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WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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### The Open Door at the White House.

The President returns to-day to the White House in Washington after an absence practically amounting to six months. During this time he has exercised continuously—except, perhaps, as to the brief period spent in the wilds of the Yellowstone Park—the Constitutional functions of his office. Criticism of Mr. ROOSEVELT on the ground of absenteeism is not just, unless it can be shown that public interests intrusted to his care have suffered because he was elsewhere than at the seat of government. We are not aware that a single specific instance of neglect of duty has been established, or even alleged, by any of those who have been making much of the matter of the President's whereabouts.

The situation that will confront the President on his arrival at the Executive Mansion is thus described by a correspondent of the *Brooklyn Eagle:*

"There is a small army of politicians who are anxious to see him. All these men have been kept away from Oyster Bay by the understanding that no one was expected to show up there except by invitation. Hundreds of politicians have been chafing under this restraint for the past three months. They are arriving in Washington already, in anticipation of the return of the President, and like so many hungry sheep are lining up for audiences."

If that is so, the Oyster Bay system of admittance only upon special invitation ought to be transferred to Washington. No fair-minded citizen would blame the President for protecting his time and nervous energy against the inroads contemplated by importunate politicians, each bent on his own selfish and often petty interests. No fair-minded citizen would misunderstand a departure for so good a reason from the traditions of Presidential accessibility. There is a sentiment about the open door at the White House. It weighs nothing against the practical considerations of comfort, health, and the physical ability to get through the day's work devolving upon the Chief Magistrate now that the machinery of administration for which he is responsible has become so vast and so complex.

The rules for admission to the presence of the President, at Washington as at Oyster Bay, ought to be determined by practical and not sentimental considerations; and we are satisfied that the American people generally would take the common sense view of any change of practice in this respect.

### The Greater New York Democracy.

The threat of the Hon. JOHN C. SHEEHAN that the Greater New York Democracy will put an independent city ticket in the field this fall because its candidate for Borough President was not accepted by the fusion conference should cause no uneasiness to the managers of the anti-Tammany campaign. The fight that they are making is not in behalf of any political organization, and the votes their ticket must receive to win will come from individuals, and not from clubs, or associations, or private political enterprises of any kind.

The bulk of the anti-Tammany vote will come from the Republican party. A fraction of the anti-Tammany non-Republican vote must come through the Citizens' Union. The other votes necessary to victory will come from the great number of voters who are not enrolled in any organization, and who do not care what may be the fate of any political faction, but do care for municipal good government.

Not the Republican organization, not the Citizens' Union, not the Greater New York Democracy, and not any other organization is to be voted for or supported, punished or rewarded, in this campaign. The campaign is for control of the city. Tammany was turned out two years ago for its misdeeds and shortcomings. Now it wants to get back.

### Dividing Up.

Reading between the lines of Mr. BALFOUR'S letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury on the sufferings of the Macedonians as described by our London correspondent, it is not difficult to discern the acquiescence of the British Government in the partition of the Balkans into spheres of control between Austria and Russia, which it is evident has been already agreed upon. What might have been averted immediately after the last Russo-Turkish war is about to happen. By the hopes held out to them by the Treaty of Berlin, the Christian populations of the Turkish Empire have been kept in a condition of seething discontent that made them the easy victims of political agitators, whose incitements to rebellion were justified by the non-fulfilment of their obligations by the European Powers. The Turkish Government, as it was bound to do in its own interest and in that of its creditors, put down the open manifestations of discontent whenever they occurred with that ungloved hand which was displayed in the Armenian massacres and now in Macedonia.

Finding the situation for which they themselves are responsible intolerable, the European Governments are about to end it by suppressing the oppressed and the oppressor in a diplomatic way. To the array of force which they present, the Turk can offer no resistance worth speaking of. On paper the Ottoman army appears formidable; in reality it lacks the organization necessary to make it so. The minor Balkan States, even if united, could offer no effective resistance to their self-elected protectors, and the moment is opportune for these latter to act. The last opportunity there was to put the Berlin Treaty into execution was in 1881, when Mr. GLADSTONE offered to assist Greece to obtain her rights under it by force; but it was lost when the German Minister at Athens, M. RADOWITZ, notified the Greek Prime Minister, M. COUMOUNDOUROS, that Germany would oppose force to force, and the Greek Government declined British assistance.

The drift of European policy as regarded its obligations to the Christians of Turkey having made itself manifest by the subsequent attitude of the Powers, the British Government set about securing its own share of the spoil, and the occupation of Egypt in 1882 resulted; the French having established themselves in Tunis in 1881 in accordance with an arrangement come to in Berlin in 1878.

The Macedonian troubles now afford the opportunity to carry the process of dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire, outside of Asia, another step forward. Exact details are wanting, but roughly speaking, Austria and Russia are to be the dominating Powers in the spheres allotted to them; Italy will receive her compensation in Tripoli; France, when convenient, will add Morocco to her enormous African domain under arrangements with Spain; and Great Britain will have her status in Egypt recognized and will also be permitted to hold such territory in Arabia as she has recently allotted to herself.

