The Sun.

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The Policyholder No Longer in the Waste Basket.

This seems about the right time to say that Mr. PAUL MORTON, as the new administrative head of the Equitable, is winning the confidence and earning the admiration even of those who were at first disposed to reserve their opinion of his fitness for this particular job.

The policyholders have good reason to believe, from every word Mr. MORTON has uttered and every act he has done since he took hold of the society's affairs, that he means business, and that the business he means is their business, their interests paramount, the policyholder the first consideration of the Equitable's new management.

Further indications of the policy which it is to be Mr. MORTON's duty to carry out came yesterday from the three trustees. Mr. CLEVELAND, Justice O'BRIEN and Mr. WESTINGHOUSE sign an address in which they declare that the new directors of the Equitable should be men "who will regard as distinctly violative of duty the use of the funds of the society, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, underwriting or syndicating of new and uncertain enterprises, or the investment of such funds in speculative stocks and securities."

Again they say: "Men who are more concerned in making money for themselves than in discharging a sacred trust should not have control of a life insurance company."

We think that the policyholders will stand by GROVER CLEVELAND and his cotrustees in support of this policy. We think they will stand by PAUL MORTON while he is executing it.

Twenty-five Years Out of College.

In the future definitive edition of the Writings and Speeches of THEODORE ROOSEVELT his Harvard address of yesterday will have a place among the purely ethical utterances rather than those of a political or sociological character. While the President's remarks cover a wide range of incidental subjects, from pawnbrokerage methods to surreptitious mayhem on the football field, the central theme is that which is stated with such clearness of thought and polish of phraseology in the characteristic passage here subjoined:

"The nation never stood in greater need than now of having among its leaders men of lofty ideals, which they try to live up to and not merely talk of. We need men with these ideals in public life, and we need them just as much in business and in such a profession as the law. We can by statute establish only those exceedingly rough lines of morality, the overpassing of which means that the man is in jeopardy of the constable or the sheriff. But the nation is badly off if in addition to this there is not a very much higher standard of conduct, a standard impossible to establish by statute, but one upon which the community as a whole, and especially the real leaders of the community, insist."

Not merely the enforcement of law, but the enforcement of a very much higher standard of public and private morality than that which meets the crude requirements of the enacted statutes; an ideal, not merely a legal and technical test of human worthiness; lofty ideals of character and conduct which shall be lived up to and not merely talked of—such is the message which the most eminent of the living graduates of Harvard carries back after a quarter of a century's observation of life and mankind beyond the campus.

It is a sermon which Mr. ROOSEVELT has been preaching, to the best of his ability and opportunities, ever since he departed from Harvard twenty-five years ago. It is not a novel or an original thought, but energetic iteration has made it seem almost his own. Its utterance can never do harm, except from the lips of a hypocrite. The whole strength of Mr. ROOSEVELT with the people of this country depends upon their confidence in the sincerity of his appeals for a loftier standard of conduct than the mere laws afford and upon the belief of his fellow citizens that he is honestly endeavoring, with such success as human fallibility permits, to shape his own career according to the principles set forth in his frequent preachments. It is infinitely to the credit of the President that he both dares and is able to generalize thus, without a blush, at the skirts of his alma mater after twenty-five years of absence and strenuous occupation in the realities of existence.

But LOOMIS should have heard the Harvard address.

The Automobile and the Magistrates.

The remark of Magistrate BREEN leaves no doubt as to the theory upon which the Board of City Magistrates refused on Monday to help in making it easy for automobile drivers arrested for too much speed to get released on bail.

"The statute does not contemplate making it easy for offenders," he said.

Passing the question of what statute Mr. BREEN alludes to—those referring to speed, as a matter of fact, do aim to make it easy for the person arrested—the use of the word "offender" in this place appears to be the significant thing. It stands for the very circumstance of which automobilists complain both here and in England. The automobile driver is the "offender" and not the accused from the moment the policeman orders him to head his machine for the station house and crawl into a cell.

Other evidences of the tendency to prejudge the automobile case were not wanting in the expressions of the Magistrates. Mr. MCAVOY, who says that he lives in a neighborhood where automobiles endanger life, did not think it was right that a man should go out "with the intention of disobeying the law and the means of getting off in his pocket." According to this idea, the average man who owns an automobile would have to leave his purse at home, and it is an aggravation of guilt in a person who gets on the wrong side of a statute to contemplate getting out on bail while his case is pending.

