by the *Washington Evening Times* to the Hon. THOMAS WILBUR CRIDLER, Mr. SHERMAN'S Third Assistant Secretary of State:

"I want to say for HAMLIN and myself that neither of us is responsible for the publication of the document. I think it came from England, and was probably sent to the *Tribune* by WHITELAW REID. There was ample time to send the letter by mail to the *Tribune*."

Mr. CRIDLER was speaking of the premature and unauthorized publication, in the *New York Tribune* of Wednesday last, of Secretary SHERMAN'S letter of instructions to Ambassador HAY in regard to the Alaska fur seal question.

The publication of that letter at the present time is regarded all around as an improper and indecent performance, detrimental to American interests and embarrassing to the Administration.

Why does Assistant Secretary CRIDLER drag in the name of the Hon. WHITELAW REID, Special Jubilee Ambassador of Congratulation and Ceremony from the Government of the United States to the Court of St. James's?

What does the Jubilee Ambassador know or care about the fur seals of Alaska? Why should he disturb his soul, serene in the facile exercise of Turveydrop functions three thousand miles away, with projects of newspaper enterprise illegitimate in the case of one in his station, and extremely annoying to the kind-hearted President who appointed him? Is he not sufficiently occupied with the graceful handling of his teaspoon at the royal and imperial board?

Probably Mr. CRIDLER is led into his unjust and uncharitable suspicions by the purely fortuitous circumstance that the Hon. WHITELAW REID holds simultaneously these three posts of dignity and opportunity:

I. Honorary editor of the *New York Tribune;*

II. Jubilee Ambassador, with friendly access to JOHN HAY'S mail bag;

III. Son-in-law of Mr. DARIUS O. MILLS, the Vice-President of the North American Commercial Company, the lessee of the Pribylov Islands, which has paid no rental for the same to the Government since 1892, and against which suits have been brought by the Government for from eight hundred thousand to a million dollars due and unpaid.

It would be very embarrassing if the McKinley Administration, in its hunt for the man who published that letter, should feel itself impelled to search Windsor Castle.

The Dream of a British Customs Union Dispelled.

The July number of the London *National Review* contains a detailed report of the replies made by the colonial Premiers to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S proposal that a Pan-Britannic Zollverein should be established, under which Great Britain and her colonies should reciprocally impose preferential duties on each other's goods. As we shall see, some of the colonial Prime Ministers looked favorably on the project, but those representing the Dominion of Canada and New South Wales opposed it, the result being, as the *National Review* admits, that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S scheme has fallen through.

The favorable opinions were expressed at a meeting under the auspices of the United Empire Trade League, the object of which is "the furtherance of mutually advantageous trading relations on a preferential basis between all who share allegiance to her Majesty the Queen." This meeting was attended by five Premiers, namely, Sir GEORGE TURNER of Victoria, Sir HUGH NELSON of Queensland, Mr. SEDDON of New Zealand, Mr. KINGSTON of South Australia, and Sir JOHN FORREST of West Australia. Sir GEORGE TURNER expressed the belief that the colonies would be very glad to give some preference, so that they might trade with Great Britain for goods which they now receive from other countries. He thought, indeed, that the proposition should come from Great Britain, but he had no hesitation in saying that any advance from her would be received in no huckstering spirit, but with every desire to enter into a fair, reasonable, and equitable arrangement, such as would be advantageous to all parties. Mr. KINGSTON of South Australia also thought that it would be better for the mother country and her statesmen to formulate proposals for the acceptance of the colonies. Any such suggestions, he said, would receive the most sympathetic consideration in the lands from which the Prime Ministers present at the meeting came, for in their trade relationship they would prefer that their transactions should be with their own flesh and blood. Mr. SEDDON of New Zealand complained of the existing treaties with Belgium and Germany that bar the way to the preferential trading which he advocated. Mr. BYRNES, the Attorney-General of Queensland, also addressed the meeting in support of the principle of the United Empire Trade League.

