The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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The Supremacy of the Governor.

The particularly learned and sagacious correspondent at Albany of the *New York Times* has fallen an easy victim to the lures and wiles of the rare and infrequent enemies of Governor ODELL. He writes to his paper that the Governor declines another term of office and that he is understood to be "sick of the job." This is the most transparent error, as the correspondent in question must necessarily admit upon due reflection. Furthermore, as a sequel to this imaginary condition of the Governor's mind, the correspondent goes on to say that Senator MALBY is the man whom the Governor has chosen to succeed him in the Executive.

Why should the Governor be sick of his job? The idea is preposterous! It never was richer in honors and decorations than it is now. The crop of receiverships was never more satisfactory; the judicial department reveals not a single refractory element and, except for a disposition in one quarter to independence of appetite, which will be promptly checked by the Bar Association, is contented and efficient; the Newburgh Industrials, the Ice, Gas, Electricity, Transportation, Steamboats, Newspapers and Banks, are all yielding excellent usufruct. Trust investments, it is true, are a little dull just now, but Brother LUSCIOUS LITTAUER will do better after a while and will presently be able to resume his excursions to the Central Trust Company and other pastures of late lying fallow. A mind less philosophical than the Governor's might be a little captious about the depression in Shipbuilding securities, but, after all, he recalls that that worry is vicariously endured, and so long as the Bank Examiner refrains from annoying Newburgh with his importunities there is no occasion for uneasiness.

The "Grocery trade" has, it is true, been a little impaired by the inconsiderate meddling of invidious outsiders and by vulgar and intrusive publicity, but, on the whole it is far from bad, and Rochester gets a fair look in on the Butter.

How, in the face of these conditions, the *Times* observer can have been misled into believing that the Governor is "sick of the job," we fail to understand. Has not the Governor, too, permitted it to be understood that President ROOSEVELT, as a mark of his esteem and implicit confidence, has designated him as the successor of Col. GEORGE W. DUNN in the Chairmanship of the State Committee; as if, indeed, his advancement to the Leadership of the Party was not already a sufficient distinction?

We have mentioned, quite casually, only a few of the considerations which make his hypothesis untenable, but we think we have sufficiently indicated the strength, opulence and temporal exaltation of the Governor to convince the *Times's* Albany gentleman of the propriety of revising himself without delay.

Besides, why was Senator MALBY exhibited as Gov. ODELL'S choice of an understudy? The Senator is an excellent and a most accomplished man, whom St. Lawrence county in particular and the State in general love to honor, but he is far too discerning in the matter of political legacies, and too modest withal, to admit of his figuring in the rôle ascribed to him. Senator MALBY is wise, even unto discretion.

We would venture in conclusion a word of gentle reproof or dissuasion, which so intelligent a gentleman as the *Times* correspondent cannot possibly misunderstand, and that is to the effect that in periods of great political delicacy and almost critical moment, like the present, he should studiously avoid expressions which are prone to stir up strife and mistrust. For instance, he has permitted himself to observe that the relations between the Governor and the Hon. JOSEPH DICKEY, the Governor's personal and fiduciary representative on the State Railroad Commission, are ruffled and disturbed. Even if this were true no good could possibly accrue from the publication of it, particularly when the publication is couched in terms of disguised acerbity.

We hasten to remove even the faint impression which the correspondent's statement may have for the moment produced. Col. DICKEY may, at one time, have had an exaggerated idea of what was due to himself and an inadequate one of what was due to the Governor, but that is all long since disposed of and vanished. Indeed, these two fine characters understand each other perfectly, and nothing could be stronger than the bonds of mutual esteem and affection which unite them, a fact in which all worthy Republicans must mightily rejoice.

Besides, the Hon. JOSEPH DICKEY comes from Newburgh, and he knows his place.

The Pay of Legislators.

The Legislatures of eleven States meet this month. The official messages of the eleven Governors bring to mind the disparity between the pay of the Chief Executives of American States and of legislators exercising functions of, at least, equal importance.

New York and Pennsylvania pay members of the Legislature $1,500, and pay their Governors $10,000. In Maine legislators receive $150 a year, in Wisconsin $500, in Iowa $550, and in Illinois $1,000. The inadequacy of their compensation, which in no case exceeds $1,500, and in some States is adjusted on the *per diem* basis of $3, $4, $5 or $8, remains uncorrected for the reason that the figure is usually fixed by the State Constitution and can be increased only by formal amendment; and legislators are loath to adopt for submission a Constitutional amendment increasing their own pay or that of their successors.

No such obstacle exists, generally, with regard to the pay of Governors. Within the last few years the salary of the Governor in Iowa has been raised from $3,000 to $5,000, in Kansas from $3,000 to $5,000, with an addition of $2,000 for household expenses; in Mississippi from $3,500 to $4,500, in North Carolina from $3,000 to $4,000, in South Dakota from $2,500 to $3,000, and in Utah from $2,000 to $4,000.