Magistrate WAHLE broadened the situation by picturing the consequences of opening the way to easy bail. He thought it would open the door to strange doings. "If automobilists, why not anybody?" Even a member of the Monk Eastman gang might get easy bail. This is a reduction to absurdity which doesn't work quite as Mr. WAHLE expected it to. The absurdity is in the idea that a member of the Monk Eastman gang could get easy bail, and not in the assumption that he would be entitled to it, if he could procure it, in any proceeding in which the statutes permit easy bail to be given. Theoretically all accused persons are on the same plane in the eye of the law; and if the offenses charged against them are of the lesser variety, they are all alike entitled to easy bail by law and by custom. The extent to which the Magistrates seem to have lost sight of this proposition is most clearly shown in the concluding remark of Mr. BREEN:

"The very difficulty of getting bailed out should have a deterrent effect on would-be offenders."

In other words, he thinks it a good thing that the arrested automobile driver should, if possible, have a dose of prison cell to begin with, lest his trial might not result in a conviction. This point of view is not unlike that of the English schoolmaster of the good old days, who made it a rule to birch every boy in the school at least once a week, because he was quite sure that every boy deserved a birching every week, whether he was caught or not.

While our Magistrates thus harden their hearts and their faces against the speeders, it is worth while noting that the State of New Jersey has raised the speed limit to twenty miles an hour, and there is so far no increase in the number of accidents occurring there. Indeed, automobilists regard the record of accidents as showing that there is no traceable relation between speed and mishap. In many if not a majority of cases of accident, they point out, the machine was admittedly moving within the legal speed limit, while in cases where high speed was an element it was generally coupled with some more serious factor, such as tipsiness on the part of the driver or neglect of the rules of the road, a failing in which automobilists as a class are no worse than any other drivers of vehicles.

On the whole, the paucity rather than the frequency of automobile accidents is the remarkable fact. There are now about 20,000 machines licensed in New York State, and it may be assumed that on the average each one is on the road many more hours a day than any horse propelled vehicle. Yet a newspaper reader cannot fail to observe that days, and even a week at a time, will pass without any chronicle of accident in which they figure, and this in spite of the fact that trivial automobile happenings are put on record, such as would not receive the slightest notice if trolley cars or vehicles drawn by horses were concerned.

When an automobile accident occurs it is apt to be picturesque, and it has a stimulating effect on the imagination of the public which leads to erroneous generalizations. These in turn stir up the zeal of certain officials, who see an easy way to popular approval in drastic severity toward the obnoxious engine and its owners and operators. It is extremely probable that in three or four years, when people get fully accustomed to the devil wagon, they will wonder what they ever saw portentous in it. Speed laws will be repealed or forgotten, Magistrates will cease to comminate from police court benches, and chauffeurs will not be sent to the Tombs for their potential crimes, but will career the streets as free and untrammeled as the cabmen or the brewery wagon drivers, only getting hauled up when they actually accomplish some mischief, and then getting fair judgment on the specific facts in the case.

In the meantime, it might alleviate the troubles of the chauffeur's existence if the utterances of his possible judges left him under the delusion that he would have a chance of an impartial hearing when his turn came to appear before them.

Chicago's Labor Scandal.

If foolish strikes are susceptible of classification, that of the Chicago teamsters is entitled to a place by itself for its unlimited folly. Evidence which is now coming out warrants a belief that its wickedness rivals its folly. It seems to have reached a stage in which the strikers are definitely placed between the devil of a general strike and the deep sea of unconditional surrender.

The special correspondence of THE SUN, under date of May 4, just eight weeks ago, said: "The strike, as a strike, is already a failure." Mr. SHEA of the Teamsters' Union is one of those many labor leaders who fail to realize that good generalship may consist quite as much in knowing when to surrender as in conducting a campaign. The delay has gained nothing and has cost much. An effort to win by extending the strike would only increase the cost and loss to the strikers and result in still greater disaster to the cause of unionism, as well as to the direct participants.