Gradually the Turk will be pushed back into Asia to reform or be reformed, as circumstances determine; but the Sultan must remain for the present at Constantinople with the shadow of power, his successor in the guardianship of the gate between Europe and Asia not being ready to enter into possession.

### Prosperity in Canada's Northwest.

The estimated value of the cereal production of the Canadian Northwest for this year is about $55,000,000. As a crop value, this figure is not particularly impressive until some of the attendant conditions are considered.

The total of $55,000,000 represents the value of the product of only the northwest provinces of the Dominion. It represents only the value of the cereal crop, taking no account of other items such as general agriculture, dairying, ranching, &c. But the sum is a handsome one and its importance is emphasized by the additional fact that it will be distributed within an area the total population of which is less than 500,000.

Yet this figure is not quite fairly representative of the cereal crop of the district. Wheat is a cash crop and will bring in this year nearly $45,000,000. But there remain some 40,000,000 bushels of oats and 11,000,000 bushels of barley. These, at present market prices, represent a value of about $12,000,000. But only about 10 per cent. of this is sold. The rest is used at home by the farmers as feed for their stock. By that process it is converted into a value which cannot well be estimated, but which is far beyond its market value as a cereal.

Because of adverse and injurious weather conditions in some sections, the total crop for the year is a little below that of last year; this is more than offset by the better prices prevailing, and the growers will probably realize from $7,000,000 to $10,000,000 more than they did in 1902.

It is a fine showing of prosperity for the Manitobans and the Assiniboians.

### Algonquin English Words.

Dr. EDWARD EVERETT HALE has turned for help to the accomplished readers of THE SUN, whom he asks to add to his list of words contributed by our Algonquin predecessors to the English language. His own vocabulary, printed in yesterday's SUN, contains some strangers and at least one intruder. "Hubbub" was in good use in England long before Mr. HALE'S "wise and pious ancestors," as the Massachusetts Constitution says, came to Puddle Dock and Massachusetts Bay. SPENSER knew it long before the Algonquin "bones" used to beat HOBBAMOCO'S tattoo on bones and plate and yell something which the colonists interpreted "Hubbub!" "Nunkomp," "a young man," may be familiar in Boston, but is unfamiliar Indian here. It has only an accidental resemblance with "noncomp," a derivative of *non compos mentis*. "Torchent" is a mystery to us. So is "Netop," though we find "netomp," "my friend," in the late J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL'S recently published "Natick Dictionary," to which Mr. HALE wrote an introduction.

"Wadtchu" is a "hill," "mountain," but the word has not been naturalized in these parts, although "Watchung" may be a cousin of it. "Sanop" is not registered here and "Pooquaw" sounds like the Boston pronunciation of *pourquoi*. In the *Journal of American Folk Lore* last spring Mr. ALEXANDER F. CHAMBERLAIN put forward a list of 131 words of Algonquin origin in American English. Omitting those included in Dr. HALE'S letter, we here mention some that appealed then and still appeal to our taste and fancy:

"Cockarouse, chipmunk, hickory, menhaden, pemmican, persimmon, pone, porgy, possum, pung, raccoon, Tammany (TAMENEND), terrapin, totem, werowance, woodchuck."

Except "cockarouse" and "werowance" all these are in familiar use. "Werowance" is in occasional literary use. "Cockarouse" is one of the few, the immortal words, that were not born to die. "Pung," if Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is a true etymologist, comes from "tom pung," a corruption and disaster of "toboggan." Dr. HALE, who has been everywhere and known everybody, must have heard of "Kennebunker," which is lumberman-Algonquin-English for a valise.

Dr. HALE is an admirer at once of SAM ADAMS and the calkers and of the English of the good old American or "Amerind" stock. What does he think of Mr. TRUMBULL'S ingenious, if disputed, etymology of "caucus" *cawcawwassough (cau cau asu)*, "one who advises, urges, encourages, pushes on, a promoter, a caucuser"? This word "cockarouse" is a genius and is capable of anything. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN tells us that in the seventeenth century it was applied to those high old Colonial nobs the members of the Provincial Council. "By the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council: GOD save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts! OLIVER WARNER, Secretary." We can smell turkey and hot mince pie, as we recall that formula of the Thanksgiving proclamation in the dark backward and abysm of time. "By the Nananuwaen, with the advice and consent of the Cockarouses": let us have more Algonquin. It is good stuff. Witness "samp," "squash," "skunk"; witness "pemmican," which is known at the ultimate pole; "totem," with its "totemism," "totemistic," a "totemist," words which every anthropologist needs in his business; witness "Tammany," "the affable." What region of the earth knows not Tammany?

The Algonquin family may perish, but their words survive, words that we eat and drink and shoot and fish and vote. May they live forever! We look to Dr. HALE to revive "squantum," "a good time," still known and often had on the clam-girt shore of Rhode Island; and we still hope to put into tolerable Algonquin that collection of inimitable and unsurpassable stories, "If, Yes and Perhaps."