Massachusetts pays $8,000, Ohio $8,000, New Jersey $10,000, California $6,000, Illinois $6,000, Kentucky $6,500, and Indiana and the Southern States, except Georgia, from $3,000 to $5,000. Perhaps the disparity is nowhere more clearly marked than in Connecticut, where the Governor receives $4,000 and the legislators $300 each. The latter rate of compensation is fixed by a clause in Article XXII. of the Constitution, which provides that $300 per annum, with mileage, shall be the maximum pay of legislators. This provision was adopted in 1876.

Three hundred dollars a year for a lawmaker is certainly not an extravagant rate, if the lawmaker is worth his salt to the State he serves.

If Chosen Should Call on Us.

While there is no doubt that a voluntary offer of mediation between Japan and Russia with regard to Corea is unlikely to proceed from Washington, there is one contingency that seems to have been overlooked.

Suppose that a request for the friendly interference of the United States Government should be made in due diplomatic form through Mr. MINHUI CHO, the Corean Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to this country.

Suppose that the Government at Seoul should inform the Government at Washington that its independent existence is menaced by the rival interests of Russia and Japan.

We have a treaty with Corea. It was negotiated by Commodore SHUFELDT in the spring of 1882 and ratified just twenty-one years ago this month by the United States Senate. It was ratified by the Senate in spite of strong feeling that the President exceeded his Constitutional power in negotiating such a convention through the agency of a naval officer not regularly clothed with diplomatic authority by and with the consent of the Senate. That body, we say, ratified SHUFELDT'S treaty with the Kingdom of Chosen, while expressly declaring that the means employed in its negotiation must not be held as precedent.

Nevertheless, the treaty was ratified and is yet in full force. It is binding on this nation.

The very first article of the treaty of 1882 between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Chosen, or Corea, establishes this reciprocal obligation:

"There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the President of the United States and the King of Chosen and the citizens and subjects of their respective Governments.

"If other Powers deal unjustly or oppressively with either Government, the other will exert their good offices, on being informed of the case, to bring about an amicable arrangement, thus showing their friendly feelings."

It will be observed that this works both ways. If the United States should be oppressed or unjustly treated by other Powers, and we should so inform Chosen, it would be Chosen's duty under the treaty to exert her good offices in our behalf. If Chosen is oppressed or dealt with unjustly by any Power or Powers, and calls upon the United States to go to her assistance, we are bound by the solemnest of pledges known in international intercourse to show our friendly feelings by exerting our good offices.

The question, therefore, of the possibility of our future intervention in the affairs of our sorely beset peninsular friend cannot be disposed of offhand on general principles of expediency or policy. Our continued aloofness depends not on Washington, but on Seoul.

If Chosen calls on us for help, or informs us officially of her need of assistance, we are bound, under the terms of the treaty of 1882, to exert our good offices in her behalf.

It is a contract obligation.

Canada and British Preference.

The *Montreal Star* is one of the most influential of Canada's newspapers. Prominently displayed on its editorial page there appears the following notice "to the Government, manufacturers, workingmen and farmers of Canada":

"An active campaign has been commenced in England in favor of preferential trade within the empire. It is to the interest of Canada to trade on liberal terms with countries that will trade on liberal terms with her. If the Dominion is to be in a position to grant substantial preferences to the United Kingdom and the sister colonies, her tariff against the rest of the world must be materially increased. The present time affords the opportunity of a nation's lifetime."

This is published with a view to its special influence upon the general election, the imminence of which is generally recognized, although the present Government appears to be somewhat hesitant about submitting its immediate fate to the vote of the country. It is reported from Ottawa that the leaders of the party differ in opinion as to whether it will be wiser to hold an election before another session of the Federal Parliament or to hold another session before appealing to the country. The *Official Gazette* announces the prorogation of Parliament until Feb 22, and the question of an election will probably be determined meantime.

The foregoing extract from the pages of the *Star* may be regarded as the keynote of Canada's attitude toward the Chamberlain plan of perferential trade within the empire. Two distinct features, not altogether harmonious, appear. First, Canadian sentiment favors the establishment of trade with England in preference to trade with any and all other countries. Secondly, Canadian interest, free from sentiment, favors the protection of home industry against English competition, as well as against that of other countries. Briefly stated, Canada says that she would prefer to buy from England that which she cannot produce or make at home, and that Canadian mills and factories must be protected as well against English as against American, German or any other competition.

