The Sun.

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The Police and the Strike.

The police preparations night before last for the prevention of possible disorder in Brooklyn were conducted with energy and good judgment. The behavior of the police during the day accorded with the best traditions of the force. There was that absence of bluster or fussiness, that ready efficiency, and that quiet confidence in the policeman's ability to take care of the situation, on which New Yorkers have been accustomed to depend in the past on similar occasions.

The general recognition of these fine qualities on the part of the New York police force constitutes in itself one of the most effective preservatives of order in this community.

It is a pleasure to recognize the fact anew, particularly at a time when severe criticism of police management and police morals, on other grounds, is rife and, alas! not unmerited.

An Imperfect Union.

Whatever may be the determination of the next Legislature as to the uselessness of the New York Municipal Council, the members of which were elected in 1897 for a term of four years, there is no doubt that the Board of Aldermen, either under that name or some other, will remain a part of the city's legislature. There will be elections for Aldermen for the term of two years in November.

The membership of the Board of Aldermen is sixty; thirty-six from the county of New York, twenty-one from Kings, two from Queens, and one from Richmond. The Aldermen are elected by Assembly districts, and some say that by a comprehensive "union"—though in these days of straight-out party politics there is a general repugnance to "unions" of any sort—the control of the Board of Aldermen may be wrested from Tammany. There are now organization Republican Aldermen from two New York county districts, the Twenty-third and Thirty-first, both in the Harlem section, and there are four "Citizens' Union" representatives from the Nineteenth, Twenty-fifth, Twenty-seventh and Twenty-ninth districts respectively, or just six in the thirty-six of the total representation allotted to this county. It is suggested that in the Twenty-first district, carried by the Republicans in last year's State election, and in the Eighth, which went Democratic, unions between the Republicans and the "Citizens" would bring success. The Twenty-first is normally a Republican district, but in the Eighth a union of Republicans and Citizens has failed, and there appears to be no reason why it should succeed this year in a district in which Democrats preponderate.

The Board of Aldermen, as we have stated, is made up of 60 members, of which number the successful party must, to control, have 31 votes. If under the proposed plan of a Republican "union" the Republicans hold all their present seats and gain two others in addition, their available New York county membership would be 8, as against 28 Democrats, and the burden of controlling the board would fall most oppressively on the other borough divisions, Brooklyn notably. Of the 21 Brooklyn Aldermen, 14 are Democrats and 7 Republicans; of the Queens and Richmond members 2 are Democrats and 1 is a Republican in the same proportion.

It is unlikely that this division can be or will be reversed, and instead of 16 Democrats and 8 Republicans, as now, 16 Republicans and only 8 Democrats in the other boroughs elected in November. But if that should occur, the party division in the next Board of Aldermen would be: Democrats 36 and Republicans 24, a substantial Democratic lead.

No Republican "union" in New York which imposes upon the Republicans the obligation of electing 23 of the 31 Aldermen required for control of the next board is likely to be accepted as promising advantageous results.

Spread of the English Language.

In schools now opening in the Philippines, under the auspices of our Government, the pupils are required to study English. For the first time, Filipino children have an opportunity to learn another language. Not even Spanish was taught under the old régime, and only those who could afford to pay for extended studies had an opportunity to acquire languages other than their own. In the common schools of Porto Rico and Cuba the study of English has been introduced this year and is pursued there with diligence and gratification. In the Government schools of Egypt the study of English, though not obligatory, has been specially fostered for ten years past by the offer of prizes, and the results are interesting. The percentage of pupils choosing English rose from 26 in 1886 to 35 in 1890, advanced to 49 in 1897, while last year 67 per cent. of all the students in these schools were learning the English language. These are the common schools for the common people. In the technical and professional schools French still predominates, for the reason that there are as yet no English schools where boys can pursue courses of advanced study. Measures are now in progress to supply this deficiency.

Mr. GLADSTONE wrote an article in 1888 in which he pointed out that a century ago only 15,000,000 people spoke English; that at the time he wrote it was the language of 105,000,000, and that if the rate of extension continued it would be spoken by 120,000,000 in 1900, and by 840,000,000 in the year 2000. It is believed that Mr. GLADSTONE's prediction for 1900 has already been more than fulfilled. The careful estimates of the millions of persons speaking the chief languages, made in 1897, and undoubtedly the nearest approximation attainable, assigned to the Chinese language 400,000,000; English, 120,000,000; Russian, 100,000,000; Hindu, 90,000,000; German, 60,000,000; Spanish, 48,000,000, and French, 46,000,000. The reasons why English is distancing all competitors in the race to become a world language are easy to see. The English-speaking peoples have more extensive business, educational, and social relations with all the rest of the world than those speaking any other language, and, therefore, have a special advantage in spreading the use of their tongue. Furthermore, they alone of all peoples except the Russians have room and to spare for an enormous increase of their own number in their own domain. Scores of millions of this increase will some day inhabit vast regions of North America, South Africa and Australia, where climate is propitious and capacity for supporting human life is still unfathomed. No other language except the Russian can have the privilege of so enormous an extension in the regions where it is already the vernacular.