The Grand Jury which has been investigating the alleged graft connected with the strike has now completed its work, and its discoveries promise to throw a much needed light on the whole affair. The beginning of the strike, on April 6, was not a little puzzling. It was quite too much of a stretch to ask the public to believe that teamsters would strike simply because their employers refused to arbitrate a case, then four months old, which involved only a score of garment makers. The Grand Jury is reported as having secured considerable evidence showing that the officers of the union were induced by financial considerations to order the strike against MONTGOMERY WARD & Co., the first concern affected by it. It is reported that the jury has been morally convinced that rivals of this firm hired, or bought, or bribed the teamsters' leaders to order the strike simply for the purpose of injuring a competitor, although it does not appear that sufficient evidence has been obtained to justify indictments.

The findings of the jury have not yet been made public. A full report is expected before the end of the week and a sensation is promised. From twelve to fifteen indictments are expected, and the list is said to contain the names of employers as well as teamsters and union officials. Compared with what seems to have been going on in Chicago, New York's little cases of PARKS and WEINSEIMER are as duck ponds to Lake Ontario.

The revelations of the Grand Jury and the later and probably larger revelations of court trials will be awaited with interest. If carried out, as they now promise to be, the business community and the general public will need to brace themselves for a shock.

The Drama in Japanese Politics.

In Hawaii the Japanese Government is represented by MIKI SAITO, who, as Consul, is charged with the protection and care of his fellow countrymen resident in the islands. The consulate is in Honolulu, and for some time the Japanese residents of the islands have felt that MIKI SAITO was not as energetic in the discharge of his duties to them as he should be. Recently several efforts to have the Consul displaced have been made, and, to show the strong feeling they entertained against him, his enemies have produced a number of political dramas in which MIKI SAITO is disclosed in the rôle of a heartless and wicked oppressor of the poor.

In the plays produced at Honolulu the hardships suffered by the Japanese coming to the islands are depicted with realistic fidelity to detail. In one play brutal treatment of Japanese laborers is the theme. In another a Portuguese foreman is shown beating a Japanese laborer, an incident that called forth "wild excitement" from the spectators. These scenes, it is alleged, are faithful reproductions of authenticated cases of illtreatment, to prevent which the unpopular Consul has done nothing.

The managers of these political plays did not obtain a license for their production, the High Sheriff refusing to grant one on the ground that they were attacks on the representative of a friendly Power, who desired their suppression. To get around this difficulty the plays were produced "free," no admission fee being charged. Once inside the theater the visitor was told that if he wished he might rent a chair for 25 cents. If he did not choose to do this he was expected to squat on the floor in the Oriental style.

Sheriff HENRY made up his mind that the charge for a chair was really an admission fee. He found an incident in one play which he was able to class as "indecent," and he discovered an unlicensed seller of beer serving the audience. Combining these charges against the manager and his employees the Sheriff arrested all hands, and thus closed the dramatic season at this theater.

Before this was done the plays had inflamed the minds of many of the Japanese about Honolulu against MIKI SAITO, however. Sheriff HENRY is quoted by the *Hawaiian Star* as saying:

"There seems to be a determined attempt on the part of a number of agitators to stir up trouble among the Japanese. The laborers are ignorant men and their feelings are easily worked on by their far cleverer leaders. It will not take much to stir up the laborers to the commission of some overt act, and if this inciting is allowed to continue there may be very serious trouble. Then the people who get hurt are the poor duped laborers themselves and not the men who have stirred up their worst passions. However, we may go higher and get at those who are responsible for the trouble."

The company which appeared in the plays is said to have carried four carloads of new scenery, which indicates the existence of an "angel" with a long pocketbook, whether he is a politician or a disinterested patron of the drama. Whoever is backing the company and whatever his motive may be he at least has succeeded in stirring up two Governments by a theatrical venture, which in its way is a most unusual success.

The Novels People Prefer.

Lists are printed from time to time of the current novels for which there is the greatest demand in different parts of this country. It appears almost invariably that the same books are most popular in every part at the same time, though the order in which they are preferred may be different. One novel may head the list in New York and another in San Francisco, but the half dozen popular novels in all the lists are usually the same.

This practical demonstration of the popular taste as concerns contemporary fiction has induced Mr. HENRY DWIGHT SEDGWICK to write a paper for the *Atlantic Monthly* on what he calls "The Mob Spirit in Literature," wherein he describes this popular taste as "bourgeois," "proletariat." This "reading mob" he contemptuously describes as unable to "detect the difference between the perusal of a classic, Balzac or Thackeray, and that of a current novel," the "mob novel." It is of a "low intellectual life" and has no "duly constituted authority" in criticism. That is, it reads the novels it likes without regard to the critics of its "low intellectual life."