The exact force of this high protection sentiment remains to be measured by a national election. It has already the ardent approval of many important and powerful interests. The iron and steel industries which Canada is seeking to develop and establish are absolutely dependent upon it. The cotton manufacturers declared their position early in October last. The woollen interests are committed to it. The Manufacturers' Association, a highly influential organization, stands strongly for it. It has many supporters even among the agrarian element. Even the Liberals, nominally a free trade party, dare not stand for their professed principles. It becomes more and more evident that the motto of our neighbors across the northern line is and is to be "Canada for Canadians."

How far Canada is prepared to go in support of that policy, how high she will dare to raise her tariff walls against England as well as against all others, is not at present a safe subject for prediction. Yet it is quite safe to say that no terms which England can offer to Canada's wheat, cattle, cheese and other products of field and farm are at all likely to induce Canadians to stop the wheels of their mechanical industries for the benefit of those of Manchester and Birmingham. Canada would be glad enough to supply the entire English market with food products, but she has no ambition to stand in the world only as England's granary. Love for the mother land is doubtless great, but it is not sufficiently strong to lead the Canadian people to accept a position as a merely subordinate and contributory adjunct to the British Empire.

The phraseology of the extract from the *Star* is in itself significant. It says: "If the Dominion is to be in a position to grant substantial preferences to the United Kingdom * * *" There sounds Canadian sentiment. Canada asks no favors. She will consider any business proposition. If England will grant enough in return, she will grant "substantial preferences." But they will be preferences only, and granted only after a due conservation of her domestic interests. A few years ago she granted a substantial preference to English wares and asked no specific compensation. The results have not been satisfactory. It is not easy to see where Canada secured any advantage whatsoever, and England has given her no compensating favors in British markets.

Any new arrangement will have to be made upon a business basis which will involve no injury to Canada's rapidly increasing manufacturing interests and which will show a manifest benefit to her agricultural interests. Sentiment will play its part, but strict business will be the decisive factor.

Testamentary.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, according to some of the reports from Washington, is credited with the ability to control one-third of the votes in the coming Democratic national convention, and fears are expressed that he will exercise this power in the interests of Mr. WILLIAM R. HEARST.

Intense curiosity is said to be manifested concerning Mr. BRYAN'S motive.

Is it possible that Mr. HEARST has decided to have his will drawn, and that Mr. BRYAN is to have the job of drawing it? That would be prodigality indeed!

Will Colombia Attack Panama?

According to a telegram from Colon, about four thousand soldiers have been massed on the western frontier of Colombia for the purpose of invading the Republic of Panama. It will, of course, be our duty to resist the invasion, in conformity to the obligations contracted by us in the treaty negotiated by Secretary HAY with Panama's representative.

Under the circumstances, the resolution introduced on Tuesday by Senator BACON of Georgia is peculiarly ill-timed. If Colombia had refrained from a hostile demonstration, something might have been said from the viewpoint of compassion and magnanimity for Mr. BACON'S proposal to give the Bogota Government some compensation for its loss of the Isthmus. Nothing, obviously, can be yielded to a threat of war.

Colombia has no legal or moral claim to compensation. The State of Panama voluntarily joined the Colombian Confederation, and not only has her right to secede been twice before asserted, but it was expressly conceded in one of the Colombian Constitutions. It is not conceded in the reactionary Constitution which the usurper NUÑEZ proclaimed in 1886, and under which the present Bogota Government professes to act. That Constitution, however, has no binding authority on the people of Panama, for it was never submitted to them, or to their representatives, for ratification. Since it was made operative by force, they have been deprived of the local autonomy which they had previously enjoyed. The Isthmian officials have not been elected, but have been appointees of the central Government at Bogota. Not a penny of the money paid by the French canal company for extensions of its franchise has been allotted to the Isthmus. In a word, the treatment of Panama during the last eighteen years has been oppressive to an intolerable degree. No revolution ever witnessed in the New World has been so amply justified as that which took place on the Isthmus when it was known that the Colombian Congress had definitely adjourned without ratifying the Hay-Herran treaty.

Not a cent of indemnity is due from the Republic of Panama to the United States of Colombia. Neither is any compensation owed to Colombia by our own Government because in pursuance of our duty to maintain peace and order on the Isthmus we decline to allow her soldiers to wage war in the railway and canal zone for the purpose of restoring her authority. We had an indisputable right to recognize the new Republic of Panama and, having acknowledged its independence, to enter into a treaty with it for the mutual benefit of the parties. While, by the Treaty of 1846, we pledged ourselves to uphold Colombian authority against aggression by foreign Powers, whether European or Latin-American, we never promised to defend it against internal revolution. The course pursued by our Government in the Panama affair was not only blameless, but inevitable. It has nothing to apologize for. It did what it ought to have done.

It was well said by Secretary ROOT on Tuesday, Jan. 12, when he defined the pacific policy of the Administration toward the Colombians: "We have done them no wrong. We would like to be of some service to them. If they are wise, they will not, by an act of violence and rashness, put it out of our power to help them."

