

The Sun

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The Outcome Thus Far of Judge Parker's Candidacy.

The Albany Convention was told, and a large majority of its members were for the moment convinced, that if Chief Judge ALTON BROOKS PARKER should be made its nominee for the Presidency, he would be forthwith endorsed by almost all the important Democratic States. In fact, they were led to believe that a tidal wave in his favor would sweep over the national Democracy. Many weeks have passed, and many Democratic State Conventions have been held; yet it cannot be said that the promises of Judge PARKER's friends have been fulfilled except to a very limited extent.

In New England, the nominee of the Albany Convention has secured the endorsement of Connecticut; in the Southern States, that of Tennessee; in the Middle West, that of Indiana. His friends proved unable to secure instructions for him from the Democratic Convention of the great State of Pennsylvania, which, they devoutly hoped, would follow New York's example. They encountered a similar failure in New Jersey. Alabama, which in a National Convention is called first upon the roll of States, declined to instruct her delegates for the New York candidate. From the great State of Ohio has come a like refusal. Wisconsin put forward a favorite son, California, which up to the last minute was claimed by the advocates of PARKER, instructed for HEARST. Now, we do not say that we have indicated all the delegates already elected that will vote for Chief Judge PARKER on the first ballot; and we are far from assuming that among those yet to be chosen there may not be a good many friendly to him or even instructed for him. But the facts justify us in asserting that there is no sign of a tidal wave in his favor. His candidacy has missed fire.

It now looks as if a majority of the delegates to the Democratic National Convention will go uninstructed. History has shown that, in such a situation, the unexpected happens. The first ballot is significant of nothing but lost hopes and wasted efforts. Thereafter the convention becomes what a political convention was originally meant to be—the mere registrar of popular preferences irrevocably pronounced, but a deliberative body, qualified and anxious to select the standard-bearer best fitted to lead to victory. Such an assembly offers a field, not only for heated harangues addressed to sentiment or passion, but for calm appeals to reason and experience, for reflection, foresight and wisdom. One of the most successful nominees ever put forward by the Democracy had scarcely been mentioned outside of his small native State when the National Convention met. It may be that the St. Louis Convention will repeat the experiment of 1852, or it may recall with profit the blunder committed by the Democracy in 1848, when, had it entrusted once more its banner to the veteran VAN BUREN, he would have planted it on the White House.

The knowledge that none of the conspicuous candidates will enter the St. Louis Convention with anything like a majority, much less with any well-grounded hope of securing a two-thirds vote, will itself have a sobering effect upon the delegates. It will keep their eyes fixed—not upon the fortunes of a given individual—but on the Democracy's opportunity, and on their own immense responsibilities.

In a word, the delegates to St. Louis are not going to be whirled away or carried with a rush, before they have had a chance to look about them and awaken to their duty. They are going to have ample time to find out what the country wants. When that truth has been brought home to them, they will quickly put their hands upon the man.

Light Breaking on Macedonia.

The first definite indication of the intentions of the European Powers in regard to Macedonia has come from the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count GOLUCHOWSKI. He has made it very clear to the Sultan that failure on his part to put into early execution the reforms demanded in the name of Europe by the Austro-Russian note will result in the complete loss of authority, if not of sovereignty, over his western European provinces.

Plainly put, the Sultan must either apply the reforms, or the two Powers charged with the duty will proceed to the division of Macedonia into districts according to nationality and institute in them autonomous administrations. This is the only rational way of settling this much vexed question and of putting an end to a perpetual menace to European peace.

The mutual declarations of Count GOLUCHOWSKI and Signor TRITTONI, the Italian Foreign Minister, that neither of their Governments seeks territorial acquisitions in that part of the Balkans, but only the better administration of the disturbed provinces, should clear the way for an early settlement. It should also enlist the cordial cooperation of the revolutionary leaders, the justice of whose agitation Europe has recognized in the steps about to be taken.

