The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1903.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	70

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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A Solid Front to the Enemy.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS JEROME'S indictment of Mr. LOW'S candidacy is an astounding thing. That Mr. JEROME should have felt it possible to write such an impeachment; that he should have felt it his duty at so critical a time as the present to set forth Mr. LOW'S disabilities as he conceives them, is nothing short of a calamity. It is impossible to read what Mr. JEROME says without the gravest apprehension as to the outlook for the cause of good government. He was the centre, the fire and the inspiration of the campaign which brought Mr. Low to the Mayoralty. There is no man in the whole community who has a higher standing in respect of his truthfulness, his moral and physical courage and his unselfish devotion to his political ideals. We have differed with Mr. JEROME concerning the wisdom or expediency of things that he has done or things that he has said, but we have never had a doubt of the integrity of his purposes or of his sincerity. He is a cleanly citizen, if ever there was one, in the public life of this town.

There is no question of the far-reaching effect of what Mr. JEROME has written. It cannot be stamped out or smothered; and if there is any real civic spirit in existence, if there is any manly faculty of resistance, any actual realization of what an appalling disaster threatens this community in the return of Tammany, it will arouse all decent people to action. It is not the spirit of reform that is to be invoked—it is the spirit of self-preservation. *It is no question of politics; it is the question of the common safety.* We have done things in this administration which are but the stepping stones of our higher welfare, the essentials to the progress of New York to the loftiest plane of municipal achievement; but they are the very things which would make us the helpless prey of Tammany rapacity. What man of sense can contemplate the new basis of our taxation in the clutch of Tammany and not shudder at the future, or fly from it?

There is no sane prospect of such a future that is not hideous; and yet it is an actual, an imminent and a pressing danger. If Mr. JEROME'S warning shall have sufficed to awaken the community he will have added another to his many claims to its grateful remembrance.

The President the Only Judge.

An error of fact and law which is prevalent at the present time wherever the error suits a particular theory, finds a place in the usually careful columns of our neighbor, the *New York Times:*

"The Hay-Herran Treaty has six days of life left. On Tuesday next the limit of time for its ratification will have expired. Under the terms of the Spooner amendment it will then be the duty of the President to negotiate treaties with Nicaragua and Costa Rica and proceed with the construction of a canal from Greytown to Brito."

The terms of the Act of June 28, 1902, described by our neighbor as the Spooner amendment, do not make it the President's duty to proceed on Wednesday next or immediately thereafter to negotiate treaties with Nicaragua and Costa Rica for a canal from Greytown to Brito. One link of the chain of requirements is ignored by those who say or suppose that such is the case.

The date when the President shall turn from Panama to Nicaragua is left by the law to his own judgment of what constitutes "a reasonable time." If he thought that twelve months or even eighteen months more constituted a not unreasonable expenditure of time in order to secure possession of the superior route, he could legally delay that long the beginning of the negotiation for control of the inferior route. The *Times* and other observers might consider the delay unreasonable, but under the terms of the act the President is the sole judge.

That the word "reasonable" in the act means reasonable in the President's view is twice distinctly stated in the phrases subjoined:

"Upon such terms as *he* may deem reasonable."—*Section 2.*

"Upon terms which *he* may consider reasonable."—*Section 4.*

This shows clearly whose judgment is to determine the meaning of reasonable, whether as to time or as to terms.

Intervention Needed in Macedonia.

The situation in the Balkans is not one of which European civilization and Christianity have any reason to be proud. Though the loss of life in the Macedonian and Adrianople districts will probably turn out to be nothing so great as rumor and exaggeration are making it, the fact that after having guaranteed them better government at the Congress of Berlin, the European Powers should have cynically neglected to enforce their own decree and should now look on callously while the Albanian and Kurdish savages in Turkish uniforms are ravaging the country, is dishonorable to humanity at large.

As if to emphasize still further the turpitude of their policy, they now threaten the Governments of the minor Balkan States which appear to be preparing to march their armies to the assistance of their coreligionists and brothers in race. The black spot in the proceedings of the Macedonian insurgents is the way in which they have carried destruction and death into the towns and villages inhabited by the Greeks and Koutso-Wallachs, people who suffer equally with themselves under Turkish misrule. For this miserable outcome of race feeling the late M. STAMBULOFF was mainly responsible, his principle being that unless the Bulgarian people could establish their domination over the whole of the Balkans their existence as a petty State was not worth preserving. This was in opposition to the doctrine held by the late M. STOILOFF and others with more statesmanlike views, that the development of each nationality within its own limits and an eventual federation of all the Danubian and Balkan States were the truer policy. The difference between the ideas of the two men was that of their education—the difference between the Russian and the Robert College training.

