The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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The Last and Worst State of the Democracy.

The Democratic platform adopted at Saratoga contains much confusion of statement and purposelessness of declaration, but in one feature it is precise and emphatic and unmistakable. It commits the Democratic party of the State of New York, the greatest State of the Union in population, in wealth and in manufacturing industries, to square and undisguised Socialism.

Here are its words, and they could not be made plainer or more positive:

"We advocate the national ownership and operation of the anthracite coal mines."

Now, in the records of the Democratic party, as affected by WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN, there has never been made by it a declaration of principle so radical as this, so widely and completely separate and distinct from its original and vitalizing principle and so violently in conflict with the theory and doctrine of democratic government which it was established to sustain and enforce.

The platform itself recognizes that this demand is a radical departure from fundamental Democratic principle and from principles on which our Government has always rested, without opposition or criticism from any political party, except, in these latter days, from the avowed Socialists and from extreme Populism, with its distinctively Socialistic cast. Accordingly, the plank calling for "the national ownership and operation of the anthracite coal mines" concludes thus:

"Whatever differences of opinion may exist over other propositions of public ownership, the propriety of that policy as applied to anthracite coal mines must be apparent to every citizen."

Of course, this is wholly illogical. The impossibility of confining Government ownership to any one sphere of industry when once this principle is established is obvious to every intelligent mind. If the Government may properly take and operate the coal mines it may proceed not less properly to take under its control and operation not only all forms of fuel and popular necessities of all kinds, but any other department and all other departments of enterprise, industry and production. If the principle of State ownership to which the Democratic party of New York has committed itself is once adopted it might be and it would be carried to the furthest extreme—to full State Socialism.

The platform of the Social Labor party, adopted at New York in 1896, went in for Government ownership with a degree of courage and consistency not possessed by the Democrats at Saratoga, on Wednesday, by demanding that "the United States obtain possession of the mines, railroads, canals, telegraphs, telephones, and all other means of public transportation and communication." A similar demand has been made by Populist platforms, likewise.

The "Government ownership and operation," now called for by the Democratic party of the State of New York, is the prime and essential principle of Socialism, its distinguishing feature. The pretext of making it applicable only to the anthracite coal mines is a very poor and thin device to conceal its revolutionary character. If the adoption of the principle by the American people was possible, even to that limited extent, the road to despotic State Socialism would be made smooth and the passage to it would be easy and rapid.

This, then, is the outcome of all the cleverly contrived machinations to rid the Democratic party of Bryanism! One devil has been cast out and seven worse devils have entered in. Bryanism was feeble, innocuous, as compared with contemporary Democracy as defined by this platform of HILL's construction.

If Mr. COLER should by any chance be elected Governor of New York it would be a foregone conclusion that the next Democratic platform would be distinctively Socialistic. New York would lead the Democratic party, for it is the State whose electoral votes are absolutely essential to the Democracy in order to gain the Presidency. Whatever New York can stand the party as a whole will feel safe in adopting, and Democracy in 1904 will mean Socialism.

The New York Democratic platform of 1902 is therefore the most dangerous and revolutionary exposition of doctrine and purpose in the history of modern Democracy. The Bryanism of 1896 and 1900 was not a circumstance to it. If it is not repudiated next month by the intelligent people of this greatest, richest and most powerful of the States, it will furnish the paramount issue on which the Democratic party will go before the people of the Union in 1904—the issue of Government ownership and operation of the mines and means of

communication; and all the politi- ity of our American society will moned even more imperatively 1896 and 1900 again to unite to republic from destruction by cratic party.

in New York the Democratic is campaign is Socialism.

The Magistrates and the Funeral Riots.

The of City Magistrates are quite complaining to Mayor Low of the which has been given to the chair inst them that Jews who have be ed by the police cannot always o dress in the City Magistrates' co

This ac it seems, was based solely on committee appointed to investig riot at the funeral of Rabbi Jos ls "statements made confidentiall course, not under oath—by per ose identity the committee refuse close. As Magistrate JOSEPH M. D peaking for himself and his judic ociates, well says:

"It was not rig ust or manly, nor does It comport with pu est, for the Magistrates of this great city to up to public execration, their reputations in their usefulness in the courts impaired ch imitation of the odious star-chamber gs of three centuries ago."

He might have that the Mayor of this great city have refused to take any proceed hatever upon charges of this kind which no one was willing to assum responsibility. The Governor might well write a letter to Mr. Low sa at some one —name withheld for ential reasons —had questioned the iety of his official conduct as Ma d although the accusation was no r oath nor could any particulars be he would like to have the Mayor at he was going to do about it?

These careless and ir methods of procedure cannot be t on the ground of good intentions y often inflict wanton and irrepara ury.

