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WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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Senator Lodge's Philippine Bill.

It is at least a move in the right direction that Senator LODGE is making with his proposal to admit all Philippine products duty free except sugar and tobacco, and to reduce the duties on those two commodities to 50 per cent. of the rates imposed by the Dingley act. Of course, a reduction of the Dingley rates by 50 per cent. is better than the existing reduction by 25 per cent., but it is obvious that the Lodge bill will fall far short of justice to the Philippines.

For two reasons. By the legislation enacted last year the Philippine Government was permitted to levy an export duty on hemp sent to foreign countries, but was prohibited from levying any duty of the sort on hemp sent to the United States, and intended to be manufactured there, and not reexported. The evident effect of this enactment has been that American manufacturers of hempen fabrics, securing their raw material duty free, have been enabled to undersell their foreign competitors. On the other hand, the effect on the revenues of the Philippines has been disastrous. Had the Insular Government during the last sixteen months been allowed to continue levying an export duty on hemp sent to the United States, and had its other commodities paid the full Dingley rates on admission to the United States, it would have been richer by $400,000 than it is to-day. Why should the Philippines be thus mulcted in order to give an advantage to manufacturers of hempen fabrics in the United States?

Hemp, of course, is on the free list. Why should not sugar and tobacco, the two other principal export staples of the Philippines, be put upon the free list also? Is it because American producers of cane and beet root sugar and American growers of tobacco object to competition? They objected to the removal of duties from the sugar and tobacco produced in Porto Rico; nevertheless, Congress recognized that, in common decency, we could not, after cutting off Porto Rico from the Spanish market, refuse to admit her products to our own market duty free.

On what possible ground can a distinction be drawn between Porto Rico and the Philippines? Are not the latter [illegible] to justice as the former? Are we not committing a serious blunder in policy when we so treat the Filipinos as to enable them to say with truth that we discriminate against them as compared with other former subjects of Spain? Is it surprising that, under such circumstances, there should still be some disaffection in the Philippines?

Is there no Republican Senator who will force his colleagues to acknowledge that it is not only impolitic but iniquitous to apply one fiscal principle in dealing with Porto Rico and another in dealing with the Philippine archipelago? Some years have passed since Porto Rico began to enjoy the absolute freedom of trade with the United States which is conceded to Hawaii. Why are two of the three principal export staples of the Philippines still compelled to pay 75 per cent. of the Dingley rates in order to gain entrance to our ports, and why does even Senator LODGE, while professing generous intentions, insist that the sugar and tobacco of the Philippines must continue to pay at least 50 per cent. of the Dingley rates before they are allowed to reach American consumers?

How can we expect the Philippines to exhibit the tranquillity and loyalty which prevail in Porto Rico, when the former islands are subjected to unequal and invidious treatment by our fiscal legislation?

The Curiously Timed Military Operations in Jolo.

At the very moment when doubts are raised concerning Gen. LEONARD WOOD'S military experience and ability as a commander, news comes that he is on the eve of a conflict with those Moros of the Sulu Islands with whom, case-hardened in barbarism though they are, we have lived in peace and amity for more than four years.

Details of the situation are not furnished. The cable connection is broken between Manila and Jolo. We are not told whether the wicked Moros cut the cable; whether a "certain body of politic worms" have eaten it; or whether the broken connection is due to a simple every day electrical mishap.

Whatever the cause, the incident is inopportune, and we are even left in suspense lest a howling band of bloodthirsty and fanatical Sulus, with whom we have lived so pleasantly for more than four years, have risen with a kris in one hand and a barong in the other, captured the exquisite little city of Jolo and driven the American garrison into the sea among the pearls and sharks.

We are told that some American artillerymen, two we understand, were killed by the Moros, and that an expedition of 1,000 men commanded by Dr. LEONARD WOOD, "to be Major-General, ere YOUNG, promoted," has gone to do the punishing. We are not told whether the dead soldiers did something which justified the natives in an attack upon them; nor are we told whether the deed was the act of individual fanatics. Dr. WOOD sends no diagnosis.

Current gossip in Manila is to the effect that Gen. WOOD is confident of success. More power to his elbow in the coming conflict, concerning which it is reported that "it seems doubtful whether it will be possible to develop, *without provocation*, sufficient opposition for a respectable scrap."

Let us hope that it will be impossible for any detractors to say of this campaign that which is said of the Geronimo campaign, that LEONARD WOOD "did not hear a gun fired in the entire expedition." Let us hope that his place during the conflict will be more easily ascertainable than are his movements during the San Juan fight, where Gen. ALGER, in his history of that conflict, appears unable to locate him on that memorable 1st of July, 1898, when ALLEN, a humble Captain in the Regular infantry shouted, "Who will go with me to the top of that hill, in spite of hell and batteries?" All other commanders on that field are duly accounted for in history and military records, but no one seems to have located Acting Brigade Commander Col. WOOD of the Rough Riders.