It has been said of the English-speaking peoples that they have contributed little to the study of language, though they have gratefully accepted the labors of foreign philologists. This may be true, yet, though the English race may not have added as much to the science of language as the Germans have done, it has been spreading its language through the world and insuring its future position as the language of international business and of diplomacy. We see its most important rivals to-day studying English in all their advanced schools. When the Congress of Social Science met at Berlin in 1868, BISMARCK, then the Prussian Premier, remarked to M. RENDU, the French delegate: "We Germans are conversant with French and English almost from birth, while you French have the disadvantage to know no language but your own." He also said that ten years earlier not a soul at the French Embassy at Berlin understood a word of German. A half century ago the ignorance of educated Frenchmen of foreign languages was notorious, and that ignorance was both the effect and the sign of the supremacy of French before which foreigners bowed down. That time has passed; no one can now accuse the French of neglecting English and German, for they are studied at present in every advanced school and college of France.

Eleven years ago the Volksraad of the South African Republic passed a law forbidding the use of any language except Dutch in the courts, in all public offices and even in the transaction of business in the market places. The Vice-President of the Republic, urging the passage of the measure, said it was not too much to expect that a people which had fought to be free would uphold its own language; and as for him, he would give every drop of his blood to maintain Dutch as the national language of the Transvaal. To-day most of the newspapers of that country are printed in English, half the men speak nothing but English, many of the schools, both in Johannesburg and Pretoria, give instruction only in English, and all now foresee that in the near future English is destined to be the prevalent language. The increased study of English in Oriental countries of late years has been a subject of remark. In recent reports of meetings of the Royal Asiatic Society and of interviews at the Chinese Legation in London we have heard of Orientals who speak our language as well as though it were their native tongue, and in other ways have shown again the capacity for improvement of the great Asiatic races of Japan, India, China and the islands of the sea, under the training of the English-speaking peoples.

Much has been said of late of the destiny of the Anglo-Saxon to be the chief agent in spreading enlightenment and progress throughout the earth. No sign points more directly and unmistakably in that direction than the wonderfully rapid diffusion of the English language, the expression of the energy, the science and the philosophy that have made Western civilization the dominant force of the world.

Lest We Forget!

The Democratic National Convention met at Chicago on the 29th of August, 1864. That is, it assembled at a time when the armies of the Union were everywhere fiercely contesting with the army of the secession Southern Confederacy. The war for the Union had been going on for about three years and five months, and the losses in it had been appalling, but the Union army had persistently maintained its cause in spite of many defeats and drawbacks.

When, however, the Democrats met in convention at Chicago at the end of August, 1864, to nominate candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency for the election of that year and to frame a platform of party policy, the tide was beginning manifestly to turn in favor of the Union forces. The Southern Confederacy was drawing near to its last gasp; it had exhausted the military resources of the secession States to keep up the armies which nearly three and a half years of war had depleted terribly, and its brave fight for existence was going on against odds which were irresistible.

In the face of these facts what did the National Democratic Convention do? It adopted a platform at Chicago on the 30th of August, 1864, which denounced the war as a failure and demanded that the awful slaughter of Union troops during its continuance should be made of no avail—that the living should surrender the cause for which the dead had died. This was the language of that forever infamous declaration by an American political party, and it cannot be too often quoted as a warning to pusillanimous politicians:

"*Resolved*, That this Convention does explicitly declare, as the sense of the American people, that after four years of failure to restore the Union by the experiment of war, during which, under the pretence of a military necessity of a war power higher than the Constitution, the Constitution itself has been disregarded in every part, and public liberty and private right alike trodden down, and the material prosperity of the country essentially impaired, justice, humanity, liberty and the public welfare demand that *immediate efforts be made for a cessation of hostilities*, with a view to an ultimate convention of all the States, or other peaceable means, to the end that, at the earliest practicable moment, peace may be restored on the basis of the federal union of all the States."

This shameful demand that the Union armies should retire before their armed enemies was made, moreover, in a year which had been distinguished by bloody battles and had been notable for Union victories ominous in their significance for the secession Confederacy. Gen. GRANT had begun his campaign in Virginia by crossing the Rapidan on May 4, and thereafter had followed in rapid succession the series of great battles which resulted, seven months after the adoption of this platform, in the surrender of Gen. LEE at Appomattox. On May 4, also, Gen. SHERMAN had begun his Atlanta campaign by advancing southward from Chattanooga. On June 19 the Alabama was destroyed by the Kearsarge off Cherbourg. During the month of August, in which the National Democratic Convention occurred, FARRAGUT had made his successful attack on the Mobile forts, forever memorable in naval annals.

