The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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The Validity of the Franchise Tax.

The Court of Appeals yesterday, in a unanimous opinion written by Judge VANN and concurred in by Chief Judge PARKER and Associate Judges O'BRIEN, CULLEN, BARTLETT, MARTIN and WERNER, decided that the Franchise Tax law is constitutional and valid.

No more important decision has been rendered by this court in a civil action for many years past. The great question involved was whether the Franchise Tax law was unconstitutional because in violation of the principle of home rule, guaranteed to localities by the State Constitution; and it is significant that three Democratic Judges, Chief Judge PARKER and Judges O'BRIEN and CULLEN, concurred in the opinion of their Republican associate, Judge VANN.

The Court of Appeals has reversed the decision of the Appellate Division of the Third Department, and has affirmed the decision of Judge ROBERT EARL, the referee, as affirmed by Judge D. CADY HERRICK, at Special Term.

Judge EARL held that the Franchise act of 1899 did not invade the home rule rights of cities, towns and villages, or in any material manner deprive them of self-government. He pointed out that the franchises taxed under the act had never before been taxed; that these franchises were intangible property, having no precise circumscribed status, and that the Legislature, therefore, could permit the assessment of this new kind of property by a State board.

The Court of Appeals in substance sustains the view of Judge EARL and holds that the Legislature could intrust the power of assessing a new kind of property, such as franchises, intangible in nature, to State officers.

Judge VANN says:

"This property consisted wholly of special franchises or privileges given by the State, mainly to corporations furnishing to the public transportation, water, light and other necessities or conveniences of daily life. It had grown rapidly in extent and value during recent years. Its value rested upon the right to use in some manner the public highways of the State, but it was intangible and doubtless for this reason had never been brought under the taxing power. * * *

"The system thus created had never been known before, and, as its main subject, the act dealt with special franchises which had never been taxed before. Property unknown as the subject of taxation to the framers of any of our Constitutions was brought into the system, which required new methods of valuation and the exercise of functions which had never belonged to local assessors. Unless it escaped taxation in the future as it had in the past, it was necessary to commit the power to other officers, with new functions, wider experience and greater opportunities for observation, who would be able to grasp the new scheme of taxation as a whole. * * * The valuation of special franchises had never been attempted before, but presented a new field of action and called for the exercise of new and different functions."

The court then points out the assumed fact that if this important subject were intrusted to local assessors each local board would have its own method and theory, that uniform action would be impossible and conflict and confusion would result.

"The function of assessing a special franchise," according to the court, is not exclusively local in character, and home rule applies only to functions peculiar to localities.

The supreme taxing power, which belongs to the Legislature, in the opinion of the court, "should be considered in connection with the home rule provision of the Constitution, and neither should be so construed as to embarrass or cripple the other."

It is not worth while at this time to consider whether this decision be right or not. It is sufficient to say that, as it is the last opinion of our highest court, "it goes." It may be said, however, that the tendency of this decision, as that of some other recent decisions by Federal and State courts, is to enhance the legislative power at the expense of the judicial power, and to make the Executive, when backed by the Legislature, almost a supreme dictator.

While this case may be carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, because on the trial it was claimed that the Ford act violates the Federal Constitution as impairing the obligation of a contract, it is hardly probable that the Federal Supreme Court would reverse the New York court of last resort in its interpretation of the New York Constitution.

The Hired Girl, the Man and the Dishes.

Often and in vain have we sounded to the deaf ears of Mere Man his quick-coming doom. Total subjection, in all probability to be followed by abolition: that is his horoscope. And he still struts about, wrapped as to his tenuous legs in the absurd pomp of golf stockings, and imagines that he amounts to something. Well, we waste one more warning on him.

In St. Paul, the Fourth District Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs has been pondering the everlasting, inscrutable problem of the Hired Girl. There was no ray of hope in the discussions; nothing but total eclipse. Miss J. L. SHEPARD, "instructress" in domestic science at the State School of Agriculture, surveyed the "servant question" with extensive view, proposed certain remedies and knocked them in the head as fast as she disclosed them. For example:

I. "Servant girls" should be hired "on a purely business basis, just as clerks and other business women are employed"; but "this would not prove satisfactory."

II. Girls should be trained in schools of domestic science; but this "does not seem practicable," for few girls will spend the money and time required for a course in domestic science.

III. Coöperative housekeeping and family hotels, "which would never do."

Nothing will ever do. The kitchens are many and the hired girls few. There must be a substitute for the hired girl. Here Mere Man must turn away from the contemplation of his grandeur and his legs and face the grin of Fate:

"One woman who had given up the effort to secure satisfactory servants and had decided that she would rather do her work herself, told of how her husband cleared away the heavy dishes—'the platter and large vegetable dishes,' she said in a confiding way. This woman had things so arranged that she could serve a five-course dinner without getting up from the table by using a dummy and—her husband."