If there now comes a conflict with the Moros, the unavoidable necessity for it should be made perfectly plain—both to us and to them. If it is made plain to them, they will accept their punishment, and be the better for it. If it is not plain to them, years will be required to undo the evil caused by a struggle with them. That is Malay nature.

It should be made plain to the people of this country, since four years of peace under abler and more experienced military commanders than the present Governor of that district demand a clear explanation of the fighting now.

Mr. Cleveland Six Years Ago.

The message sent to the House of Representatives by President CLEVELAND on March 2, 1897, vetoing a bill for the restriction of immigration which had passed both houses of Congress by large majorities after much debate in each, is a document of our political history which is made pertinent to this time by the recent introduction in the Senate of the Lodge bill for a like purpose.

The bill vetoed by Mr. CLEVELAND had been introduced in the House as representative of the views of the Immigration Restriction League of Boston, and in the Senate it was under the special charge of Senator LODGE of Massachusetts. He urged its passage on the ground that "there is a great demand from all parts of the country" for the restriction of immigration, and, unquestionably, both the Democratic and Republican parties in their national platforms of 1896 had demanded such restriction. The Democratic plank on the subject took the ground that "the most efficient way of protecting American labor is to prevent the importation of foreign pauper labor to compete with it in the home market," and, accordingly, demanded "the passage of such laws as may be necessary to protect it in its rights." The Republican platform demanded, specifically, that the immigration laws be "so extended as to exclude from entrance to the United States of those who can neither read nor write."

The bill passed the House, May 20, 1896, by the great majority of 195 to 26, Representatives of both parties favoring it. After amendments and a conference committee of the two houses, it passed the Senate on Feb. 17, 1897. On the 2d of the next month it was vetoed by President CLEVELAND in the message to which we refer. The next day it was passed by the House over the veto by 193 to 37 votes. In the Senate on the same day the bill, with the message, was referred to the Committee on Immigration and not reported back. It consequently lapsed.

The bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. LODGE on the 11th of the present month is similar in purport so far as concerns illiteracy, but it varies importantly from the bill vetoed by Mr. CLEVELAND by the omission of provisions making unlawful the employment on public works of aliens who have not declared their intention of becoming citizens, and by private persons of aliens who come here for work, "returning from time to time to a foreign country."

The veto of President CLEVELAND, therefore, was a brave assertion of principle against the dictate of seeming expediency to which Congress had yielded.

The same arguments for restriction used now were urged then—that "the recent immigration is undesirable," that "too many immigrants settle in cities" and that "the influx of foreign laborers deprives of the opportunity to work those who are better entitled than they to the privilege." During the Know Nothing period they had been directed against the Irish immigrants after the potato famine of 1846.

The main points in Mr. CLEVELAND'S veto message are in these extracts:

"A radical departure from our national policy relating to immigration is here presented. Heretofore we have welcomed all who came to us from other lands, except those whose moral or physical condition or history threatened danger to our national welfare and safety."

"A century's stupendous growth, largely due to the assimilation and thrift of millions of sturdy and patriotic adopted citizens, attests the success of this generous and free handed policy."

"It is proposed by the bill to meet the alleged difficulties of the situation by establishing an educational test by which the right of a foreigner to make his home with us shall be determined." "In my opinion, it is infinitely more safe to admit a hundred thousand immigrants who though unable to read or write, seek among us only a home and opportunity to work than to admit one of those unruly agitators and enemies of governmental control who can not only read and write, but delights in arousing by inflammatory speech the illiterate and peacefully inclined to discontent and tumult. Violence and disorder do not originate with illiterate laborers. They are rather the victims of the educated agitator. The ability to read and write, as required in this bill, is and of itself affords, in my opinion, a misleading test of contented industry and supplies unsatisfactory evidence of desirable citizenship or a proper apprehension of the benefits of our institutions. If any particular element of our illiterate immigration is to be feared for other causes than illiteracy, these causes should be dealt with directly instead of making illiteracy the pretext for exclusion to the detriment of other illiterate immigrants against whom the real cause of complaint cannot be alleged."

As Mr. CLEVELAND pointed out, the mere ability to read and write affords no test of the moral quality of immigrants or their fitness for "desirable citizenship." Moreover, our New York social statistics, like those of this country generally, prove that the defect of illiteracy is speedily removed in the children of immigrants, so that among them the illiterate are scarcely more than the very insignificant percentage among natives.

Mr. CLEVELAND'S statesmanlike message is particular pertinent now when there is a renewed attempt in Congress to introduce a literary qualification, whose inadequacy as a means of preventing possible evils from immigration was shown so convincingly by a Democratic President six years ago.

Religious Divisions in New York.