Thus far all had gone well for Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. Unfortunately for him, Sir WILFRID LAURIER, the Premier of confederated Canada, and, therefore, by far the most important representative of colonial interests, threw his weight into the opposite scale. He explained the motives which had prompted the Dominion Parliament to admit British goods at rates somewhat lower than those levied on corresponding commodities from other countries. The Liberal party, now in power at Ottawa, of which Sir WILFRID is the official spokesman, had no desire, he said, that England should, by way of recompense, discriminate against the food staples of foreign countries which compete with Canadian products. The duties on British goods, he declared, had been lowered in the Dominion, not because they came from Great Britain, but because they came from the only country which received Canadian products freely. The purpose was to show England gratitude for admitting Canadian commodities duty free, and, at the same time, to go as far as the Dominion could in the direction of free trade.

It was in an interview with a reporter for the London *Daily Chronicle* that the attitude of the Canadian Liberal party was thus defined. Then followed an interesting and significant interchange of ideas: "Would you say 'No,'" asked the interviewer, "if England proposed to tax wheat and meat from the United States and Russia and the Argentine, while admitting free of duty your Manitoba No. 1 hard wheat, your Alberta ranch beef, and your apples from Annapolis Valley?"

Sir WILFRID answered: "Well, no, perhaps not. If England were willing to give us a preference over other nations, taking our goods on exceptionally favorable terms, I would not object. It would be a great boon for the time. But how long would it last? Would it be an advantage in the long run? That is what men who think beyond the passing moment have to ask themselves. Suppose England did such a thing and abandoned her free trade record. She would inevitably curtail the purchasing power of her people. Do you not think we should suffer from that, we who alone have natural resources enough to feed your millions from our fertile lands? I have too great a belief in the common sense of Englishmen to think they will do any such thing. What we have done in the way of tariff preferences to England, we have done, as I said, out of gratitude and not because we want her to enter upon the path of protection."

While Sir WILFRID LAURIER thus put aside the idea of an imperial customs union, which Mr. CHAMBERLAIN has at heart, he made another suggestion, for which, as yet, the English people are by no means ripe, namely, that the colonies might eventually send delegates to the House of Commons. "I really should not be surprised," he said, "if representation were found to be, after all, the wisest and simplest solution for the problem of the British empire."

Mr. REID, the Premier of New South Wales, the oldest of the Australian colonies, was equally pronounced against everything in the shape of an imperial Zollverein, and acknowledged that proposals for a preferential tariff would meet with his opposition. The question was put to him: "Do you think the end in view, the close federation of the British empire, is more likely to be attained through the customs union proposed by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN?" Mr. REID'S reply was that he did not think Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S proposals practicable, but, if he did, he should feel impelled to reject them on general grounds. "In my opinion," he said, "the British empire is better maintained by its present policy of free trade, even with enemies, than it could be in any other way. The British empire," he went on to acknowledge, "would have been an intolerable aggression upon the rights of other nations but for its magnanimous trading policy, which has given the world an equal share in the benefits of the British empire, and which has tended to create enormous business interests in favor of peace with Great Britain. I feel," he concluded, "that any attempt on the part of England to change her policy would, instead of strengthening the empire, supply many new motives to jealous nations for hostilities."

The London *National Review*, although the organ of Lord SALISBURY, and as such friendly to the project of imperial consolidation, admits that the divergence of opinion among the colonial Premiers dissipates the dream of those who hoped to see the framework of a great scheme of fiscal federation constructed in the jubilee year.

The Senate and the Ships.

Some of the reasons assigned in the Senate for refusing to pay more than $300 a ton for battleship armor show an astonishing capacity for misinformation about the navy. The Populist Senators appear to be especially gifted in this respect.

Senator ALLEN of Nebraska avowed his utter want of faith in battleships, as being unwieldy craft that "are constantly going ashore, coming in collision with some other vessel, going aground, or cutting up some other caper not on the programme." He went aboard one of them, and it was an "utter surprise" to him that "the thing did not absolutely sink, without being armored." Childlike wonder at the buoyancy of thick iron or steel, when in the form of a ship's hull, is not uncommon among some people who are beginning their observations of naval architecture. He also thought rather less favorably even of American than of foreign battleships. He doubted "if we have a battleship today that would be capable of going into action against the best vessels of Europe." And yet in the Indiana, the Massachusetts, and the Oregon we have three vessels which for their combination of armament and armor we believe to be unsurpassed in the world, if, indeed, they are anywhere equalled. The Iowa, the Kearsarge, and the Kentucky will also never hesitate to attack any vessel they may come across; while if Mr. ALLEN'S friends will allow the Alabama, the Illinois, and the Wisconsin to take on their armor, we shall have a third trio competent to face any foe that floats.