The present body of City strates in this town are capable ficient public officers, and it is w o endeavor to bring them into it by the circulation of anonymo cusations. We fear that Mayor has done them an injustice in the atter by giving undue emphasis and portance to such accusations.

The Distribution of Wealth in

Some remarkable data have ly been published in Paris by Mr. MARCK, President of the Society statistics, concerning the wide distri of French Government and r bonds and of other trustworthy s ties dealt in on the Paris Stock Excha These data, viewed in conjunction other facts officially verified, bear ness to an extraordinary diffusion wealth, notwithstanding the tender to a consolidation of capital in man facturing enterprises. They show th while the rich may be growing richer, certainly is not true of France that th poor are growing poorer.

The remarkable subdivision of property on the French soil is well known More than five and a half millions of peasants possess each a house of his own, together with a plot of ground. Much less familiar is the fact to which Mr. NEYMARCK directs attention, that precisely the same tendency toward minute parcellation is noticeable in personal property, especially as regards the securities which are deemed to offer the safest investments. Thus, in 1830, the number of holders of "*Rentes*," or Government bonds, was only 125,000; in 1895 it had risen to 2,000,000. The number of bond certificates issued by the six railway companies of France was in 1860 only 65,833; in 1895 it was upward of 636,000. In the same interval of thirty-five years the number of certificates of railway shares had risen from 26,358 to nearly 106,000. On an average the French railway stock certificate calls for less than thirteen shares.

We observe the same tendency to subdivision when we turn to the shares of the Bank of France and of the *Crédit Foncier*, which formerly were confined to a restricted number of capitalists. The capital of the Bank of France is 182,500,000 francs, divided into 182,500 shares of 1,000 francs each, worth at the present price about 3,500 francs a share. The number of shareholders, which in 1870 was 16,062, had increased in 1895 to 28,358, and the average value of holdings had shrunk from eleven to six and one-half shares. The *Crédit Foncier* in 1888 had 22,240 shareholders, each possessing on an average fifteen shares, which were worth 1,350 francs apiece. In 1895 there were 49,339 shareholders each owning on an average nine shares, worth 705 francs apiece. The number of shareholders possessing but a single share had risen from 4,000 to 9,000, and the holders of from two to ten shares from 11,000 to 23,000. On the other hand, holders of from eleven to fifty shares remained stationary in respect of number, and those who possess more than fifty are steadily growing fewer. To sum up, we find that the five classes of securities reputed the safest on the French market, namely, Government bonds, railway bonds, railway stocks, Bank of France stock and *Crédit Foncier* stock, are distributed in the hands of nearly three million holders.

Not only have such securities undergone in France a degree of diffusion comparable only with the parcellation of the soil, but the same tendency will be observable if we look at the change in the number of small tradesmen and of depositors in the savings banks. In 1900 the number of licensed retail dealers was 1,752,345, an increase of 110,000 in ten years, while, on the other hand, the number of those engaged in "commerce," or in trading on a large scale, had been diminished by 25,000. The figures obviously show that the movement toward the concentration of capital which is so marked a feature of the industrial world is entirely inoperative among small shopkeepers in France. Even more conclusive are the statistics of the French postal savings bank, reviewed in connection with the ordinary savings banks. Here the revelations are amazing. It appears that the number of depositors increased between 1875 and 1899 from 2,365,000 to 10,316,000; that the total amount of money annually deposited increased during that period from 244,000,000 to 1,080,000,000 francs, while the balance due to depositors rose in the same quarter of a century from 660,000,000 to 4,336,000,000 francs.

These astonishing figures not only prove that in France the poor are not growing poorer, but they also indicate that socialism is doomed to retrogression in that country, because the proportion of the population which is personally interested in the right to hold individual property is rapidly increasing.

Our Great Sea Company.

One of the greatest achievements in financial and industrial combination of any age and any land was consummated on Wednesday when the International Mercantile Marine Company was incorporated at Trenton. Indeed, when all the possibilities of this new corporation are considered, it is doubtful if a more important marriage of capital and industry was ever chronicled. It means, among other things, that the products of American farms and factories and mines may be delivered at the market places of Europe at a cost which ought to establish, for years to come, the absolute supremacy of the United States in the commerce of the world. It means that not only the railroads that carry all our products to the sea but also the ships that will carry them to the markets beyond the Atlantic will be American at heart.

What better guarantee of the stability of American industries? The key to the world's markets is held by the International Mercantile Marine Company.

The incorporation of this company gives THE SUN an opportunity to congratulate its readers on the newspaper of their choice. Long before any such great combination was even thought of by the public, THE SUN announced that it would be made. On the morning of Jan. 18 of this year THE SUN contained the following:

"It now may be stated positively that, within a short time, the announcement will be made of the most important union of ocean steamship lines ever before attempted or completed."