The inquiries in the letter below are made of us by a distinguished Roman Catholic ecclesiastic of this State:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the *Review*, published in St. Louis, it is stated in the issue of Oct. 22, 1903, that in the College of the City of New York (for boys) out of a total registration of 2,100 students for the current year, there are 1,900 Jews, and that 75 per cent. of the pupils in the Normal College, for girls, are of the Jewish race.

"Again, at the third annual meeting of the Federation of Churches and Christian Workers of this State which is now being held in Utica, Dr. RAINSFORD said on Tuesday: 'We have 675,000 Jews in New York city or one in every four of the population. The city is one-third Catholic, and not 50 per cent Protestant.'

"Kindly let me know in your well informed paper if all these figures are correct.

"INQUIRER."

We have not at hand the exact statistics concerning the institutions to which our inquirer refers, but, undoubtedly, the vast majority of the students in each are Jews. Nor does Dr. RAINSFORD'S estimate of 675,000 Jews in New York at the present time seem to be exaggerated. If the Jewish immigration from Eastern Europe continues at its volume during the last year, the Jews will soon be the largest foreign element in the population of New York.

As to the religious divisions of the population, Dr. WALTER LAIDLAW, the secretary of the Federation of Churches, a singularly competent social statistician, in 1902 estimated the maximum of Roman Catholics at about 1,260,000, of Protestants 1,750,000, and of Jews 600,000. This, of course, was a rough estimate only, and among the various divisions were included a great total of actual religious unbelievers or those who had lapsed from the religious observances of the denominations to which they were credited.

To Protect Aliens From Lynching.

Although in time of peace the United States Government does not exercise general police power over the residents of any of the States of the Union, it is considerably out of pocket on account of the lynchings of aliens which have occurred in some of the States. When a citizen of a foreign State has been killed by a mob it has been the practice of the Government to which he owed allegiance to protest to the authorities at Washington, and demand redress. In all such cases the Federal Government has explained its lack of responsibility and power in the premises, but in some cases it has paid sums of money to the heirs of the murdered alien as an earnest of its good faith. In such cases the Federal Government has been the victim of the supineness and inefficiency of local authorities over whom it had no control. The lawbreakers for whose criminal acts the Government has paid have gone unpunished, nor has there been any legal means by which the Federal authorities could bring them to justice.

Several attempts have been made to remedy this condition of affairs, and Representative CRUMPACKER of Indiana has introduced a bill for that purpose in the present Congress. The measure he advocates provides that when three or more persons openly acting in concert unlawfully put to death a citizen or subject of any foreign State or sovereign, they shall be liable to death or imprisonment for life, and their trial shall be in the United States Circuit Court having territorial jurisdiction. His bill provides also that no person known to favor the crime of lynching shall be allowed to sit on juries trying such cases.

If such a law were enacted, the nonnaturalized residents of communities in which lynchings occurred would be protected far better in their lives than are the naturalized or native residents. Such a distinction at first seems unfair, but, as naturalized or native citizens can by their own exertions prevent lawlessness by putting in office men who will uphold the law, their protection lies in their own hands. The Federal Government guarantees by treaties the same rights and privileges to citizens of other nations domiciled in this country that our citizens enjoy within their countries. One of these rights is protection from bodily injury or death at the hands of lawbreakers. But the Federal Government is powerless to protect its treaty wards, save in the Territories and Federal reservations.

It may be argued that a lynching party does not stop to inquire the nationality of its victim. In answer to such an objection, Mr. CRUMPACKER might say that one result of the law he advocates would be to make lynchers more thoughtful. Surely, if the country at large has to pay the costs of lynching expeditions, it should have some control over their members. A United States Court in the background might deter some impulsive spirits, and give the law an opportunity to deal with suspected criminals.

The Thunderbird on Trusts.

The Hon. JOHN WESLEY GAINES, the Tennessee Thunderbird, is pouncing on the Octopus again. He has introduced into the House of Representatives a bill excluding from the use of mails for any purpose of their business any firm, association, corporation or persons "associated or combined for any, either or all" of certain nefarious objects enumerated in the bill.

First, "to abolish, abridge, or *in any wise affect* open and free competition in trade or exclude rivalry between the parties thereto," &c. Thus, if two storekeepers in Cheatham county, Tenn., go into partnership, the rural delivery carrier can't take their mail, at least until he has read it.

Second, "to create or promote any restrictions in trade or commerce, or to limit or restrict production of any article or commodity of trade unduly to affect the market." What becomes of the associations of cotton planters and farmers, who are trying to combine for the restriction of production?

Third, "to affect the wages of employees of themselves or others," &c. What becomes of the labor unions?

Fourth, "to diminish the product of labor and skill in order to increase the price thereof." Once more, what becomes of the labor unions?

Fifth, "to create monopoly or do that which tends thereto." Bad for an inventor who gets capitalists to back his patent.