Mr. BUTLER of North Carolina was equally despondent, and with as little reason. He described the Oregon as "one of those vessels with the spongy, imperfect, fraudulent plates. It is possible," he added, "that there is not a single good, honest armor plate on the ship." Nevertheless, it is not possible, as the records of the Navy Department show, Senator TILLMAN of South Carolina declared, and three times repeated, that the famous fine of about $140,485 imposed for the bad Carnegie plates had been refunded. He did not dispute that it was imposed, but "anyhow, I know the fine was remitted." Secretary HERBERT, who ought to be an authority on the subject, says, on the contrary, that the fine, which was paid by check, has never been remitted. In fact, Mr. TILLMAN'S announcement on the subject is the first intimation we ever heard that anybody in the country supposed the money was paid back by the Government.

With various queer notions like these prevailing in the Senate, it can be better understood why that body fixed on the preposterous price of $300 per ton for the armor which the three latest battleships need. Even Mr. TELLER, whose chief complaint seems to be that a fleet has not been sent to Havana, said he did not care whether the new battleships were finished or not. They would be "just as useful on the stocks as on the seas." But that is sheer petulance, because a navy superior to Spain's is clearly a good backing for our diplomacy in anything we may hope to do for Cuba. When, also, Mr. TELLER says that "if we should want a few extra ships of war we can buy them in the markets of the world," he not only suggests the overthrow of a policy founded by the fathers of the republic, and maintained to this day, but he forgets that the few extra ships may be needed when a declaration of war will have made it unlawful and impossible to buy them in the world's markets.

But wild and ignorant talk of this sort was well suited to the wild proposition which passed the Senate.

Education in the Hawaiian Islands.

Those who oppose the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands assert that the inhabitants are uneducated and incapable of assimilating American civilization. This is by no means true so far as the Hawaiian and Portuguese elements of the population are concerned. The facts are set forth in the July number of the *North American Review* by Mr. DANIEL LOGAN, the editor of the Honolulu *Evening Bulletin*.

According to the census of 1896, the population of the islands is 109,000, whereof 46,023 are Asiatics who are not eligible for the franchise. Almost incredible as it may seem, 24 per cent. of the enfranchised nationalities, and more than 12 per cent. of the entire population, attended school in 1896, the whole number of pupils being 14,023. Of these, 5,480 were Hawaiians of full blood; 2,448 were part Hawaiians, and 3,600 were Portuguese. Even of the Chinese there were 921 and of the Japanese 397. The growing eagerness evinced by Asiatics in Hawaii to obtain an English education bears witness to the power of Hawaiian civilizing influences. It should be noted that the Hawaiian language is no longer taught in the public schools. For some time English had predominated, and last year the use of it was made compulsory in all schools, private as well as public. The law requires that every child from five to sixteen years of age shall attend either a public or a private school taught in English. The text books employed are almost all American, the only exceptions being those dealing with Hawaiian geography and history. More than a third of the teachers in all of the schools are Americans, the Hawaiian and part Hawaiian instructors coming next in number. It should also be mentioned that schools are in session even in remote districts for forty weeks of the fifty-two.

Formerly it was the custom of the Legislatures to make grants of money to schools under the control of different religious denominations. Now, however, the Constitution of the republic of Hawaii prohibits any aid from the public treasury to sectarian schools. Practically, the Islands have a free school system, the only exceptions being a group of establishments converging to the Honolulu High School. No other country in the world devotes so large a proportion of its public revenue to education. Of $1,939,978.50, the total sum appropriated by the Hawaiian Government for all purposes, in the two years ending Dec. 31, 1897, the amount allotted to the support of public schools is $404,000. As the private or independent schools are likewise sustained out of the pockets of the people, the aggregate contributions of Hawaii to the cause of education may be fairly described as astonishing.