At this time, when the Union was straining itself to the utmost to keep up its armies—President LINCOLN having called for 500,000 volunteers only about a month before the date of the convention—at the most critical but hopeful period in the war for the preservation of the Union, the Democratic party assembled and denounced the war as a failure and demanded an ignoble peace!

On Aug. 31, 1864, the convention nominated Gen. GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN for President and GEORGE H. PENDLETON for Vice-President. The very day after, Gen. Hood evacuated Atlanta. On the 19th the battle of Winchester and on the 22d the battle of Fisher's Hill, in the Shenandoah, were fought, and on Oct. 19 the battle of Cedar Creek. On the 27th Lieut. CUSHING blew up the Confederate ram Albemarle at Plymouth, N. C.—an heroic feat which will be forever famous. On the 16th of December Gen. THOMAS defeated Gen. HOOD at Nashville. On Dec. 21 Gen. SHERMAN occupied Savannah, and his long "March to the Sea" was over triumphantly. On the 15th of January, 1865, Fort Fisher, in North Carolina, was captured. On March 31 the battle of Five Forks was fought in Virginia, and on April 9 Gen. LEE surrendered to Gen. GRANT at Appomattox, and the war for the Union was over.

The Democratic Convention at Chicago, therefore, had solemnly pronounced the war a failure and demanded the cessation of hostilities on the very eve of the complete triumph of the Union, when the brilliant succession of victories which ended in the surrender of Gen. LEE was beginning. Only seven months after it had declared that "the experiment of war" "to restore the Union" was a "failure," it proved to be completely successful, with the consequence that thereafter the American republic made a bound forward in prosperity and potency unexampled in the history of States. On Nov. 8, 1864, the national election occurred. LINCOLN carried twenty-two States and MCCLELLAN three only—New Jersey, Delaware and Kentucky.

We recall these events of a generation ago, not to revive the animosities of the civil war, but because there are now leaders in the Democratic party who are actually meditating the repetition in 1900 of the stupendous blunder of 1864. They are again imagining that there is political capital in calling on the American people to surrender ignominiously to their enemies, and infamously to throw away the fruits of victory won in war by the valor and self-sacrifice of American soldiers and sailors!

The First Principles.

The right to quit work is as indisputable as the right to work.

The sufficiency of the reasons for quitting is a question which concerns the quitter.

The right of the other man to step in and take the job is likewise indisputable.

As long as both of these rights are respected, the striking labor and the superseding labor are equally respectable.

Milan and the Assassin.

Although martial law has been proclaimed in Belgrade, there is no reason to suppose that affairs in Servia are much disturbed. Belgrade is to Servia what Paris is to France; there are perpetual revolutions and changes of Ministry going on there, and in the natural order of things each Government on assuming office places its predecessors and possible successors under police supervision, itself in turn being under the strict surveillance of its various rivals.

The natural result is that every Servian politician is either a conspirator or conspired against. The Servian Parliament, supposedly a responsible representative body, has the reputation of being the noisiest and most excitable legislative assembly in the world, so much so that a diplomat well acquainted with both Servia and France once said that the most disorderly session of the French Chamber would be looked on as a very quiet sitting in the Skoupstchina at Belgrade.

The reported attempts upon the life of King or ex-King MILAN, for it appears to be uncertain which he is, have certainly a grave look, but only to those outside Belgrade and unacquainted with the personal character of his Majesty. In Belgrade such incidents are not taken seriously, and there have been so many of them that they are no longer considered as genuine. The published accounts of the King or ex-King's display of personal courage in running after his would-be murderer on the last occasion his life is said to have been attempted must have caused the most uproarious hilarity in the gardens and cafés where Servians meet to absorb beer and *sliboritz*. Not that King MILAN is incapable of running; far from it, for it had become a habit for which he was noted in the presence of danger. That he ran after the intending assassin would convince every Servian that he ran no danger.

It used to be said of the Emperor NAPOLEON III. that some of the later attempts on his life were affairs gotten up for political effect whenever his popularity appeared to be on the wane. It is within the range of probability that the incident on the Maidan at Belgrade the other day was of that nature. The names of the men said to be mixed up in the conspiracy to upset the dynasty and Government are in themselves a guarantee that the affair lacks reality. The same set of hungry politicians, belonging to all classes of society, have been conspiring in and out of office in Servia for a long time past, but never to the extent of putting their necks in danger. Every honest and patriotic Servian knows that if a really serious revolution broke out in the country, followed by civil war, the Austrian troops that are watching events across the northern and western frontiers would cross the Save and Drina, and Servia would be added to the piece of mosaic known as the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Revolution in Servia is part of the present political system, and confined to hungry seekers after office without following in the country, or to the tools of some foreign intrigue; but the revolutionists are careful to keep within the limits of law. If they have unwittingly gone beyond it, they have only to leave the country for a few months until the next conspiracy has caused the last one to be forgotten, and then they may come back to take their chance at the next turn of the wheel of fortune, perhaps as fellow conspirators with those against whom they conspired on the last occasion. And while the politicians who rule him are passing their time in this way, the Servian peasant tends his herd of woolly pigs in the oak and beech forests and his cattle on the communal pastures, or cultivates his corn and the plum trees that give him the fruit from which he makes the dried prunes for the foreign market, and distils the *slibovitz* that cheers his heart and enlivens the conversation of the village resort when his day's work is done.