But we have followed far enough in the tracks of the Thunderbird. The penalty for violation of this entertaining act is a fine of not less than $5,000 and imprisonment for not less than a year. Grand Juries are to have "inquisitorial powers to inquire into violations of this act." It will be much better to give the carrier and postmaster power to read all letters that come into their hands.

The cynical may suspect that the Hon. JOHN WESLEY GAINES is a humorist, who seeks to reduce trust-busting to the absurd. The cynical are wrong. The Hon. JOHN WESLEY GAINES is as solemn as a Thunderbird ought to be.

Nobody except the disappointed blackmailers at Bogota is paying much attention to the ululations of the *New York Evening Post*, but we cheerfully afford that journal an audience for one moment:

"Our action has been that of a sixteenth century Italian prince; but we unfortunately feel ourselves under the necessity of seeking to square it with the Christian morality of the nineteenth. Hence our awkwardness. Hence the cynical remarks of foreign observers. They can understand a frankly selfish and brutal policy. A Russian swoop upon Manchuria, a German descent upon the Chinese littoral, 'punitive expeditions' to Tibet or Central Africa—all that they are familiar with. What staggers them is the spectacle of the United States doing the same thing on the Isthmus, but saying to Colombia, with disgusting hypocrisy, that we were moving to break up her territory by the 'ties of ancient friendship,' and only as sorrowfully impelled by the 'solemn obligations' of a treaty of 'peace, friendship and navigation,' as the Colombian treaty is officially entitled."

We listen just long enough to ask our depressed contemporary to what "Colombian treaty" it here refers. Does it mean by any chance the Treaty of 1846? That convention of "peace, friendship and navigation," we had supposed, was concluded no more with Colombia than with Panama, but with the predecessor of both Colombia and Panama in the sovereignty over the Isthmus, the Republic of New Granada.

Wyoming has just been treated by Governor CHATTERTON to the spectacle of a lawbreaker punished for his crimes in spite of an active effort by influential persons to obtain Executive clemency.

From the land of steady habits the *Hartford Courant* aims this vicious blow at that universal badge of respectability and affluence the tall hat:

"It is cumbersome, awkward and peculiarly unfitted for the purpose for which hats are supposed to be used, and yet it has been in vogue for so long that we doubt if it can be eradicated any more than rheumatism or corns or various other ills that mankind labors under. It is just absurd for a man who cares about his personal appearance to tuck a cylinder on top of his head and transform his upperworks into a smokestack. The broad and graceful sweep of the soft broad-brimmed hat is a thousand times more sensible."

The tall hat is the most remarkable engineering triumph of the human race. Without politics, for example, it would never have developed to the high place it occupies to-day. As for the tall hat's effect on the intellectuals, a man sometimes needs nothing else above his shoulders.

TROUBLES OF "TYPOGRAPH."

The Man Who Can't Find in New York City What He Wants to Buy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Among the many problems requiring precise answers that are now flooding the city "Typograph" certainly deserves credit for having obtained the solution to the most important—where to obtain typewriter ribbons of brown color. For the next few weeks he will have the satisfaction of knowing, unless all precedent fails, that these brown monstrosities will flood the town. His point and his ribbon are gained.

Not satisfied, however, with this victory, he goes still further and in a wholesale manner castigates the various store keepers of New York for not satisfying his particular needs.

Passing over the fact that he could not buy a metal snap used for "nether interior garments," which by the way, is sold by many and many a pedler, and in several stores, he drifts into generalities. There is, for instance, a lack of a certain kind of collar, indigenous to Albany, that he could not find here. As he bought a supply "to last for five years" it would certainly be worth the while of some enterprising haberdasher to inquire the exact kind he was looking for, for it is not often a barrowful of these commodities can be disposed of at one and the same time. Perhaps, however, "Typograph" has in mind something in the celluloid line, in which case he could not have tried his uttermost, and the quantity he needed would resolve itself into half a dozen, or maybe a few more.

The peculiar underwear he saw in Philadelphia must certainly have been old fashioned, and perhaps one or more of the druggists to whom he went in search of the "man and beast" salve, if they didn't keep that particular life saver, could have sold him something "just as good!" It is passing strange, though, that such a medicament, manufactured in Milwaukee, and sold in a small Kentucky town, has not reached New York city.

The absence of the calendar clock is not to be wondered at. It has been tried and found wanting. It is always out of order, and was therefore relegated long ago to New England, where they have more time for such trivialities.

Finally, however, we come to the pith, to the real blue, or rather brown, ribbon, of "Typograph's" complaints. He can buy a great many articles manufactured in New York outside, but not in this city. Why cannot he purchase them here? In an up to date slightly altered Byronic way, echo answers, "Why?"