The original author, however, of the Bulgarian Chauvinism which became the marked feature of M. STAMBULOFF'S policy was Gen. IGNATIEFF, the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, who engineered the war of 1877. When in the treaty of San Stefano he insisted on incorporating in his greater Bulgaria districts which were and are still manifestly Greek, he created the cause of the present enmity between the two races; and as he laid down his pen after affixing his signature to the treaty and exclaimed: "Now the Greeks may swim to Constantinople," he gave it open expression.

It is difficult to sympathize with the Greeks in the attitude they have assumed; but it is still more so to condone the outrages of which the Macedonian Bulgarians have admittedly been guilty, thereby placing themselves on a level with the barbarians whom Europe has let loose on the wretched populations of the Sultan's European dominions. At the same time, if the only deliverance these people can hope for must come from the Bulgarians, Servians and Montenegrins of the free States, the sooner it comes the better, for the actual condition of things is a scandal and reproach to civilization.

The Sultan can plead the right accorded him by the Treaty of Berlin, chiefly through the action of the Anglo-Austrian entente at the Congress, to occupy the Balkan passes, but nothing can be more certain than that the passage of the Bulgarian frontier by the first body of Turkish troops sent to enforce that right will lead to resistance and war and the extension of the area of devastation. By their inaction in the matter, it would seem as though that is what some of the European Governments are aiming at.

Muddy Waters.

The *Evening Post* printed last night a singular interview with Mr. JACOB H. SCHIFF upon the now somewhat turbid municipal situation. Mr. SCHIFF'S attempt at clarification is prompted by the best possible motives, and it derives additional importance from the fact that the name of that gentleman has been suggested as affording greater promise at the head of a fusion or reform ticket than that of Mayor Low himself.

The substance of Mr. SCHIFF'S comments upon the idea that Mr. Low is not likely to lead a second time to victory for good government is that it will be better for good government to march to defeat with him than to triumph under the leadership of any other individual whatsoever. He does not believe that the defeat of Mr. Low is possible, but he adds: "We cannot afford to win with another man not in every respect equal to Mr. Low in all the qualities which have made the reform administration the great success it has been." Again: "Honest municipal government must in this campaign stand or fall with Mr. Low."

This personal tribute to Mr. Low is of unusual character. It not only identifies the Mayor with the cause of honest municipal government, but it actually encloses that cause in the personality of Mr. Low and deliberately prefers the defeat of the cause to a change of integument.

If this is merely Mr. JACOB H. SCHIFF'S modest way of dissenting from the opinion which some of his fellow citizens have expressed, namely, that he is this year a more available candidate for the fusion ticket than the candidate of two years ago would be, this remarkable interview is intelligible. On any other supposition the philosophy of Mr. SCHIFF'S remarks does not shine through his words.

The Carnegie Endowment of the Scottish Universities.

Although it is proverbially ungracious to look a gift horse in the mouth, this is precisely what has been done with reference to the conditions imposed upon the gift of ten million dollars made by Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE for the benefit of the universities of Scotland and the youth of that country who desire a university education. A writer, evidently a Scotchman, who signs himself "Glasgow," has set forth in the September number of the *National Review* his reasons for the belief that not only Scottish youth, but even Scottish universities would be better off without the endowment.

It may be recalled that, according to the programme formulated by the committee of noblemen and gentlemen to whom the sum named was given in trust, half of the net annual income is applicable to improvements of university buildings and to a fuller equipment of the teaching staff in certain departments of study. The other half of the net income of the fund is to be used for the payment of the fees of Scottish youth who are anxious to secure an academic training. The objection raised to the former provision by "Glasgow" is that the Scottish university authorities may have to transact their business under possible correction from the Carnegie Trust, because, under the trust deed, no grant of money for building or equipment purposes can be secured without the approval of the managers of the trust.

It is suggested that Mr. CARNEGIE may have theories of his own as to what university education ought to be, and that he desires all coming improvements to conform to these notions. Such interference, according to "Glasgow," would ultimately bring about the ruin of the Scottish seats of learning. It is highly probable that Mr. CARNEGIE has preconceived ideas as to the special shortcomings of the Scottish universities. Those institutions are notoriously weak on the scientific side, and it would seem to be proper enough that precautions should be taken to assure the application of the net income of five million dollars (half the trust fund) to an enlargement of the facilities for scientific education instead of to the augmentation of the salaries of divinity professors or of instructors in Latin and Greek. By requiring the approval of the trustees for any allotment of funds Mr. CARNEGIE has guarded against the possible ascendancy of non-scientific persons in university councils.