The Harlem Young Women's Christian Association's Vault.

The public revenues of the city of New York amount to $45,000,000 in a year, and the revenues from vault privileges amounted last year to $139,000. With energy in the collection of the charges and penalties for vault privileges, it is thought by some optimistic reformers that this sum could be increased to certainly $140,000 in a year, and this view of the case appears to have impressed itself strongly upon the Deputy Commissioner of Public Works, the Hon. HOWARD PAYSON WILDS, who, as THE SUN has described, has been endeavoring to collect for additional vault privileges from the United States Government, from Uncle SAM himself. The willingness of WILDS to collect has been matched only by the reluctance of Uncle SAM to pay, and as the result of the brief encounter between the two, Mr. WILDS has withdrawn from the field of controversy, and the public revenues of New York have not been increased by any payments for vault privileges by the Federal Government.

Thwarted in this particular, WILDS has discerned with a fortitude truly commendable a possible source of revenue for vault privileges from the Harlem Young Women's Christian Association, and a lively controversy has arisen between the representatives of that association and the Deputy Commissioner of Public Works. Chapter 138 of the Laws of 1890 authorizes the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to exempt from the payment of any fee for the construction of vaults under sidewalks—the Wilds specialty in revenue collecting—"places of public worship," and this exemption is claimed for the building of the Harlem Young Women's Christian Association, the members of which are desirous of extending a vault in front of their premises on 124th street without the payment of a fee, and to hold "the city harmless for any loss or damage that may be occasioned by the work to be done at their expense under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works," such permission to continue only during the pleasure of the Common Council. Such is the language of the proposed resolution, which, however, has met an obstacle in Mr. WILDS, who declares that the term "places of public worship" as used in the law can be applied only "to places whose primary and essential purpose is for public worship." In this view of the facts the law counsel of the Harlem Young Women's Christian Association does not concur, and the Harlem Young Women's Christian Association does not concur either. The Secretary of the association gives this formal and explicit account of its work:

"It is distinctly a religious organization, its aim and object being to win young women to lives of purity and uprightness by leading them to recognize their duty toward God and their fellow man. The usual Sunday service consists of opening hymns; reading the Scripture; prayer; sermon by ministers of different denominations or forceful address by laymen; hymn; prayer service or benediction. A midweek service is held similar to usual one at the different churches. We have in addition devotional exercises in connection with the various classes almost every day."

This answer is interesting on account of the information which it gives in contradiction of Mr. WILDS. Certainly, in the whole municipal history of New York since the establishment of the Department of Public Works as a separate city bureau, there has never been a Deputy Commissioner more vigorous, intrepid, and steadfast in collecting penalties for vault privileges than the Hon. HOWARD PAYSON WILDS, even though, in some cases, those called upon to pay such penalties refrain from complying.

For Silver or for Gold?

The course of the silver Republicans in Ohio is worthy of attention, particularly on the part of Democrats whose devotion to the gold standard is weighted with the craze for putting up candidates of their own in competition with the central opposition to Bryanism, that of the Republican party. The Ohio silver Republicans went lately to the State Convention of the Democrats, declaring themselves brothers in respect to the uppermost need of the hour, and asking that as such they might receive some representation on the ticket.

Fusion has been in the air for many twelve-months. Precedent was strong in favor of the Republicans getting all, or part, at least, of what they prayed for. But the Democrats were obdurate. They said, "We are the Democratic party. We are the party of free silver. We nominated the standard bearer of silver's campaign for President. Our experience in truckling to men and sentiments from outside organizations has been too disastrous for repetition. We will nominate a Democratic ticket, a ticket for free silver, and let free silverites follow."

What will the Ohio Republican silverites do under the circumstances? If they believe what they say, they will suppress their anger at the rebuff received from the Democrats and go in for the cause in earnest. If their conviction regarding free silver, however, is not real, but is a claptrap of self-assertion and the habit of parading in a political organization of their own, they will let silver take its chance and set up contending nominees to be shouted for as Republicans.