A dummy and her husband: the phrase seems tautological, but let it pass. The poor fellow has his uses. He is a handy man about the house and good to fetch and carry. Is he allowed to wait for the dessert or is he set to rinsing spoons in the butler's pantry? He will be clumsy at first and the china will suffer; but he has adaptability and will soon learn to be a competent man-of-all-work. There is an acrid pleasure in watching this devolution of man, in hearing him roll rapidly down the backstairs. He sulks but he obeys:

"Another woman confided to her club sisters that she had trained her husband and sons to help her with a great deal of her work. 'Of course, they don't like it very well,' she said, 'but they put on the dish apron with fairly good grace now.'"

It will be a little melancholy in the kitchen at first. The genius who thinks he has a gift for the German flute may be slow to feel the music of scouring knives. But the women cheer him up, play upon his vanity, persuade him that there is science, if not poetry, in his new employment. See the honey flow from Miss SHEPARD's lips:

"Dishwashing need be no drudgery if the mental attitude be correct, and, in fact, the details of housework, all of them so dreaded and despised, would become pleasures, by a proper attitude of mind and a proper knowledge of the articles used and the processes employed. When the fact is considered, that heat and soap in the water perform some chemical changes which aid the mechanical processes of cleaning, much is brought to the mind of the student."

Whether he scowls or whistles at his work, it awaits him. He has found his temporary level; and there is something soothing to his feelings in the thought that he is accepted as a passable successor of the long indispensable hired girl. Ultimately automatic machinery will displace him, just as he is now beginning to displace the hired girl. Then he will become obsolete. The Last of the Men will succeed the Last of the Buffaloes as an object of curiosity and the reign of woman will be absolute.

The Mayor's Melon.

Each of Mayor LOW's subordinate office holders has sharpened a knife to cut the $140,000,000 melon which will ripen with the confirmation of the new "market value" real estate assessments in July. Their modest requests will be heard when the Board of Estimate meets to make up the bond budget on May 8.

Already, inspired by Mayor LOW's example of liberality with the taxpayers' money, his fellow city officers have figured out that their actual, pressing needs for the coming year amount to $60,000,000. This is a comfortable slice to be cut from the melon, which is apportioned before it is ripe.

Great will be the rejoicing when the Mayor's melon is cut; and great also the gnashing of teeth.

The Railways.

Everything is going well in the railway campaign, as reported by the Department of Justice at Washington. Only a little strengthening and polishing of recent decisions, under the anti-trust law, is required from the Supreme Court, and the machinery of 1890 will be ready for action against all railway combinations which may possibly be used, in the future, to restrain railway freedom.

No difficulty will, it is confidently felt, be encountered in the court of last resort. The law of 1890 will be remorselessly applied to railway combinations, whether good or bad, selfish or unselfish, and whether reducing or increasing rates.

There is no reason, yet in sight, to warrant the inference that retirement from the Supreme Bench of SHIRAS and GRAY—who were of the four Justices insisting that the law of 1890 did not cover *reasonable* restraint of trade—and filling their places with HOLMES and DAY, will affect that aspect of the litigation, in a sense injurious to the President, who selected the last two. On the contrary, there is reason to hope that HOLMES and DAY will join the majority. Thus no impediment is likely to be encountered by the President in tearing asunder all those railway combinations "in restraint of trade" which have been made since the middle of 1890, in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and all over the United States.

The law of 1890 will not be repealed or amended, so it is said, and for two reasons—one that no Congressman will dare propose it, and the other the President's veto. Before MCKINLEY died, an amendment might have been moved and carried, but now good Republican party politics compels fighting reasonable railway combinations till they have been resolved into their original elements. BRYAN and his cohorts will demand it! The railways, like the Boston and Maine, the New York, New Haven and Hartford, the New York Central, the Pennsylvania, and others which have bought the shares of competitors, merged, absorbed, combined or consolidated, can now expect, as the Department of Justice puts it, only "the equities" (whatever they are) of the Roosevelt Administration.

A correspondent of the *Evening Post* assures the readers of that journal that "a plea that the only choice lies between the consolidation of competing interests and a mutually destructive rivalry will not be accepted. If the managements of competing concerns see fit to cut each other's throats, that, in the judgment of the Administration, *is their own lookout and not the public's.* The theory is that such competition will in course of time regulate itself, and that what is lost in an occasional short but bitter fight is usually made up during the long intervals of peace." When blessed "peace" will come the public are not told.

The railways now non-competitive are to be compelled "to cut each other's throats." Such is to be their freedom! It is to be a compulsory freedom of predatory competition, but not a freedom to do as the owners of the railways wish.