It is, however, the use to be made of the income of the second half of the Carnegie endowment that is most severely criticised by the writer in the *National Review*. He holds that by offering to pay their university fees Mr. CARNEGIE will corrupt the Scottish youth. The letter to Lord ELGIN, in which the intentions of the founder of the endowment were indicated, did not overlook the fact that some practical difficulties might be encountered owing to "the spirit of manly independence dear to the Scotch." The opinion was expressed, however, that young men's scruples would be overcome when they should learn that it would always be optional with them to refund the outlay made on their behalf, should they ever be in a position to do so. Now, there is no doubt that the expediency of furnishing any pecuniary aid to young men desirous of obtaining a university education is debatable. There are those who think that such assistance does more harm than good and that it would be well for Oxford and Cambridge if all the money now distributed in the form of "scholarships" were diverted to the purpose of the endowment of scientific research.

Unless, however, one is prepared altogether to repudiate the system under which pecuniary aid is given to poor but deserving students, we are unable to discern any valid objection to the fund established by Mr. CARNEGIE for the benefit of Scottish youth. On the contrary, he seems to have pursued a course calculated to do the most good and the least harm possible, by relying exclusively on the good faith of the recipients of aid and refraining from any inquiries as to their real need of assistance. Applicants are encouraged to come forward by the information that no personal credentials will be exacted from those who satisfy the test of intellectual competence provided by a prescribed examination. No investigation of their pecuniary means will be made, although a letter will go to a parent or guardian stating that the application of the young man has been entertained. It seems that, in one instance, a student's request for the payment of his fees was granted, but his father instantly cancelled the proceedings when they came to his knowledge.

There may be other young men in Scotland, as doubtless there are elsewhere, who are willing to take a mean advantage of a philanthropic offer; but, in our judgment, it will prove wiser in the long run to confide in the honor of applicants for assistance than to exact of them a mortifying exposure of their ways and means. There is no surer way of making and keeping a boy honest than to treat him as if you believed him incapable of dishonesty.

On the whole, it seems to us that the writer in the *National Review* has failed to make out a case against the Carnegie Trust Fund for Scottish universities. He is captious rather than convincing.

A "Bull" Country.

The stock market "bear" with evil forebodings as his stock in trade is not assisted in his interested gloom by the facts of the situation in this city and this country as they are forced on the attention of the people.

The largest immigration in American history is now arriving at this port, and only when there is assurance of prosperity ahead is there any such increase in the volume of this alien stream. The unemployed are relatively fewer than ever before in our history and wages are higher than at any past period.

Another evidence of prosperous conditions existing and expected continuously is afforded by the preparations made by the purveyors of public amusements for this town and for the long chain of towns from the Atlantic to the Pacific. These are on a greater scale than in any autumn season of the past in music, in the drama and in all forms of popular entertainment, and the amount of capital employed in them is greater than ever before.

To the most casual observation New York appears more populous than ever, and the conclusion is justified by the large increase in the interurban passenger traffic. Great bazaars of trade are extending their buildings, hotels are increasing in number and private dwellings are rented easily. The people look happy.

Where are the "bear" signs outside of Wall Street?

The Result of Tuesday's Primaries.

DEVERY'S contest for supremacy in the Tammany organization of the Ninth Assembly district was the most interesting primary struggle decided on Tuesday. His defeat was brought about by the exercise of the entire strength of Tammany Hall. CHARLES F. MURPHY refused to recognize DEVERY'S success of last year and threw all his influence in favor of FRANK J. GOODWIN at the polls this year. In both contests DEVERY had two opponents, but this year the names on the two opposition tickets were the same, so that the total anti-Devery vote was effective, and not divided as in 1902.

The total vote cast against DEVERY last year was 2,048, and 1,695 votes were cast for him. His plurality over his nearest competitor was 385. This year he polled 1,338 votes. He received 147 votes more than FRANK J. GOODWIN, his highest competitor, and 793 more than FRANK L. DOWLING, the third candidate. GOODWIN and DOWLING'S votes, combined, beat DEVERY'S by 398, and this decides the primary against him. DEVERY'S vote fell off 357 from that of 1902, and the total vote against him fell off 312. DEVERY has no cause to be ashamed of the showing he made. Had he chosen to put a dummy ticket in the field he might have pulled through. As it was, he beat each of his opponents, but lost to the two combined.

The defeat of GEORGE HILLIARD, the Republican leader in the Sixteenth district, is interesting because of the important State office he holds. He is the Deputy Excise Commissioner. Before the adoption of the Raines law had such a post been in existence its occupant would have been practically invincible, but under the present system his opponent had no trouble in ousting him.

JAMES J. HAGAN'S success over JOHN B. SEXTON in the Nineteenth district removes from the Tammany Executive Committee a figure familiar throughout the Van Wyck administration. SEXTON was a member of the last Board of Police Commissioners and afterward was Health Commissioner. HAGAN was one of his lieutenants at that time and was warden of the City Prison.

The policies and strength of the political organizations will not be affected by the results of the primaries except in district matters, where the changes will be personal and of no general interest.