As to the Macedonian peasants, they may be expected to acquiesce without much persuasion in anything that will secure them their lives and property,

neither of which have been worth much in the time of the present generation. The renunciation by Austria of the territorial schemes that came to light at Berlin in 1878 in the agreement between Count ANDRASSY and Lord SALISBURY regarding Macedonia down to Salonica is one of the remarkable features of the new situation. So is Russia's acquiescence in the alternative presented by Count GOLUCHOWSKI in the event of the Sultan's unwillingness to meet Europe half way in maintaining the existing status. For this the war in the Far East is no doubt responsible. Had Russia's hands been free, she would never have consented to the consolidation of the nationalities of the Balkan Peninsula, toward which Count GOLUCHOWSKI's alternative would be a long step. Her policy in the past, like that of Austria, has been to keep them separated and perpetually embroiled among themselves and with the Sultan, so that, when the opportunity offered, Russia and Austria might step in and divide under pretext of restoring order.

The new policy, if sincere, will enable the independent Balkan States, Montenegro, Servia and Bulgaria, to breathe more freely, and, with Roumania, to continue the work of internal progress, in preparation for the time when the Turk must surrender his European sovereignty to the races he knew how to conquer but not how to govern or assimilate.

From General to Particular.

In a somewhat oppressively long platform, reflecting something of the perpetual heat of Senator CARMACK, the Tennessee Democrats do make this clear and sensible statement:

"It is especially necessary to restrict the executive head of the Federal Government within the Constitutional limits of his authority, and no argument of temporary expediency can justify the assumption by him of powers conferred exclusively upon the legislative department of the Government or the violation by him of plain provisions of Constitutional statute and treaty law."

Here is good fighting ground, but the Tennessee Democrats proceed to weaken their position by talking about the "lawless, revolutionary and dishonorable course" of the Administration in regard to the Panama Canal.

This sort of thing will do for local consumption. Just as Mr. GORMAN commends himself for his futile Panama demonstration, so Senator CARMACK and Senator BATE "approve the course of our Senators in their resistance to the revolutionary and unconstitutional acts" of Mr. ROOSEVELT as to Panama.

But the makers of the national Democratic platform will find it to their advantage to cut out such parochial petulance. Otherwise an excellent generality will be damaged by a badly chosen particular.

An Effort to Bring About Unity in Protestantism.

In 1800 there was a sweeping religious revival, in Kentucky and Tennessee, more particularly, which was known as the "Great Western Revival." It was the beginning of the since famous system of "camp meetings."

The religious excitement was first kindled by Methodist evangelists, but eventually Presbyterians were stimulated to join, with the consequence of a split in the Presbyterian body and the organization of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The religious condition of this country during the eighteenth century was low. The present is a time of comparatively fervent religious interest, or, at least, of active religious discussion. The condition in New England and the country generally at about the middle of the eighteenth century was so bad as to astonish WHITEFIELD when he came here from England. The terrible sermons of JONATHAN EDWARDS on the wrath to come were provoked by that state of things. He was by nature the kindest of men, so tender-hearted that he would not hurt a fly, yet he terrified his hearers with awful pictures of the torments in hell which awaited the unrepentant sinner.

Great religious revivals ensued. There came another period of religious excitement at the end of the eighteenth century and during the early years of the nineteenth century. Methodism was extended rapidly, and also the Baptist faith, and Presbyterianism laid the foundations of the great strength to which it has now grown. The establishment of Princeton College was due to this movement. The number of religious communicants increased greatly. Then, again, in 1857, came a profound religious revival, the "Great Awakening" which swept over the Union.

At the time of the "Great Western Revival" in Kentucky and Tennessee in 1800, so great was the demand for preachers that the Presbytery of that region appointed lay exhorters, after the fashion of the Methodists, and it permitted them to except to the Calvinistic or Westminster Confession doctrine of the "Divine decrees," the doctrine of predestination, as involving the idea of fatalism. That was a concession to Methodist Arminianism and as a consequence the Cumberland Presbyterian Church split off from the main body and organized itself separately.