Under what warrant do the President, Congress and the Attorney-General thus dictate and dominate? That given by the Constitution to "regulate" interstate and international commerce. To what Constitutional end? That there be perfect freedom of trade across every boundary line of every State in the Union. For, we are told from Washington, no railway can be permitted to enjoy the freedom to decide whether or not it will compete with its rival.

An Astonishing Story of Modern Japan.

We have received a "story of modern Japan" which was printed there last year anonymously and "for private circulation only." It is of special interest at this time because the author is declared to us to be none other than the Rev. ARTHUR LLOYD of Tokio, the president of the missionary college in that town under the control of the American Episcopal Board of Missions, who has lately resigned from that office at the instance of the "American Bishop at Tokio."

The story was written to illustrate the confusion which is brought about in Japan by the various and conflicting schools of Christianity presented to the people by the English and American missionaries there and to indicate a method of getting out of it. The story assumes to be a narrative of the conversion of a Japanese family to differing Christian Churches, the Methodist, the Episcopal and the Roman Catholic, written by one of the members; and unquestionably the author exhibits much familiarity with the Japanese domestic life and religious disposition. The family consisted of father and mother, three sons and one daughter. The father was a Confucianist, with "a strange compound of the teaching of CONFUCIUS and MENCIUS, blended with the mystic dreams of the Zen sect of Buddhism," or a Buddhist "after an eclectic fashion." The mother, naturally a very religious woman, was strongly attracted by the "Vision of the Pure Land" of the Iodo, or Paradise, sect, a sect which believes that "although some persons cannot expect final salvation in this life, they may yet through the mercy of AMIDA (a great Buddha) be born in the Pure Land of the Western Paradise, and that those born in this Paradise cannot fail to obtain salvation." These differences in the religious views of the parents are evidently described to illustrate the existing confusion as to religion in Japan which had been increased by the varieties of Christianity brought in by the missionaries.

The three brothers received, first, a purely Japanese education. The eldest, ICHITARO, or TARO, the name by which the eldest son is always distinguished, went to Tokio to "what is now the College of Medicine in the Imperial University, studied German hard in order to follow the lectures of his German professors and became in time a well-known physician." The next, SUTEJIRO, in spite of his father's "set against trade and commerce," "secretly made up his mind to become a merchant and make his house a rich one." He went to a Christian mission school in the district of Tokio, nicknamed by the Japanese the Temple street because "it abounded, and still does to some extent, with mission churches and chapels of all shapes and sizes." His purpose in going there was simply to learn "as much English as he could, for it was plain even in those early days that English was the predominating commercial language of the world." He cared nothing about Christianity. The youngest son, RYUZABURO, by whom the story is assumed to be written, was destined by his mother to become a priest, but he obtained her consent to study Western learning at Tokio before entering a Buddhist monastery. His brother, SUTEJIRO, wanted him to go to the mission school to learn English, but desiring to avoid Christianity, he went, instead, to a famous school called the Keiogijuka, where English reading was taught by the "Hensoku" method, then in vogue, or the method of teaching English by the eye only, "so that a man could understand a book in English without being able to pronounce a word."

First, TARO, the eldest, became a Christian, under Methodist teaching, greatly to the distress of his parents, who disowned him. In order to satisfy his curiosity about a religion which had had so great power with his brother, the youngest son bought an English Bible and a Japanese Testament. Eventually under the influence of an Anglican missionary he was a baptized convert. SUTEJIRO turned out a defaulter, but ultimately became a Christian convert, also.

The youngest, having been destined for the Buddhist priesthood, was loath to tell his parents of his conversion, but he was overjoyed at length by receiving a letter from his mother saying that the news of her sons having become Christians "seems almost too good to be true," for she, her husband and her daughter, O MITZU, had been converted likewise, but by a Roman Catholic missionary.

Thus there were three variations of Christianity in the family, Methodism, Anglicanism and Roman Catholicism. The father, however, had not been baptized, for as one of the Zen sect "he had no use for forms and ceremonies"; and when urged by his family to take the final step he replied: "I will be baptized when you are all agreed about the Church." Meantime the son converted to Anglicanism had been troubled because the teachings of the Anglican missionary had convinced him that his Methodist brother, TARO, was in "a very doubtful position." The mother feared for both of them, for "Father PIERRE tells her that there is no salvation outside of the Roman Catholic Church, and that although an absolutely perfect love will save a man, yet outside of Rome such love is almost impossible."

The upshot is that the sons seek anxiously for a satisfactory definition of the term "the Holy Catholic Church." "The Solution," which forms the last chapter of the story, they get accidentally; and what was it? The youngest son put the question to an "elderly foreign gentleman" while the two on "a hot summer's day" were painfully "toiling up the steep pass to Hakone," and this was the reply:

"My companion took out a large handkerchief, mopped himself profusely (indeed, he wanted to), and then, looking at me with a twinkle in his eye, said: 'B—B—Better p—pay P—P—Peter's Pence.' I did not know what Peter's Pence were, and though I asked him for an explanation he stammered so badly that I could not quite understand what he said; and the twinkle in his eye made me think he was laughing at me, so I changed the subject and began to talk about something else."