### The Most Varied Collection of Races in History.

A profitable and interesting study pertinent to the municipal campaign now about to proceed will be of the population of the city of New York and its conditions. Here in New York, and on Manhattan Island more especially, is the most remarkable collection of people in the world, the most various in race and religion ever gathered together in such numbers in the history of mankind; and the problems here to be solved, social and political, may really be said to be more important to the human race than those which will be worked out in any other community of the world.

In New York as a whole, in 1900, only 21.5 per cent. of the population were native whites of native parentage, and on Manhattan Island only 16.9 per cent., or about one-sixth. It may be assumed that since the census was taken even these small percentages have diminished very considerably, for immigration has been in unprecedentedly great volume, and the birth rate is highest in the districts of the city where the population of alien birth is largest. Even of the native population of native parentage, 737,477 in number, nearly one-fifth were born outside of the State of New York:

| | |
|---|---|
| New England | 37,570 |
| New Jersey and Pennsylvania | 46,717 |
| Southern | 23,549 |
| Western | 20,231 |
| Alaska, Hawaii, &c | 9,391 |
| Total | 137,458 |

The great feature of New York's population, however, is its immediate foreign derivation, as this table compiled from the census of 1900 will show:

| | |
|---|---|
| Native whites of native parentage | 737,477 |
| Born outside U. S. of native parentage | 279 |
| Foreign born and their children | 2,643,957 |
| Negroes | 55,489 |
| Total population | 3,437,202 |

On Manhattan Island the swamping of the population of native parentage was even greater than in the city as a whole. Almost every race on the globe is represented in this foreign population. This table of the numbers of the different nationalities in the whole city has been printed by us before; but it is worth renewed study, more particularly at a time when estimates are made of the popular opinion which will be expressed at the coming election:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Germany | 786,435 | Bohemia | 28,849 |
| Ireland | 725,511 | Canada (English) | 30,550 |
| Russia | 245,525 | Canada (French) | 5,305 |
| Italy | 218,918 | Norway | 18,087 |
| England | 155,180 | Switzerland | 15,474 |
| Austria | 113,237 | Denmark | 9,369 |
| Poland | 53,469 | Wales | 4,370 |
| Hungary | 52,430 | Other countries | 58,080 |
| Scotland | 48,929 | | |
| Sweden | 44,798 | Total | 2,643,957 |
| France | 29,441 | | |

Included in the "other countries" of the table are about 10,000 from Asia. The Jewish population has increased very largely since the above enumeration was made, and also the Italian.

The distribution of the population of Manhattan, so far as concerns the districts inhabited by it, is very interesting. We obtain the statistics from tables prepared by Dr. WALTER LAIDLAW, the secretary of the Federation of Churches, to whose remarkable skill in the handling of statistics we have often been indebted:

| | |
|---|---|
| East Side, south Fourteenth street | 533,394 |
| East Side, north Fourteenth street | 526,318 |
| Total East Side | 1,059,712 |
| West Side, south Fourteenth street | 115,233 |
| West Side, north Fourteenth street | 433,726 |
| Total West Side | 548,959 |
| Fifth avenue districts | 241,422 |
| Total Manhattan | 1,850,093 |

It will be seen that in 1900 a great majority of the population lived in the Assembly districts on the East Side, and it may be assumed that it has increased since that year. Those districts, the main seat of the foreign population, comprised, however, only 4,227 of the 14,038 acres of Manhattan Island. That is, in 1900 over 57 per cent. of the population lived on about 30 per cent. of its area; and the congestion on the East Side has increased materially since the census was taken. In none of the East Side Assembly districts below Fourteenth street was it less in 1900 than 340 persons to the acre, and in one, the Eighth, it was 735, while the average for the whole eight districts was nearly 383 to the acre.

### This Week at Morris Park.

With the opening of the fall meeting of the Westchester Racing Association to-day at Morris Park there will be a continuation of one of the most eventful seasons of horse racing ever known in this country. For many reasons the final meeting of the year at this beautiful course is more interesting than the one in the spring.

To-day some of the best two-year-old colts and fillies which have recently performed on other tracks will test their powers in the Matron Stakes. Many will regret the absence of certain two-year-olds which distinguished themselves earlier in the season, such as Magistrate, Broomstick, Leonidas and Hamburg Belle. The presence of the last mentioned, particularly, would add to the quality of to-day's field. Still, the youngsters scheduled to start are likely to furnish excellent sport.

Numerous stories have been circulated lately which, if true, might tend to give the metropolitan turf an unenviable name. So-called plungers of unsurpassed boldness are said to have invaded the betting rings in these parts, and their operations, usually successful, have spread broadcast the spirit of gambling. Happily, investigation has demolished most of these tales. As a matter of fact, horse racing in New York State never was conducted more honestly than at the present time.