This announcement carried with it all the details that could well be given at that early date. The announcement was characterized as absurd by the other newspapers and by even the men who were arranging the details of the combination. In the face of all denials, evidently made by persons in a position to know the facts, THE SUN followed up the announcement on the next day by this statement:

"The alliance . . . will include the following lines: The American, Red Star, White Star, Atlantic Transport and the Dominion. . . . The end and aim of the whole scheme will be the combination of the Atlantic freight and passenger business under one management, and the director general, so to speak, will be CLEMENT A. GRISCOM."

These facts are recalled with no idea self-gratulation, but simply by way felicitating THE SUN'S readers and to mind them again that, "If you see it THE SUN, it's so."

a wedding in Connecticut a young n whistled "The Angels' Serenade" accompaniment to the ceremony. s an innovation which we recommend ago, which is building up a custom ttling in church.

a is to elect this year a Governor er State officers and to choose a ure which will fill the seat in the States Senate of JOHN PERCIVAL has been continuously a Senator ver State since 1873, and whose s on March 4, 1903. This veteran who has on several financial n at variance with his party, e close of his long term, the "new issue" into the conties of Nevada.

The Silver publicans, who still survive in Nevada, the Democrats at their Reno convention in August, nominated for Senator sentative FRANK NEWLANDS, and making his campaign largely on the of irrigation. The general backwardness of Nevada in coming forward to a place of agricultural prominence is ascribed the dearth of water in land otherwise ndantly suitable to profitable farming ulture.

Mr. NEWLANDS, ugh a conspicuous friend of irrigation, no monopoly of its support, and when Sen JONES gets going he will doubtless point irrigation bill passed by this Republi ongress as the best reason for his reele n.

An interesting club, w r, is about to be attempted. It is to b ness players, and their object will be bend all the money they can raise, not luxuries and furniture, but for popularizing and cultivating the game. There is to a meeting next Wednesday at 744 Lexing venue.

According to the Rev. A. B. S SON, the celebrated pocket compeller, t novels and books that are given to our people to read to-day are a scandal a disgrace. They are clever, aye, ver ever. As clever as the devil, in fact. is unjust to the devil. If that old s is not cleverer than 99 per cent. of the ks read by "our young people," then h as much of an ass as the legends mak n out to be.

The Democratic Platform Is Socialist.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* T plank on Government taking possession coal mines is rank socialism. No business ma will support it. CHARLES E. HUBBARD.

SARATOGA, Oct. 1.

On Petitions to the President.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Noticing in to-day's SUN an article to the effect that the Federation of Catholic Clubs is to call on President Roosevelt to mediate in the coal strike, I would like to state that in my opinion this is unwise. The intended petition says, among other things, that the President has no official power to use, but requests him in his capacity as first citizen to mediate. Now this is all wrong. The President has no more to do with the strike than with the debate between Terentius Magovernius and Junius Corbettius, though he may take great interest in both. Neither has plain Mr. Roosevelt, unless he be appointed referee.

The coal strike is a finish fight and it's "hands off and fair play and may the best man win." Besides, here is a case where warm-hearted people with a natural and sometimes unconscious gift for politics, while protesting there is nothing of the kind in such a move, proceed to call upon the President in his private capacity to end the strike, if possible. Let me ask, If the President should terminate the strike which would get the credit, plain Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Roosevelt the candidate? The Federation is all right if it doesn't federate too much. N. M. S.

NEW YORK, Sept. 29.

CONSECRATION OF DR. OLMSTED.

He Is Now Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Central New York.

UTICA, Oct. 2.—The Rev. Dr. Charles Tyler Olmsted, recently of St. Agnes Chapel, New York city, was to-day consecrated Bishop Coadjutor of the Episcopal diocese of Central New York, in Grace Church, this city. It was an impressive ceremony and attracted to Utica many of the most prominent dignitaries of the Church. Spacious as is Grace Church, it could not contain half of those who desired to witness the consecration. Hundreds were turned away and other hundreds who were fortunate enough to gain admission filled the aisles during the service, which occupied several hours.

The Venerable Bishop Frederick D. Huntington of Syracuse presided. He began by repeating the Lord's prayer and followed it with the repetition of the Commandments. The epistle was read by Bishop Mills of New Hampshire. The gospel was read by Bishop Olmsted of Colorado, and it was repeated by the congregation. The choir sang the hymn "Lord, speak to me that I may speak," and the congregation joined heartily in the singing. During the singing of the hymn Bishop Potter of New York, escorted by the master of ceremonies, the Rev. William Cooke of Whitesboro, assumed his station in the pulpit and delivered the sermon. It treated of the relations of a Bishop to his charge and to his people and especially of the relations of the people with a Bishop.