Mr. Miers and His Bill.

Friday, Jan. 8, 1904. The Hon. ROBERT WALTER MIERS, Representative in Congress of the Second Indiana district, rises and makes some sympathetic remarks about the uncertainty of human life and the disaster at Chicago:

"Mr. Speaker, one of the most mysterious and painful parts of human lot and duty is the apparent helplessness of anticipating the calamities of life, and thereby providing for their safeguard and prevention. It becomes thus a task of perhaps vain regret to view unavailingly the sorrowful ravages of past catastrophies [Mr. MIERS'S spelling], while none the less an inexorable obligation to note the remedies which may wisely be applied to the achievement of better conditions and greater and more wholesome security to human life and well being.

"The recent unutterable horror and event of fire in a Chicago theatre brings us face to face with grave and direful questions. The span of mortal existence is short. Its tenure is dependent upon the certainty of natural dissolution. Nothing that human power can do, or even desire to do, may ever alter the great and salutary law of the limits of the flesh:

"'All that live must die, passing through nature to eternity.'

"The master mind of the theatres and of the ages, SHAKESPEARE, has said it, and the immortal soul acknowledges it. But are we, with the granted blessings of death, denied the right of peaceful, of happy, of joyous deliverance? Not so. It is our fair privilege to expect on the part of those holding our safety in their hands that they should exercise that care, that caution, and, surely, prayerful consideration which would lead to the ever wakeful protection of humankind."

What is the moral that Mr. MIERS elicits from the Iroquois Theatre fire? Some weeks ago, he introduced a bill for the establishing of a Government theatre at Washington. He uses the Chicago fire to illuminate the darkness in which that bill has been sleeping:

"I have refrained from imposing upon the House by asking its consideration heretofore of the National Theatre bill, but ask it now. It is no time to pause.

"Those on the outside who come to members and Senators of the American Congress from time to time with really worthy and meritorious ideas, looking for the realization of a better state of society, are too liable to incur the distrustful scepticism and slighting regard of our hurried and engrossed hours. We do not stop to consider that behind a seeming dreamer's wildest flight may stir the seeds of fruitful and sane growth—of beauty and fruition.

"MORSE, the great inventor of telegraphy, walked these very streets of Washington begging for a pittance that he might test the truth of the living wire. He was called insane. I beg attention to the needs of wholesome theatrical management, which in some form this national theatre bill provides.

"I wish to close, but not without dispelling all illusions. I am not, and do not pose as, a theatrical man. There was once a member of this body whose presence was prized by and whose voice was music to those whose fortune it is to remember him in his lifetime. He was my friend and honored associate. He was affectionately and popularly known as the 'Tall Sycamore of the Wabash,' the late Senator from Indiana, DANIEL W. VOORHEES.

"The National Theatre bill is the work of years of patient, self-sacrificing efforts on the part of the Senator's son, JAMES PAXTON VOORHEES, himself an actor of ability and note. The great and cardinal interest in this measure, in the fullest scope, had the warm and enduring support of Mr. VOORHEES's father. The latter believed in the admirable purposes to be attained, without criticism or objection to the means to be employed in their attainment. I commend the measure when it shall be called up."

Fifty-six years have not taken the bloom off Mr. MIERS's infantine ingenuousness. If anybody else had used the Chicago calamity to boost a bill, good taste would have frowned at him. But the Hon. ROBERT WALTER MIERS stands excused:

"How green you are and fresh in this old world."

SHAKESPEARE has said it, foreseeing and prophesying MIERS.

The ingenious index to the Constitution of the State of New York which is provided in the Legislative Manual was apparently designed with the idea of making it difficult to find anything in that worthy, though not venerated, and frequently amended document. This purpose it fulfils worthily. Rash investigators who search the fundamental law for specific information find it better to read the Constitution from end to end than to rely upon the pretentious but incomplete catalogue of its contents for the publication of which the State spends good money every year.

There is no reason why an index to a Constitution should not be an aid to those who wish to consult it. The State should place such an index in the Legislative Manual, or else make no pretence of printing one.

The great defender of the sacred ratio stood in the corridor of the Shoreham and spoke these words:

"Yes, but I haven't got my pants turned up, you will notice."

"Pants" for the plain people. Trousers are for plutocrats!

At the meeting of the Republican national committee last month a sub-committee was appointed to act on the proposal to admit delegates from Porto Rico and the Philippines to the national convention in June. The Democratic national committee has appointed a similar committee, but it is apparently authorized to act only on the application of Porto Rico for representation in the convention. Four year ago the Democrats wept for the Filipinos and the wrongs perpetrated upon them by the Republicans, but the Imperialists now appear to be on the way to recognition of the islanders in United States politics, while the antis have made no move in that direction yet.