Mr. SEDGWICK gives pictures of heroes and heroines as drawn in the most popular novels of the day to show that they are very much of the same type, and that type not found among human beings as they appear to the eye of reason. They are no more true to nature than is the enrapturing princess of the fairy tale, than is the glorious prince who rescues her by incredible feats of valor.

Ah, but that is the very reason why the types appeal to the imaginations of the "reading mob"—in which, by the way, are included many of the very same sort of people who read the *Atlantic* and the reviews and hard headed books of law, politics and science. Like children at play, they pretend to believe that such beings exist, but they know that they live only in a world of romance. For the very reason that the novel will not stand criticism by the highest and severest canons of art as a picture of nature, they prefer it even to the artistically and scientifically analytical stories of Mr. HENRY JAMES, for example. They want to be taken away from the world of reality.

"Her dark brown eyes shone with an ever changing luster from beneath the shade of the longest, blackest, upcurving lashes ever seen." "Long eyes, which changed chameleonlike from fathomless green violet and from violet to soft voluptuous brown." "Upon her alabaster skin the black eyebrows, the long lashes and the curving red lips stood in exquisite relief." "She was all raptures—all sapphire and rose gold, against the dark cushion." These are specimens of the exaggerations of current novels contemptuously quoted by Mr. SEDGWICK. But how about the visions of the perennial lover? As compared with them are they not rather short of the perfections idealized?

A great and highly respectable effort has been made and is still made to correct this popular taste for the purely ideal and romantic and divert it to the novel which depicts life as it actually is—real life, not the life of an impossible world of romance; and it has been successful so far as to make some people ashamed of acknowledging their preference for the old style. But the new scientific and psychological studies of men and women are never in the lists of the novels most read. People prefer to read about creatures who will not stand that sort of analysis.

It is not true, however, as Mr. SEDGWICK's article infers, that the "classic" is unrecognized by "The Mob Spirit in Literature." The "bourgeois novel reading mob, which buys its books over the book counter of department stores, on the train, at the news stands, from the book agent at the front door, or borrows them from circulating libraries," gives to the novels of DUMAS and BALZAC a present currency which is probably greater and wider than they ever had before.

This section of the Constitution, which empowers the Legislature by a joint resolution passed by two-thirds majority to remove Judges from the bench, is incongruous with the theory of the organic law.—*New York Times.*

How can this part of the organic law be "incongruous" with the theory of the organic law; that is, except as a pretext for securing nine years more of HOOKER?

How much more "incongruous" with the theory of the fundamental law is the provision which has stood in the Massachusetts Constitution since 1780 empowering the Governor, with the consent of the Council, to remove any judicial officer "upon the address of both houses of the Legislature"; that is to say, upon a mere majority vote in the Senate and in the House of Representatives!

New York's Revival Opportunity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Permit me, through the widely read SUN, to make known to the Christian people of your city the treat that is in store for them each evening of next week, beginning Sunday. The Rev. George R. Lunn, D.D., pastor of the First Dutch Reformed Church of Schenectady, and Miss Bertha Sanford, the "Little Deaconess," are to conduct the revival meetings each evening in the Gospel Tent Evangel, at the corner of Fifty-seventh street and Broadway.

The thousands of Schenectadians who were benefited by the joint labors here of these two devoted and able servants of God and humanity, last winter, bear daily testimony to the great power which attended and still follows their work at those daily, semi-daily, and sometimes tri-daily, meetings. It was not an effervescent work, but one that told, and is telling, mightily for good.

There was not here, and there will not be in New York, any blowing of trumpets or beating of big drums, but a quiet, earnest, heart searching presentation of God's mercy and Christ's mission in speech and song. No high flown rhetoric nor musical acrobatics, but forceful, loving words spoken from zealous, loving hearts to anxious men and women of all classes, conditions and creeds, and particularly to those of no creed. The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man ring out from every sermon Dr. Lunn preaches. Nearly one thousand persons publicly testified for Christ at the Lunn-Sanford meetings here.

In Miss Sanford's singing, to the accompaniment of a zither, of the simple songs of love and mercy there is a power and pathos which melts hearts and draws weary, world worn men and women to the foot of the cross. OLD DORP.

SCHENECTADY, June 28.