After prayer by the Presiding Bishop the litany was read by the Right Rev. William A. Leonard, Bishop of Ohio. Bishop Huntington then charged Dr. Olmsted and concluded with a prayer that he have strength to perform his new duties. Then the consecration took place, Bishop Huntington being celebrant and Bishops Potter and Walker co-consecrators. Dr. Olmsted then put on the vest of the Episcopal habit, and while kneeling the "Veni Creator" was sung over him. Bishop Huntington delivered the Bible to Dr. Olmsted, exhorting him to give heed to the reading and doctrine.

Bishop Potter returned to Richfield Springs this afternoon by a special train which was awaiting his convenience at the Lackawanna depot some time before the consecration service was concluded. It is understood that he will go to Cooperstown this evening and that his marriage will take place in that village to-morrow.

"A Reign of Terror"—A Voice From the Coal Fields.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I will run the risk of being called an agent of the operators, and an enemy to labor, a friend of the blooded bondholder by telling the truth.

For in these regions you cannot speak to a workman now employed (called a scab) without yourself being refused recognition and without being counted a foe to the union.

Indeed, in this so-called free country I dare not state in public the truths here set forth, and the reason my name will be withheld is because my home and church would be dynamited inside of a week and I would not be the first minister whose life has been threatened for simply saying: "In America every man has a right to quit work or go to work." There is a reign of terror throughout the whole district. True, all would have been quiet if pumpmen and firemen had obeyed the dictates of the Czar and allowed the mines to flood, provided none others took their places. But war is preferable to peace at that price, for it strikes a blow at all law, it robs us of our liberty of action and is an insult to our flag.

The cause which led to the strike—the union demanded what the companies said they could not grant.

The vote to go on strike was by a small majority; and of what composed? two-sixth under 21 years of age, three-sixth ignorant foreigners who cannot speak the English language, and one-sixth leading malcontents who represent the worst element of our English-speaking population.

Not one-half of the union miners favored the strike. The honest, sober, industrious men—those of property and responsibility—remained at home and allowed the others to control affairs. But do not blame them; they knew their men and how helpless they would have been, and their only reward is hatred and intimidation. What has perpetuated the strike? The holding up of false hopes before the poor, ignorant and self-deceived.

First—Arbitration under direction of Civic Federation.

Second—Calling out pump and firemen, which they supposed would be obeyed, and companies be forced to yield.

Third—Call of sympathetic strike of the soft coal miners.

Fourth—Financial aid from unions and large cities.

Fifth—The sensational press pandering to a depraved and dangerous element in human nature.

Sixth—Attempted interference by politicians for political pap.

Some of the results of the strike—stagnation of business, spirit of hatred and malice developed, suffering among the masses on account of scarcity of coal, destruction of property by fire and dynamite, cutting off the ears and heating and shooting into death of men, even union men, who dared to work, suffering among women and children because of a boycott issued on the legal paper of the union ordering stores to sell nothing to workmen or families; insults on street to women and children, yes, even the sacred precincts of churches invaded by those who hiss between prayer and song "Scab!" or the sign—scratching on the face.

During all this time the strikers have been picking on their own use and for sale thousands of tons of coal from river beds and culm piles and preventing others from purchasing. Living in company houses, despoiling the forests for their winter supply, hundreds of them boasting they have coal and wood to last a whole year. What care they if others perish.

I live in their midst, meet them in all the walks of life and know that the average miner is all right, but the Anarchist element is on top and in control, and ye of the cities who nurse it by your tender sympathies and money will rue it when its hellish power asserts itself in your municipalities.

"Thank God the soldiers are here!" has escaped the lips of all law-abiding and law-loving citizens as they have seen the protectors and defenders—our militia—walk the streets from Shenandoah to Carbondale. Only thieves run when the cry is "Stop thief!" Only those who have or would violate law cry "Take back the soldiers!"

About a year ago we all shed tears in sympathy for the widow of our martyred President—we all condemned the act. Was his life more precious, his widow more dependent than the scores who have felt the power of the cruel, cowardly hand of assassin? Had all the men killed since the strike began been killed in one day or place, all the destruction of property taken place in one day, the civilized world would have cried "We will give $100 a ton for coal rather than allow this crime to go unavenged.

"Remember the Molly Maguires?" No more cowardly act was it to send it and the brave boys to the bottom than for these cowards to hide in woods, dark ravines, lonely roads and murder the men of toil—to dynamite homes in which wives and children slept. The union not responsible! I know better. I can prove the holding of secret meetings, names of workmen and respective works given, pickets chosen to lurk in the darkness from midnight till dawn, to turn back any who started to work. Those who turned back were unharmed. Those who did not and were not resigned by Coal and Iron police or soldiers lost an ear or a life.

Three months ago it was published by the press that the penalty for going to work would be an ear. They have executed the sentence, and but for the soldiers would continue.