A Hayseed Barber's Wish.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your valuable paper of Jan. 11 I saw an article referring to the use of glass mugs in barber shops, as suggested by "L. V. T." It's really too bad there are no such things as glass skulls. Then we might be enabled to ascertain what germs they contain.

ALBERT WATRICH, Hayseed Barber.

MORRISTOWN, N. J., Jan. 12.

THE ANTIPODES.

A newspaper made the mistake, the other day, of referring to China as our antipodes. China is certainly on the other side of the world from us but it is in the northern hemisphere as we are; and the antipodes of the whole northern hemisphere is the southern hemisphere. Everybody is supposed to know that his antipodes is the person who lives at a point of the globe which is diametrically opposite the point where he lives, so that their feet are directed toward each other; or the place on the other side of the world that is diametrically opposite the place where he lives. The antipodes of Pekin is in Argentina near the Atlantic coast south of Buenos Ayres. Argentina is the antipodes of a large part of China.

If we were to bore a hole at any point on our continent straight through the centre of the earth to the other side of the globe, it would come out in the Indian or the Antarctic ocean. There are no land masses opposite us excepting tiny islands. The antipodes of New York city is far out in the Indian Ocean to the southwest of Western Australia. The antipodes of Denver is nearly in the centre of the Indian Ocean between Australia and Africa; of our Aleutian chain, the northern edge of the Antarctic far south of Africa. If Panama might have sent news of the birth of the Republic straight through the earth it would have come out near the coast of Sumatra.

The antipodes of the western end of the Straits of Magellan is Lake Baikal, across which ferryboats carry the trains of the Siberian Railroad. A Chinese dropped through the earth from Shanghai would come out among the Andes, between Chile and Argentina, and a similar drop from Batavia, the capital of Java, would land the tourist not far from Bogota, the capital of Colombia.

If Australia could be dropped straight through the earth it would be a continent in the Atlantic ocean, and would be much more conveniently situated for our trade than it now is. It would have the Bermudas for a near neighbor on its southwest coast; and as Western Australia is poor in agricultural development, Bermuda might have a market close at hand for its onions and potatoes. The Australian desert, however, would be a desert no longer, for Australia would be in the pathway of the westerly winds and rains. The Azores would lie off the southeast coast, between Melbourne and Sydney, and the Cape Verde Islands would lie off the east coast of northern Queensland.

If Africa might be dropped to its antipodes every square inch of it would be in the Pacific Ocean. If we were to draw on the Sahara a map of its antipodes we should sprinkle over its sands many of the groups and atolls of Polynesia. Our little island of Tutuila in Samoa would touch the northwest corner of Lake Chad. The famous town of Timbuktu would be surrounded by the Fiji Islands, and Honolulu would be printed close to the dry plain where, in its wet days, Dr. Livingstone discovered Lake Ngami, the first of the lakes of inner Africa to be revealed.

The antipodes of our Philippine Islands is the very heart of Brazil, among the southern tributaries of the Amazon. A sufficient number of these illustrations has been given here to impress the fact that it is not very difficult to speak inaccurately of the antipodes of one or another part of the world.

Advice to a Landlord.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* On Dec. 23 I received from the Tenement House Department a notice to make certain alterations under the new law to some property owned by me, such as cutting out the entire top of the bulkhead in the roof, building a new skylight, cutting out a number of plaster partitions, inserting a large window and replacing certain sinks with improved appliances. All these things I approve of, and am ready to do.

Considering it not advisable, however, to do these things in midwinter, as I have some regard for the comfort and health of my tenants (even though they are negroes) I have on this account delayed proceeding with this work, but have signed contracts with the mechanics for them to do it as soon as midwinter is past. I would not wish to have my bulkhead left open, perhaps over night, and doors and windows open to have the dust escape from cutting out plaster partitions, as my tenants occupy only two rooms each and have no other rooms to go to during this cold and dirty alteration. But now the Commissioner swoops down upon me notifying me to do these alterations regardless of the tenants' health or comfort or else pay the penalty of a fine.

Now what I wish to know is, are these laws made for the benefit and health of the tenants (as I at one time thought they were) or are they merely made to create positions for office holders and to help trade in general for dealers in supplies, thereby making the word Health simply a misnomer?

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. DOUBTFUL.

"Doubtful" should explain the situation to the Tenement House Commissioner in person, and reach an amicable understanding with him. The Department may have excellent reasons for insisting upon immediate compliance with its order, more importance than the convenience of the tenants, or it may see in the delay only an effort on the part of the landlord to evade making the changes that have been ordered.

The Northerner and the Christian Name.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Can you inform an exasperated reader why all persons born north of Mason and Dixon's line tamper with the names of their correspondents?

There is only one department store in New York in which any attention is paid to the names of the customers when parcels are sent out.