A serious increase during the last two or three weeks in the mortality rate in Brooklyn among children under four years of age has started several theories as to the prime cause of the trouble:

Alleged impurity of the drinking water on account of the long drought.

Unusual impurity of the milk supply.

Insufficient attention to the cleanliness of nursing bottles and their appurtenances.

The promiscuous sale of overripe fruit.

Whatever the cause or causes of the present unsatisfactory record, it is not amiss to remind parents in Brooklyn and everywhere else of the eternal truth that in the matter of the selection and administration of food for their little ones in the months of July and August, even more than at any other time of the year, constant vigilance is the price of safety.

Wages and Hours in Southern Mills.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: I have had the pleasure of reading a letter written to a Brooklyn gentleman's family by his son, who is engaged in business in the South. He recently started out from his headquarters to do some work in his line in a cotton mill some miles away, taking with him a helper, and thus describes his difficulties in getting a temporary home:

I left Monday for ——. It is a town of about 1,000 inhabitants, in the cotton section. We did not get there until dark, and then walked a mile to find a boarding place. The first place we struck wanted $1.50 to $2 a day, which nearly paralyzed the fellow who was with me, for I was paying him only $1.25 a day. But we were lucky enough to find a place, though a little rough. The landlady was a sister of the woman I stayed with in ——. She just fed out of sight, and I would have got fat if I had not to work so hard.

That was introductory only to the important part of his letter, which greatly interested and astonished me, and I presume will similarly affect many of THE SUN'S readers.

The mill we worked in ran 2,000 spindles, and employed 75 hands, or rather 150, for it ran day and night, only stopping Sundays, even running dinner hour. I was told by the foreman that the best wages paid any operator there was 70 cents a day for twelve hours' work. Fully half the operators were women, and children from 6 years up. Three women worked all night from 6 P. M. to 6 A. M. The children received from 10 to 20 cents a day. The engineer, who had charge of a 300 horse power Corliss engine and with the help of a boy did firing, received the princely sum of 75 cents a day. No wonder the mills of the South are causing the shutting down of the Northern mills. From my observation in only one week in this mill, seeing the old and wrinkled look on the children, not yet 10, when they should have been at school, or playing on the the green cornfields, I thought that if I had my choice I would much prefer being a naked savage in the heart of Africa, where I could sit in my door and see the things God had made. My stay there was made very uncomfortable by the excessive heat, it being a great deal hotter than ——.

Think of little children working all night at a rate of 10 to 20 cents for twelve hours' work in an undoubtedly ill ventilated and hot factory! Think of the highest adult wages paid for twelve hours' work in such a place being but 70 cents, fully half of the operators being women! Think of an engineer—could he be a competent one for such an important post?—being paid but 75 cents a day for twelve hours' work! No wonder the little slaves of children looked old and wrinkled!

Are there no laws governing the employment of minors and adults in the Southern cotton mills? If not, it looks as if another emancipation proclamation was necessary, as the above is a true revelation of facts I have every reason to believe, the writer being an intelligent mechanic engaged in the prosecution of important work in industrial interests in the South.

I should like to hear from some of the Southern editors on this subject, for unless this case is a very exceptional one it is incumbent upon those in power to right this frightful imposition upon the poor workers, both men and women and their little ones. ED. P. ACKERMAN.

BROOKLYN, July 14.

The Case of Q Solus.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Your correspondent "Lexicog" wants to know "If q-i-t doesn't spell quit, what the mischief does it spell?" It spells q-i-t, and as the individual sound of the letter q is that of k or c (Amer. Enc. Dict.), the pronunciation would be as though written k-i-t. The letter q, however, does not occur in the English language save in connection with the letter u; and since this combination can be represented by kw (or k when the u is silent), q is the superfluous letter, and not the u that he counsels "phonetic speller fellers" to drop.