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The speech of Governor CUMMINS at Des Moines on Saturday night avoided the suggestion of a tariff split in the Republican party not less gracefully than it brought the question of reciprocity with Canada to the front. The chief representative of what has been styled the "Iowa idea" as to the limitations of the protectionist principle managed his voice on this occasion so as to give no comfort whatever to the theoretical free traders; and it was as a McKinley Republican that he said:

"We ought speedily to establish reciprocity with Canada, a country just fairly started in its development and whose markets in all manufactured articles we ought to supply by reason of the ease of our access to them. The United States is already the largest importer of commodities into Canada, and that notwithstanding the fact that her preferential duties admit England, our sharpest competitor, upon terms 33 1-3 per cent. better than they admit the United States. We ought to obtain better terms there than England, but if we could enter upon the same terms the volume of our exports to that country would be mightily increased, and thereby the work done in the Republic would be correspondingly multiplied. To obtain these terms it will be necessary that certain of the products of Canada shall be allowed to come into the United States under lower duties than now prevail. Her coal, her iron ore and pig iron should come in free as raw material, and the natural products of her soil can be well admitted upon the best terms we can secure if thereby this great Dominion can be opened up to the enterprise of American manufactures. We have no need to fear the competition of Canada in our own markets in those products which constitute our chief exports, nor is there any time to lose in pressing forward the negotiations for these freer relations with Canada."

Most Republicans and protectionists agree as to the surpassing desirability of increasing our commercial relations with our northern neighbor. Not all such are prepared to admit as squarely as Governor CUMMINS does the necessity of giving something specific in return for what we want to get.

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That intrepid automobilist and dauntless explorer Mr. JAMES B. DILL is reported by the *World* as saying, with regard to certain remarks on the archaism of Belchertown, Mass., recently and erroneously attributed to him:

"How in the world I came to be quoted as saying that this is the state of affairs at Belchertown, Mass., will always be a mystery to me. Belchertown is a fine example of New England thrift and quaintness, built around a typical New England village green, with three large churches, handsome dwellings and a comfortable inn—a charming place, well worth the attention of any traveller. I never said grass grew in the streets there."

But, on the other hand, the *Tribune* represents Mr. DILL as acquitting Belchertown, Mass., at the expense of an alleged Blucherville, in Maine:

"It was mentioned, also, that a resident of Belchertown, ninety years old, had said to Mr. DILL that all the people in the place were either old or unmarried women, all the young people having married and gone away. The place where this conversation took place was Blucherville, Me. The similarity of the names possibly accounted for the error."

Blucherville? The name sounds plausible. If there is a Blucherville in the wilds of Maine, unknown until now to the atlases and gazetteers and even to the United States Post Office, Mr. DILL'S epoch-making expedition gains the additional glory of geographical discovery, and we congratulate him.

### Bicycle Mounts for Our Army.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It may be that the attitude of the War Department respecting the use of bicycles and motor cycles has been so well veiled as to be misunderstood; but what evidence is there that "the next few years will bring revelations"? Has THE SUN "inside" information or is the remark a bit of its delicate satire?

It is nearly fifteen years since the safety bicycle was proved practical. As the War Department has done nothing in that time, what hope is there that it will now awaken?

Unless "the next few years" bring a war or a war scare I have small faith of the sort. War probably would open the authorities' eyes; then doubtless would ensue the usual wild, eleventh hour scramble to whip cyclists or motor cyclists into shape for duty in thirty or sixty days, and they would be expected to cope with the troops of other countries who have trained their men for years and by experiment or experience secured the proper bicycles.

Some of the National Guard regiments once had cycling companies or squads, but where are they now? When cycling was a fad, the Guardsmen made a fad of cycling. When "society" dropped it, the militia dropped it also. The United States Government never seriously tried it, if my memory is correct; and yet the advantage for certain duties of a silent mount that requires neither food nor drink must be as patent in Washington as it is in Berlin or Paris or Tokio—for even the Japanese army has adopted bicycles.

Possibly Washington really believes there is luck in horseshoes—and yet, as a wag has pointed out, in horseshoes they do not make ends meet.

NEW YORK, Sept. 25. R. G. B.

### To Want and to Need.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The *Syracuse Herald* is correct, and (Miss) May Flower (of Boston) is overanxious, for, after all, "to want" is "to need," not "to wish." Do you not remember good old Sir Walter writing that a certain bit of advice "was neither wished nor wanted"?

PRINCETON, N. J., Sept. 24. RIVINUS.

### While the Light Holds Out.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One of our most economic and thrifty citizens is Mr. Burns Kash. J. C. P.

VALERIE, Ky., Sept. 20.

### The Faithful Friend in a Black Skin.

*From the Galveston Daily News.*

Commander Peary's first selection in making up his North Pole crew is a negro. This is not a bad indication. Some of the most trusty and faithful hands and friends in the world are negroes.

### The Army of Business.

"Fifty thousand merchants have visited the market this season."—*Report of Secretary of New York Merchants' Association.*

Fifty thousand merchants
Have come to town this Fall:
Fifty thousand merchants,
And that is hardly all,
For they're coming, still a-coming
From the towns and farms and woods,
With their pockets full of documents
To get their winter goods.

Fifty thousand merchants;
See the conquering army comes—
From Maine to California,
With its drummers and its drums:
Hear its steady tread on-coming,
Hear its loud exultant cries,
Sweeping inward, sweeping outward
From the base of its supplies.