I have left out the issue of wages or hours, because all who know the truth know that a skilled miner can in six hours in a day earn from $4 to $10 per day; a laborer from $1.60 to 2 per day, and that 40,000 boys earn from cents to $1.50 per day.

If you wish to provide more dynamite or bombs or handkerchiefs in which to hide the ashes of death in the hands of Anarchists, ake up your sympathetic help of subscription and blood will flow, hearts will break. ou will pay $20 per ton for coal as your ren. If all the money sent to keep in idle and foster evil had been given them to work they would have had more than they asked. We would have peace rather than war, and coal would sell at $6 a ton.

Thousands of pens could write blacker words than these I have written and then tell the truth only in part.

For God's sake and humanity's sake, cry Halt! Halt! Halt!

MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

FORESTCITY, Pa., Sept. 29.

Street Signs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* For a year or more we have heard lots of talk about street corner signs, but we do, oh, when, in the name of all that's holy, are we going to have them?

A DISGUSTED REPUBLICAN.

NEW YORK, Oct. 1.

THE CROWN PRINCE OF SIAM.

Programme for His Reception and Entertainment in Washington.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.—On the arrival of the Crown Prince of Siam in New York from Cherbourg on Oct. 10 he will be met by Herbert H. D. Peirce, Third Assistant Secretary of State, and D. B. Sickles of New York, formerly Consul-General at Bangkok representing President Roosevelt and Edwin V. Morgan of the State Department, secretary to the President's Commission. On that night the Prince and his suite, accompanied by the President's representative, will leave New York for Washington on a special train, and arrive here on Saturday morning. There will be a dinner by Secretary Hay on Saturday night in the Prince's honor, and on Sunday he will be dined by the Siamese Minister at the Arlington Hotel, where the Prince and his suite will be quartered during their stay at the capital.

If the President is able to do so he will receive the Crown Prince on Monday, Oct. 13, and provide some sort of an entertainment for him, probably a dinner, on that evening. On Oct. 14, the Crown Prince will be taken to Mount Vernon on the yacht Sylph, and that evening will dine with Prof. J. H. Gore of Columbian University, an intimate friend of the Siamese royal family.

The Prince will leave Washington on Oct. 15 for Wilmington, Del., where he will be the guest for that day of Gen. James H. Wilson, U. S. A., retired. From Oct. 16 to Oct. 22 he will be in Philadelphia incognito, as the personal guest of William Potter, formerly Minister to Italy, who is a great friend of the King of Siam. During this time the Prince will not be attended by the President's representatives. On Oct. 22 he will go to New York to remain until Oct. 29. Then he will spend three days in Boston, where President Eliot of Harvard will give a dinner in his honor. The itinerary of the Prince's Western trip has already been announced, but is subject to change.

MAYOR TALKS ABOUT SCHOOLS.

Fewer Children Left Out This Year He Says—Suggests Free Rides.

Mayor Low's weekly talk yesterday was devoted to schools. He said that the most striking feature in the school situation is the fact that there are 67,590 children in part-time classes this year, against 58,123 last year. At the end of September last year 5,068 children were out of school; this year no children six years old or over are not accommodated. It is clear, however, the Mayor says, that the increase of sittings has not equalled the growth in the demand.

"As the children go for long distances to the different high schools of the city," he said, "it would seem to me that children of the higher grades in the grammar schools can properly be asked to go a considerable distance to a grammar school. The younger children must, of course, be taken care of near home.

"It is worth considering whether the creation of grammar school districts of convenient size, and the concentration of the grammar school pupils in these districts in a few buildings, may not be worth while. I submit the suggestion for what it may be worth, without having any distinct opinion as to its value. Similarly, it may be worth while to consider in a systematic way, the proposal which President Burlingham has frequently urged: That the older grammar school children be furnished transportation, where that is practicable, to schools at a distance where vacant seats may be available."

In closing, the Mayor says that the school system has improved greatly in the last ten years and that the tendency to improvement is still strong. The school system is something of which the city may be proud.

The Uses of the "Smart Set."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Undoubtedly you are right in maintaining that the attitude of the general public toward the "Smart Set" is one of indifference. The most interested readers of the yellow gossips concerning that bunch are likely its own members.

We should not forget, however, the necessity for the existence of a certain section of society which shall devote itself to the investigation of what is best in food, raiment, lodging and amusement. No organization of individuals is without its uses to society at large, and it is to the "Smart Set" that we owe nearly everything that makes life worth living. In former days, it was the sole patron of art and literature, apart from the religious, music alone being conserved by all the world.