If you give your name, for instance, John B. Brown, the saleswoman, before your eyes, will write it J. B. Brown. You say, "My name is not J. B. Brown, it is John B." She will pout, erase the J. and insert John, but you may wager anything you will that when the parcel arrives you can't tell whether or not it is for John, Joseph, James, Jack, Jessie, Jesse or Jemima B. Brown.

I, while shopping, tell the saleswoman that if she "monkeys" with my name I won't accept the parcel. I have had the pleasure of sending back many parcels for this very reason. There is not a commercial college in the country, I venture to say, in which the instructors teach the pupils the good breeding, the business idea, if you will, that is shown by addressing a correspondent or customer in the manner in which he signs his name.

Most men, and women too, feel that they are slighted if their names (outside of legal documents, of course) are written in a way different from that in which they like.

If you send out circulars and give them over to an addressing company the full Christian name is never inserted. Not one circular in a hundred that would be read if properly addressed is read when the name is "monkeyed" with.

The late Postmaster-General, Mr. Wilson, told me that he never could impress upon a Northern born clerk that he should not tamper with names. He told me that he himself would put off for a day writing a letter if he had forgotten how his correspondent had signed when writing to him.

There is a certain real estate title company in this city which seems to have a standing rule to tamper with the names of all the lawyers that do business with it. To my own knowledge it has lost two builders and three lawyers by this stupid way of saving time. AN INQUIRER.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.

Canal Street.

Canal Street, Canal Street
Long, long ago,
If ye ventured further
'Twas woe! woe! woe!
Voices of the wilderness,
Pitfalls and snares!
And for the unwary foot—
Bears!

Canal Street, Canal Street,
Now down below,
Say as far as Wall Street,
'Tis woe! woe! woe!
Voices—ah, the voices!
Pitfalls and snares!
And for the unwary foot—
Bears!

SEWARD STEPHENS.

RUSSIA'S HANDICAP.

Disaffection at Home, an Unenthusiastic Army, and the Poles.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* To engage in a war at present, even with so small a country as Japan, would be one of the most unwise moves that Russia could now make. There is very little doubt that with her tremendous army, her naval armament and her vast material resources Russia could subdue Japan—provided no accidents happened. But accidents are strong possibilities; and by accidents we do not mean any alliances of European nations with Japan, but internal and internecine troubles in Russia itself such as that country has never before experienced.

For in spite of the rigorous censor it is well known that the laboring classes of Russia are all but in a state of revolt. The inarticulate mutterings of long years of hard treatment and oppression have now become very clear and loud speech, voiced by Maxim Gorky and his school. The *brodiaga*, even the tramp, has discovered that he has a soul which has for so many years been outraged. The day laborer, needless to say, as well as the factory and mill hand, who feels himself infinitely superior to the poor *brodiaga*, is even more indignant at his wrongs. These classes constitute the more intelligent class of the Russian proletariat. They read Gorky and even more inflammable literature; they discuss their wrongs, and the bolder spirits even assist in disseminating some of that inflammable matter, often to their cost. They are hungering for revolution.

From those classes a large part of the Russian army is recruited. The Russian soldier is given a little manual which tells him among many other things that he is bound to shed his last drop of blood not only for his colors but for his Czar and for every member of the royal family. He remembers the kind of talk he used to hear among his companions at the *kabak* (saloon) before his conscription and the authority of the awe-inspiring statements in the little manual about the Czar soon fades and vanishes altogether.

The rest of the soldiery is made up of the conscripts from the agricultural districts. These are, indeed, dull and slavish and have nothing but doglike loyalty and fidelity for the Czar. But the leaven of the other portion is spreading even among this class, and long before they finish their three years service the halo about the "Little Father" and the "White Czar," as the Russian Emperor is variously called, disappears, never again to adorn the royal head for the moujik who was once so loyal.

Besides, there are the Poles. An attempt is being made to Russianize them. Russian is the official language in the schools. But whenever a few Poles assemble they still sing their half gay, half mournful, patriotic song, "Poland is not yet extinct, so long as we're alive." They are still secretly raising funds for patriotic purposes and what happened in 1831 and in 1863 might surely happen in 1904. The Poles have lost so much that they can lose very little more by rising while Russia is waging war and concentrating all its forces against a power so distant as Japan. A dissatisfied proletariat, a soldiery unenthusiastic, to say the least, the irrepressibly patriotic Poles are reasons enough for Russia to abstain from war. STUDENT OF POLITICS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.

More About the Caisson Disease.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Recently there seems widespread interest in caisson disease and accidents, with consequences little short of marvellous in the way of explanation thereof in the popular sense. Several writers reduced most of the phenomena of caisson disease to a delightful simplicity and comprehensiveness by likening one coming out of compressed air to an uncorked bottle of ginger pop.