Fifty thousand merchants:
Just a vanguard of the force
Of the mighty business army
That is marching down the course
Of trade and manufacture,
With its banners all unfurled,
And its soldiers armed and ready
For the conquest of the world.

W. J. L.

## CUBA'S NEW TAXES.

HAVANA, Sept. 22.—The Cuban Official Gazette (*Gaceta Oficial*) of Sept. 17 publishes in detail the terms and conditions of the stamp tax which is to provide for the proposed national loan of $35,000,000. The act is supplementary to the loan law of Feb. 27, and to the modifications of that law effected by acts of May 7 and June 13. Three classes of stamps are provided, as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Class A | Importation |
| Class B | Exportation |
| Class C | Manufacture, sale, or consumption |

The importation tax is applied to alcoholic liquors, sparkling wines, still wines, natural cider, beer, artificial mineral waters and that form of liquid refreshment known in the United States as "soft drinks," matches and playing cards. Strong liquors are taxed, on importation, in addition to the regular customs duty, 20 cents the bottle, sparkling wines 30 cents the bottle, still wines 2 cents, cider 6 cents, beer 5 cents on each case of twenty-four half bottles, artificial waters and *refrescos* 5 cents on each case of twenty-four half bottles, matches a half cent on each case or package of fifty matches or less, playing cards 5 cents for each pack.

The export tax applies to cigars at the rate of $1 for each 1,000, and at that rate for smaller lots, to cigarettes at 10 cents per 1,000, and to leaf tobacco at $1.50 for each twenty-five pounds.

The manufacture, sale and consumption tax covers strong liquors at 20 cents the bottle, wines at 25 cents the bottle; beer, artificial waters, &c., at 5 cents for each case of twenty-four half-bottles; matches, a half-cent for each package of fifty or less; cigars, at 20 cents the 100, or at that rate for boxes or packages of 50, or of packages of 25 or less; leaf tobacco at 6 cents the pound; playing cards at 5 cents the pack; and sugar at a rate which, because of the manner in which the article is usually packed for shipment, namely, sacks averaging about seven to the ton, will cost the millowner about 35 cents per ton.

With the exception of the export group, these taxes will go into effect about Nov. 1. It appears from the wording of the measure that the tax applies to all stocks of these goods on hand, and the intervening time is allowed for the purchase of the stamps and their proper attachment to the specified articles. Under the provision of the law, the tax on the export class does not become operative until, by the terms effected with those with whom the loan is placed, the product of that tax is required for the liquidation of the loan.

The *reglamento* of Sept. 17 provides in detail for the means and methods for the sale of the stamps; for their proper attachment to the various bottles, packages, cases or other forms of wrappage of the different articles; for the administration of the system of collection; and for official inspectors to enforce strict compliance with the law and to watch for attempts at evasion. It also sets forth that which shall be considered infractions of the law and provides penalties ranging from $5 to $100 for such infractions. Second or third convictions for violation are subject to greatly increased penalty, up to $1,000.

It is assumed that the revenues derived from this system will sufficiently increase the present income to allow the payment of all necessary expenses of the Government and leave a margin which will provide for the payment of the interest upon the proposed loan and for its gradual liquidation. Assuming a continuance of the same administrative economy as that which has been exercised during the last eighteen months, the life of the Cuban Government, there is no reason to doubt the sufficiency of the revenue. While the measure is, at present, of the nature of an experiment, it is expected that the stamp tax will yield, under present circumstances, an annual income of $2,000,000 to $2,500,000. At 35 cents per ton, sugar alone should yield $350,000.

The most serious objection, and it is really serious, lies in the application of an additional tax at a time when Cubans are so little able to bear any increase in their taxes. A few months ago no little disturbance was caused by an attempt to impose a system of provincial taxation. Protest was so general and so vigorous that in not a few cases theatres suspended performances and merchants closed their doors, refusing to sell if obliged to pay a tax on articles sold. It became necessary to suspend some of these taxes and to modify others.

Cuba's present revenues from all sources approximate $17,000,000 per year. About 95 per cent. of this comes from the customs tariff. Direct taxation is small even in its total amount, and being, as it is, applied upon returns obtained and not upon fixed valuations, it does not bear heavily upon the people. The new tax will doubtless be regarded as burdensome, inasmuch as it will increase the cost of certain articles of general use and consumption.

Naturally, the much desired loan is impossible without some such provision for it, but it is not at all certain that the loan will be placed immediately. It is now seven months since the Cuban Congress authorized the President to effect "an immediate loan" upon generally specified terms. The loan being obtained, the purpose is an immediate distribution of a sum exceeding $20,000,000 in payment of the army of the revolution. With such a sum in circulation, the present financial stress existing among the people would be relieved, and the payment of an increased taxation would be easy.