It is well that people of vast fortune are interested in the contemporary luxuries which form the necessities of the future. They furnish us the models for our clothing and decide by costly experimentation the best material of which to make it. The triumphant success of an imported "cordon bleu" striving to please Lucullus soon finds its way to the cuisine of a hotel frequented by the "Smart Set," and during his angelic visits the man in the street orders, tastes, approves and orders again in his humbler restaurant or in his own home. Hence, a great benefit to the public at large.

The butterflies of fashion decide on our styles, not because they are outré or absurd, but because they are comfortable and adapted to the uses for which they were designed. Open plumbing, tiled bathrooms and other comforts, once only for the rich, are imitated now for everybody, so far as their real value is concerned. Who are proving to us the utility of the automobile? Now the plaything of the rich, it will soon oust the horse from all city streets. It would be pretty hard to name anything in common use that was not first designed for some wealthy idler, doubtless in his day the target for sarcasm of an ancient Henricus Watterson.

Our "Smart Set" has its fair share of brains, it has inventors, artists and writers of no mean ability, particularly the last—as a popular magazine shows well. If the "Smart Set" is sometimes rude and underbred in its behavior, let us remember that it is very tired. Besides, it has no monopoly of bad manners or of immorality either. In fact, in its way, it is quite as useful and valuable as the "common people" so many people are constantly kow-towing to, as if anybody was proud of belonging to that "set" and wasn't constantly straining to break out of it and be uncommon.

To single out any "set" for animadversion is singularly unphilosophical. The world would not be what it is without the "Smart Set," and we may doubt that it would be better. The "Smart Set" is all right. It is a little silly at times, but no sillier than the rest of us, as would be quickly seen if all our "sets" were commented upon and advertised as freely. In fact, the best and worst to be said of the "Smart Set" is that it is human.

CLAUDE LAMONT WHEELER.

NEW YORK, Oct. 1.

Indexing Names of the Married.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Desiring a few days ago to ascertain if a certain woman had ever been married in New York, I found that there was no way of acquiring that information because only the man's name is indexed. If you know the groom's name you can find out whom he married, but if you know only the woman's name you are completely baffled.

In prosecuting the same search in Brooklyn I found that they had indexed both names up to 1898, but after the consolidation they discontinued their previous sensible method and took up with this city's defective and delinquent style of indexing the man's name only.

The official search in Brooklyn certified that no woman of that name had been married there up to 1898, but from January 1898 they could not tell.

This failure to index the woman's name is a serious omission and seems to the writer to be something that calls for immediate rectification.

In the New York office they said it would be so much greater work to index the woman's name also. But how much greater? Only double. Brooklyn had been indexing both names up to 1898 and why could not New York have done so, and why not do it now? With this vital omission the marriage records of New York are most incomplete for purposes of reference and legal consultation.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30. N. C.

Oaths of the Crowd.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have recently heard some "cuss words" that I have failed to see in your columns. They are used by an old army officer, especially when in a state of mildly stimulated exhilaration. The are: "Sugar in a gourd," "Grease us to eat" and "Jesus netty."

FORT SLOCUM, N. Y., Sept. 29. B. M. T.

RIVALRY IN WARSHIP BUILDING.

Secretary Moody Wants to Accept the Challenge of the Newport News Company.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.—Secretary Moody to-day directed the initiation of measures to determine the comparative ability of the Government and private ship yards to build naval vessels. In a conference with representatives of the bureaus of Construction, Steam Engineering, Equipment, Yards and Docks and Supplies and Accounts, he explained that the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, which was the lowest bidder for building the battleship Louisiana and will unquestionably get the contract, had virtually challenged the Department to do as good work and to do it as expeditiously in its construction at the Brooklyn navy yard of the battleship Connecticut, a sister vessel of the Louisiana.

The Secretary said that he wanted every bureau concerned in ship construction to do its utmost to assist in building the Connecticut, and at the same time to be prepared to meet all the demands of the Newport News Company, if that concern gets the contract for the Louisiana. The Newport News Company offered to build the Louisiana within forty months from the date of contract, and Mr. Moody urged on the bureau representatives the necessity of finishing the Connecticut within the same period.

While some fear was expressed at the conference that owing to scarcity of steel material there might be some delay on the Connecticut, the general sentiment was that by starting right away most material could be secured and work begun within a very short time. Mr. Moody particularly impressed on his subordinates his desire that there be no discrimination shown in the competition between the Government and the private firm.

CHINESE IMPERIAL EDICT.

Viceroys Urged to Adopt Foreign Methods of Regulating Mining.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.—Minister Conger sends to the State Department from Pekin a translation of an imperial edict as follows:

"Mining is at the present time an important factor in our administration. Liu Kun-Yi and Chang Chih-Tung have recently memorialized the Throne by telegraph, pointing out that we ought to carefully adapt and harmonize our mining regulations with those of other nations. We consider this as eminently proper, and command those Viceroys to note carefully how other countries manage such matters, and that they, in consultation with each other, discuss the rules in question, after which they may memorialize the Throne for our sanction by edict. Such rules should have no defects; they should be acceptable everywhere, yet protecting our rights and manifesting our circumspection."