It was to heal this division that the Presbyterian General Assembly at Buffalo has cooperated with the similar central authority of the Cumberland Presbyterians, in session at Dallas. The debate over the question at Buffalo on Thursday was of a curious interest at this time when doctrinal conviction has become so loose in Presbyterianism and generally in Protestantism. Dr. PATTON, the distinguished head of the Princeton Theological Seminary, contended, and reasonably, that no such union could be brought about except by the surrender of Calvinism to Arminianism and the destruction of the fundamental doctrine of the Westminster Confession. All the same, the recommendations of a committee favorable to such a union were adopted on Friday by an overwhelming majority at Buffalo. At the Dallas meeting a plan for the same purpose was ratified by more than a two-thirds majority.

It is noteworthy by the way, that one of the grounds of opposition urged at

Buffalo was that differences of organization between the two bodies, more especially in the admission of women as elders by the Cumberland Presbyterians, would be a serious obstacle. Another obstacle in the way of union with a Southern Church division, and it applies to the Baptists and Methodists likewise, is the race question. Of course, Southerners object to the admission of negroes to association with whites. The plan of union proposed to the Buffalo Assembly, therefore, provided for "such changes in the form of government" as will allow additional or separate presbyteries or synods.

At the time of the civil war the Southern Presbyterians connected with the main body of the Church organized themselves separately. The General Assembly of this Southern Church, in session at Mobile, adopted on Thursday a report favoring "closer relations with other Presbyterial bodies"; but the question of any organic union with the Northern Presbyterian is left in abeyance. There, too, the race and color line raises an obstacle seemingly inconsistent with the theory of Christianity, but inevitable under social conditions at the South.

The healing of the divisions among the Protestants of this country has long engaged the thoughts and efforts of pious souls. According to a table prepared by Dr. WALTER JAILDLAW, the number of these divisions in 1903 was about 150, in which the total membership was about 19,000,000, as against about 10,000,000 Roman Catholics. The number of Jews now exceeds 1,000,000. As the fixity of distinct convictions among the Protestant divisions relaxes, the chances of their coming into some sort of unity increases; but it is questionable if the very genius and glory of Protestantism do not make diversity inevitable and also desirable, and if the present disposition to unity among them is not an evidence of religious indifference, or at least unsettled religious convictions.

As to Handshaking.

Out of the all-endearing arms of sociology drops this query, not trivial or unimportant, for it is part of a great subject and concerns a great personality:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: A Washington dispatch in today's Tribune describing Mr. Roosevelt's travels from Great Britain and his arrival in Washington by the Pennsylvania Railroad shows this picture, which seems to me at least curious:

"The President, in accordance with his invariable custom, went to the side of the cab, shook hands with the engineer and fireman and told them he was glad to see them."

"Why should the President be glad to see the engineer and the fireman? What matter to him if he is slightly eager to get off? What do you suppose they say about him as soon as he gets out of the way? If there is any one thing not to make a workman sick, it is his pretended affection of onlookers for him. Whenever Mr. ROOSEVELT travels by rail he is sure to shake the engineer and the fireman warmly by the hand. He must think they are fools. Can anybody imagine GEORGE WASHINGTON as shaking out his palm for strangers to clap it? DOWN ON HUMPHREY. BROOKLYN, MAY 26."

Here's a oeil for naught! As to GEORGE WASHINGTON, he was no handshaker. Democratic free and easy manners had not triumphed in his time. At an official reception he would bow to persons introduced, but he didn't dull his palm with entertainment of each TOM, DICK and HARRY. There was a majesty about authority in those days; and a bigwig was tremendously big-wigged. It is not just to compare the less ceremonious modern manners with those more solemn ones, the quickstep with the minuet.

It has long been an admitted duty of the President to shake hands by wholesale at certain times and places in Washington and generally wherever he presents himself to be inspected by his fellow citizens. It should be a cause of gladness, not of reproach, if Mr. ROOSEVELT is inclined to make a pleasure of this task and if he adds retail to wholesale handshaking. Partly from the exuberance of his health and temperament, partly from his early initiation into the hearty life of the Cowboy Belt, Mr. ROOSEVELT brings to handshaking a peculiar zest, a grip, a nervous force and sympathetic electric thrill. What Mr. CLEVELAND may have often found a weariness must be a joy to Mr. ROOSEVELT. He loves to shake hands. He yearns for new hands to shake.