The Allotment Frauds.

The charges of fraud in the execution of the allotment law under which Congress designed to have the Indians of the Indian Territory take title to homesteads and hold their lands in severalty involve so many persons that the investigation they call for will require the services of the most competent men Secretary HITCHCOCK of the Department of the Interior can induce to take it up. Several months must be devoted to the work, for the frauds are alleged to have extended over a series of years, and hundreds of Indians are essential witnesses to the facts.

The Indian Rights Association, through its agent, SAMUEL M. BROSIUS, has named a number of men in high Federal office whom it accuses of neglecting their official duty and practically conspiring to defraud the Indians who were under their care. The gravity of the charges is shown by the number and official place of the accused. At the head of the list are TAMS BIXBY, president of the Dawes Commission, and THOMAS B. NEEDLES, a member of the commission, whose duty was to make the allotments and to see that the Indians were not cheated. Yet each of them holds office in corporations whose business is largely made up of the lease, purchase and sale of Indians' lands.

Mr. BIXBY does not deny his interest in land companies, but excuses it on the ground that it is small. He is president of one such concern and vice-president of another. Mr. NEEDLES is vice-president of another concern. Other United States officers are interested in these corporations. Indian Inspector WRIGHT of the Interior Department, who was sent to the Territory by Secretary HITCHCOCK to watch Mr. BIXBY and his fellow Commissioners and see that they behaved themselves, is himself a director of one of Mr. BIXBY'S concerns.

One of the specialties of these corporations has been the dealing in the lands of deceased allotees. The Government does not give title to the Indian occupant of a homestead until he has occupied it for twenty-five years; but the practice has grown up, in defiance of law, of allowing the heirs of an allotee to sell his holdings on his death, and Mr. BROSIUS charges that Mr. BIXBY'S companies have made a very profitable thing out of this illegal business.

The land and trust companies have frightened the Indians until many allotees are afraid to lease their lands to any one else and are also afraid not to lease them to the companies. It is alleged that the companies obtain the lands at far below their market value and re-lease them at a great profit, a part of which goes into the pockets of the very men who are supposed to protect the Indians.

President ROOSEVELT appoints the members of the Dawes Commission. Secretary HITCHCOCK appoints the Indian Inspectors. Secretary HITCHCOCK'S friends say he has known of the charges of fraud for several months and has been investigating them quietly. The general public knew nothing of the alleged frauds until Mr. BROSIUS'S report was made public. Mr. HITCHCOCK has seemed to attach more importance to the publication of the report than the incident deserves. Overlooking this, his duty is to investigate all the charges expeditiously, impartially and thoroughly, thus proving that there is no neglect of duty in the office of the Secretary of the Interior.

According to a correspondent of the New Orleans *Picayune*, American financiers of irregular habits who have selected Honduras as a home are not to be envied. A Kentucky bank wrecker is a clerk for a steamship line at Port Celba. WETTERMARK, a distinguished defaulter of Nacogdoches, Tex., is a cowpuncher, living sixty miles from the coast, and visiting Truxillo only at long intervals. An as yet unidentified American thief is a bartender in a little village back from the coast, shut off from society of the sort to which he was accustomed at home. All of the exiles want to return to the United States. Some of them are saving their money, hoping to effect settlements that will allow them to come back. Some of them are known by the natives to be defaulters, but this makes no difference in their treatment.

So many rabbits and quail are killed by house cats running loose in the woods that the New Jersey hunters want to have a law passed allowing cats found in the woods to be shot. The present law provides that any person allowing a dog to run wild shall pay a fine of $20. Cats are said to be more destructive of game than dogs, foxes, minks, or hawks.

They Bid Him Go.

Those hands, how I detest them,
Although I never pressed them
In my own;
No rival rings adorn them,
And yet my cause to mourn them
Clear is shown.

Nay, think me not disloyal
Unto my lady royal;
Feel no shock;
For the hands at which I cavil
Are the ones that daily travel
Round the clock.

THE OUTLOOK FOR CUBAN RECIPROCITY.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—It now seems almost certain that an extra session of Congress will be called on Nov. 9. The call has not yet been issued, but the official word has practically been pledged. The special purpose of the session is consideration of our trade relations with Cuba, and, if possible, action upon the question. Should that be disposed of, other matters are pending.

It is fair to assume that a few days will be spent in organizing, a few in manœuvring for position, perhaps a few in filibustering; and it is quite likely that the legislators will take a recess during Thanksgiving week in order that they may return to their homes and in company with their respective families thank the good Lord for the many mercies which have crowned the year. But the due observation of these various political, domestic and religious ceremonials will still leave a few odd days for the transaction of national business before the opening of the regular session. During those days it is to be presumed that Congress will again tackle that Cuban reciprocity question, which has for many months been a sore disturber of our political peace. What will Congress do with it?