GILT-EDGED SECURITIES ONLY.

Banks Are Expected to Offer No Others to Obtain Treasury Deposits.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.—The commission of Treasury officials appointed by Secretary Shaw to pass upon the acceptability of securities other than United States bonds that may be offered to the Government by national banks for the safekeeping of Federal deposits held a meeting at the Treasury to-day. It was decided that the rules affecting there securities practised by the New York Savings Bank should govern in all cases presented to the Secretary of the Treasury. It is assumed by the board that the banks which may wish to offer securities other than bonds of the United States will offer nothing except gilt-edged securities, and each case will be considered individually by the board as it is presented.

TARIFF MAKING.

An Insider Describes Its Methods and Its Necessities.

From the Speech of the Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge at Boston Last Saturday.

"Now, suppose, to give you a practical example of what I mean when I say that you can't amend the tariff here and there, let us take the case of hides. That is the worst case of duty that I know of. A duty was put on hides in the Dingley bill. It was was a duty, in my judgment, entirely indefensible economically and utterly useless to the people who asked for it. It was demanded by the West in response to a sentiment purely. They said the farmers of the West insisted that they should have protection for their cattle. No amount of argument would show to them that it didn't give any protection to their cattle or to their farms, and that it was simply an injury more or less to the manufacturers of the East.

"Mr. Hoar and myself realized that duty to the utmost of our strength and ability. It reached the point in the Republican caucus of the Senate where, if Mr. Hoar and myself had carried our position on to the floor of the Senate—we had a very narrow majority at that time—we should have defeated the bill, because other Senators would have immediately attacked other schedules and other rates of duties which they didn't like. The question was presented to us whether we would take upon ourselves the responsibility of defeating a tariff settlement, after all those four years, as it had been, of panic and disasters, whether we should prevent the solution of that question, and the setting of the industries of the country on a firm basis, or whether we would submit to what we both considered a wrong duty and an oppression in a measure upon one of our important industries. We decided that our first duty was the passage of the great bill which protected all the industries of the country. [Applause.] And we yielded upon that.

"Now, to show you how the thing works, suppose we introduce a bill to put hides on the free list, and get it before the Finance Committee, and we go to them and say, 'Now we want the duty taken off hides.' They say, 'We think that is just. We don't think there is any compensation you need to make. We are convinced by your argument.' And they bring it in. The moment that comes before the Senate of the United States amendments affecting every schedule in the tariff will be tacked on to it. No Senator there can afford to allow a change to go by in a single schedule without seeking some amendment which he thinks might improve the industries in his own State. If they didn't do it, the Democratic party would do it as a measure of party policy. In other words, the moment you bring in one amendment you open the entire tariff to amendment."

Jersey Applejack Galore.

From the Philadelphia Record.

WASHINGTON, N. J., Sept. 29.—The distilleries in this section that manufacture apple whiskey, and which have been scarce for the last two years, are working day and night. Apples are arriving faster than they can be used, and vast quantities of the fruit are going to waste. The farmers rush all second-class fruit to the stills. The whiskey sells for $1 a gallon.

An Old Negro Declines a Pension.

From the Nashville Banner.

KNOXVILLE, Sept. 29.—A peculiar story comes from Kingsport of an old negro by name of Thomas Hale. He was recently given a pension of $16 per month by the Government, but has refused to accept it on the grounds that he is desirous of being independent and does not want to be dependent upon the Government.

The Glass and the Barkeep.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why is it that, while we see lots of men in all other lines of business wearing eyeglasses, we seldom if ever see a bartender wearing them? E. E. S.

SEPT. 30.

We Hear.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Harken unto Loveless Prayer, Leith, Pa., pleading for an obscure niche. J. B. STRAYER.

ROCHESTER, Sept. 28.

On Sea and Land.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Every ship that sails the seas takes THE SUN!" Yo Ho!

NEW YORK, Oct. 1.

Earth Baths.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In THE SUN of Sept. 22 you publish a letter from a Mr. Peter S. Ward, who refers to his collie digging a hole in the earth and lying in it when feverish, thus taking the nearest thing he could to the "modern ice bath."

Mr. Ward is apparently not aware that his collie was taking something much superior to the "modern ice bath"—the "earth bath," which is administered with great success in Germany in many and various diseases, and which its modern originators admit they have been led to adopt by noticing just such action on the part of dogs, swine, &c., as that which your correspondent relates. H. DE VEER.

NEW YORK, Sept. 24.

ASKS A CROWD TO HIS WEDDING.

George J. Fry of Syracuse Takes the City Directory and Invites Every One.