Earle, in his treatise on "The Philology of the English Tongue," says:

Q is a Latin letter, which was not recognized in English till the close of the twelfth or the beginning of the thirteenth century. Previous to this the Anglo-Saxon writers had done very well without it, having expressed the sound of qu by the letters cw: as cwalm, qualm; cwen, queen; cwic, quick. At first the qu was only admitted in writing Latin or French words, while cw kept its place in native words. Among the earliest Latin or French words beginning with qu which were adopted in English are quart, quarter, quarrel, quarry, quire, quit from quietus, quiet. This is the position which q holds at this day in the Dutch language; it is used for spelling foreign Latin words, while kw is used for the same sound in the words of native origin. In English, on the contrary, the qu very soon prevailed, even in the home-born words, and before the close of the thirteenth century we find qualm, queen, quell, quick, besides some other less common words.

The wisdom of retaining the ancient forms of English orthography is evidenced by the words of Coleridge, quoted by Trench in the preface to his book, "On the Study of Words," which read as follows:

A language will often be wiser, not merely than the vulgar, but even than the wisest of those who speak it. Being like amber in its efficacy to circulate the electric spirit of truth, it is also like amber in embalming and preserving the relics of ancient wisdom.

In the present instance, the orthography of quit at once asserts its ancient lineage, and informs us that it is derived from *quietus*, the nominative of the Latin *quietus*, meaning "at rest, satisfied." To change its spelling would be equivalent to depriving a child of that part of its name that denotes its paternity.

PHILADELPHIA, July 14. G. G. FAUGHT.

Which Was It?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: I inclose a copy of verses which became very popular with the officers and men who fought the naval fight at Santiago. The little poem was written by some person unknown, and, so far as I know or have been able to learn, has never been published. You are welcome to it, if you care to use it. M.

PORTLAND, Me., July 14.

"HIS NAME WAS SAMPSON."

When the Spanish fleet for long weeks lay
At the head of Santiago Bay,
Who gathered our ships from North and South,
And drew them across the harbor mouth,
A cordon which never a foe passed by—
Say, was it Sampson or was it Schley?

Who, tireless and patient, with foresight keen,
Ordered the daily discipline,
Set every ship in her destined place,
Ripe for attack or ready for chase;
Ruling the whole with a sleepless eye—
Now, was it Sampson or was it Schley?

Honor in full to each brave man
Who fought and won on the Admiral's plan;
"Glory enough to go 'round!" I say.
But the heart and the head of that gallant day
Was the firm, grave man with the purpose high—
And his name was Sampson, it was *not* Schley!

A Request Granted.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Will you allow a stranger within your gates for the past four months to give just three reasons why he buys and reads THE SUN?

First, it gives all the news which can appeal to a healthy intellectual appetite.

Secondly, it imparts to such news a delightful literary flavor in its presentation.

Thirdly, I believe it is the best written and preeminently the best edited newspaper printed in the English language, and I have read many of those published in many different lands.

NEW YORK, July 15. AN IRISH GREENHORN.

She Married for Name and Fame.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Allow me to offer you the following names, which I copied literatim out of the marriage license list published in an Indiana newspaper several years ago:

"Ludmawplawnk, Ferbalowlkanwarwenski.
"Levinnska Shumenngiajowlanski."

The former is the man's name, the latter the woman's. Presumably the woman thought her name wasn't long enough and married Lud, &c., to remedy the defect. WILLIAM GORDON.

NEW YORK, July 15.

BAD TIME FOR A COLOR LINE.

An Unfortunate Plan for the Nomination of Straightout Colored Tickets.

WASHINGTON, July 16.—Three States in which the vote of colored electors is large enough to be decisive in a close election, but in which the legal rights of colored electors have not been curtailed by constitutional provisions or by statute, are Alabama, Kentucky and Ohio. In Alabama the number of colored citizens of voting age is 140,000, as against 185,000 white voters. In Ohio the number of colored voters is 30,000, approximately, in a State frequently carried by one or other of the parties by 10,000 or less. In Kentucky there are 65,000 colored voters, as against 395,000 white voters, a number not large enough to be formidable independently, but very important to the Republican party in its expectations of success in that State. The Gulf States generally, notably Louisiana and Mississippi, have adopted constitutional restrictions on suffrage which practically disfranchise colored voters. South Carolina has a like provision, and North Carolina is soon to have one; while in Texas and in Georgia the white preponderance is already so large as to divest the colored vote of great importance as a separate factor in elections.

Some colored Republicans, believing that the Republican party has not been sufficiently regardful of their claims to recognition, have hit upon the plan of running "straightout colored tickets" as a rebuke to the party organization in the States where they are strong. The first State to take up this project was Ohio, where, at the election for Governor in 1897, there was a complete "negro protective ticket," so called, in the field for all offices. Yet the vote polled by the negro protective organization was insignificant, and, instead of the movement proving a rebuke to the white leaders of the Republican party, it added further to the estrangement between them and the colored leaders, the State being carried by the white Republicans by a substantial majority.