When the law was passed it was supposed that the loan would be placed and the money in circulation before a call was made for the tax upon which the loan was based. As it has turned out, the loan is still quite in the air, and taxes are to be increased by about 12 per cent., a heavy increase for an impecunious people. A marked discontent already is manifest among the members of the unpaid army, many of them being in great need of the sum which the Government established by their patriotism and devotion has pledged itself to pay them. It now seems quite certain that to that number of the discontented there will be added many others upon whom the burden of the increased tax will fall. Unless the loan be speedily placed and its proceeds distributed through the proposed channels, it is little short of inevitable that some of the more radical leaders will make a vigorous use of the weapon thus placed in their hands for the creation of political disturbance.

Armed revolutions or uprisings are not at all probable, except for such incipient, individual and readily suppressed affairs as those which have been reported during the past summer. Political agitation, peaceable demonstrations and vigorous criticism and denunication of the Government are almost certain unless the army is paid and the taxed Cubans enabled thereby to pay their taxes from sources other than those at their immediate command.

### Fall Fashions.

Miss De Style—I suppose we won't see much of you this fall.

Mr. Gunbusta—No, I'll be in my football suit continually.

---

De Style—What makes that fellow move his right hand whenever one of the football players shouts "Down"?

Gunbusta—Why, he runs an elevator in an office building.

## COL. WATTERSON'S "THIEVES."

### A Plain Statement by a Distinguished French Engineer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have read in your yesterday's number an extract from Col. Watterson's article on the Panama treaty. This article seems to have been inspired more by the imagination of the writer of the "Thousand and One Nights" than by the dry contemplation of plain facts.

If you think it necessary to reassure overnervous people about the division between "thieves" in France and "wolves" in America of the $40,000,000 to be paid by this Government in case of purchase of the Panama property, it might perhaps be convenient to state that not one cent of said sum can be disposed of without a decree of the courts of France, the property paid for belonging to a company in bankruptcy and being managed by a receiver under supervision of the courts.

Col. Watterson seems to have felt the pressure of plain facts only when he says that "Panama may have some engineering advantages over Nicaragua, but all others, and they are overwhelming, are with Nicaragua."

The mare of Roland, Charlemagne's nephew, we are told, had all the advantages, all the merits, and they were overwhelming. She had only one disadvantage: a technical one for a mare: she was dead.

It is somewhat the case with Nicaragua.

It has all the advantages over Panama except the technical ones:

First—The fifty miles of tropical swamps through which the canal would be built, in the low valley of the San Juan, are known to be the healthiest place on earth.

Some people insinuate that if no human being dies there it is because monkeys and alligators are the only inhabitants. But they must be wrong, though history tells us that Nelson, having come in the eighteenth century with an English army from Jamaica to invade Nicaragua, was forced to retreat not by the fire of the Spaniards, but by the much more terrible fevers of this healthy country.

Secondly—No sailing ship will ever pass through Panama, on account of the calms; and it will be a deathblow to the democratic sailing trade, when it would be revived by the Nicaragua canal, where schooners would swarm.

Some people remark that the actual calms must be infinitely calmer than formerly, since the whole trade between the Pacific Coast and Europe has been made by the Isthmus of Panama and not by the Isthmus of Nicaragua, between the discovery of America and the discovery of steam navigation, between Columbus and Fulton.

During that period of several centuries sailing vessels constantly landed on both sides of the Panama isthmus without remarking that it was impossible for them to get there and exceedingly easy to go to Nicaragua.

The people who make such remarks are evidently erring, and we are ready to admit that sailing navigation would find itself immediately killed if the canal were constructed across that Isthmus of Panama which it was so inconsiderate to choose spontaneously and to keep for its use during many centuries in preference to that of Nicaragua.

Thirdly—It is known that the Nicaragua route is the only virtuous route that can be selected across Central America.

We willingly admit that anybody having touched Panama is lost forever, himself, his children and his grandchildren; that he is a thief, a wolf and still something worse, and that anybody on the Nicaragua side is virtue-clad from head to foot.

Let us admit all these advantages, all these merits, for Nicaragua, and many other nontechnical ones; will they be sufficient to insure a good and permanent water route?

Unfortunately, no! And this is the point, the only point worth considering, where technical disadvantages step in.

The exhaustive researches of the Isthmian Canal Commission have shown:

First—That the Nicaraguan route cannot possibly have the easy curves, with large radii, which are absolutely necessary for the safe transit of long ocean steamers of nowadays, and which natural conditions allow to obtain in Panama.

Secondly—That the problem of the regulation of the summit level could not be completely and absolutely solved in Nicaragua as it is in Panama, and that the maintenance of the depth of water, in the longest section of the Nicaragua route, must necessarily be left to the experience, to the judgment, to the foresight of the man in charge of storing more or less water in the lake, according to the probability of rains or droughts in his mind.

Thirdly—That the rains, violent winds and strong river currents, combined with the sharp curves, would make navigation in certain months amount to practical impossibility.

Outside of these facts, the volcanic disasters of Martinique have shown the dangers of trying to saddle with huge masonry dams and locks a volcanic country in actual activity.

A route where navigation is not safe and permanent is useless and dead beforehand.

The Nicaragua solution, like the mare of Roland, has all merits except one: it is dead, now and forever. All the money and the genius of the world will not revive it.