Well, "Typograph," this happens all over the world. Take the town of Yarmouth, England, for instance, which has been justly celebrated for years and years for its bloaters. There is nothing so appetizing, and, if I may coin a word, so "drinkitising" as a bloater. Yet I remember on several occasions going to Yarmouth in search of this staple commodity, and waking up the next morning with "little Mary" all a-gog for this delicacy, only to be disappointed. Not a bloater was to be had for love or money, and I possessed both. All the bloaters had been shipped off at once and directly to London, and I had to wait until the "returns" came in.

In this instance it was certainly the case of a smaller town sending all its wares to a bigger town and not keeping anything to itself, but vice versa I imagine it is the same thing.

Articles are manufactured in New York city which, maybe, are not thought salable even in this cosmopolitan town, and so are shipped off to the more refined Maine and the far remote Seattle. L. T. H.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19.

Troubles and Triumphs of Inventors.

Galvani had just invented the battery.

"It is a wonderful thing," he explained, "It makes frogs' legs jump!"

"But we don't want them to," shouted the infuriated Italians, "we want to eat them!"

Convinced that he was depriving them of their rights, they immediately decided to cast him into prison.

Howe had invented the sewing machine.

"I am afraid it will be a failure," he said sadly, "its noise will drown what people are saying about their neighbors."

Despairing of adapting it to the sewing bee, he succeeded in fixing it up for the installment agent.

Schwartz had compounded gunpowder.

"Yes," he admitted, "war is terrible, but look how it will give the fools who didn't know it was loaded something to do."

Believing he had supplied a long felt want, he regarded his fame as assured.

NO PARTISAN ISSUE.

Democratic Opinion on the Folly of Attacking the Panama Policy.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

Atlanta has more genuine commercial interest in the building of the interoceanic canal than has either Boston or New York. Georgia will be more essentially and specifically benefited by it than all the States between Chicago and the Rocky Mountains, and that lie north of the Kansas-Nebraska line and are dominated by the railway mergers that make for Pacific ports.

Because the *Constitution* realizes the tremendous necessity of the canal to the Southern States and the present opportunity, that may never return, to so easily get the canal constructed, our position on the Panama situation is being widely quoted and approved. Even the Washington correspondent of the rabid anti-Panama newspaper, the *New York Evening Post*, says:

Many of the Democratic newspapers have come out in support of the President's course on the Isthmus. Democratic Senators are saying under their breath that it is going to be very unpopular to oppose a course of action which looks toward the eventual consummation of the long cherished project.

It is well realized by these agreeing Democratic newspapers of the South that the *Constitution* holds the Panama question as a business proposition. It sees no legitimate field for political exploitation of it by either party. We approve of what has been done, not because it has been done by President Roosevelt and will be supported by the Republican party, but because we would have expected a Democratic President to have done the very same things and to have been supported in so doing by every patriotic Democrat.

What is writ is writ! The situation is in our hands, without a taint of dishonor, and can only be released by us with a stigma of self-contempt.

From the Indiana Sentinel.

That common scold the *New York Evening Post* printed an article a few days ago headed "Plot Laid Bare," in which it was stated that Mr. Bunau-Varilla, Panama's diplomatic representative at Washington, passed all last summer at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel plotting the Panama revolution, "which was hatched in New York quite in the manner of a Wall Street coup."

This attack upon the Minister from the newest republic brought a letter to the editor of the *Evening Post* from John Bigelow, editor and author, which the editor of the *Post* printed and by so doing practically showed the original story to have been a fake. Mr. Bigelow proves an alibi for Mr. Bunau-Varilla by saying that he passed a part of last summer as the guest of the latter and Mrs. Bunau-Varilla at their home in Paris, and subsequently welcomed them to this country and entertained them at his country home until Mr. Bunau-Varilla's duties called him to Washington. Of Mr. Bunau-Varilla personally Mr. Bigelow says:

Mr. Philippe Bunau-Varilla, whose life I know almost like that of a son, is a man of the loftiest ideals. He has contributed more, perhaps, than any other person to render a canal at Panama possible. He fought with nature the terrible battle of the Culebra, which was deemed, until he personally took it in hand, an impassable barrier. He it was who solved the Chagres problem, and his solution is the one adopted in its essential features by our Government. And what is of even greater importance to our country, he rescued us from the delusions under which our Government, until recently, was laboring, in favor of uniting the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific through the republic of Nicaragua.

In writing his letter to the editor of the *Post* Mr. Bigelow has not only performed a valuable service through having shattered a story that was designed to work all the mischief possible, but he has added to the public's information about the new Minister. The people are greatly interested in Mr. Bunau-Varilla just now because they expect to transact business with him in the near future, and anything that throws light on his personality is of interest. Praise from such men as John Bigelow means a great deal, and will serve to make editors who think they have to denounce everything that happens careful as to how they try to fool their readers.