In Alabama, in 1898, the colored Republicans held a convention of their own and nominated a complete ticket, protesting against what they declared to be the supineness of the white Republicans of the State. This convention was held on June 16 at Birmingham. The platform indorsed the Federal Administration, declared against a Constitutional Convention, demanded fair elections and better schools, denounced the failure of the Republican State Convention at Montgomery to nominate a ticket, and demanded a reorganization of the Republican party in Alabama. The vote cast for the colored Republican ticket in Alabama was only 2,500 for Governor, and in only one county of the State, Lowndes, where the preponderance of colored voters is overwhelming, did the ticket poll so many as 500 votes. The futility of a Republican fight in a State election in Alabama under its peculiar election laws and existing methods of counting was established; and since then the Republicans of Alabama have made no effort toward reorganization. Some of them, indeed, have become indifferent to the claims of the colored members of the party in that State, as is shown by the proposed extra session of the Legislature to conform the election laws of Alabama to the restrictions established in the neighboring State of Mississippi in regard to the suffrage.

Notwithstanding these unpropitious results of experiments in the way of separate race tickets in Ohio and Alabama, a number of colored leaders in Kentucky, dissatisfied with the action of the recent Republican State Convention at Lexington in the choice of Attorney-General Taylor for Governor, have determined to make known their grievances by an address to the voters of the State and to issue a call for a convention of colored Republicans to nominate a State ticket composed exclusively of colored men. The objection to Mr. Taylor is that he favored the provision for establishing separate railway conveyances for colored people on the railroads of Kentucky, and thus forfeited the confidence of the colored voters of the State generally, a number of whom, led particularly by some colored clergymen, protested against his selection to head the ticket this year.

It is obvious that the nomination of a colored Republican ticket in Kentucky would work no benefit to the colored voters of that State. It would be directly in the interest and immediately for the benefit of the Democratic candidates, and might deprive the white Republicans of the State of the chance to resist successfully, in the Frankfort Legislature, the enactment of laws intended to disfranchise colored men in Kentucky in the future. The main strength of the Republican party in the border States does not come from colored Republicans, although the latter are very numerous in some of these States, but from the old Whig voters and their descendants, numerous in the mountain ranges of the South. Thus, in Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, northern Alabama, North Carolina, Kentucky and Maryland there is a considerable and steadfast white Republican vote which can be diverted from the Republicans only by the too close identification of the party with the interests of colored Republicans and the projects for which they stand. In 1896 the Republicans carried three of the border States, Maryland, West Virginia and Kentucky, on the Presidency, and likewise polled a very large vote in Virginia and North Carolina; but this result was attained by disregarding the color line in the politics of those States.

It is this color line which some colored Republicans are desirous of reviving in its most objectionable form by the nomination of straightout colored Republican tickets wholly made up of candidates of African descent, and inevitably causing reprisals by the white Republicans, all the benefits going to the local Democrats. The Kentucky colored Republicans would do well to reconsider their determination to nominate a ticket.

A Physician on Dogs and Cats.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: I am shocked at the statement of "Subscriber" in regard to cats. I for years have advised mothers of families to have all kinds of pet animals for their children to play with, as the exercise of playing with pets develops the mental and physical condition of children, and in consequence gives them better constitutions to overcome disease.

I have noticed for the past thirty years that where dogs and cats are kept in families the children are healthier and the death rate smaller than where they are not kept. If cats were trained so that a child's throat could be covered over night with an ordinary house cat, men in my profession would have less trouble with membranous croup and diphtheria. DAVID D. TOAT, M. D.

NEW YORK, July 14.

Kaiser Crowding His British Relatives.

From the Spectator.

The Duke of Connaught has finally decided not to give up his prospects in Great Britain for the sake of his reversionary right to the duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. He has accordingly renounced the succession to the duchy for himself and his heirs, and it passes to the young Duke of Albany, who, with his mother, will reside in Coburg and be educated as a German prince. He is only 15, and for the present the right to the Regency is settled on the Prince of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, who is the Emperor William's candidate for the throne. The Coburgers seem content, but the motive of the whole transaction is not yet clearly explained, and there is a suspicion abroad that the Emperor William desires to oust the English Coburgs, and secure a duke who shall have no connection with that detestably Liberal country. If he succeeds, relatives of our Queen and her husband will have lost three thrones, Hanover, Brunswick and Saxe-Coburg, in less than a generation. It must not be forgotten, however, that although Prince Alfred, the reigning Duke, is in very bad health, he may live many years.

Plaster of Ham for the Bug Kiss.

From the Louisville Post.

As soon as possible after having been "kissed" by a kissing bug, place a large piece of ham fat upon the spot and let it remain there for some time. The patient will experience relief at once, but the ham fat should not be taken off just then, as the poison in the "kiss" must be drawn out. The fat accomplishes this in about half an hour.

Outlaw, J. P., of Guntown, Miss.

From the Guntown (Miss.) Hot Times.

Anything curious is to be expected in Mississippi politics, but one of the most striking of recent developments is the announcement of a man of the name of Outlaw for Justice of the Peace.