Accordingly, he and his brothers set out to find the meaning of Peter's Pence, and having found it, "we have now resolved that henceforth we will pay Peter's Pence at stated intervals," as "a sign that in heart, mind and desire we mean to belong to the One Church of CHRIST, though we do not wish to be in any way disloyal to the good men by whose labors we have been brought to CHRIST."

The logic of the story, it will be seen, is shaky. The "solution" is no solution at all. The brothers stick to their Anglicanism and Methodism, respectively, but find satisfaction for their scruples as to salvation simply by paying Peter's Pence!

So far, however, the Rev. Mr. ARTHUR LLOYD himself, the author of the story, seems to have been satisfied with the subterfuge. He continued to be an Episcopalian and to preside over an Episcopalian missionary college, but he soothed his conscience to rest by paying Peter's Pence! And in a note appended to his story he suggests to all other Episcopalians "the payment of Peter's Pence as a convenient means of acknowledging the claims of the Chair of St. PETER, which is possible without disloyalty to our ecclesiastical allegiance." The Episcopal Board of Church Missions and the Tokio Bishop, however, seem to agree with a sentiment which must be very general among honest men, that the suggestion is immoral, for they have put out Mr. LLOYD from the office in which he undertook to teach the trick of carrying water on both shoulders, or how to seem to be an Episcopalian and at the same time to be really a Roman Catholic in faith.

A Timely Spelling B.

From the time the first treaties were made with China in 1857 till Feb. 3, 1897, the name of the capital of China was usually spelled "Peking" in our Government publications. On that day, however, the United States Board on Geographic Names, in its wisdom, declared that the spelling should thereafter be "Pekin," conforming with the usage in Canton, where the name is pronounced without the "g" sound. Peking or Peiching is the pronunciation in the city itself, and in north China, generally.

So "g" was lopped from the name in all our Government literature and maps with one exception. Mr. W. W. ROCKHILL, our Special Commissioner in China during the Boxer troubles, would not permit the Government Printing Office to issue his report with the name curtailed. The board was the court of last resort, but he defied and beat the court.

The board refused a request to reopen the case, and stood by its decision until Miss ELIZA R. SCIDMORE of Washington, who has travelled in China and written of it, quietly marshalled all the sinologues living or dead to prove that Peking was the only correct and possible transliteration into English of the Chinese characters standing for the name of the northern capital. Practically every living authority on the question was consulted, including all the Chinese scholars at the meeting of the International Congress of Orientalists at Hamburg last year, professors of Chinese at the European universities, Dr. F. HIRTH, professor of Chinese at Columbia University; the compilers of Chinese dictionaries and the authors of standard text books, gazetteers and other works relating specially to China. The quality of the evidence was unimpeachable and its quantity was irresistible.

The board raised the white flag and surrendered unconditionally. It has reversed its decision of 1897. The plates of the Government maps must be revised; but the countless public documents in which Peking has been bobtailed in the past seven years will remain as a memorial of the folly of passing upon the translation of a place name without taking even ordinary precautions to avoid blundering.

This ruling, hateful to the conservative sentiment of Missouri, has been made by Circuit Judge ALEXANDER of that State:

"Gentlemen should not chew tobacco in church or court, and the Sheriff must prohibit it in court."

This is regarded as undue restriction of the freedom of the jaws. It is the privilege and the pride of every Missourian who values old custom to chew when and where he pleases; and the better the place the better the deed. The Hon. CHAMP CLARK of Pike county can be depended upon to emit a few hundred clarion notes of horror at this "judicial outrage."

Blackstock, who won the Excelsior Handicap so gallantly, doesn't disgrace his pedigree. His sire, Hanover, by Hindoo, was one of the mightiest representatives of the American turf, while the dam, Mannie Himyar, is a full sister to Domino, in whose veins runs the blood of both Leamington and Lexington. Where can we find a better combination? In build Blackstock strikingly resembles Hamburg, the greatest of the sons of Hanover, and in many respects, also, he bears a strong likeness to Hanover himself.

Blackstock was one of the most costly of yearlings, and as though crushed by his price he "went wrong" and was not seen in public until last fall. His showing then could not be called impressive. This spring, though, the colt has trained admirably, and frequent reports from the Whitney stable have indicated that he was running in exceptionally fine form. He is said to have covered the last mile of his race on Monday in less than 1:40, notwithstanding that the track was in some places by no means "blistering fast." Possibly the winner of the Excelsior Handicap is as good as either Hanover or Hamburg.