Neglected Trees in the Parks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A walk through Central Park in any direction shows gross neglect of trees and shrubbery. On every hand you see dead trees, dying trees and trees from which the dead branches have not been removed. In the Ramble, for instance, within a small space, there are many dead and dying trees and others sadly in need of pruning. The upper meadow is almost fringed with dead and dying trees. It is true that the Mall has been gone over after a fashion, but the work has not been thoroughly done.

The same state of affairs exists in all the other parks, notably the shrubbery in Morningside; the growth killed by the last two severe winters should be cut away and the new shoots given a chance.

The dead and dying trees should be taken out root and branch, and all the others should have an intelligent pruning. In many cases the ground about the roots of the trees should have fertilizers spaded in.

The question of proper treatment is one for a trained arboriculturist. Such a man should be procured and put on the work at once without further delay, otherwise many trees that can now be saved will inevitably die, and it will not be many years before a majority will be seriously affected.

NEW YORK, June 28. L. R.

Swimming Instruction for the Water Shy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Referring to your very able editorial on "Lessons to Swimmers," let me give you a point from an old swimmer who has taught a good many people to swim in a way not usually adopted. Take the person out in water up to his shoulders or neck, where he knows nothing can happen, and tell him to try to sit down on the bottom.

He will find out very quickly that it is harder to stay under water than on top of it.

NEW YORK, June 27. AN OLD SWIMMER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* After having read in your paper of June 26 an account of the drowning of a young man in the Sound, I felt it was my duty to tell a simple method whereby he might have been saved.

I was once told by a man who had saved many persons from drowning that if the would-be rescuer approached just near enough to deliver a smart blow between the eyes, or on the forehead, but not near enough for the arms or hands of the other to clutch him (he must exercise judgment as to how he approaches), he will render the drowning person senseless, and can then bring him like a log to shore or boat. PRO BONO PUBLICO.

NEW YORK, June 27.

Wants to Get Back to Mint Juleps.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Can we not shift the conversation for a brief moment from the subject of the origin of life and the immortality of the soul and discuss recipes for a good old-fashioned Southern mint julep?

NEW YORK, June 28. A LOVER OF TRUTH.

The Retort Uxorial.

Knicker—During my vacation I want to get close to nature.

Mrs. Knicker—You ought to succeed. You are stingy enough to me.

SHOOTING BIG GAME WITH A CAMERA.

When a man makes excuses for the hazy appearance of a lion, fixed on his photographic plate in its native wilds, on the ground that he was within ten feet of the animal, too near for a proper focus, we may credit him with rather unusual nerve and enthusiasm. The Germans say that after C. G. Schillings had enriched seven of the museums of Central Europe with splendid collections of African fauna, including some hitherto unknown varieties, they thought their men of science and the general public had said all that could be said in commendation; but they are beginning all over again, for Schillings, during his last long sojourn in Africa, struck out a new line of work and his success would make any man famous.

Schillings went back to Africa with a very large photographic outfit, including flashlight materials and telescopic cameras. His purpose was to carry back to Europe many glimpses of the animals in the big game country between the Indian Ocean and the central lakes, showing them just as they live and act in a state of nature as they wander through the jungle and forests and over the grass plains.

It was rare indeed that he could get near enough to make an effective picture of them with an ordinary camera; but a half mile or more away his telescopic lens revealed, in clear detail, the morning bath of the rhinoceros, the elephant and giraffe feeding on leaves and twigs, the antelopes, zebras, gnus and a host of other animals grazing on the plains, and the birds, big or small, in flight or at rest. So he went on month after month catching many phases of the actual life of tropical animals.

Most of the beasts of prey seek the shade and quiet of the forest during the hot daylight hours. They are night prowlers, lying in wait for their prey at the water places or along the paths leading to them. Schillings's flashlights were intended for these animals, and they served their purpose well. Scores of nights he sat out in the open or the forest within his rude fence of thorny scrub waiting for the lion, the leopard or hyena; waiting often in vain, for frequently nothing came his way, and then catching a picture or two that made him as happy as ever a hunter is over a big bag. Other animals came too—zebras, antelopes, gazels, gnus, and troops of others—and the lens caught them at the brink of the water before more than the tips of their tails had time to crinkle with surprise at the vivid white light that suddenly flashed upon them.

