

The Sun

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1902.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid. DAILY, Per Month, \$0 50. DAILY, Per Year, \$5 00. SUNDAY, Per Year, \$2 00. DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year, \$6 00. DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month, \$0 50.

Postage to foreign countries added. THE SUN, NEW YORK CITY.

PARIS-Kiosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and Kiosque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

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The President. In saying that "the President of the United States is not the father but the servant of the people" the Boston Daily Globe fails to present the subject with the clearness that circumstances make necessary.

The President is the servant of the law, and of that only. The laws defining his functions have been formulated with great precision, and he has no more sacred obligation than to observe them, and in so doing to respect the laws that relate to the rights and privileges of all other citizens, public or private.

The theory of public office is that its occupant shall be superior to the mob. He is to stand by the law made in moments of calmness, against all impulsive and irresponsible demands for its overthrow. The more imperious such demands the more steadfast must be the faithful and high-minded official be.

When the President ceases to be the servant of the law and becomes the servant of the "people," as represented by angry or distressful clamor, then we have mob rule.

The Navy's Engineers.

The question of the supply of engineer officers for the navy is raised with some insistence by Admiral MELVILLE in his annual report as Chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering. The burden of his remarks is that the Personnel act, as hitherto enforced, has not provided sufficient engineer officers to care properly for the engines and machinery of our warships.

Prior to the passage of the Personnel act in the spring of 1899, the line and the engineer officers of the navy were educated separately, and continued to serve in distinct paths. The act abolished the distinction between them, and directed that henceforth all should be qualified to act both as deck and engineer officers.

Admiral MELVILLE was not originally in favor of the Personnel act, but has been converted to its principle; in practice, however, he insists the purpose of the act has not yet been carried out. Almost all of the junior engineers have used the law to obtain deck service, leaving the engines of the ships very largely in the hands of the warrant machinists, so that "of the 1,425 commissioned officers and midshipmen, 78 in accordance with law are doing engineer duty only."

Of the 1,856 warrant officers, midshipmen and commissioned officers, the Admiral continues, at least 370 should be assigned to engineering duty, instead of the 300 now doing that duty. Even this proportion is much less than exists in the merchant service, where there are as many engineers as deck officers.

One result of the lack of commissioned officers to act as engineers is that the warrant machinists are kept almost constantly at sea, although the other warrant officers serve alternately at sea and on shore. This fact, says Admiral MELVILLE, is likely to drive many of them out of the navy.

Another matter that engaged much attention was the right of testators to leave money to Spiritualistic bodies. As a rule, the practice of the courts, the report of the president explained, is "rather hostile." It seems that several suits are now pending in the courts where such bequests are in question, the most important being at Philadelphia and in California, respectively.

Turning to the lack of commissioned officers again, Admiral MELVILLE says that boilers of the Babcock and Wilcox type with a horse power of 250,000 are being made for the navy, under the supervision of only one officer, who is retired and reassigned to active duty, and that one officer only is available to supervise the building of Nielsusse boilers of 125,000 horse power.

Admiral MELVILLE submits several important recommendations for improving the conditions existing in the navy. He desires that junior officers should be made to understand that promotion would be denied those who had not served in the engine room; and that one officer only should be available to supervise the machinery of all torpedo boats and destroyers, auxiliary vessels and yachts, gunboats, small cruisers, monitors and "nondescript vessels," shall be intrusted. "It is simply discrediting engineering to detail an officer of twenty years' experience to take charge of the machinery of a small cruiser. In several instances, officers of this experience have been withdrawn from important shore duties to perform service at sea which ought to be done under existing conditions by junior officers of the line."

His other recommendations are: That an engineering experimental laboratory be established at the Naval Academy; that a postgraduate course in engineering be established there; that a junior

officer of the line be assigned as assistant to every officer on shore liable for engineering duty only; that the Secretary of the Navy be empowered to permit graduates of technological colleges to compete for acting commissions in the service, who, after training at the postgraduate course and at sea should be commissioned permanently; and that one hundred more warrant machinists be appointed. He also urges higher pay and rating for the water tenders, in view of the duty which they perform "the most inadequately recognized and poorest paid of the enlisted force of the navy."

The development of engineering in the navy, as well as in other departments of the world's life-to-day, makes Admiral MELVILLE'S recommendations and comments of very great importance.

A Wrong Start.

The chairman of the Anthracite Commission, Judge GRAY of Delaware, at the hearing on Monday referred to the miners as the "principals" in the matter before the commission, at that time, too, addressing JOHN MITCHELL, who represented only the miners organized in a union.

What are the public to understand from this, and what are they to expect? The commission, according to the operators' original proposition, was brought into being to consider "all questions at issue between the respective companies and their own employees." The operators made no suggestion of inequality as between the parties subjected to investigation. Where does Judge GRAY find authority for distinguishing between them?

The value of the conclusions reached by the commission will depend upon the degree of impartiality through which they are reached. We respectfully submit that the state of mind reflected by the commission's chairman denotes a prejudice incompatible with the purpose of the commission's creation.