Salmon and trout fishermen hereabouts and far away will mourn for old JERRY FARRY. JERRY was acknowledged by the experts to be the best fishing-rod maker in—we won't say the world, because that is too small a place—but, in the Greater New York. He wound up his line in his workshop at 181 Fulton street, and was found at rest upon his lounge surrounded by the paraphernalia of his calling.

JERRY began on the Lakes of Killarney, but he did not confine his operations to those well-whipped waters. He travelled on foot to regions more remote and harder to get at. He was a born mechanic of the delicate kind. He made his own fishing rods, and they were wondrous casters. He used to say with a smile, he found the secret of "life in the butt." His fame ran with the currents of the streams, and soon he had the nobility and gentry of Ireland begging him, in the name of all the *leprachauns*, to make fishing rods for them.

JERRY became a professional fishing-rod maker and set himself up in business, backed by a strong trout trust. Tired of tools, sandpaper and varnishes, he came to the United States, and, failing to make a fortune, returned to his old trade and was satisfied. When he stopped fishing, he took refuge in fiddling, and he could play a fiddle, just not quite so well as he could play a salmon or a trout.

From the wilds of the Adirondacks to the banks of the St. Lawrence and from the borders of the Restigouche to the edges of the Columbia the casting lines will whistle the sad tune, "JERRY is dead!"

AMERICA.

A Growing Recognition of this Continent by Canada.

MONTREAL, April 27.—Evidence is accumulating that sentiment in Canada is rapidly developing in the direction of nationalism. The most recent and important utterance on the subject is that just made by Senator Edwards. Speaking on the subject of imperial defence he declared himself opposed to Canada's making any contribution to the British Navy.

He said it would be of no benefit whatever to Canada and that the connection with Great Britain was an injury rather than a help. The only foreign trouble he considered Canada was likely to have was with the United States, and that would never come once Canada was separated from Great Britain. He further expressed the hope that the near future would see Canada standing alone, and in doing so he disclaimed any feeling of hostility whatever against Great Britain, for which, on the contrary, he entertained the warmest sympathy, while Canada could never feel anything but affection for the old country.

This expression of sentiment has caused much sensation and will no doubt lead to others of the same kind, for it is becoming more evident every day that Canada and Great Britain are drifting apart.

Money for Junket; Nothing for Medals.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Does it not seem strange that the great State of New York can appropriate the sum of $50,000 for our Governor to take a trip to a fair in Missouri, yet at the same time cannot afford to appropriate one-half the amount to present medals or a little bit of copper to our brave boys who volunteered for the Spanish war? Such medals could be made for about 15 cents apiece, yet every time such a bill has been proposed in our State Legislature there has been some excuse for not passing it.

Nearly every State in the Union has recognized its sons who volunteered, yet the poor bankrupt State of New York can afford to do nothing. Surely, it is not asking very much to give to our boys who gave up everything to go to the war a little piece of copper which they may treasure in years to come as a souvenir of the Spanish war.

NEW YORK, April 28. JAMES PATTERSON.

Modern Chess Called Dull.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I read Mr Tarrasch's letter in THE SUN about chess. True, careful play is the safest, but where is the genius displayed in the play of the present day? Where the subtle combinations and plots? I would like to see a first-class game of chess played at the last, so-called, "Masters' Tournament." Some of them are not worthy of an amateur. Look at the only Morphy's games and see the difference. He had a plan of campaign and pursued it. Nothing of the kind nowadays. You are fascinated and charmed with the genius he displayed. Not so with modern play. It seems to be an effort to play carefully, with no plan, or combination, waiting for an adversary to make some blunder to enable his opponent to win. I would like to see a real brilliant game of chess of modern play.

POUGHKEEPSIE, April 28. HORTUS BONUS.

The Wood Sawyers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* We don't mind of reading a yarn, but a yarn that is told for truth and for people to believe, we have no use for. Now, the wood-sawing yarn is one of that stamp. We don't know what sort of cords the gentleman has over in the Nutmeg State or how many two horse-power buzz saws he had to saw up the ten cords in 2½ hours, but we have sawed a little wood by hand, and we know that one cord of hickory wood or two cords of pine wood is a good day's work. A man could not move ten cords of wood in 2½ hours, to say nothing of sawing each stick in four pieces. The labor of Hercules in cleaning out the Augean stables would be a before-breakfast job compared to it. DISGUSTED.

ORIENT, April 27.

The Greatest Show on Earth.

NOTE: Gov. Odell's procession left Albany on Monday night for St. Louis.