This is the kind of illustrative material that Schillings has just put into his book, "Mit Blitzlicht und Büchse," and it gives an impression that we have never derived from any other source of the wild animals of Africa, for it shows them as they are in the setting of their own homes. The king of beasts is well represented, and in several plates we see him springing on his victim. But the flashlight made cowards of all from lion to jackal. Every one of them sprang into the jungle as fast as his legs could carry him. There was some excitement but more weariness in the long night watches, and the photographer seems to have incurred little personal risk.

We have heard of the friendships of different species of African animals, and here we see them photographically illustrated. One picture shows two elephants and a giraffe which were constant companions in the three weeks Schillings saw them. The zebras and gnus are great friends and are usually shown together in this collection of pictures. We have commonly thought of monkeys as keeping to trees, but one of these plates shows hundreds of them in the grass of the open plain, where they live most of the time.

The photographic work of this naturalist is all the more worthy of attention because not a few of his pictures are of animals that are doomed to extinction before a great many years. Such work as his will help to preserve the memory of what they were among their natural surroundings.

Foreign Contract Opportunities.

The Singapore Electric Tramways, Limited, with $2,000,000 capital, will electrically equip the Singapore Tramways, and a side company, the East India Construction Syndicate is formed to take over and reequip all the other tramways in Singapore and in other ports of the Straits Settlements.

The railways of India are to be extended and improved at an expense not exceeding $100,000,000. The work is to be undertaken by degrees.

Steel rails and shipbuilding materials works on a very large scale are to be erected in Westphalia, Germany.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association of Toronto wants particulars for the sale of machines for making toothpicks, &c.; quotations and prices for match making machinery complete for a small plant at Liscard, England; quotations on surplus stock for a Glasgow firm; a superintendent for a large machinery plant in Ontario. Address the secretary.

Electric lighting plant to be erected and run by the city of Windsor, Ont.

Bridge rebuilding tenders wanted by the department of public works, Fredericton, N. B.

General hospital building tenders wanted by G. B. Murphy, Moosomin, N. W. T., Canada.

Dredging tenders are invited by the department of public works, Ottawa, Canada, for the following places: Bayfield, Belle River, Beaverton, Collingwood, Kincardine, Meaford, Owen Sound, Trenton, Penetanguishene, Point Edward, Sarnia, Port Stanley, Rondeau, Port Burwell, Saygeen River, Matchedash Bay, Thornburg and Wiarton, all in Ontario.

The Company for Electric and Mechanical Industry at Geneva, Switzerland, is to have the largest electric power transmission plant in Europe, utilizing 630,000 horse-power in water. Transmission is to be from Moutiers to the city of Lyon, France, a great distance; in fact, so great that the loss in transmission will be from 56,960 volts to 50,000 volts, a loss of 6,960 volts. A large quantity of the most expensive electric machinery, wire, &c., will be required.

Electric lighting plants are to be installed at Kronenburg, Austria, and at Reichenberg, Bohemia.

Electric tramways are to be constructed at Gorton, Lancashire, England; between Frankfort and Offenbach, Germany, double track; between Frankfort and Homburg, Germany, twelve miles; between Avellino and Baja, Italy; in Utrecht, Netherlands, by that city; at Lisbon, Portugal, by the Companhia Carris de Lisbon; and at Lerida-Puigcerda and vicinity, Spain.

Steam railroad contracting opportunities exist in Chile and Argentina, says the German Consul at Valparaiso, Chile, for opening the Patagonian cattle ranches, and for effecting communication with Pacific coast ports; two railroads are to be built by the Bulgarian Government; the British Consul at Santa Marta, Colombia, says a road will be constructed from that town to the Magdalena River; from Groningen to Rolde, Netherlands, by the Nordnederlandisch Spoorweg Comite; and by the Portuguese Government from the Port of Mossamedes to Chella in its West African colony.

The Italian Government will spend $23,600,000 to improve navigation on the River Po, Italy, and its tributaries; 48,500 horse-power energy will be developed along the Po for industrial enterprises, the annual rent of which will yield the Government $300,000.

Trained Ducks to Drive Away Grasshoppers.

Willows correspondence Sacramento Bee.

E. K. Masterson, a prominent farmer of this county, has found a way to rid his vineyard of the grasshoppers which have been invading the county in countless thousands. Every evening for several days he walked through his vineyards with flails, beating the grasshoppers from the vines. A squad of 180 tame ducks followed him, picking up the grasshoppers as fast as they were brushed off the vines. In a few days the pests left his place and his loss was insignificant in comparison with the losses sustained by other farmers and vineyardists. Masterson says that with 1,000 ducks he could have driven the pests out of the entire county.