It would be interesting alike to the statistician and the psychologist to make a comparative study of the two chief contemporary artists in this popular art. We are not prepared to say that Mr. BRYAN has not a fervor and force at least equal to Mr. ROOSEVELT'S. Certainly, Mr. BRYAN has actually shaken more hands.

Knowing, then, that Mr. ROOSEVELT has a genius for handshaking and an evident delight in it, why should there be any criticism because it is his habit to shake hands with locomotive engineers and firemen? Our correspondent asks: "Why should the President be glad to see the engineer and the fireman?" Because they are exemplars of the strenuous and hazardous life. They are used to speed and dangers. They direct and feed an energy smaller but as vehement in its way as Mr. ROOSEVELT'S own; in some sort, a personification of his own. It scoots, it rushes, it puffs, it snorts. Irresistible, irrepresible, far heard, it roars across the land, charges up a hill or plunges into a ditch. No wonder Mr. ROOSEVELT approves the guardians of this shrieking Force, the type and image of his own.

As to what the engineer and the fireman think of Mr. ROOSEVELT, that is a question to be answered according to the taste and fancy of the answerer. Probably Democratic engineers and firemen will continue to be Democratic in spite of Presidential pressure; nor does it seem likely that Republican firemen and engineers will be wrenched from their party by disgust with the Presidential handshaking. If they are made "sick" by it, as our correspondent believes, the altruistic and instinctive nature of Mr. ROOSEVELT'S handshaking becomes the more evident. He shakes, as the aspen shakes, because he can't help it.

There is still another reason why Mr. ROOSEVELT should shake hands with the

engineer and the fireman. At the end of a railroad journey for which the company has had the honor of paying what is more natural than that he should shake hands with two of its employees and so intimate that his animosity to corporations is political, not personal?

Testing the Power Boat.

The yachting season in this port was formally opened yesterday, when the flags of several leading clubs were run up and the first highballs run down on the flagship. To-morrow several regattas will take place, and the annual excursion into the realm of the nautical yarn will begin. A most interesting feature of this summer will be the trials of power boats. It is altogether likely that definite results will be obtained before the season's racing of these craft is over.

Up to the present time little science has found its way into the modelling of the boats driven by gasolene engines. Most of them have been built for men experts in the construction of automobile motors and heavily charged with theories as to what these motors would do with a boat. Generally speaking, these men have seemed to believe that if they could get a boat of sufficiently light construction and driven by an engine of sufficiently high horse-power, they would be able to make circles around the Monmouth, which is, of course, the acme of all nautical glory in these waters.

Over in England leading builders have been experimenting with models towed by torpedo boats at a twenty-five knot speed to ascertain the shape which would give the best bow and stern waves. This line of experiment will supply excellent results up to a certain point, but will fail to be entirely satisfactory, because it will not precisely reproduce the conditions which exist in a self-propelled vessel. The action of the propeller has some considerable influence on the stern wave of a boat; and not till the models selected by the towing experiments are subjected to this test can they be regarded as thoroughly examined.

The power boat races will try out the models, such as they are, now in use here. It is altogether unlikely, however, that the builders will neglect the work of the foreign designers. Before this summer closes we shall without doubt see some racing in boats built on scientific lines. The results will be most instructive, especially in view of the possibilities of power boats. In economy of fuel and space the motor is far ahead of the steam engine, and it is believed that vessels of considerable size may be operated advantageously with these machines.

The Cosmographer of Wolfert's Roost.

To the delicate tact, the acute sense of humor and the passionate devotion to the quintessential truth of the Hon. DAVID BENNETT HILL must be attributed, we suppose, a curious Washington experience on the Parker boom. For the city of magnificent distances has been enriched by a bureau of magnificent compilations, a Parker literary bureau. The grand total of the printed matter and portraits which the bureau puts at the service of Democratic editors is called the Cosmographic.

The distinction of Judge PARKER'S personal appearance and his "regularity" as a voter for BRYAN in two elections seem to be the chief themes of the eloquence and poetry of the Cosmographic. Purely poetical, however, is its assertion that Senator GORMAN has endorsed the candidacy of Judge PARKER.