The *Washington Evening Times* informs us that the Hon. CHARLES A. TOWNE, Chairman of the Silver Republican National Committee, anxious about rumors that the Ohio section may indulge in the self-magnification of a ticket of its own, sent the following despatch to the Secretary of the Ohio Valley Bimetallic League:

"JULY 13, 1897.

"JOHN E. OWENS, *Cincinnati, Ohio:*

"Am not advised of any intention by silver Republicans of Ohio to put ticket in field. Such a movement would, of course, destroy all chance of defeating HANNA and would ruin our reputation as devotees of the cause, putting us on low level of place hunters. The national organization and all leading silver Republicans here are absolutely opposed to such a programme. Give this what publicity you please.

"CHARLES A. TOWNE,
"Chairman Silver Republican National Committee."

"The Democracy of Ohio," said Mr. TOWNE also, "have put silver unequivocally to the fore. For any silver man to fail to do his uttermost for the Democratic State ticket is, as it seems to me, a political crime." Here is a politician who understands the great force of dealing with one issue at a time, and who is so sincere in devotion to the principles professed by him that he won't tolerate the thought of hostility to their leading representatives.

The issue of the day is free silver and Bryanism. All who believe in the gold standard, outside of the Republican organization, whether they be Democrats or Mugwumps, will find a model for action in the attitude of Chairman TOWNE of the Republican annex to the silverite party.

No bushwhacking, in State or city, among the enemies of Bryanism!

If GROVER CLEVELAND is the back number and dead political duck that the Free Silver and Republican press would have the people believe, why do they give so much space to his every move?—*Brockton Times.*

Why do they? Perhaps it is because his every move requires so much space.

We are surprised to discover that our esteemed contemporary, the *New York Times*, has about as poor an idea of the value of Alaska as it has of Hawaii:

"The Hawaiian annexation argument will not be appreciably fortified by THE SUN'S awkward blunder of assuming that in the Alaska purchase Mr. SEWARD bought the Klondike mines, *when he only bought some troublesome seals and a few wretched Indians very much in need of soup.*"

That is not all that SEWARD bought. His purchase of Alaska made us the owners of "Jones" River, for example; an acquisition formerly regarded in some quarters as of inestimable value to the American people. But leaving "Jones" River out of the question, the subjoined estimate of the worth of the SEWARD purchase is furnished by an authority which even the *Times* ought to respect:

"Already Mr. SEWARD'S purchase of Alaska is vindicated as a matter of business. That statesman himself declared that it would take the people of the United States a generation to find out what a benefaction he had bestowed upon them in the purchase. Two-thirds of a generation have elapsed, and it is already evident that if the seal fishery were thrown open to the public under proper safeguards as to the payment of a tax upon the captured seals, the Government would receive a handsome income upon its investment.

"Sealing, however, is somewhat precarious as a source of revenue. A sudden freak of fashion, which has been constant to seals for a singularly long period, would diminish the profits of the seal ring to such an extent as would make its managers indifferent to any poaching that might be practised upon their preserves. The description published in the *Times* yesterday makes it evident that after this precarious source of revenue is exhausted other and more trustworthy sources will remain.

"The destruction of our own forests is going on at so rapid a rate that before long the 'visible supply' in Alaska will be a question of great moment. * * * When the domestic supply becomes manifestly insufficient for our needs, the spruce and cedar of Alaska will be of great national value.

"The mineral treasures of Alaska will form another addition to the wealth of the nation, the importance of which cannot as yet be even vaguely conjectured. There is no doubt that gold exists and very little that at some time it will be profitably worked. The coal deposits are extensive and valuable and of a more immediate importance. The Pacific coast, at least, may yet find in Alaska its chief source of fuel supply."

If the *Times* desires any further testimony as to the vast natural resources and surpassing value of the Territory of which it now speaks so flippantly and foolishly, we can readily produce the same from the *Times's* own editorial columns, like that just quoted.

The resolutions adopted by the bankers of New York State at their annual convention in Saratoga recommend the retirement of all Government paper and the substitution of a safe bank currency under Governmental control. The time has gone by when there was anything to be gained by the policy of silence or of half measures on the part of the banks.—*Evening Post.*

It is true enough that the Saratoga proposition is not a half measure. It is a whole measure with a vengeance. It is a demand from the banks for the whole business and the whole profit of issuing the currency notes of the country; and they may get the prize when the heavens fall.