The train from out the city drew
Midst whoops, hurrahs and hullaballoo,
And headed for the Future Great
With something more than royal state—
An Empire State it was, indeed,
On exhibition in the lead.
The locomotive was a sight
Of gilt-edged wonder and delight.
The tank with violet-water slopped
And every car was marble-topped;
In all its panoply, gadzooks,
It was a Triumph Train de Luxe.
The grand Imperial Suite contained
The Governor whose genius gained
This royal show—and there alone
He sat upon a well taxed throne.
Yet not alone, for all about
Detectives hid who might rush out
In case some bold assassin tried
To rid the pageant of its pride.
Grand, gloomy and peculiar, he
Sat on his throne for all to see.
And then go to their homes and tell
Their wonder tales of Our Odell.

In other cars of lesser rate,
Between the fashion and the freight,
Rode Brown and Henry and Burnett,
And that strange Raines which is not wet,
And Bender, straight on charity,
Who handles public poverty,
And Nixon, Whipple, Malby, too,
And Alds, the mortgage-taxeroo.
And Matthews as a business man
To make the show pay if he can,
And other "wise heads" who go
To balance all the glittering show.
They trail behind the Only Great,
But share with him the royal state.
Is small, of course, but better small
They think, than have no share at all.
As some do not who strive, and yet
Are always left out in the wet.
The baggage cars are filled with chests
Of gold braid for the heaving breasts
Of all the courtiers on the train
Of him who celebrates his reign
Before the vassals of the West
Unused to what is really best,
With such a pomp and panoply
As otherwise they could not see.
St. Louis, stand aside in awe
Of what till now you never saw,
And as you gaze upon it know
That for this megatherian show,
This grandest Junket of all Junks
We've put up fifty thousand plunks.
But fifty thousand! Would you say
The price was high for such display?
Your show is costing millions, and
For downright dazzle it can't stand
With outs a minute—look at what,
Our fifty thousand dollars got.

W. J. L.

AFTER MANCHURIA—WHAT?

Views of a New Yorker on the Present Outlook in the Orient.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The attitude of Mr. Hay, represented to be one of mild protest against Russia's acquisition of Manchuria, reflects fairly, no doubt, the condition of American sentiment anent new developments in the Far East. Indifferent to some extent to-day to what is done or is not done in such a distant quarter, our people are still possessed in a vague sort of way with an idea that Russia is going rather too far; they wish she wouldn't disturb the serenity of nations. Further than that our body politic is not greatly wrought up over the news at hand.

Yet if Russia shall succeed in the face of Japan's fierce protest, indignation in England and mild reprobation in the United States, and actually Russianize Manchuria, through the entering wedge inserted at Pekin, he is far-sighted indeed who can predict the ultimate effects upon China, upon Japan and upon Anglo-Saxon influence in the entire Orient. If Russia would only occupy Manchuria, extend thus her borders to the Yellow Sea, and be satisfied: if she wou' on' "let it go at that," the rest of the world might shrug its shoulders, rail a while at broken promises, relinquish commercial rights and vested interests in an imperial province, and, after a lot of diatribe, the incident would pass. But such will not be the outcome of this crisis in Cathay.

Russia needs the sea. One does not have to visit that country, study her efforts for a breathing place, remember how she has fought for the Dandanelles, nor be very familiar with her steadfast policy, to realize that her pushing toward deep water is comparable to the movement of a glacier down upon some fertile valley—remorseless, comprehensive, implacable. The weight of an enormous empire, solid, inflexible, ferocious, alert, is behind the present pressure. China feels it most. Japan realizes exactly its significance. England, whose diplomacy is world wide, sees well enough what is at stake. America remembers traditional friendship. We keep in mind the Russia fleet that anchored in the harbor of New York in '61, with instructions to report to President Lincoln should France or England take an overt stand in favor of the South. We do not like to quarrel with a nation that was our friend when we needed friends. And still, since the Boxer business, we have fathered the principle known under the title of "The Open Door." Russia has acceded to it, but now she seems to say: "We have concluded to shut you all out."

After Manchuria—what? That is the real question of the present week. No one who knows Russia and who knows China supposes that the issue presented right now relates to one province only. Pekin and Pechili adjoin Manchuria. Let Cossacks once unopposed possess this province, how long will it be before they possess Pekin? Give them Pekin, and where will Russia stop? Will she want Corea? Why not? And why not, when she has more firmly entrenched herself, take Chengtu, along with various "hinterlands" and a hundred or more millions of meek-eyed Mongolians appertaining there to? What becomes of the valley of the Yangtse; of Hankow and of Foochow? Shantung, presumably, she would leave alone—Shantung, stamping-ground of William, silent partner of the Czar.

Civilization, when it shall more fully awaken to possibilities so colossal, will recall the words of W. H. Seward: "The Pacific Ocean, its shores and its islands, will be the theatre of the great events in the world's hereafter." Plainly, the game has opened. As in chess, the first few moves made may determine the entire outcome. Participants are, or will be, leading nations of the earth. As summer comes along, we shall be able better to understand how the affair will end.