Modern Finance.

Teacher—Now, Johnny, what is the perfect tense of the verb "to invest"?

Johnny—To investigate.

THE POLICYHOLDER.

Big Salaries in Life Insurance.

From the Springfield Republican.

What is most needed in life insurance management is rugged honesty and homely care and conservatism; and are these qualities so uncommon as to command such excessive salaries as are here paid? If so, then we must be in a state of hopeless demoralization where legitimate business methods are giving way all around to the rule of recognized piracy. But, even so, the excessive salary is obviously failing of its purpose. It will have to go, and in its going we shall lose nothing for life insurance except possibly an affected brilliancy in management which is out of place and always likely to prove exceedingly expensive to the policyholders.

The Equitable and the "Fleet."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have just finished reading in THE SUN of last Thursday a synopsis of the Hendricks report concerning the Equitable graft. It is a sickening kind of tale, and, for choice, I'd rather pick up something about the old "Fleet," in the days when they put folks in jail who couldn't pay their debts.

The Equitable affair has interested me very much from the start, for I felt convinced that it was the beginning of a whole lot of shame, with a whole lot of trouble to follow. I think that to Lincoln Steffens much, if not all, of the credit belongs for arousing us to a sense of the utter depravity and hoggishness of modern business practises. I think, too, that the first McKinley campaign, under Hanna's white plume, brought about a flood of commercial depravity in high places that planted the seeds of graft everywhere.

The worst evidence of the complete depravity of our big men when interfered with in the pursuit of the almighty dollar was during Cleveland's term, when the Wilson tariff bill passed. There never was a more deliberate undertaking than the bringing about of the hard times and strikes of the '90s. I happened to hear George M. Pullman make threats at the time (he was bitterly opposed to reducing the tariff), and you remember what he did. He said he would "give them a bellyful," and I guess he did.

What will be the outcome of it all? Will we, as we do in matters political, soon forget all about it and go back to our knitting? Or do you think that a public sentiment is being created that will insist upon clean doings; and will that sentiment last for any time? For, after all, new laws won't cure the abscess. Only a reinvigorated and persistent moral condition among the people will do that. If our children are taught to shun the grafter, as they are now taught to shun the man who has served a prison term, grafting will cease to be a respectable vocation. And who can force such teachings home with certainty and speed but the great newspapers? The preachers can't do it, for mighty few of us listen to them; but we all read the newspapers and are under their influence morning, noon and night. A. B.

ST. PAUL, June 25.

TO THE RESCUE OF ENGLISH.

The Superfluous "R" and the Disappearing "G" in Every Day Speech.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now by my halidom it is time for me and every other wight that loves our native tongue to butt into the discussion of the New York "r," late in the day though it be. For has not THE SUN this very day published a letter from Mr. Allen of Brooklyn, a letter which states the rules and the exceptions, and, in fact, the whole philosophy of that abominable "r" so clearly, so insidiously and withal so ingeniously that one fears that the next thing will be an editorial stating that the cultivated ear does recognize the soft and beautiful "r" euphonic, but of course nobody without any taste or bringing up would even advert to it as a matter of criticism?

And let me ask another question. Will not the grammarians take it up—this awful "r"—and won't it be only a short time till "r" becomes for the Americans what "h" is for the cockney, a letter to be used where it shouldn't be, and not to be used where it should be? Think of the disgrace of it all! The cockney "h" has no standing in England; but here shall we have the "r" recognized and duly accredited, as it were?

Perish the thought! Let me not think on it. The idea of that awful "r," that vulgar "r," getting a standing and rank as "r" euphonic, a thing to be adopted by all those who would be in the swim, to be taught to the young Western girls who come down here to be made cultivated and refined—

It is tew mutch. J. L.

NEW YORK, June 27.

New York's Hereditary "R."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* New Yorkers of education and refinement do cut final "r" in almost every case, but you will rarely find them putting an "r" where it does not belong. They do say New Yawk and "cah." If our friend Mr. Allen will trail one of the "lawr" and "jawr" offenders after office hours, he will find himself later on either in New Jersey or "Shawr" avenue, Ozone Park, or "Jamaicar," L. I.