Justification.

From the Typographical Journal.

"Huh!" snorted the husband who had been inveigled into attending the rendition of a sermon. "Call him a boy preacher! He is 40 if he is a day."

"He does look that way," said the wife; "but," she continued, in her anxiety to plead, "don't you think he has the mind of a boy?"

Patriotism of Southern Negroes.

From the Statesville (N. C.) Landmark.

The Fourth of July celebrations in the South for thirty years have been confined largely to the black people.

BARMAIDS.

The Hoboken Maid and Her English Sister.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In Hoboken it is proposed to petition the Common Council to pass an ordinance prohibiting the employment of barmaids in the saloons. According to Chief Detective Nelson of that town many of the women complained of "have been arrested for walking the streets." Taking this statement in its literal sense, you might be brought to the conclusion that all the women in Hoboken were compelled by law to ride bicycles or take the cars; and in these days of reform, the existence and enforcement of such a law would not be surprising. But Nelson makes his meaning clear when he says "they tend to make the saloons disorderly. They drink with the men and carouse, and very often cause a great deal of trouble for the police."

Now, if this is all true, the saloons in question are simply disorderly places that should be promptly closed. But there is no sound reason for declaring war upon barmaids. We are far ahead of our loving cousins, the English, in most things, and we certainly should not drop behind them in barmaids, if it is considered at all desirable to employ them.

But let us take a look at the barmaid as she is in the land of the late Jubilee. As a rule, she is employed on account of her beauty, her ladylike manners and her good character. Often enough she belongs to a once well-to-do and refined family. When all her efforts to obtain employment fail it frequently happens that the bar becomes her refuge. It saves her from complete disgrace, and gives her a chance to win the husband that she deserves. Far from being the cause of "disorder and disgraceful saloon fights," she has, like all good women, a somewhat refining influence upon the habitués of the bar. By her very gentleness she commands respect and keeps complete order in places where policemen might be worse than useless.

After the bad beginning of Hoboken in this barmaid business, it is not likely that any reform can be accomplished there, at least for some time to come. But the theory that the barmaid tends to make the saloon disorderly can never be accepted until soda cocktails can set Senators on sprees.

Whether the barmaid can ever be really acclimated in this country is a problem that at present can be solved only by prophets. But, anyhow, here's to Miss Smith, the Queen of the Gin Palace across the water! Her smile turns whiskey sours into mint juleps and her wink puts a head on the beer! W.

NEW YORK, July 17.

Another Columbia Alumnus on Mr. Low.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The righteous wrath of Mr. George W. Lawrence, whose letter is printed in THE SUN of to-day, leads him to a rhetorical exaggeration that does injustice both to Columbia University and to President Low. Certainly three of the older professors, Ware, Peck, and Butler, have well-earned reputations in their respective departments of architecture, classical literature, and education, that are not only national but international. To be sure, these men were all in service long before President Low was elected, and he is not entitled to any credit for their selection; that belongs to the lamented Barnard.

It must be granted to your correspondent that most of President Low's own appointees are mediocre or worse. He is notoriously lacking in scholarship and is no judge of men. His selections for the law faculty, and for that expensive and absurd department known as the faculty of political science, were of the weakest possible sort.

It is an open secret that Seth Low's complacent vanity and humiliating lack of familiarity with scholars and scholarship are a great incubus on the institution. Can this explain why the trustees, professors, and many alumni are so heartily supporting his straw-ballot campaign for Mayor? Do they want to unload him on New York? TWENTY YEARS AGO.

BROOKLYN, July 16.

The American Fur Dealers and the Alaska Seal Question.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Apropos of the cable despatch in this morning's SUN, the fur trade should give their most earnest thanks for the interest taken by you in this vexed question. It is very strange that our Government can expect England to acquiesce in the demands made by us, for the reason that the paramount idea of Great Britain is to protect the commercial interests of her subjects.

The contention of John Quincy Adams during his Administration was that the rights of our citizens should be maintained, and Monroe first raised this idea, and it was carried out later by President Adams, the cause being that of the Russian islands, now owned by us, and concerning which so much controversy has occurred.