The Survival of Spiritualism.

The Spiritualists have been dropping out of notice during recent years. Christian Science and the "New Thought" have come in to take the first place among eccentric religious novelties; but judging from the interest the Spiritualists displayed at the annual convention of their national association, held at Boston last week, there is at least a remnant of them as full as ever of hope and enthusiasm.

This national association was incorporated in 1893, and it lays claim to having 670 local and subsidiary associations included in it, they being scattered through this country and Canada, and containing "a bona fide membership of 250,000," besides whom its president asserts that there are a million and a half of people "interested in Spiritualism." Reports discussed at the Boston convention, however, seemed to indicate that about one hundred societies are in a state of inaction, and, accordingly, the most important of the debates was on methods of strengthening the organization to prevent its falling to pieces.

The custom of the Spiritualists has always been to rely on local, volunteer or circuit speakers, instead of settled pastors, but the necessity of encouraging the yearly engagement of competent and approved lecturers and teachers was urged as now absolute. Some centralized system of ordination was advocated, on the ground that the present method, under which each society is empowered to ordain its own minister, is not working well in some instances, at least. For example, the president referred to one small society that had ordained 283 ministers in a single year, and other instances where bogus or unworthy persons had secured ordination, and even where numerous ordinations at so much a head had been made, were cited by several speakers. The necessity of having a properly authenticated ministry to perform valid marriages was pointed out; and at the closing session of the convention the president was authorized to appoint a committee to compile ritual forms for marriage, burial and other ceremonies.

It will be seen, therefore, that the tendency of the Spiritualists, like that of religious sects generally, is toward a churchy organization, and at this convention there were signs that, as usual, "high church" and "low church" parties are making their appearance, and that the old voluntary, go-as-you-please way is bound to pass out of vogue.

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Spiritualism is now thrown into the shade by the newer developments of Christian Science and the "New Thought." It does not seem to have so much money as they.

Witnesses Cannot Be Extradited.

Hitherto the safeguards of personal liberty, in so far as they have been disconnected with property rights, have been left unimpaired, and it is the glory of our courts, both Federal and State, that they have always showed a disposition to protect the individual. So, in order forcibly to deport a man from one State to another State of the Union, four preëxistent requisites must now unite:

First—The person whose surrender is asked must have committed a crime.

Second—He must have committed a crime within the demanding State.

Third—He must have been bodily present therein at the time of the commission of the crime.

Fourth—He must have fled from the demanding State, or, in other words, be a fugitive from justice.

And no person not alleged to be a criminal can be surrendered by the Executive of one State to the prosecuting officer of another State. And yet, now we are told that the Governor of New Jersey has been asked, not to send a criminal to the State of New York, but to compel witnesses to come to this State to testify against a person accused of a capital offense.

For years it has been the tendency, not only of the Federal courts, but of the Court of Appeals of this State, to construe interstate extradition with the greatest strictness, and not to enlarge the cases in which this extraordinary remedy can be invoked. A striking instance of this tendency is found in the Great decision of the Court of Appeals just rendered by Mr. Justice CULLEN, in which it is held that no man is a fugitive from justice to be surrendered upon the demand of a State unless at the time of the commission of the crime he was bodily present within the demanding State. And yet, at the same time, and on the same morning upon which this great opinion is published, it is announced that the District Attorney of this county has invoked the aid of the Governor of New Jersey and of the Attorney-General of that State, in order to induce those officials to coerce various police and State officials of New Jersey to appear in this State as witnesses on the Moloney trial. It is said that the District Attorney admits that Governor MURPHY and the Attorney-General have no power to compel these witnesses to attend a trial in this State. If such be the conceded fact, the coercive power appealed to, whether it be the coercion of official sanction or the coercion of moral suasion, should not be applied.

The Executive of a State should confine his energies solely to the discharge of his executive duties. His great powers should not be used to enforce the attendance of recalcitrant witnesses on murder trials in an adjoining State any more than to interfere in disagreements between capital and labor.

The Trotting Season of 1902.

The half-mile race at Memphis on Monday between Price Albert and Sir Albert S., wonderful names!—was the most interesting event of the harness track this year. The distance was paced in 57 1/2 seconds, the first quarter being in 02:12, or at the rate of 134 for the mile, the first eighth being done in 0:13 1/4, or at the rate of 150. Neither of these horses is considered great as a stayer, but no increase of speed at short distances like this has failed to be followed sooner or later by a drop in the mile record. After such a demonstration of a pacing horse's powers Dan Patch should beat 1:50 next year, if all goes well, and Prince Albert ought not to be far off at the finish.

In bidding good-by to the trotting season of 1902 a word is due to the distinguished amateurs who have played such a conspicuous part in it. Mr. SMATHERS, Mr. BILLINGS and Mr. DEVEREAUX lead this very honorable company, although the latter's laurels would have been far fresher if he had not declined to give to his rivals an opportunity to reverse a defeat which they had reason to believe had in it all too much of bad luck.