This is what explains the sudden reversal of opinion in the Senate and in the House of Representatives at the same time, in June, 1902, when the members of Congress could for the first time judge the facts which were brought to light by the eminent experts of the Isthmian Canal Commission.

It is less sensational, much less entertaining, than Col. Watterson's theory, but engineers as a rule are so dull compared to novelists. P. BUNAU-VARILLA.

NEW YORK, Sept. 26.

### Endurance Swim in Japan.

*From the Japan Weekly Mail.*

Under the auspices of Mr. Fukuzawa, proprietor of the *Jiji Shimpo*, a remarkable swimming feat recently took place at Hayama. The chief performers were pupils of the *Keio Gijuku*, but with them were some outsiders, including Master John Brinkley. The project was to swim from Hayama to Enoshima, a distance of about eight miles in a direct line. But in order to avoid any extreme change of temperature, such as would be experienced in deep water, it was decided to make the journey by coasting, which involved a long detour and increased the total distance to some eleven miles.

Twenty-one started, including two professors of natation, Messrs. Mizoguchi and Sato, but the professors entered the boats almost immediately. They were divided into parties of four, the best swimmers being instructed to assist the weaker members, and the whole being accompanied by four boats. The first stage, 3 2-3 miles, between Hayama and Kotsubo, was performed without mishap. But in the next stage, from Kotsubo to Inamura, the force of the current swept the swimmers out of their course, and after covering another mile four of the youths had to desist. All the rest reached Inamura at 11:44, having covered 7 1-3 miles.

By this time the wind was blowing very strong, and being dead ahead the difficulty and labor of swimming were immensely enhanced. Nevertheless, the remaining fifteen lads held on their way, though the boats accompanying them were in danger of being upset. By the time of reaching Yuki-ai, about another mile, eight more fell out, and only seven continued swimming. These held out as far as Yamazaki, whence the flags at the point of arrival in Enoshima and the people assembled to receive the swimmers could be discerned at a distance of about half a mile. But the violence of the wind and waves now proved too much for two of the party—including young Brinkley—and they entered the boats, having covered about 10½ miles.

The remaining five accompanied by the two professors reached Yebisuya at 8:50 o'clock in the afternoon, having performed the distance in 7 hours and 40 minutes. It was certainly a very remarkable swim. Mr. Fukuzawa presented silver medals to the successful competitors.

### Patent Reversible Poem.

*Turn according to weather.*

Oh, don't you long for summer days,
The drowsy drone of bees;
While on the grass the golden light
Comes checkered through the trees!

Oh, don't you long for winter days,
When in the frosty night
Earth dons her diadem of ice,
And robes herself in white.

## THE SOUTH'S GOOD FAITH.

### Comments on a Recent Report to the Philadelphia Presbytery.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am an ex-Confederate Democrat, not a Bryan Democrat, and I read only THE SUN because of its clear, logical, reasonable and statesmanlike position on the so-called negro question. I wonder every day, and I hear almost daily from others expressions of surprise, that THE SUN seems to be the only New York paper that has a sane and adequate grasp of this great national problem.

I have travelled over our country a great deal, and have been in every State and Territory except Mr Bryan's State, and I have a very good idea of Southern sentiment, at east on the negro question. This sentiment is best expressed by the recent utterances of ex-Governor Northen and the communication in THE SUN from Mr. Killebrew, late Commissioner of Immigration and Agriculture of Tennessee. We like the negroes, want to get along with them, and can get along with them if outsiders will not come between us.

I think no one now can doubt that the Southern people are loyal to the Union and have been since the great war closed. When the collapse came the terms granted to the South by the great statesman and the great Captain of the North were kind, liberal and just and better than expected. Brothers had differed honestly, fallen out and fought. The stronger was victorious. The weaker recognized the fact that victory settled the questions at issue irrevocably in favor of the victor. So all conditions seemed favorable for harmony, when the greatest disaster that ever befell the American people came upon the country.

The greatest American since Washington, the able and far-seeing statesman, the good, kind, true, great-hearted President, Abraham Lincoln, was foully murdered by a crazy assassin.

The great leader passed away—the one man who had a thorough, kindly plan under which the sections were to be united again—the one man who was strong enough with his party and the nation to enforce his policy. The manner of his death had again inflamed sectional passions in the North, and the extremists were soon in control. The Southern people, defeated and admitting that the results of the war were final, were hopeful, though impoverished by the loss of thousands of millions of dollars' worth of property, their live stock, farming utensils and fences gone, and were ready to face the future with hopeful hearts. What use to dwell on what followed—the State, county and municipal governments in the hands of ignorant negroes controlled by mean whites? Finally the situation became so serious that the white people were compelled to resume control of public affairs or abandon the country.

Since the property owners and taxpayers have been in control the South and the whole country have been prosperous; but this prosperity and the good feeling that exists are imperilled by the new crusade against the South; and in this crusade the negro will be the first and greatest sufferer.