We don't know into what darkened regions beyond the telegraph and the rural carriers such an assertion is intended to be sped, nor can we imagine any part of the country where the Cosmographic will not excite guffaws.

None of the ridicule, however, belongs to the distinguished and amiable Judge whose one misfortune is to have fallen into the hands of a consummate artist in the art of bungling.

President EBBETS of the Brooklyn Baseball Club has announced that a game of professional baseball which cannot be watched by those who refuse to pay an admission fee in one form or another will be played this afternoon on his ball grounds in Brooklyn. It is sincerely to be hoped that the police will either refrain from molesting the players or else succeed in bringing before the courts a case in which the whole question of the legality of such contests will be presented for decision.

Not the least interesting thing about life in New York is the remarkable ability of the bicycle policemen to overhaul speeding automobiles on the street, no matter at what rate they are going. The Mayor's chauffeur acknowledged that on Friday evening he was going faster than eighteen miles an hour, and yet a policeman riding a bicycle overtook him in a stern chase of six blocks. A stern chase is a hard chase, and eighteen miles an hour is a good stiff pace, but it offers no difficulty to a New York policeman. It is amazing that some of these fliers do not enter for competition in the annual bicycle races.

Night Work on the Panama Canal.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: To save life and money and time, the Panama Canal should be chiefly built at night. First build sufficient electric plants to light the working sections and to furnish a M. M. hammer away at the plants in order that the men should secure the necessary sleep during the day, the sleeping quarters could be cooled by the electric fans and ice plants from the Government. Under such conditions any labor could be used on the work, which is itself in sleeping in cool quarters by day and doing the work in the absence of the sun.

ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD DANDRIDGE, New York, May 27. Civil Engineer.

The Woodpecker and the Mechanical Riveter.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In the country I am kept awake by a woodpecker, who at about 4:30 A. M. hammers away at the shingles outside my bedroom window. In town a similar noise, only much louder, the rat-tat-tat of the electric riveting machine in a modern steel structure, again prevents me from sleeping.

Query—Would it be worth while to catch the woodpecker and suspend him in a cage close to the electric riveting machine in the hope that he might himself share the forbearance in the night?

The Retreat of the Great Commander.

Napoleon rushed his preparations to cross the Alps.

APARTMENT HOUSES AND SMALL FAMILIES.

An unfavorable interpretation is generally given of the decline which has taken place in the size of families in certain residence neighborhoods of New York City. The decline has been especially marked on the West Side. Mrs. Commander, in a letter to the Independent, pointed out that 455 families, forming the tenantry of twenty-two apartment houses visited by her, had only fifty-four children, or one child to every nine families. The rents prevailing in these houses indicated that the tenants possessed incomes ranging from \$2,000 to \$6,000 a year. A preponderance of small families was also found in flats houses occupied by the less well-to-do. In one instance, a house with fifteen flats renting at \$15 to \$18 a month contained not a single child.

From talks with physicians and real estate agents Mrs. Commander came to the conclusion that New York landlords are opposed to tenants with many children, and that the "American ideal" among rich and poor, educated and uneducated, women and men, is two children to a family.

That the average size of families on the West Side is smaller than it used to be is indisputable. There is ample ground, however, for difference of opinion as to the cause of the change. According to common belief, the decrease is the product of a tendency operative throughout the country as well as the city. Viewed, on the other hand, in the light of facts generally overlooked, it is due to a local and special influence and does not necessarily imply a spreading desire to avoid rearing children.

The prevalence of small families on the West Side is the result of a new grouping of population in this city. The redistribution was started by the displacement of private dwellings with flats houses in building construction, and was further promoted by the substitution of apartments for flats. The successful changes in building were not induced by decreased fecundity of the population, but were necessitated by rising land values. They, however, caused a concentration of small families, particularly on the West Side, while compelling large families to migrate into less central localities.