From the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Panama has seceded and set up for itself. The new republic has been recognized by the United States Government, and all the protests which Colombia can make will amount to nothing.

Saul, the King of Israel, once said to David, the shepherd boy, "I have played the fool." When a man plays the fool there is no escape from the consequences. The only thing that he can do is to take his medicine and endure it. The same is true of a nation. The same is true of Colombia.

The Colombian Senate "played the fool," and like the dog in the fable lost everything by being too greedy. Panama played smart and seceded—and secession is always right—when it succeeds.

Drinking Water on the Isthmus.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In all the recent developments of the Panama affair, climatic conditions seem to have escaped the notice of this Government.

I have been a resident of Panama for the last twenty years and am entitled to speak about the climate.

I would remind those in charge that it is not too soon to commence protecting the lives of their men by devoting immediate attention to the drainage system and the aqueduct, so that good and pure drinking water may be obtained at the very earliest.

The water is the poison of the Isthmus—no one can hope to escape its effects. I can say with reason that when this condition is improved the sanitary condition of the Isthmus will compare favorably with that of any other country.

No time should be lost. I recommend you to urge in your valuable columns the immediate attention of those in charge of the Administration.

OLD PANAMA RESIDENT.

NEW YORK, Nov. 20.

A Too Despondent Philosopher.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At the time when our Federal Constitution was written, the schools and colleges were in their infancy; and the greater part of those able citizens who framed the greatest work ever produced by the mind of man were self educated men.

Why is it that after a hundred years of undisturbed progress, during which time our citizens have paid thousands upon thousands of dollars to develop our schools, colleges and universities, and after the phenomenal development which looks to the education of the people, we find so many men in our legislative halls who are entirely unable to fathom the Constitution, which is the fundamental law of this republic?

Many of the greatest men whom this nation has produced were men who educated themselves when their time permitted, many leaving the little school houses before they reached their "teens," to work their way through life with only the three Rs.

Is our over education detrimental to the welfare of the people?

Many of our legislators to-day either do not understand that they are elected to represent the people and act under the Constitution, which is their guide, or they spend too much time in looking after their own interests in order to get back the money which their elections have cost them.

If this is the case, in 1800 it was my country first and my pocket afterward; in 1900 it is my pocket first and my country afterward. What will it be in 2000?

YONKERS, N. Y., Nov. 19. CARL EICKEMEYER.

More Acoustics.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent "Boomer" asks, on Nov. 16, how far cheering can be heard.

A lot of people cheering can be heard just as far as the loudest cheer and no farther. Within an area whose radius is that of the loudest voice in the bunch, there will be a greater volume of sound; but it will not be heard at a greater distance than would the loudest alone.

To illustrate: A hundred boys can throw more stones within a given area than one boy can, but they can throw no farther than the smartest thrower among them.

This may be disputed by those who, living as we do here, twenty miles or so from the Palisades and Jerome Park, yet hear the blasting at noon and at night, but this in itself is a proof of my assertion, for we hear the blasts in separate concussions and not in one great explosion. RIVERSIDE.

RIVERSIDE, Conn., Nov. 19.

THE SOUTHERN ROAD TO LHASA.

No wonder that the Tibetans have been dismayed by the white invasion of their southern mountains. The mission which Col. Younghusband led up the valleys from Darjiling, four months ago, penetrated thirty miles into that part of Tibet. The party had received authority from Lhasa to advance thus far to Khamba Jong (Jong is a Tibetan word meaning fort), and was to meet there the representatives of the Lhasa Government. But the hearts of the Tibetans misgave them and they failed to keep their appointment; and the subjects of the Dalai Lama who till those valleys were badly frightened when they saw the mission and its military escort, for they live near the frontier where no thought is so insistent and ever present as that of the constant vigilance required to ward off missions and all other forms of intrusion.

No white man had ever before seen this fort of Khamba, which is about a hundred miles north of the terminus of the Indian railroad at Darjiling. It was far to the west that Landor was caught and tortured. But the Indian surveyors who, disguised as Buddhists, have passed through the rich and well tilled valleys on their way to Lhasa, have known of the rudely armed troops who have sallied forth from Khamba Jong with their matchlocks, lances, swords and slings upon the first intimation that Europeans were knocking for admittance at the southern passes leading into their country.

It is the southern part of Tibet, where most of the population till the valleys, that is best guarded. The repellent character of the bleak high northern plateau is looked upon, in a measure, as a sufficient defence for Lhasa on the north. But Khamba Jong is only one of a considerable number of frontier posts along the southern border. They are frequently inspected by officials from Lhasa to ascertain the discipline of the garrisons, and the condition of their defences and military resources.