The officers of the Greater New York Democracy, anxious to have an official canvass of the vote cast under their rooster emblem, have asked the Secretary of State to have separate records made of the vote cast under the rooster and the star. Such a division of the Democratic vote would result in confusion and complications which would delay the canvass of the vote on election night. Mistakes would surely be made, and the election returns would be later than they are now. The request should not be granted. The Greater New York Democracy should find another way to obtain the right to nominate by convention than by inconveniencing all the other residents of the State.

Chief Engineer McLEAN of the Department of Finance has reported that five of the public markets in Manhattan borough have outlived their usefulness, and that, if they are not done away with entirely, a very large sum of money must be spent in repairs. Mr. McLEAN describes Centre Market as the worst of them. To-day a large part of it is used for purposes entirely foreign to those for which markets were first maintained by the city—for manufacturing, in fact. Mr. McLEAN thinks the building should be razed and the site used for a new Police Headquarters. Clinton, Union and Catharine markets are no longer needed, and to repair them would be to waste money.

There are twelve city markets in Manhattan, and all of them are below Fourth street. Several years ago, in Mayor VAN WECK'S term, the suggestion was made that they be given up. All of the market buildings need thorough overhauling and costly repairs in case they are maintained.

As more perfect means of distribution within the city are adopted, the necessity of great public markets becomes less. Already the private markets and green grocers in the upper parts of the city provide supplies at prices which are usually the same as those charged in the public markets, and of a quality not inferior to the housewives of Manhattan can't spend

the time involved in a trip to the downtown market, and the cars in pass and repass have no storage facilities which will allow them to stay for the future. Two and three and five-cent purchases of vegetables are made by the flat dwellers; a slice of ham, instead of a ham; a box of sliced bacon, instead of a side; and potatoes, flour, sugar and the like are bought in small quantities for immediate consumption. Where a barrel of sugar was the unit of purchase, before apartments were built with no closet room, a five-pound box is the popular unit now.

If the public markets were at the door of the apartment house they would get a greater share of business. But, separated as they are from a large part of the purchasing public by great distances, they cannot prosper. Only competitive prices for a few people dwell where it is practical for the housewife to take a basket to market. The modern husband doesn't take to marketing, either, as husbands not so many years ago did. Probably he could not. He wouldn't know the difference between chucked steak and tenderloin until it was served; and even then he would probably blame the cook.

It would be too bad to lose the markets, with their hearty butchers and their great piles of fruit and vegetables. Probably they will last a long time, but some day they will go.

With predictions of the election of a Democratic and a Democratic sweep for Governor and Speaker of the next House of Congress, the Hon. CHARLES A. TOWNE is one of the most eminent monopolists and trust holders in the country. How could his candidate be acceptable to the Democrats?

After the Democratic meeting at Madison Square Garden on Monday night, we shall have to ask again for the Democratic platform on the tariff.

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THOUGHTS OF THE DAY.

Politics.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Politics seem a bigger something with our leaders than law and good government. By their silence they take the pulpit, and are no better than the Anarchist himself. Thinking of our rulers in State and nation having never uttered a word in print condemning the mobbing of men who wanted to support their families or for blowing up bridges and trains carrying coal to relieve the distress of the poor in the large cities.

These poor victims of union mob law had done nothing worthy of death, their only crime was their firm manhood, to work for whom they saw fit, and for this they must and did give up their lives. Their blood is to-day on the garments of those who ignored their cries for help.

HARRISBURG, Oct. 28.

Questions From an Operator.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Of course the world moves, and when one emerges from the dust in the rear of the procession and hunts for sympathy he is very apt to find no one to listen; however, I feel like asking a few questions at any rate.

Did or did not the coal presidents issue a statement of approval of the strike? Did or did not Mr. John Mitchell ever say he was nothing if not first a law-abiding and law-counseling citizen?

Did the coal presidents convey the impression of approval of the strike by one of their times, and, in fact, a sine qua non of the appointment of a commission was the protection of their men who had worked during the strike?

These questions are answered "Yes," then tell me why, when A. Purdee & Co.'s former employees were asked to sign this agreement here following: "As a condition precedent to my employment by A. Purdee & Co. I do hereby solemnly promise not to interfere with or molest in any way any non-union men or any other men now at work, or who may have worked during the strike, or who may work hereafter for my employers, and I do further agree to work with them as with any other men, and to refrain from any act or conduct that would tend to bring about a strike, or to interfere with the work of any man now at work, or who may have worked during the strike, or who may work hereafter for my employers, and I do further agree to work with them as with any other men, and to refrain from any act or conduct that would tend to bring about a strike, or to interfere with the work of any man now at work, or who may have worked during the strike, or who may work hereafter for my employers, and I do further agree to work with them as with any other men, and to refrain from any act or conduct that would tend to bring about a strike, or to interfere with the work of any man now at work, or who may have worked 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