When the Ninth avenue elevated road was opened, twenty-five years ago, the West Side was on the outskirts of the city. Land was cheap, costing from \$1,500 to \$7,500 a lot. Building improvement began with the erection of small three story dwellings that sold at \$10,000 to \$14,000 and rented at \$600 to \$1,200 a year. Houses of this grade are now being erected only in the outlying boroughs, chiefly in certain parts of Brooklyn and The Bronx. They ceased to be profitable on the West Side as soon as lot prices rose to \$7,500 and upward. Builders then began to erect four story dwellings, selling at \$24,000 to \$40,000. The shifting of private house construction to a grade in which rents ruled above \$1,200 a year was followed by the introduction of the five story flat. Flat house construction gained the ascendancy over private house building on the West Side about 1882.

The continued upward tendency of land values, coupled with higher taxes, next reduced the investment returns of five story flats. Builders were consequently induced to erect still taller houses, which necessitated the use of passenger elevators. The first elevator flats, or apartment houses, were costly structures, containing independent electric generating plants. Nearly all electric lighting companies to-day conduct in the residential section in order to supply there, as in the mercantile districts, electric power for passenger elevators.

The first apartment house on the West Side above Fifty-ninth street, supplied with power from a public service corporation was opened in August, 1897. The introduction of electric power greatly reduced the operating expenses of apartment houses and caused them to supplant five story flats in localities like the West Side, where land values were high. In 1897 only eight apartment houses of the new type were built in Manhattan north of Fifty-ninth street. Since 1898, inclusive, about five hundred have been erected. Nearly one-half of the capital represented by these structures has been invested west of Central Park, north of Fifty-ninth street and south of 110th. This means that the West Side has become the principal apartment house district in the city. The building of dwellings and flats has been superseded there by apartment house construction, and a tendency has already set in to tear down old dwellings and flats in order to replace them with apartments.

The development of the West Side into an apartment house neighborhood is but part of a general movement which has involved a complete regrouping of the well-to-do and wealthy classes of the population in Manhattan into distinctive residence centers. What the change on the West Side was in progress an apartment hotel center came into existence between say, Forty-seventh and Twenty-seventh streets and Fifth and Sixth avenues, while the private house neighborhood was narrowed down to Murray Hill and the contiguous Fifth avenue district between Forty-seventh and Ninety-second streets.

These three distinctive apartment house, apartment hotel and private house centers form a chain lying west, south and east of Central Park. They have different levels of land values, which protect each from being encroached upon by its neighbor. In the fashionable private house district lot prices are so high that apartment hotels would not pay there, and apartment houses cannot be built with profit in the apartment hotel center. This regrouping of population has taken place practically within the last five years. At the present time the construction of private dwellings outside the fashionable Fifth avenue and Murray Hill district is inconsiderable. Last year not more than seventy-two private dwellings were erected in the whole of Manhattan, as compared with an annual output of 1,300 sixteen years ago. The average cost of the houses projected last year was upward of \$44,000, without counting the value of the land, and the bulk of them were located in the Murray Hill and Fifth avenue district.

The connection between apartment house life and small families on the West Side is obvious. Apartment houses are never less than three stories high. They are generally huge structures, having suites for twenty-eight to fifty-six or more families. Their elevator service is necessarily planned with reference to small families. If each apartment were to contain several children, additional elevators and attendants would have to be provided, increased cost for electric current would be incurred and the rentable space would be diminished. Operating expenses would eat up the income. The height limits imposed by law on apartment houses restrict the amount of elevator service that can be supplied with profit.

The mere existence of an important distinctive apartment house center consequently implies the presence of a great number of families with few or no young children. It is evident, however, that in a collection of 200,000 people there must be a sufficient number of childless families, young married couples, elderly couples with grown up children or with growing children away at school,

to make a considerable city within the city. The public opinion shows that 27,374 couples were married in New York last year of which 25,311 belonged in Manhattan.

Tendency of the entire population to gravitate, so far as incomes will permit, toward the most accessible and attractive place of residence. For the well-to-do of this city that place is the West Side. Landlords there are consequently able to select their tenants, and naturally select small families as the least troublesome and most profitable.