The Tibetans, under the advice of China, permitted some Europeans to settle at Yatung on the frontier, in 1894, and to exchange the commodities of Europe for those of the forbidden land. This concession, however, has been almost a dead letter; the Lhasa Government has continued to interfere with native traders offering foreign goods for sale and has forbidden any subject to cross the frontier. It was because of this unfriendly attitude and the practical nullification of the commercial agreement to which Tibet was a party, that the Indian Government insisted upon a conference with the representatives of the Dalai Lama.

But the representatives were invisible; and now it is reported that a military expedition will be sent further into Tibet to Gyangtse Jong on the high road to Lhassa and only about a hundred miles from the Holy City. If the British make this trip they will see a country which will win their admiration—unless the forces of the Lhasa Government are able to divert their attention from rich, smiling valleys walled in by towering mountains. Every inch of some of the valleys is cultivated; and though the road to Lhasa passes over some desolate highlands, it extends for most of the way through the millet fields and the pasture lands of the valleys.

An expedition approaching Lhasa from Darjiling would thus pass through a really delightful part of the large country, most of whose aspects are so bleak and uninviting. If the Tibetans had military talent and modern equipment they might give an invader some most unpleasant experiences along the southern road to Lhasa; but they have kept themselves so utterly aloof that no one knows whether they would fight well under any circumstances.

Dr. Wood's Chance to Win His Spurs.

From the New York World of Yesterday.

The despatches announce that fighting has begun in the Sulus. When news came the other day that the Sulu Moros had rebelled it was said that "Major-Gen." Wood had started for the scene of the disturbance.

Is not this worth the attention of the Senatorial factions now contending over the question of Gen. Wood's confirmation? May not the voice of controversy be temporarily hushed? For the first time in his life Gen. Wood is exercising an independent command in the presence of an enemy. It is desirable that a Major-General qualifying for the highest rank in the army should have had such an experience. Would it not be well to suspend the consideration of Gen. Wood's promotion until he has had a chance to distinguish himself in the field?

Then we can all unite in crowning the hero of the "glorious" Sulu war with a Major-General's laurels.

The Sex of Balaam's Ass Was Female.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Yesterday a lady remarked to me:

"She walked on earth,
She talked on earth,
She rebuked man for sin.
She's not on earth,
She's not in Heaven—
They wouldn't let her in."

She asked me to whom it referred. As I acknowledged ignorance she informed me that it was Balaam's ass, to which I responded that I could have told her immediately if she had substituted "he" for "she" in her verses.

In to-day's SUN I find the following:

"Balaam's ass was lamenting:

"'I just know I would carry off the honors at the Horse Show,' he exclaimed: 'my good points speak for themselves.'

"Regretting that he lived before his time, he plodded on his patient way."

As I have always understood that if you see it in THE SUN it is so, I would ask if I may quote you and silence her (as she is sometimes a little too superior). B. A. LAMB.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19.

The Early Worm's Punishment.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In regard to Mr. Ryan's request in to-day's SUN for a discussion of the exact status of the somewhat noted "early bird and worm question," I would say that I have always been strongly impressed by the opinion of one of our sweetest poets, the late John G. Saxe, who wrote—I quote from memory:

"I like that boy who when his father told
The oft repeated tale of worm by early songster caught,
Replied: 'Why, dad, that's not at all surprising,
The worm was punished, sir, for early rising.'"

GRAND GORGE, N. Y., Nov. 19. J. N. WRIGHT.

Red Fire for Danger Signals.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In view of the deplorable accident on the Fifth avenue "L" in Brooklyn yesterday, it has occurred to me that a simple signal which I have never heard of or as suggested before would be better than lanterns, especially in fogs. Why not use the red fire so abundantly employed as a filler in at every display of fireworks? The sudden glare would surely be a strong hint that caution was necessary for following trains. SIGNALLER.

NEW YORK, Nov. 20.

The Song of the Turkey.

Note. Farmers are asking from 13 to 15 cents a pound for turkeys in lots.

Hooray, hooray, for the lofty price,
And the peace of mind it brings
To the guileless turkey marked to be
Stuffed full of bread and things.

Hooray, hooray, for the lofty price
That gives us birds a show
To drop some thanks instead of heads
Along the way we go.

Hooray, hooray, for the lofty price
That makes some people feel
Somewhat less thankful than they'd be
If we were cheap as veal.

Hooray, hooray, for the lofty price
That makes Thanksgiving Day
Our time of thanks because most men
Don't have the price to pay

Hooray, hooray, for the lofty price!
The folks may kick and cuss;
We don't givadam what else they eat,
So long as they can't eat us.

W. J. L.

APPEAL FOR POOR MOTHERS.

Lying-in Hospital Greatly in Need of Money—Only One Ward Open.

The annual report of the Society of the Lying-in Hospital, which has just been made public, contains an urgent appeal for funds. Thanks to the generosity of J. Pierpont Morgan, the society has a hospital building which is regarded as one of the best arranged and most thoroughly constructed in the world. Its capacity is more than sufficient.