It is fortunate for us, and for the Chinese, that two men upon whom much responsibility rests are able, clear-headed and patriotic. Mr. Hay's refusal to credit the story of slaughter at Pekin, published on the 16th of July, 1900, shows how absolutely his judgment may be depended upon. He made an enviable reputation all through the period of treaty rearrangements that followed. To-day China has not got to bear the burden of a Premier like the late Li Hung Chang, notoriously in the pay of Russia. Prince Ching, upon whom Li's mantle has fallen, is an enlightened statesman, devoted to his country.

In Mr. Hay's irreproachable motives, typifying only the principle of the "open door," Prince Ching can have confidence, and with reason. The United States Government has proved China's best adviser and stanchest ally against the aggressions of land-hungry foreigners—and no one knows it better than the present Premier.

THURLOW WEED BARNES.

NEW YORK, April 27.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If the 400,000,000 Chinese were a progressive people, what would be the effect upon the United States, with its 80,000,000?

If Russia acquire control of China, or obtain a large portion thereof, with a constantly increasing influence and control of the remaining portions, not temporarily absorbed by other nations, how long would it be before the question was not regarding 400,000,000 Chinese, but of the present power of Russia plus 400,000,000 more Russians, controlled by the well-known aggressiveness of Russia and her recognized determination to capture the world?

Would not the United States then remain an independent Power subject to the will of the Czar of Russia? Subject to his will, it is repeated. The problem to be solved then would be: How long would it take for five or six hundred millions to reduce to submission one hundred millions, all other things being equal?

Have not the United States and Great Britain, the two great American Powers, a joint duty to perform to prevent Russia from seizing any portion of China? H. G.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I do not see how the United States can expect to stop Russia nor do I think the rest of the world can do so for any important period of time. But this is not all. I do not think our interests will be advanced by our trying to do so. In my judgment we shall get better trade relations with Manchuria if Russia is in control than we shall with England there. The "open door" business is a bit of a fraud. Whatever European Power gets control or establishes a sphere of influence in China will take precedence in disposing of trade, no matter what the stipulations are. Our only chance for any successful business in that quarter is based upon better goods, better delivery and better prices. No stipulations will secure us business on any other terms, and so far as the tariff is concerned, I think it would be wise for Mr. Hay to see just what Count Cassini means by his proposition to give us preferential duties in Manchuria before he agrees to assist England and Japan in driving Russia out of that quarter. D.

NEW YORK, April 27.

Dog's Death Laid to Bad Neighbor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Appearing on the first page of your last Sunday's issue was an erroneous account of the shooting of a St. Bernard dog owned by Mrs. Charles Robbins of Montclair.

In justice to the memory of a valuable dog and to his owner, will you kindly give equal prominence to the following facts:

"Bob" that morning was allowed to leave his home alone for the first time in months, owing to the fact of his life having been threatened by the same individual who has industriously circulated the false report concerning his untimely end.

He was shot while playing with a smaller dog in a plot off the street, attempted to run home, but fell and lay dead, when the "bicyclist" appeared. The man on the wheel did, however, run into another dog some distance away, was dismounted, but apparently unhurt, got up and rode off.

There were many eyewitnesses to the affair, a crowd having collected about the dying dog. CHARLES ROBBINS.

MONTCLAIR, N. J.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Present Method of Caring for It Best That Can Be Suggested.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—The State Department made public to-day the report of the Committee of the National Academy of Sciences which was appointed to examine the original of the Declaration of Independence and communicate with the Secretary of State as to its present condition. The report says:

"The instrument has suffered very seriously from the harsh treatment to which it was exposed in the earlier years of the republic, folding and rolling having creased and broken the parchment. The wet press copying operation to which it was exposed about 1820, for the purpose of producing a fac simile copy, removed a large portion of the ink. Subsequent exposure to the action of light for more than thirty years, while the instrument was placed on exhibition, has resulted in the fading of the ink, particularly of the signatures. The present method of caring for the instrument seems to be the best that can be suggested.

"The committee is pleased to find that no evidence of mould or other disintegrating agents can be discovered upon the parchment by microscopic examination, or any evidence that disintegration is now in progress."

The committee suggests that a photograph be taken of the document from time to time to aid in future investigations. The report says further:

"The committee does not consider it wise to apply any chemicals with a view to restoring the original color of the ink because such application could be but partially successful, as a considerable percentage of the original ink was removed in making the copy about 1820 and also because such application might result in serious discoloration of the parchment."

For the last nine years the Declaration has been kept flat in a frame between two sheets of glass in a drawer of a steel case and seldom exposed to the light and air, and the committee concludes its report by saying that the present method of protecting the instrument should be continued; and "that it should be kept in the dark, and as dry as possible and never placed on exhibition."

The State Department, in making this report public, denies that the Declaration has ever been on exhibition at any of the great fairs since the Centennial Exposition. It was returned to the Department of State in 1877, and since then has never been out of the department building, and for more than a year past has not been on exhibition even in the department.