In 1866 nearly all the periodicals and papers, commenting on the Alaska seizures of that time, lashed themselves into a frenzy upon the question of the jurisdiction of the United States, but were firm in maintaining that the rights of our citizens in every manner should be protected.

To-day it seems that the interests of others than the citizens of the United States engaged in the fur trade are to be protected. Certainly, as an American citizen, I expect a full and free protection in the pursuit of my business. This, according to the present ideas prevailing in the State Department, is ignored. I ask that through the columns of your journal you will kindly give the fur trade a chance to be heard. England's position is already explained, and her ideas of protecting her subjects are published to the world when she deliberately says, "Great Britain demands a stronger case on the part of the United States, as Canada would not abandon such a valuable industry." By "valuable industry" she means the illegal sealing.

NEW YORK, July 14. Q. E. D.

The Tammany Campaign to Be Made on National Issues.

From the New York Times.

Within the last few days a great number of circulars have been sent to the South and West by direction of John C. Sheehan and other Tammany leaders. The object of the circular is to raise funds for the coming local campaign, and the reason given for outside support is that the campaign will be made on national issues, and will be far reaching in its effect on the Democratic party.

Attention is directed to certain "influences which sent the tongue-tied delegation from New York to Chicago last July, and afterward tried to have the Democratic platform and ticket repudiated." These "influences" are charged with "industriously endeavoring to capture the coming City Convention."

The circular also says: "The result of the coming election here will have a vast influence on the fortunes of the Democratic party in the nation and upon the welfare of the whole people. We are concerned that the candidates nominated by the regular Democracy shall not be enemies of our principles, placed in positions to injure the future success and welfare of our party. We think the regular Democratic organization would better hold fast to the loyal voters who stood by the party in 1896."

A French Tribute to Pulitzerism.

From Le Journal, Paris.

When the Americans fake, they do not fake by halves. Example: One of their big newspapers, the *World*, gave recently the portraits of the victims of the Rue Jean-Goujon; and in this funereal portrayal it gave us, instead of the features of the unfortunate and lamented Duchess d'Alençon, the features of Mlle. Emilienne d'Alençon. And to think that there are those who sometimes boast of the superiority of American journalism!

The Greatest of Newspapers.

From the Port Townsend Leader.

One of the best pieces of newspaper work ever done in that line was the description that the NEW YORK SUN gave of the great college boat race last week at Poughkeepsie. It was simply perfection.

The Song of the Cits.

From the depths of the Mugwump mind,
More vast and broad than the sea,
From the caves of the endless wind,
There bubbled and blew up we.
With a whoop and a hullabaloo
We danced on our noddies of cork,
Till we whirled the whirl of C. U.,
The dervish dance of New York.

To the sound of the chestnut bell
Perpetually we skip,
And the yell that we love to yell
Is aye, "Non-partisanship."
Mere politics we abhor,
And intelligence we resent;
We have no use for it, for
We're the better element.

O, world that in darkness snored
And saw not the gleam of morn,
That knew not how rumbled and roared
The depths when C. U. was born!
O, ye ignorant folk and rude,
Hear now what you have to do;
Know now that beatitude
Is the gift of the great C. U.

You won't have to pay for gas;
The city will wash your shirt;
The cars will give you a pass;
There'll be no disease or dirt.
We'll furnish palatial tenements,
Each boy shall have a bike;
We promise you self-paying rents,
Or anything else you like.

For we are the good and wise,
And you must do as you're told,
Vote for our candidate from the skies,
A man much better than gold.
So put on noddies of cork
And dance with a wild hurroo;
Hip, hip hurroo for the great C. U.,
The savior of New York.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

Newport seems to be waking up, and a few small dinners, a picnic at Mr. O. H. P. Belmont's farm, and a reception at Beaulieu, where Mrs. Brice provided vaudeville entertainment for her friends, have been the result. Spouting Rock has been the sensation of the week, as very few, even of the oldest inhabitants, have ever seen it make as fine a display as it did during the violent wind and the driving rain of the late storm. The breakers piled up in the narrow crevice of the rock and the water spouted more than fifty feet high.