A lack of money, however, has prevented the society from using more than one of the wards contained in the hospital, and only sixty-two patients can be received at a time. Even with this limitation of its activity the society had to pay out $88,447.63 in excess of its actual income in the last twelve months in order to keep the hospital open and carry on the outdoor department in an efficient manner. The total expenses amounted to $117,340.45, while the income derived from contributions and investments was only $28,862.82.

The report points out how inadequate are the present resources of the city institutions for the treatment of maternity cases. There are only two wards, with fifty beds, on Blackwell's Island, and the Twenty-sixth street Emergency Hospital has only six beds reserved for this purpose.

The applications to the society for the reception of patients numbered 5,310 in the year, or 495 more than in the preceding year. The society could admit only 1,132 patients to the hospital, or an average of ninety-four a month. Care was provided for 2,693 patients at their homes. The total number of births in both departments were 3,825, which equals 6 per cent. of all the births in the city. The total number of deaths in both departments was three.

The report gives some interesting statistics concerning the people who applied for and obtained assistance. The foreign born numbered 3,109, as against a native born contingent of 716. The greatest number of foreign patients, 1,701, came from Russia.

The husbands of the applicants were in 1,014 cases out of a total of 4,853, employed as tailors. Other figures gathered showed that the average weekly wages of the husbands of the applicants amounted to $7.72, while the average monthly rent paid by them amounted to $9.34, leaving a balance of less than 72 cents a day for all other expenses.

FRICK'S GIFT TO THE NATION.

He Presents the Chartran Painting of the Signing of Peace Protocol With Spain.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—Henry C. Frick of Pittsburg has presented to the Government the Chartran painting of the signing of the peace protocol with Spain. The picture was exhibited at the Charleston Exposition. The following correspondence was given out at the White House to-day:

PITTSBURG, Oct. 27, 1903.

SIR: I have the honor and pleasure of tendering to the Government of the United States, through you, the painting by Mr. Theobold Chartran, representing the signing of the protocol of peace between the United States and Spain on Aug. 12, 1898, in the old Cabinet room, in the White House. I send to you with the painting a letter written to me on March 18, 1902, by his Excellency M. Jules Cambon, the French Ambassador, certifying to the accuracy of the representation of the scene at the moment of the signing. I hope you will do me the honor of accepting this painting, and that it will, by reason of the importance of the event it depicts and its artistic merit, be found worthy of a permanent home in the White House. Very respectfully, H. C. FRICK.

To the President, White House, Washington, D. C.

WHITE HOUSE, Washington, Nov. 10, 1903.

MY DEAR MR. FRICK: On behalf of the Government of the United States, I accept from you, with the utmost pleasure, the painting by Theobold Chartran, representing the signing of the protocol of peace between the United States and Spain on Aug. 12, 1898, in the old Cabinet room in the White House. The picture will immediately be hung in the same room where the scene it portrays took place. I do not see how the nation could receive a more appropriate gift, and on behalf of the nation I thank you most warmly for your generosity. Sincerely yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Mr. H. C. Frick, Pittsburg.

NEW STATEN ISLAND PARKS.

Commissioner Willcox Asks Board of Estimate to Acquire Land for Them.

Park Commissioner Willcox sent to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment yesterday his report on the proposed plan for a system of parks, playgrounds and boulevards in Staten Island. With a few exceptions he indorses all of the recommendations made by the Local Board of Improvements of Richmond borough and advises that steps be taken to acquire the land needed for the purpose. He estimates the cost at less than $2,000,000.

It is not designed, the Commissioner says, that the properties be at once improved as parks, but that they should be held as reservations for future development. Mr. Willcox calls attention to the fact that New York has no great seaside park where the masses can go for bathing and recreation. The proposed plan, he points out, provides for such a park directly south of Fort Wadsworth. If the reservations in Staten Island are obtained, he says, it will then be possible to throw open hundreds of acres to the pupils of our public schools and others who may there find upon city property an opportunity for the enjoyment of field sports.

Commissioner Willcox asks that a public hearing on the plan be held soon.

HARVEST FESTIVAL.

Fair in Aid of the Free Industrial School for Crippled Children.

The harvest festival for the benefit of the Free Industrial School for Crippled Children which was opened yesterday afternoon in the Waldorf-Astoria kept the grand ballroom well crowded. It was continued during the evening and will go on this afternoon and to-night.

Among the attractions are an automobile and a pony and cart which are being raffled. The vaudeville entertainments, in which professional artists assisted the children of the school yesterday, will be repeated this afternoon and evening. The children's room represents an old English cornfield with poppies and bluets in bloom.

Preparations for this bazaar have been in progress for two months, and there are 300 women, many of them prominent socially, assis