GEN. BALDWIN EXONERATED.

Reporter Who "Faked" an Interview With Him Discharged.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—Secretary Root decided to-day that no further action in the case of Gen. Frank D. Baldwin is necessary. Col. Mills of the Inspector-General's Department called upon the Secretary of War this morning and reported orally the conclusions reached by him as a result of his investigations in Denver.

He explained that the alleged interview was practically a "fake" and that Gen. Baldwin was fully exonerated by the testimony of witnesses under oath. Col. Mills will make a complete report in writing, but without waiting for this Secretary Root decided that there would be no court-martial and no further action.

Col. Mills found that Gen. Baldwin was interviewed the night of his arrival in Denver by a reporter for the Denver *News*. This interview appeared Monday morning, correctly reported, but was not seen by Gen. Baldwin for several days after.

The same morning the Denver *Post* sent its reporter to seen Gen. Baldwin, but he apparently failed to do so. When the alleged interview in the Denver *Post* appeared and Gen. Baldwin's attention was called to it, he thought the man to whom he talked Sunday night had misquoted him and declared that he was misunderstood.

It turned out that the alleged interview regarding negroes and Filipinos was "faked" and the reporter was discharged.

VOTED AYE—WITH HIS EYES SHUT

Alderman Meyers Unceremoniously Called a Liar by Alderman Downing.

One Alderman called another Alderman a liar, or words to that effect, at yesterday's meeting of the Board. Chairman Downing of the Committee on Salaries got a resolution passed revising the wages of some city officials. After it had gone through Alderman Meyers, the Republican leader, asked for some information regarding the motion. Alderman Downing refused to satisfy him. Then Meyers moved that the resolution be restored to the calendar. Only when a member has voted for a proposition can he move to have it reconsidered. Replying to the chairman, Mr. Meyers said he had voted in the affirmative.

"He did not vote at all," cried Downing.

Mr. Meyers insisted that he had voted, whereupon Mr. Downing said:

"Why Meyers told me himself that he was not present when the vote was being taken, so he must be guilty of telling a falsehood one way or another."

Alderman Wentz—I know that Mr. Meyers voted because he answered "aye" when his name was called. I was sitting next to him and after he had voted he turned to me and said "What's all this about that we're voting for?" [Laughter.]

Mr. Meyers did not reply to Downing's attack on his veracity, but the records showed that he had voted. His motion for a reconsideration was lost.

Turkish Ban on American Pork Removed.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—Minister Leishman at Constantinople cabled the State Department this morning that the Turkish Government's prohibition on American pork, which has been in effect for the past five years, has been removed and orders have been issued to permit the entry of the same under the usual examination.

The "Catholic" Party in the Anglican Church.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is to be assumed that Mr. Glasby in his letter in to-day's SUN is perfectly sincere in putting forward "the branch theory" to justify the Catholic position in the Anglican Church. Permit me, however, to point out an extremely awkward result of this theory. Mr. Glasby calls his co-religionists "the Catholic party in the Anglican Church," and further on he asserts that "the Anglican Church has its errors." Does Mr. Glasby wish to reduce his "party" to a mere twig on a very rotten branch? Surely, he should desire for them a more logical and a more dignified position.

Toward the end of his letter Mr. Glasby makes this statement: "Even when Father Evans was obliged to abandon St. Michael's [Episcopal] he did not leave the Anglican communion." Father Evans has been received into the Catholic Church. He is now a layman in the Church, and at present is residing in Rome. (See *London Tablet*, page 555.) P. E. MCCORRY.

NEW YORK, April 24.

Whence the Magic of a Shave?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Can you or some of THE SUN readers account for the exhilarating sensation arising from a shave? Many a day when "in the dumps," depressed and lacking in energy, I have invariably found relief in the use of my trusty razor, and have emerged from the proceeding "like a new man," as it were. Whence this remarkable lifting of the spirits, this bracing tonic, this rejuvenation is a twinkling? If such be the effect on the face, why not thus treat the entire body? But to go no further, who can explain the mystery of a simple every-day facial shave?

I. M.

McClure's Magazine for May is an exceptionally interesting number. Prof. Simon Newcomb describes "The End of the World" in a short story, based, as his name indicates, on scientific reasoning; Lincoln Steffens carries his studies of municipal corruption further with "Pittsburg: A City Ashamed"; and Miss Tarbell brings her history of the Standard Oil Company down to 1878, when a famous crisis in its affairs occurred. Other articles are: "A Little Surprise," by Mary Stewart Cutting; "Waifs of the Street," by Ernest Poole; "The Happy Day," by Mary E. Wilkins, and there are other contributions that attract. The illustrations are to be noticed, as well as the articles of the number.