The physical conditions which cause caisson disease are most complex and interesting, and are still largely a mystery. In a pressure of forty-five pounds the atoms of oxygen nitrogen and water of the air are three times as numerous and three times closer together than normally. The saturation of the body with this condensed compound causes, as might be expected, many untoward results. While most troubles occur upon decompression from release of gases from the blood and tissues, thus conforming to the simile of an uncorked soda water bottle, still there are other troubles which take place during or long after compression: from pneumonia; from chronic oxygen poison caused by respiring so much compressed oxygen; excessive radiation of body heat while working in an atmosphere surcharged with water vapor (this acting like a bath to abstract animal heat); chronic carbonic acid poison, carbonic acid under high pressure not being sufficiently cast out of the lungs. Still worse troubles do proceed from decompression it is true. In several post mortems in deaths from "bends" gas bubbles have been found in the brain and other parts of the body. During "bends" in very thin skinned men gas bubbles have been seen in the veins of the forearm.

To show how strong oxygen is in compressed air, sometimes a mere spark will set fire to the enormously thick walls of a wooden caisson. The pressure drives the fire into the wood and hides it, nor does smoke appear above by reason of its absorption by the outside water; in this way a caisson may quickly, and undiscovered be ruined. The device of "an armored torso" suggested by Dr. Bredin in Monday's SUN is as naive as it is ancient and comical. A man under three atmospheres in such "an armored torso" would gush blood from his lungs and be flattened into the inhuman proportions of a pancake or a flounder. Surely, if one could work in highly compressed airclothed cap-a-pie in complete steel, and could thus breathe outer air pumped in as divers do, then all would be well; but what armor could be found which could be light enough to be carried and worked in, and at the same time resist three atmospheres or more of compressed air?

A peculiar thing about compressed air is that mules and horses have lived in it at high pressures for months—doing well in a way, too—are frisky as can be, and eat twice as much as usual; but they get thinner and thinner, and when taken out it takes two or three days to decompress them safely (Macleod & Hill, London City Hospital reports).

There are many sides to caisson diseases and accidents—problems of life, labor and capital; moral problems comprising "booze," malingering, and no end of unwarranted, unjust and meddlesome illegal interference. If the true statistics could be compiled of the part "booze" plays in accidents by sea and land it would be an eye opener to civilization.

Some conditions occasioning caisson disease and death are hard to meet, perhaps impossible to avoid. The earth, like the sea, has its unavoidable disasters, and this seems to be of them. AMON R. JENKINS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.

To Lessen the Seaman's Peril.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have read with great satisfaction your remarks on the editorial page of to-day's SUN on the loss of a seaman overboard from the American liner New York. There is still another reflection suggested by the tragic story as told in yesterday's SUN.

It is an elementary rule of seamanship that when a man is at work over the side, the ship being at sea or anchored in a strong current, he must have a bowline around him—that is, a lifeline which will prevent his going overboard if he falls. Sailors are prone to be reckless; in the navy it is the business of the officer of the watch or of the boatswain or petty officer in immediate charge of such a job to see that the man is so protected. Under such circumstances of wind and sea as prevailed in this case the necessity of precaution is so obvious that neglect of it is little less than criminal. THE SUN'S account does not say that the man splicing the New York's bobstay had no bowline or lifeline around him, but it may fairly be inferred from the narrative that he had not.

We Yankees laugh at the excessive caution practised in some other navies, where men working over the side, at anchor in still water, are required to wear life preservers—as if their sailors couldn't swim; but it will occur to any seaman that an officer of the watch who allows a man to go over the bow, under way in a heavy sea, without a bowline around him, well secured and tended, ought to be suspended or court martialled. It is too late to blame the poor sailor whose lubberliness or bravado cost him his life.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. LIEUTENANT U. S. NAVY.

The Penalty of Civilization.

From the Sherman Democrat.

Gen. Pleasant Porter, the last chief of the Creek Indian nation, is a sufferer from that highly civilized disease known as gout. "If I had stuck to the life of my youth," he says, "I should not be a sufferer from any such trouble. I used to live out of doors, sleep on the ground and eat plain food. Then I was healthy. Oh, but this gout hurts. It just compels you to swear. A religious friend told me I ought to pray for relief. Maybe so, but it's easier to swear, and seems to be more natural."

The Lee Family.

From the Baltimore American.

The Lees had just
One little son
On whom to dump
The family names:
And so they burdened that poor one
With Sam-u-el
And John and James.
And little
Sam
Jack
Jimmy Lee
Was his pa-
Pa's
Fac-
Simile

UNCLE JOE A CARPET KNIGHT.