EXTENT OF THE TEXAS FLOODS.

Twelve Counties Suffered Damage Estimated at $10,000,000—40 or 50 Lives Lost.

WASHINGTON, July 16.—A special bulletin has been issued by the Weather Bureau on the recent flood in the Brazos River district, Texas. The report was prepared by I. M. Cline, in charge of the Texas service of the bureau. In his introduction Prof. Hazen calls attention to the fact that no serious disturbance of the atmosphere is indicated in the daily weather maps during the storm period. In conclusion he says:

"It must be said that, after allowing for all the conditions, we still have a most serious difficulty in accounting for such rains, which are analogous to so-called cloudbursts, about which almost nothing is known."

Mr. Cline's report says: "On June 29 all the tributaries of the Brazos River, from McLennan county south to Brazos county, were higher than they had ever been before. This water, with that of succeeding rains, caused a flood in the Brazos, which inundated all low lands to a depth ranging from two to twelve feet. In places it is said that the river was more than twelve miles wide. The flood moved southward very slowly, and it was fourteen days from the time the crest of the flood was noted in central Texas until it passed out into the Gulf of Mexico. The damage to crops has been very great. All crops on the immediate river bottoms, from McLennan county south, are a total loss. The land bordering on the Brazos River is the most productive in the State. There was a large acreage of cotton, corn, sugarcane and other crops. The following are the counties which have suffered the greatest damage: McLennan, Falls, Robertson, Milam, Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Washington, Waller, Austin, Fort Bend and Brazoria. There has been a small acreage inundated in some other counties, but no great damage resulted outside of these. Cotton planters have suffered most. The loss of corn has been great, and besides the crop now growing there was a large amount of last year's crop yet in the bins, which has been spoiled. Sugarcane plantations in the Brazos bottoms have suffered much. In some places half the crop has been destroyed.

"The minor crops also are of considerable importance in some of these counties, and the loss of these represents a large sum. Farming implements, stock and many of the small tenant houses in the bottoms have been washed away. Houses left standing are in many instances not in a fit condition for use. The total losses, judging from press reports and other available information, will aggregate nearly $10,000,000. The number of people who are left without means of sustenance is very large. The towns which have suffered most are Calvert, Brookshire, Richmond, Sandy Point, Columbia and Brazoria. The total number of casualties as a result of the flood will fall somewhere between 40 and 50.

"Action has already been taken by some farmers to plant other crops where cotton and corn have been destroyed. Some cotton will be planted, but to what extent cannot be even approximated. Efforts are being made to get the farmers in the flooded district to plant a variety of crops. It is desired to make the district self-sustaining as soon as possible, and many who have interests along the Brazos River consider this the best course to pursue."

NEW REVOLVER FOR THE ARMY.

Peculiarities of the Weapons Submitted for a Competitive Test.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., July 16.—The army is to have a new revolver. The revolver in use at present in the army is of the Colt make and was adopted several years ago. During the war with Spain much objection was raised to it, and the special board appointed to inquire into the matter of changing the calibre, although they finally decided to retain the 38-calibre, decided that many changes in the revolver were needed. It was finally decided to call for new types of weapons and to submit them to official test.

The Smith & Wesson revolver submitted is a radical departure in the revolver patterns of that firm. All of their previous recent patterns have the automatic lock at the top of the barrel, which has been such a distinguishing mark of the Smith & Wesson revolvers. In the revolver to go before the Examining Board this device has been done away with and a solid frame has been substituted. Heretofore the only complaint raised against the Smith & Wesson by army officers has been its lack of rigidity. In the new weapon that difficulty, if it ever existed, has been entirely overcome, and instead of breaking at the breech the chamber of the revolver falls over to the left when a small thumb spring is pressed. The ejector is then struck with the left hand and all the shells in the chamber are ejected simultaneously. From its action the weapon is to be known as the "hand ejector." It is built much heavier than any previous revolver turned out by the company, the barrel being longer and the chamber also elongated to take the regulation .38 calibre revolver shell used by the Government. The work of manufacturing the new revolver was begun by the company about six weeks ago and upon the reopening of the shops work will be pushed forward.

The Colt Manufacturing Company is not inclined to discuss at length the points of the revolver they have submitted in competition. It is said that the weapon has been changed from the type at present in use in the army in accordance with suggestions made by members of the board who investigated it at the close of the Spanish war. These suggestions have been followed closely, and a number of springs have been eliminated, the general tendency of the changes being to render the weapon more automatic.

EXPORTS OF WHEAT FLOUR.

For the Year Ending June 30 the Total Is More Than 18,000,000 Barrels.