That which was perhaps the strongest argument in favor of a generous policy toward Cuba is no longer an active factor. That consisted in the presentation of Cuba's dire needs and in the declaration of our responsibility for their relief. Though very much poorer than most Americans now suppose them to be, the Cubans are not immediately threatened with economic distress and financial disaster. They have quietly and patiently pulled themselves together, faced the misfortune which confronted them two years ago and have virtually conquered it. They are getting along as best they can, but they are getting along. Their self-congratulation upon and public announcement of the healthy condition of their national treasury has created a mistaken belief in the general prosperity of the people. They are not now suffering, but they are far from prosperous. The argument of dire need and American responsibility will have little or no place in the coming discussion.

The issue will turn upon the point of American, and not of Cuban, interests. In former discussions the noise of the campaign has been made by the beet sugar interests of the United States. It now seems probable that this factor will have little or no prominence. It is generally admitted that the proposed treaty, limited as it is to a brief term, will be of less injury to them than would a continued agitation, with its disturbance of market conditions. It is currently reported that the active opposition of the beet sugar interests will be withdrawn.

Although these interests were generally supposed to be the controlling force in the opposition heretofore, such is not at all the fact. Behind the noise and the vociferation of that element there stood another group, less noisy but more effective, really dominating the situation. This consisted of those who opposed any break in our present tariff barriers. They feared that a treaty with Cuba would be a breach in the walls through which would follow treaties with France, Newfoundland, the Argentine, Canada, and perhaps with others, to the entire derangement of our present tariff system. This group has been, and still is, the effective force in opposition to the Cuban treaty.

The strength which this element will develop in the coming session cannot now be measured. New influences, partly political and partly economic, have arisen. Attention is called to the declaration of the Republican national platform of 1896, virtually pledging protection to American sugar producers. Mr. Roosevelt's attitude is held to be a violation of that pledge of his party. Yet, as President, he has committed himself unalterably to Cuban reciprocity, and as members of the party of which he is now the official head the Republicans in Congress are supposed to follow his lead.

The Wonders of Modern Farming.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The account of Dr. Doty's lawn-mower, by "Willie-on-the-Yacht" (supposedly half-seas over) is quite mediocre. If the story had been continued to show how the lawn was raked by gravity after being mown, we might have acknowledged a remarkable innovation in auto-farming.

I had the pleasure of spending a few days of my vacation late this summer at the farm of a friend in Pennsylvania. The farm is situated in a hilly section, and many of its fields lie on slopes of varying degrees. My friend has two lads who are old enough to do considerable hard work, but are also ingenious enough to avoid all they may. Their father had occasion to go to the county seat on business one day and gave them instructions to dig potatoes in the side-hill field below the road. Now, woodchucks were plentiful among the stone-rows and in the adjoining pasture, and the boys were always watchful for an opportunity to destroy one of these rodents. On this day they took with them to the potato field a small calibre rifle and were rewarded by getting a shot at a fat ground-hog perched beside his burrow. The excitement of the adventure drove from their intention all idea of work, and they spent the entire forenoon in search of more game. When the noonday sun and horn finally recalled them to their duty they were fearful of the result when their father should return and find so few potatoes out. They hit upon a novel plan, however, and after dinner took to the field with them an old hog that had been placed in the pen for fattening.

Arrived at the top of the hill, where the rows ran down the steep side, they encouraged the pig to begin rooting at the top mound to secure a taste of Burbanks, of which swine are very fond; then giving him a sharp push from the rear, he scrambled to the foot of the hill before he could recover himself, stopping only against the lower fence after ripping out the entire row with his snout; and the potatoes which came tumbling out rolled to the bottom and nearly buried the surprised piggie. One of the boys then remained at the foot of the field to drive the pig from the potatoes and the lad at the top coaxed him up with a pail of swill, and the performance was repeated until the last row was dug. They then drove the farm wagon along the base of the hill and scooped the potatoes into the spacious box and conveyed them to the cellar.

The net result of the afternoon's work was 120 bushels of potatoes and a pig with such a sore snout that he refused the most delectable food for three days, much to the concern of the farmer. I have omitted the names in this narrative, as I have no desire to undeceive my friend, who believes he has two boys who cannot be beaten in a day's work.

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., Sept. 15. M. G. L.

Britain's Starving Clergy.

From the Westminster Gazette.

Archdeacon Sinclair draws a very doleful picture of the circumstances of the Church of England parson: "The greater number of the clergy of the Church of England have not enough to eat and drink, hundreds of them are clothed in second hand garments sent to a charitable society, and many of them have no fuel by means of which to keep themselves warm. Think of it! Leave all the necessitous curates, for the moment, out of the question. More than 7,000 incumbents are bringing up families upon less than £180 a year. Their lives are one perpetual struggle to keep themselves alive and to avoid debt."