There is no doubt that the prevalence of small families reacts on the social atmosphere of the West Side. Physicians practicing among its population come into contact with an unusually large proportion of married women and men who wish to avoid having many children, people of that kind being attracted from all over the city. On the other hand, a very considerable part of the population of the West Side is transitory. Thousands of young married couples go there to live because so long as they are childless an apartment is more economical than a private house. When children come they move away, generally into the outlying boroughs. Operators in suburban real estate agree in saying that most of their buyers are recruited from the tenantry of flats and apartments. The existence of a certain number of apartments and flats undoubtedly tends to encourage early marriages, as it is cheaper for a young couple to keep house in such dwellings than to board.

Thirty-eight physicians interviewed by Mrs. Commander only one claimed to have discovered "no objection to family on the part of Americans." This physician's practice lay "in the upper part of the Bronx, among people who have moved to that locality because their families are too large to live comfortably in the more crowded parts of the city." The fact of the matter is that the West Side is to a great extent a class of temporary residents. Small families are not typical of the entire community.

Most of the physicians interviewed believed that two children constitute the ideal American family. This opinion seems to be supported by the Federal census. According to the census report of 1900 the average size of the family in the United States was 4.6 persons. However, the average as actually used means simply household. It does not include children living away from their parents. On the other hand, it includes domestic and relative other than children. The census figures relating to the family have, therefore, no bearing on the subject of fecundity. Indeed, a census "family" may consist of a single person occupying a room by himself in an apartment house.

Taking the census figures in their proper meaning, it may be shown that the average American household has decreased four-fifths since 1870. This important decrease is, of course, to be accounted for by changes in conditions of employment. It is evident that the further a community gets from the primitive and more or less patriarchal conditions of a new country—the West beyond the Mississippi was opened for settlement by the Union Pacific in 1868—the smaller will be the household. In an industrial community children leave their parents early to take employment in counting room or factory. In a pioneer country they generally remain at home till they marry and settle on a farm of their own.

Although the census figures pertaining to the family convey no information as to the relative fecundity of the city and the country, it is interesting to note that they show an average New York household to be practically equal in size to that of the nation. The average in New York is 4.5 persons, as against 4.6 throughout the United States. The average for Manhattan and The Bronx, which are treated as a unit in the census, is the same as for the city, while in the boroughs, where private dwellings prevail, it is larger, being 4.7 in Queens and 4.8 in Richmond. The Brooklyn average is 4.5.

In view of the meaning attached to the term family, one naturally turns to the chapter on births in the census report, to discover, if possible, whether New Yorkers are less inclined to have children than people elsewhere. Unfortunately, this chapter also leaves the question unanswered.

Births are not returned by the enumerators. The census report, however, makes calculations based on the number of deaths. It first proceeds to work out an estimate of the death rate for the country, based on the registration of deaths in States where such registration is required by law. These States contain about a third of the population of the entire country. Having made a calculation of the general death rate, the increase of population due to excess of births over deaths between 1890 and 1900 was found to imply an annual birth rate of 35.1 per 1,000 of population a rate equalled or exceeded by only four out of fifteen European countries for which statistics were available.

The law in New York demands that births shall be reported to the Department of Health. Many physicians and midwives fail to make the required returns, and the official birth records are very incomplete. In the opinion, however, of Dr. Arthur J. O'Leary, assistant registrar of the department, the birth rate of New York City is at least equal to that of the country at large.

This opinion is in harmony with the result of statistical research abroad and in Massachusetts, where a fairly accurate census is conducted by the Commonwealth. The tendency to marry and the fecundity of marriage are but slightly, if at all, affected by mere concentration of population. One of the determining factors is the prevailing character of the industrial employment which a community offers. Early marriages and large families predominate where child and female labor is in demand. Factory towns consequently have a higher birth rate than purely mercantile towns.

But may not the satisfactory birth rate in New York be due to the large foreign element in its population? The census report estimates that the average annual increase of population in the United States by excess of births in the class born of native white parents was only a trifle over one-half as large as in the class born of foreign white parents. Part of this difference, according to the report, was "no doubt due to defects in the returns from which the population was classified by nativity and parentage." But assuming the calculation to be correct, it tells very little as to the relative fecundity of natives and foreigners. The proportion of women in the child bearing age is, of course, larger among recent immigrants than among native Americans. What the proportion is in the two elements of the population no one knows. But in the absence of information on this point it is impossible to make a comparison.