WASHINGTON, July 16.—The millers of the United States, like its manufacturers generally, have made their banner record in the fiscal year 1899. While wheat, corn, oats, cornmeal, oatmeal, rye, and, in fact, all lines of breadstuffs show a reduction in exportation by reason of the decreased demand abroad, flour alone shows an increase, and not only an increase, but reaches the highest point in the history of flour exportation. For the fiscal year the total exportation of flour is over 18,000,000 barrels, representing more than 80,000,000 bushels of wheat. In 1875 the exportations of wheat flour were 3,973,128 barrels; in 1880, 6,011,416; in 1885, 10,348,145; in 1890, 12,231,711; in 1895, 15,298,982, and in 1899 will be about 18,300,000 barrels, the exact figures having not yet been completed by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics.

While there is a gratifying increase in the exportation of flour in every direction, the most strongly marked growth is toward the Orient. The exportations of flour to Hong Kong in the year 1899 will considerably exceed 1,000,000 barrels, while in 1889 the total number was but 378,834 barrels. Flour for Hong Kong goes mostly to China, though considerable quantities are shipped direct from Hong Kong to Japan, the Philippines and various islands of Oceanica. To Japan direct our exports of flour have grown from 19,677 barrels in 1889 to about 225,000 in 1899; to all Asia, from 418,353 barrels in 1889 to about 1,750,000 barrels in 1899. To South America the growth has been less rapid, the total for 1899 being 1,098,167 barrels, while that for 1899 will be but a little more than the figure of a decade ago. Germany, to which we sent only 13,969 barrels of flour in 1889, takes in 1899 nearly 500,000 barrels, this being a large increase over last year. Netherlands, to which we sent but 32,290 barrels in 1889, took in 1898 over 1,000,000 barrels, the figures for 1899 not being yet completed. To the United Kingdom our exports of flour in 1899 were 5,271,244 barrels, and in 1899 will exceed 10,000,000 barrels.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF PORTO RICO.

Extracts from the Platform Proposed by Porto Ricans.

Copies of the proposed platform of the political party to be known as the Porto Rica Republican party have been received here. The platform in part is as follows:

"It is the highest duty of every citizen to uphold the laws of the land and the integrity of his country. We pledge ourselves as men animated by a common cause, aiming at a common object, to do all in our power to improve our Government. We indorse and commend the able, patriotic and true American spirit manifested by the Hon. William McKinley, President of the United States, in releasing us from the misrule of Spain, and we pledge our faith to adhere to the new principles of our new country and have for our aim harmony, unity and good government, relying with confidence upon the hope of a speedy settlement of our national affairs.

"The name of the party shall be the Republican party of Porto Rico. We declare our sincere loyalty to the American flag and American ideas, and hereby pledge ourselves to strive to become worthy of the great nation of which we now are a part. We hail with pride our annexation to the United States. We believe that the people of Porto Rico could be trusted with the civil government of the island, but as that authority only emanates from the Congress of the United States, it is our duty to await their action. While under military government awaiting action by Congress we desire that all civil offices should be filled by men capable, honest and of unquestioned loyalty to the Government of the United States, and disposed to act singly for the best interest of this island and our common country, without distinction, thereby affording us an opportunity to demonstrate our fitness for self-government, with all the burdens and responsibilities which it entails, and which will hasten the day when our island will have a place among the States of the Union. We favor the establishment of free public and non-sectarian schools, and that the English language, soon to be the official language, should be taught in all our schools, thus laying the foundation fitting our island for a place as a free State of the Union."

This was recently signed at San Juan by Ledo. Manuel F. Rossy, Dr. José C. Barbosa, Luis Sanchez Morales, Ledo. Juan Hamón Ramos, Dr. Francisco del Valle, Ledo. Federico Degetan, Ledo. Fidel Guillermety, Cruz Castro, Dr. Fernando Nuñez, Dr. Gabriel Ferrer, Dr. Pedro del Valle, Roberto H. Todd, Bartolomé Llovet, Ramón Falcón, José Gordils, Jaime Sitre, José Francisco Diaz, Dr. Salvador G. Ros, Dr. José Carbonell, Dr. Fernandez Nater and others.

BOSTON TO NEW YORK BY TROLLEY.

Time, Twenty-nine Hours for 205 Miles; Thirty Different Lines on the Trip.

From the Boston Transcript.

A journey which shows to what extent the network of electric roads has covered the Eastern States was made recently by E. B. Richardson, a clerk in the warehouse division of the Boston Custom House. Mr. Richardson and his wife made the journey from Boston to New York, with the exception of a few miles, entirely by electric roads. They were fifty-six hours on the way. Their trip covered 239 miles. They spent twenty hours in actual travel on the electric cars; the rest of the time was divided between hotel stops and waiting for cars, which took about thirty-two hours, and three hours in a steam train. Mr. and Mrs. Richardson found the ride very comfortable—not too dusty nor too crowded—and there were open cars all the way. Their fares for the whole distance were $11 for the two.

During the first part of this week a similar trip was made, in