The Foresight of Robert Fulton.

Fulton was hustling to complete his steamboat.

"But," we protested, "what's your hurry?"

"Hurry enough," he answered. "I've got to give the thing time to evolve into a government pleasure craft for officeholders."

Thus, in the dim past, were the foundations laid for the domestic warship.

Canaries as Featherless Bipeds.

From Nature Notes.

A canary breeder has two young birds, now about six weeks old, whose bodies are entirely destitute of feathers or down of any kind, with the exception of the quills on wings and tails. The skin is perfectly smooth, with no sign whatever of feathers to come.

ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL VALUE.

The Purchase of That Great Territory a Paying Investment.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In return for the $7,200,000 which we paid for Alaska in 1867 that territory has already sent us furs, fish and gold aggregating $150,000,000 in value, or more than twenty times its cost.

In the thirty-six years since the purchase we have sent merchandise to Alaska to the value of $100,000,000, on all of which we made a profit. Our merchandise shipments to the territory now amount to about $10,000,000 yearly. The exact figures for 1903 fiscal year are $9,497,721.

In the same year Alaska sent us $10,228,064 in merchandise and $4,719,579 in gold produced on American soil. In addition, Alaska acted as agent for transmission to the United States of $10,979,285 in gold produced in present Canadian-British territory.

Canned salmon to the value of more than $8,000,000, besides $750,000 worth of other fish, was sent us in 1903 fiscal year. That total value of $8,750,000 in fish would alone have covered the purchase price of the territory, with a surplus of $1,550,000; and with the remaining $3,250,000 of merchandise shipments and the $4,719,579 in gold, Alaska paid for itself more than twice over in 1903 alone.

Of the $9,497,721 worth of merchandise which we sent to Alaska in 1903 fiscal year fully $8,000,000 was of manufactured goods, directly benefiting our factories and wage earners. More than one-fourth of that $8,000,000 was for manufactures of iron and steel, according to the Bureau of Statistics, Department of Commerce and Labor. An item of special interest included in that one-fourth was tin plate for salmon cans, of the value of $920,810, besides $420,316 of tin manufactures not so included. Provisions and breadstuffs foot up $1,500,000. Musical instruments represent $16,400 and jewelry $24,455. These last two items show that Alaska is no longer to be looked upon as being outside of the bounds of civilization, particularly as we also sent $119,000 worth of paintings and statuary, books, maps and engravings, toys and perfumes. The rest of our shipments cover a wide range of articles, from steam engines to eggs.

In comforting contrast to our commerce with the Philippines, of which only 1 6 per cent. was carried in American vessels, it is to be noted that all but $270,000 of our $25,000,000 total commerce (including our own gold production) with Alaska in 1903 fiscal year was carried in vessels flying the American flag.

Alaska also sold, at a profit, $1,588,533 worth of goods to Canada, and bought, also at a profit, $477,463 worth from her.

As practically all our shipments to Alaska pass through our Pacific Coast ports, an idea of the value to us of the trade consequent upon our purchase of the territory may be formed from the fact that in 1868—the first year of our ownership—the shipments so passing only amounted to $253,000. From 1884 to 1893 such shipments averaged $3,412,000 a year, and from 1893 to the present time the yearly average has been $12,541,000; 1898, 1900 and 1901 were banner years, reaching thirteen, eighteen and thirteen millions respectively, owing to the Klondike rush. Alaska, with $25,000,000 commerce and no rush, is a valuable American asset.

WALTER J. BALLARD.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., Sept. 16.

ECONOMY IN SPELLING.

New Characters for Newspaper Composition.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There is a movement on foot which, if it succeeds, will do more for the orthography of the English language than has been accomplished in the last 300 years. With the ever-increasing growth of journalistic publication the adoption of every vital short-cut and abridged method attainable is welcome. One such short-cut is the revision and readjustment of the type used on the composing machine.

It has been discovered that two letters can be dropped out and in their places two new ones brought in whose use will save from 300 to 400 type impressions, or twelve to fifteen lines of reading space per column, an amount equal to a whole page out of every twenty-five now published.

The two letters to be dismissed are "q" and "x," and in their place "cw" and "cs" will be used. In their places will be brought in the two new letters, one to represent the "sh" sound, now variously represented by "sh," "si," "sci," "ti," "ci,"—as in "shine," "mission," "conscience," "motion," "ocean." It is formed by a fusion of "s" and "i" and resembles very closely the dollar mark.

The other new letter will serve for the "th" sound ("this," "that," "those") and so displace that digraph. It is formed by a fusion of "d" and "h," and makes a very pretty letter.