What makes the future look dark is the possibility of the development among conscientious but partly informed Northerners of the idea that the destinies of the colored race demand that they come to his rescue. The whole question at issue is becoming clouded. Disfranchisement, even if necessary, is bad. In THE SUN the other day was the following despatch:

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 21.—Booker T. Washington and his methods were criticised at the Philadelphia Presbytery to-day. The question was brought up through the report of the freedmen's committee, of which the Rev. J. Calvin Meade is chairman.

The report gave credit to Washington's influence for the increase of interest in the board. It deplored "the animal trait in the negro, which is so prominent," and continued:

"Yet it is to be questioned whether we should not balance the brutal assault on womanhood with the subtle power of seduction, in which the white man of social standing is an adept."

It urged the churches to rise above prejudice and devote all their energies toward dealing with the negro problem and deplored any mob violence.

This can mean only what it says. What do Christian people think of this proclamation of ethics by a body of Christian clergymen and elders?

I have written much more at length than I intended, but the situation is critical and the outlook deplorable to every man who loves his country and his fellow man. Hope for the future lies in the success of THE SUN in getting the good people of the North to take a reasonable and sensible view of all these problems so that we can all work together to solve them aright.

NEW YORK, Sept. 25. SOUTHERNER.

## RED DEVIL CAMPAIGN IN OHIO.

### Ex-Campaigner Cappeller's Estimate of Tom Johnson's Chances.

*From the Pittsburg Dispatch.*

MANSFIELD, Sept. 24.—Away off to the southeast somewhere a machine is going chug-chug and a man is going puff-puff. The combination is that of Tom Loftin Johnson and his "Red Devil" automobile. Machine and man are making a hard time of it in a spectacular campaign. Being a spectacular man, Johnson draws the attention particularly of the world outside of Ohio. Within the State he is a twice-told tale. The curiosity to see him is not as great as it was last year.

The crowds that turn out to hear him are large—very large. W. S. Cappeller, who managed Senator Foraker's two successful gubernatorial campaigns, this afternoon, while talking about the large crowds Johnson is calling forth, remarked:

"I recognize the fact that Bryan had the greatest crowds that ever attended political meetings, not excepting Blaine's, but I don't recall the size of the majority he got in this State."

Cappeller has retired from all except home politics. Therefore his judgments on the conditions in the State at large are really better than those who are involved in the smoke of the fight.

"Johnson is not a man of ideas, but of fads," observed Cappeller. "His advocacy of the single tax is a fad borrowed from Henry George, simply, I believe, as a means of acquiring notoriety. Judging from the amount of explaining he is doing now he would like to eliminate from the campaign some of his more radical utterances on that subject. Instead of standing pat on his original preachment of a single tax on land as the means of producing all the revenue needed, he is saying he wants city lands taxed at their real value; that that would relieve the farmers of the burden they bear.

"That's rot, on a par with his 2-cent rate for steam railroads and 3-cent car tickets. He preaches home rule and meddles everywhere. He advocates a single tax, but has to be sued in the Cleveland county courts for the taxes he tried to dodge. He advocates a 3-cent fare for street cars, but when he controlled two-thirds of the mileage in Cleveland eleven tickets for half a dollar were considered by him as cheap fare. On his Johnstown, Pa., line the fare was 5 cents straight.

"Ohio voters are too intelligent to be caught by such a man. The State that boasts of a railroad in every valley, a church or a schoolhouse on every hill, has a population that cannot be humbugged.

"The people of Ohio know that the Governor of their State has about as much to do with fixing railroad rates, steam or trolley, as a toad has in fixing Paris styles."

The former State Chairman estimates that 850,000 votes will be cast this year, which is a few thousand more than were cast two years ago, when Governor Nash was elected by 67,000 plurality and about 45,000 majority. He estimates that there are about 25,000 Democrats who will not care to vote for the head of the ticket, but that from 12,000 to 15,000 Socialists of the 30,000 in the State will support Johnson. Therefore a majority of not less than 60,000 for Herrick, and probably 100,000, will make a correct measurement of the favor which the puffing man and his chugging machine will receive.

### Jackets for the Jackies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I noticed the other day upon your editorial page a letter from Washington referring to the lack of proper jackets for dress purposes in our navy. The letter also stated that "years ago, long before any living officer can remember, the men of the United States Navy had a muster jacket, which got its name from being always worn on Sunday morning inspection."

I beg leave to hand you a blank form of quarterly return of clothing which was issued to men in the navy in 1864 and 1865. We had two jackets for the men at that time, "pea jackets" for raincoats and "round jackets" as mustering jackets. I served in the Paymaster's Department during these years and was stationed on blockade duty aboard the United States ship Mahaska, and I issued these jackets to the men upon requisition.

RINALDO P. KENYON

HARTFORD, Conn., Sept. 24.

The old blank form for the quarterly return of clothing sent by Mr. Kenyon does in fact show one column for "pea jackets" and another for "round jackets."

### Still Pursuing the Northport Public Drunkard.

*From the Northport Journal of Sept. 26.*

He who gets drunk in public becomes an insult to the very memory of his friends.