The Speaker the Centre of Attraction at the Diplomatic Reception.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Speaker Cannon's bow is at present affording much entertainment and amusement to Washington society. Since being elected Speaker and taking a private residence on Vermont avenue, Uncle Joe has blossomed out into a carpet knight of the first degree, and his old-fashioned deference and high-flown compliments to the ladies are noticeable at every social gathering where the Speaker is a guest. He was the centre of attraction at the diplomatic reception last Thursday night and was the object of all eyes as he promenaded through the East room with this or that lovely lady on his arm. Compliments roll off the Speaker's tongue when he is with the ladies, as readily as his admonition does when presiding over the House, "Members will please be seated in the aisles."

It is when first presented to a handsome woman that Uncle Joe puts in all the frills with his unique and characteristic bow. He drops one foot behind the other makes a little salutation with his right hand starting from his chin and his left describing a circle just above his knee. Then, with his face smiling and rosy, he makes a low salaam and comes up like a fish jumping out of water with the smile of a conqueror. One pretty girl to whom the Speaker was attentive at the diplomatic reception introduced him to more than a dozen persons just to see him make his bow and for the edification of a large number of onlookers.

Our Valuable Farms.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Secretary of Agriculture Wilson says, in his last annual report, that the value of our farm products of 1903, outside of what was fed to live stock, exceeds the $3,742,000,000 value of 1900, as given in the census.

The Department's inventory of farm animals as at Jan. 1, 1903, showed:

Horses	$1,009,000,000
Mules	200,000,000
Cattle of all kinds	1,300,000,000

In the cattle value sheep figured for $168,000,000, and the "great American hog" is down for $365,000,000.

The production of beet sugar increased from 29,229 tons in 1896, to 260,000 tons in 1903.

In 1903 (fiscal year) we exported (exclusive of forest products) agricultural products of $873,000,000, against $852,000,000 in 1902.

The chief agricultural exports in 1903 were:

Raw cotton	$317,000,000
Grain and grain products	221,000,000
Animals, meats and meat products	211,000,000

Secretary Wilson points, with pardonable pride, to the fact that the export balance of trade in favor of farm products for the past fourteen years was $4,806,000,000, against an adverse balance of $865,000,000 in our exports of other products. After paying this $865,000,000 Uncle Sam's farmers added, from exports alone, in the fourteen years, no less a sum than $3,940,000,000 to this.

The Secretary aptly says: "It is the farmers who have paid off the foreign bondholders." In other words, our farmers have sent enough of their products abroad to bring us $281,000,000 of foreign money each year for fourteen years, besides paying for all we bought abroad, in excess of what we sold abroad, of other products. This is $25,000,000 a year more than our total export of agricultural products, $256,000,000, in 1860; or to put it another way, our farmers have contributed four times as much as our present interest-bearing public debt, in the fourteen years.

And all this has grown from $333,502,000 worth of agricultural exports in 1810. In fact, as recently as 1850, the total of that export was only $108,000,000. No other country in the world can show more than eight-fold increase in agricultural exports in fifty-three years. WALTER J. BALLARD.

SCHENECTADY, Jan. 11.

As Viewed by the Englishman in China.

From the Shanghai Times of Dec. 17.

There is no question but that Russia intends, when she arrives at the point of officially annexing Mongolia, to go clear to the Great Wall. Russia has made numerous promises to remove her troops and restore Manchuria to China, but continually finds excuses for not doing so. First, they were to be removed as soon as peace was declared; when that time had passed, it was to be when the allied Powers withdrew from China. She finally signed a treaty under which the troops were to be withdrawn in three installments: October, 1902, and April, 1903, and October, 1903. In April, however, instead of withdrawing the troops as agreed, Russia made a number of demands on China, which should make it clear that she intends to stay. That Russia has got and intends to hold Manchuria and Mongolia there is not the slightest cause to doubt, while she unquestionably has Corea marked for early acquisition, having rescued it from Japan in 1895 for that express purpose.

From the China Gazette of Dec. 17.

Either Russia must evacuate Manchuria in accordance with the terms of the "Evacuation" agreement of April, 1902, or Japan will attempt to throw her out of the country. In brutal English, this is a plain statement of the main issue, and, no matter whether the Ministries of all Europe fill the press of the world with peaceful expressions, Japan, we believe, will not be moved from her unalterable determination.

Is Melvil Dui the Father of "Accessioned?"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the pleasant criticism of the annual report of Director Rockhill of the International Bureau of the American Republics which appeared in the editorial columns on Jan. 10, THE SUN falls into error. The word "accessioned" is universally used by librarians. Library work is now, and has been for about ten years, considered as a science; and, naturally, like all science, it has its technical terminology. One of the leading authorities, Mr. Melvil Dewey, Director of the New York State Library, in his work entitled "Simplified Library School Rules" gives the definition: "Accession (verb)—to enter in an accession book."

THE SUN is therefore wrong in giving the credit for inventing that valuable addition to philology to Mr. Rockhill. COSMOS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.

Seining for Rabbits in