The inauguration of this scheme by the press would win the praise of the public, for it represents fully as much change as has been accomplished since the Angles took the alphabet from the Romans to the present time.

ROBERT W. MASON.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.

Ritualism in the Lutheran Church.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The discussion of Ritualism in New York churches would make interesting a description of the ritual and ceremonial in the Scandinavian churches (Sweden, Norway and Denmark) especially as there is at present so decided a movement in the Lutheran Church, both here and in Continental Europe, to restore the old liturgical and ritual uses.

In the Scandinavian countries, the chief service is still called "High Mass;" the clergy are popularly called "priests;" the cope and mitre are still worn by the Bishops, and the alb and chasuble by the priest at the Holy Communion; the crucifix is still found on all Danish altars (with lighted candles at the celebration of the Eucharist), and candles are also used on the Swedish and Norwegian altars for the same service. The minister takes the "eastward position" at the altar, wafer bread is invariably used and the sign of the cross is freely made by the pastor, especially in giving the benediction.

Puritan iconoclasm never invaded the Scandinavian countries, and while their Protestantism has always been rigidly adhered to in the spirit of the Augsburg Confession, painting, sculpture and music, since the Reformation, have been always freely and fully in use to beautify the cathedrals and churches and to enrich the worship of the State churches in those northern countries.

A full description of the ritual, vestments, altar ornaments, terminology and ceremonial of the Scandinavian churches would be interesting and probably surprising at this time when liturgical and ritual revival is going on more or less in all Protestantism.

There is a mission of the Danish State Church in Brooklyn, the Danish Sailor's Mission of Our Saviour, where, if I am correctly informed, the usages of the old country prevail. I know the altar is according to old Danish use and that the priestly alb and chasuble are worn at "High Mass."

NEWARK, Sept. 14. H. R. LINDERMAN.

A Question of State.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Do you understand that President Roosevelt will decline to accept the usual Thanksgiving turkey this year from that chap in Rhode Island? W. B.

NEW YORK, Sept. 15.

Lechitin.

NEWS NOTE: Lechitin, a new food which makes everything grow large, has just been discovered by Chicago scientists.

"Just discovered"—so they say;
But we know it's not that way,
Notwithstanding what they say.
We have known Chicago long,
Growing big around and strong;
Growing out so many ways
That delight us and amaze;
Growing bigger every day
In a most bewildering way.
And are ordinary laws
Of a city's growth the cause?
Not at all. The way that town
Has spread itself has tumbled down
All precedent, and paralyzed
Rules before this greatly prized
In statistics and the books
Of the able census crooks,
And forces us to ask why she
Reaches such immensity.
And the answer comes right in:
Chicago feeds on lechitin!
Not this year, only, nor the last,
But for many decades past;
Though her science shovers say
They found it just the other day.
Come off! come off! that won't go down;
For years they've lechitinized the town;
Until it's grown so big that they
Are forced to give the snap away.
And yet they have not fed it so
The people of the city, who
Have bodies not much larger than
The natural average size of man.
But they have fed it to the minds
Of great and small and other kinds,
And to their notions and their tongues,
And to their wind-producing lungs,
Until, gadzooks! they've reached such size
That if they tried to lechitinize
Much further on that line there'd be
Such infinite immensity,
That they would have to lechitinize
The distant, ultra-stellar skies
And spread them to the crack of doom
So that Chicago might have room.

WILLIAM J. LAMPTON.

SCHOOL FIGURES COMING IN.

80,955 Children Put in Part Time—1,659 Under Six Years Turned Away.

City Superintendent Maxwell received reports from 520 of the 589 elementary schools in the city yesterday in regard to school attendance. He expects to get reports from the other thirty elementary and high schools to-day.

The total registration reported was 481,188, showing an increase of 35,368 over last year. The attendance was 428,249, an increase of 29,399 over a year ago. There were 80,955 children put on part time, which beats last year's record by 21,829; and 1,659 children under six years old failed to be admitted to the schools. None over that age was turned away.

The registration in Manhattan was 245,431, which was 20,009 more than last year. There were in attendance on the first day 216,448 pupils; 41,220 pupils were put in part time classes and 770 children under 6 years old were turned away. The Bronx had a registration of 41,885, Brooklyn's registered pupils numbered 153,744, and the attendance was 135,731. The increase in registration there was 8,814 and the number put on part time was 28,303.

ONE-STORY SCHOOLS SUGGESTED.

The executive committee of the Board of Education recommended yesterday for election by the board Miss Julia Richman for district superintendent.

"I think it only right that the Hebrews should have a representative among the twenty-seven district superintendents, though I wish some other member had brought up the point, as I belong to that race," said Commissioner Mack.