The influences that affect fecundity are so numerous, varied and complicated that statisticians have reached no consensus of opinion as to the birth rate of individual importance. The question is, "What is the economic condition? Is economic condition dependent on the birth rate? Or are both the birth rate and economic condition

dependent on the degree of economic profluence and foresight prevailing in a community? If natives are less prolific than immigrants, as they apparently to some extent are, is it because of decreased power of reproduction resulting from superior education, or because of greater social ambition, or because of inferior morals, or because of difference in occupation?

Certainly no warrant is to be found, either in the scarcity of children on the West Side, or in the United States census figures, or in demonstrated theories of statistical science, for the conclusion that there is any such thing as a universal American ideal with respect to the size of the family, and still less for the conclusion that the ideal is two children. Nor is there any evidence that the city is leading the country in the direction of small families. Indeed, the State census of Massachusetts shows that in that Commonwealth native and foreign born women have more children in the cities than in the rural districts.

MICHAEL A. MIKELSEN.

THE TAKING OF KINCHAU.

Its Relation to the Main Attack on the Gibraltar of the Far East.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: With their command of children on the West Side, had little difficulty in reaching Kinchau, near the narrow waist of the Liaotung Peninsula, about thirty miles from Port Arthur. Though the reports are not yet officially confirmed, there appears to have been some fighting there, and it is quite possible that the Russians retired to their southern line of entrenchments, covering the neck of land between the northern inlet of Tallenwan Bay and Kinchau Bay. This line of Russian entrenchments probably held until a Japanese occupation of Dainy compelled them to withdraw further south to escape being caught between two fires. The Japanese are not likely, meanwhile, to throw away men in assaults on a position against which they are so well equipped to advance on a very narrow front; they should naturally wait to manoeuvre the enemy out of position.

The real business of the attack on Port Arthur will begin when the Russian take their stand along the lines stretching across the peninsula between there and Dainy, and where the Japanese will have to overcome the fire of the Russian heavy artillery, with which the works are well equipped before they arrive at the line of fortifications.

If the Russian defence of Sebastopol is any criterion, the Japanese have their work cut out for them. The allied French and English armies then numbered some less than 80,000 men, and were well equipped for the sea, and only some seven miles distance to carry their supplies from the landing place to the front. Yet, with all these advantages, it took them just eleven months after they had opened their first parallel and placed their batteries, to reach the point from which they delivered the final assault that was preceded by a three days' bombardment by over a thousand pieces of artillery of all kinds.

The nature of modern artillery may enable the work of a single parallel to be much more effective and the Japanese fleet will, of course, be utilized to the utmost extent to bring operations to a speedy conclusion. It is not to be believed that the capture of Port Arthur is going to be only a matter of a hop, skip and a jump. The Japanese fleet will not be able to force the Russian fleet to meet the fate of the Hatake, which the Japanese fleet commander thought he could capture and was sunk by a floating mine.

As it is only the heavy guns of the Japanese fleet that can do damage to the Port Arthur batteries, the full benefit of their cooperation with the attack will therefore be to a great extent diminished.

NEW YORK, MAY 27.

Fairness to the President.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Your editorial of May 27th, on the subject of Col. Roosevelt's participation in the charge up San Juan hill at Santiago does you great credit. It shows very conclusively that, while you entertain and express views on a subject which is not your own, and utterances which do not commend themselves to all of your readers, you are at least honest in entertaining them and intend to treat the President fairly.

If all our great newspapers could be as fair as THE SUN and could be imbued with the judicial spirit in speaking of public men and measures, we should have our politics on a higher plane than has been reached in your paper either in a partisan fight or in a review of its treatment of public men with whom it differed, and when the customary course of newspapers is considered this is saying a great deal.

I entirely disagree with you in most of the positions you take with respect to the President, and think your conception of his character and tendencies is mistaken; but I have to say that you resort to no such un