Preparations for the arrival of the yacht squadron and for the illumination of the harbor on Aug. 5 are going actively on, and yachting interests for the moment are driving out golf, polo, and all other sports. Mr. and Mrs. Bayard Cutting are to occupy Weebush during the remainder of the season, Mrs. Brockholst Cutting and her son having sailed for Europe yesterday. The Golf Club will probably see some very good play if Bayard Cutting, Jr., should be with his parents at Newport, as he won more than one match at Lenox last summer.

A wave of silly and unreliable gossip seems to be passing over Newport just now, and young people's names are linked together and their engagements announced without the slightest authority from either party. Very pleasant relations are thus often broken up, and fathers and mothers subjected to the mortification of officially contradicting the rumors. Newport, however, is not responsible for the cabled announcement of Miss May Goelet's engagement to the Duke of Manchester, which had its origin in the foggy atmosphere of London and in the disposition evinced by impecunious Americans allied to noble families in England to appropriate every nice young countrywoman of their own with a large fortune for sons who would have no possible chance of marrying well in their own country. Miss May Goelet, who has had every advantage that a foreign education can give, and is a remarkably well-instructed and accomplished girl, is not the beauty that she is represented to be by foreign correspondents, none of whom probably have ever seen her. She has, however, charming manners and a personality that would grace any station.

Several marriages of Americans have occurred lately in remote and unexpected places which have attracted but little attention, but which nearly concern the literary, artistic, and collegiate, as well as the fashionable world. Among them is the wedding in Bermuda a few days since of Prof. George Stevenson Patton, son of the President of Princeton University, to Miss Anna Esther Winifred Outerbridge, whose brother-in-law, the Venerable Archdeacon of Bermuda, performed the ceremony.

A wedding even more interesting to New Yorkers occurred in St. Paul's Church, at Windsor, Vt., when Miss Mary Stacy Beaman, a granddaughter of the venerable William M. Evarts, whose record embraces distinction in law, politics, and literature, was united to Mr. Edward Holmes of Boston, the only grandchild of the late Oliver Wendell Holmes. If the youthful bridegroom, who is still at Harvard, inherits but a very small proportion of his grandsire's incomparable humor and gentleness of temper and character, he should make a very charming life partner for his bride.

Two international marriages which have recently taken place in Paris are also of interest, that of Miss Anna Claire Hegeman, a niece of Dr. Chauncey M. Depew, to Lieut. Paul Edgard de Brisson, and that of Mrs. Mary Geraldine Reed to François Millet, a son of the great painter who immortalized himself by his well-known picture of "The Angelus." This marriage was solemnized by the Vicar of Paris at the Church of St. Pierre de Chaillot.

Still another international marriage was celebrated in Chicago a short time since, by which Miss Marguerite Walker of Chicago became sister-in-law to the Earl of Portsmouth. The bridegroom, the Hon. Mr. Wallop, owns a ranch at the far West and expresses no wish to return to the aristocratic surroundings of his early life.

Summer life in the Adirondacks seldom begins until warm weather is well established, and August is the fullest month there. The St. Regis chain of lakes near Paul Smith's famous hostelry seems to be the favorite spot for camping out. In this immediate neighborhood are the camps of Anson Phelps Stokes, of the late George C. Cooke, rented this year to Mr. Archibald Rogers of Hyde Park; of Mr. H. McK. Twombly—which will be occupied this year by the family of Mr. Walter Webb—of Mrs. Robert Hoe, Dr. McBurney, Mr. C. De Rham Moore, and Mr. Whitelaw Reid. These camps are constructed and arranged quite within the limits of modern civilization, and very little of what is called "roughing it" is known in them.

A large clubhouse has recently been erected for the St. Regis Golf Club of Paul Smith's, which fraternity desired to be known as the S. R. G. C., P. S., but it was voted down at a meeting of the twenty-five subscribers as taxing the memory too heavily—"worse," as one of the men observed, "than saying the alphabet backward"—which same he never could do.

The time-honored Pequot colony of New London is awaiting the arrival of the yacht squadron, which is always the signal for the opening of their gay season. The place never looked more beautiful than it does now, the verdure richer, or the blue waters of the har