Mr. Adams of the building committee wanted to know what the executive committee thought about building schools one-story high to meet the great increase in the school population. He said that building materials were soaring in price and it took a very long time, anyway, to construct a new entire school. His plan was to put one-story structures on the foundations that had got no further because of the strikes and to buy new sites and put up a large number of one-story buildings.

Several of the members discussed the proposition favorably, with the idea that when the building strikes are over and the price of building material comes down, the new schoolhouses might be run up to the usual height. A schoolhouse which cost $150,000 ten years ago now costs $380,000, Mr. Lummis said.

City Superintendent Maxwell reported that the largest schoolhouse in the world will be opened next week in East Houston street. It will seat 5,000 pupils and will lower the part-time total by 10,000.

CALLS JUDGES' PAY ILLEGAL.

Justice Gaynor's Secretary to Sue to Have Aspinall's and Crane's Salaries Reduced.

J. P. Kohler, a Brooklyn lawyer and Supreme Court Justice Gaynor's private secretary, has sent a communication to Mayor Low, Comptroller Grout and the other members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, protesting against the action of the board on July 15 in increasing the salary of Judges Aspinall and Crane of the County Court from $10,000 to $12,500 a year. He contends that without constitutional amendment the board could not take such action, Article VI. of the constitution providing that the compensation of any County Judge shall not be increased or diminished during his term of office.

Mr. Kohler adds:

I hereby notify you that unless this resolution of your board is rescinded, or the Comptroller of the city refuses to pay the said increases, I shall apply, as a taxpayer, to the Supreme Court of this State for an order restraining the payment by the city officials of this increased compensation to these Judges, and I shall also ask the Court for judgment that the amount already paid to them under the said resolution be returned to the city treasury.

In my opinion about $250,000 is taken each year from the pockets of the taxpayers of this great city and handed over to public officials who have, under our constitution, no right whatever to it.

Mr. Kohler says that he has had no consultation whatever with Justice Gaynor in reference to the matter.

DUTY ON ARMY SUPPLIES.

Philippines Government Directs That They Be Subjected to Regular Tariff.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—In a telegram to the War Department, received to-day, Gov. Taft says that the Philippines Government has directed that army supplies received in the Philippines should be subjected to regular duties. This action was taken upon the representations and protests of merchants at Manila and elsewhere who maintained that they were unable to make any sales to the army because, owing to the fact that no duty was assessed on goods for the Government, the military authorities found it cheaper to buy them in the United States and bring them to the Philippines on army transports.

The War Department, while it has not given any official expression of its views on the subject, approves the course of the Philippines Government. The only apparent effect of the change will be to compel the military authorities in the Philippines to buy from local dealers at higher prices than have heretofore been paid for the same goods brought in the United States and imported free. The money paid by the army on imported supplies will be covered into the Philippines treasury.

WHY FRANCHISE TAXES WAIT.

Cheaper for the City Not to Collect Until the Law Is Clear.

Corporation Counsel Rives said yesterday that no effort has been made to collect the taxes imposed under the special franchise tax law on railroad companies because the validity of the assessment is in litigation. The defendants are solvent; and whereas the city, if it collected the tax now, would have to pay back the money with 6 per cent. interest should the tax be invalidated, it will collect the tax with 7 per cent. interest at the end of the litigation should the taxes be validated.

Mr. Rives explains also that the claims against traction companies for privileges of crossings, for the licensing of cars and for the cost of repairing the streets between the car tracks are also dependent upon the settlement of points of law which have been raised.

The Spirit of Islam.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If your correspondent, Mr. Sargentich, intends to imply that the prayer which he translates in THE SUN of to-day forms part of the regular Mohammedan liturgy recited daily at Cairo, he is mistaken, and I would add that the prayer which he quotes has not the literary structure of a Muslim prayer.

The Muslims distinguish between an extemporé prayer, which is called dua, or supplication, and the liturgical form, which is entitled in Arabic salat, very much as the Episcopalians and Roman Catholics distinguish between the two.

The supplication which he quotes: "I seek refuge in Allah from Satan" is what is known as the "Auzubillah," which is followed by the tasmiyah, "In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful," as an introduction to the fatiha, or the first chapter of the Koran, and for any Muslim to insert the words which your correspondent quotes would destroy the whole merits of the prayer.

That there is bigotry in Islam I do not question, but immense injury to the cause is done by his representing its teachings. The modern Romanist does not feel himself responsible for the cruel martyrdoms of the Inquisition, nor does the modern Calvinist consider himself responsible for the persecuting spirit of John Calvin. At all events we cannot judge the real spirit of Islam from the spirit and temper of the students in the great university in Cairo. Men enter this university in order to escape military service. And the whole institution is filled with the most disreputable sections of the Mohammedan community.

THE AUTHOR OF THE DICTIONARY OF ISLAM.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.