SYRACUSE, Oct. 2.—George J. Fry, a grocer, who was married this evening to Miss Emma Hanna, took a novel way to secure a crowd at his wedding. He does not believe in exclusive weddings, so he took a city directory and invited every one in his neighborhood, without any distinction. He supplemented this list with all the customers of his store, and ended by giving out a general invitation to any one who wanted to come. He sent invitations to the Mayor, Board of Aldermen, Board of Supervisors and all the city and county officers. The invitations read as follows:

"You are invited to attend the wedding of George J. Fry and Emma Hanna, on the site of the new county court house, Thursday evening, Oct. 2, at 8 o'clock."

Three years ago Fry's first wife died and Miss Hanna went to keep house for him. He was broke and she pawned her watch for $10 to start him in business. He contributed a sack of flour, and from that beginning a large grocery trade was built up. Said Fry this afternoon:

"Emma came to my rescue and I shall reward her by making her my wife. I have six women cooking for my guests at the wedding and have prepared for 500. I expect some fine presents."

CHAOS IN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

Grout Says It Is Most Mismanaged and Extravagant of All.

Comptroller Grout said yesterday that the Department of Education was the most mismanaged and extravagant department in the city. He wanted it understood that he was not making any personal criticism of the members of the board. The fault, he said, lay in the fact that there were three distinct departments, each with a head of its own, and the result was chaos.

The department's estimate for next year has not been sent in, although it should have reached the Comptroller a month ago. The explanation given to the Comptroller was that the department was having trouble with its printers. Mr. Grout in a letter to President Burlingham has suggested that as the *City Record* has to print the minutes of the Board of Education it is a waste of money for the board to employ a printer of its own.

Another matter that the Comptroller has brought to the attention of Mr. Burlingham is that although bids for books and other supplies for the public schools were opened on May 26 last it was not until last Monday that the tabulation reached the Comptroller's office, and then the papers were in a badly mutilated condition.

Gen. Miles's Trip to the Philippines.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.—Lieut.-Gen. Miles sailed yesterday from San Francisco on the transport Thomas for Manila, where he will make an extended inspection of the army posts in the Philippine Islands. Gen. Miles requested permission some time ago to inspect the troops in the Philippines and his request was granted by President Roosevelt. He will reach Manila about Nov. 1 and will be occupied at least a month in his inspection duties.

Bishop Says Preachers Look Like Gamblers

ZANESVILLE, Ohio, Oct. 2.—At the seventy-second annual session of the Ohio Conference of the African Methodist Church yesterday Bishop B. W. Arnett prefaced the business programme by admonishing the ministers to be careful in their dress, saying it had become almost impossible to tell a minister from a gambler by his dress. He advised them to wear a neat black suit and a ministerial vest and discard short coats.

The Up-to-Date Dentist.

The other day a man went to a dental office where cocaine is successfully used for the painless extraction of teeth. He said: "Doc, I've got a bad toothache and want the tooth pulled without being hurt. Can't you croquet it so it won't hurt me?" The doctor laughed and said: "I don't know that I can croquet it for you, but I'll ping-pong it."

Paris Story of Leo XIII.'s Succession.

From the London Daily News.

Writing in the *Journal*, M. de Bonnefon tells us that a short time ago Cardinal Rampolla prevailed upon the Pope to abdicate in his favor, and a conclave would have been summoned which, voting under the pressure of papal infallibility, would have ratified the choice by an election pro forma. The secret of the intrigue came out in this way: The Vatican possesses two printing works. One takes up the whole of the Sixtus V. gallery, and all sorts of documents intended for publication are printed there. The other is in a secluded building into which nobody is allowed without written leave of the Pope's major-domo. The men employed there are the safest in the world. They are all trained Catholics, and every year they give an oath not to betray the secret of documents intrusted to them.

A few weeks ago a high prelate, one of the State secretaries of the Vatican, brought a sealed envelope to the confidential printing shop, and said the contents had to be set up at once. The men, who had other work to do, sent around for two of the most reliable men from the other works. These assistants were not upon their oath. The "copy" set up by them was so amazing that one of them, who owed his position to a Cardinal, ran off in disgrace, went and told him. The story may be summed up in brief: The procedure for the election of a Pope is made up of traditions, written law and compromises. Besides this, every Pope gives directions in his will which affect more or less the procedure of his successor's election.

The document referred to above was nothing less than the seventh pontifical will of Leo XIII. It was a new departure, indeed, in all papal traditions. Leo XIII. was no longer contented with "bequeathing" his office to Cardinal Rampolla, as he tried to do last year. (The scheme was made public too soon and miscarried, doctors in canon law having shown that such a bequest was null and void.) This time the document, written out entirely in Cardinal Rampolla's hand and signed by the Pope,