It is a curious fact that the people who "lawr" and "jawr" our language fail to know that they do so, and are offended if the matter be called to their attention—in most cases they deny it. Yankee ancestry will perhaps explain the question. "Keow" and "medder" and "par" and "mar" flourish in the rural suburbs of Greater New York as well as upstate and in New England. New York has enough sins to answer for without these. Expressions like "Utlcar" and "Minnesotar" do emanate from citizens of New York and Brooklyn, but they are heirlooms handed down from forefathers from "deown" East "way." INTERESTED.

BROOKLYN, June 28.

The Missed Final "G."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* With due deference to many of your correspondents who have written you regarding the dropping of the final "g," an impartial observer will find that eight out of ten people in the East have no use for this consonant at the end of their words. After reading THE SUN I watched my friends and myself. Behold, I was an unconscious but persistent culprit, always "doin'," "comin'," or "fishin'," and almost every acquaintance was more or less tainted.

Now many of us are trying to break the slovenly habit, thanks to THE SUN. New Jersey is as bad or worse than New York, and up-staters are quite as bad as dwellers in Manhattan. Note how many men greet you with "good mornin'." But the growth of "ain't" is more serious, and part of the Brooklyn contingent of stenographers and office boys outshine London's cockneys or our Bowery with their "goils" and their "coil" papers. For them also everything now is "somethink swell" and they "get their pitchurs took." A. C. B.

NEW YORK, June 27.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* We are so busy and so enthusiastic picking out the linguistic mote from our neighbor's eye that we have not noted the beam in our own.

What if the final "g" be dropped in England? We go them one better, even in that. Let any unprejudiced individual, with a good ear, talk in a friendly vein to the first few individuals he meets, and he will hear "fish'n'," "hunt'n'," "eat'n'," "shoot'n'," "fight'n'," &c. He will hear "punkin'" for pumpkin, "bakin" for bacon, while "caricachure," "pictchure," "charackter," &c., will snow him under.

If it is no longer a sign of a "gentleman" to speak distinctly, using as few words as possible, why let chaos come again, and let the majority run with its "Ort to er went," "got ter go," &c., the rest of the conversation being plentifully interlarded—from the President down—with "up to you," "square deal," and the rest of the gambling slang which now stamps the speech of the average New Yorker and the residents of many other sections.

To-day our children laugh at us if we use anything approaching "good" English, and at the better clubs we are regarded as objects of suspicion. Even our women delicately voice "get a move on," "all to the mustard" and the other peculiarities which are but one remove from argot. Still, if THE SUN upholds it, I suppose it is right, just as your dictum that it is not necessary that a quotation should be correct so long as the sense is carried. Thus "murmur of innumerable bees in immemorial elms" becomes a "buzz in the rookery."

NEW YORK, June 28. GEORGE MASON.

"Huntin'" in New England.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A correspondent asks THE SUN "if the English aristocracy choose to alter the pronunciation of 'hunting' to 'huntin'' or 'shooting' to 'shootin',' have they not a perfect right to do so?"

Your correspondent was undoubtedly educated in the University of Weehawken, or would know that the Englishman who talks English never talks that way. "Huntin'" and "shootin'" belong to New England, and no one but a Yankee ever talked that way.

Go to the Hartford Club and hear United States Senator Morgan G. Bulkeley talk about his "huntin'" and "shootin'" campaigns. THE SCHOOLMASTER.

CORNWALL-ON-HUDSON, June 27.

HUNGARIAN POLITICS.

The Situation Not Similar to Late Conditions in Norway.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Comparisons have been made between the condition that led to the severance of relations between Norway and Sweden and the situation in Hungary, but in reality the two cases are not similar. In Norway there was a united people resolved to break away from uncongenial conditions; in Hungary there is a medley of races owing allegiance to a common sovereign, but none too well disposed to each other, though of one mind in their antipathy to the Magyar. It is this salient fact that constitutes the difference between the case of Norway and that of Hungary, and it will affect the ultimate solution of the constitutional struggle.

Your correspondent, John Skotthy, when he says that Baron Fejervary will not provoke the nation nor ask for a budget, nor recruit troops, nor collect taxes, is right. He only undertakes to make a proclamation urging the nation to pay the taxes of its own free will, and to appeal to the young men who have to serve in the army to enroll themselves of their own accord. Mr. Skotthy says the Government's program does not offend the Constitution. It is in fact a form of plebiscite. That being so, a very powerful weapon is placed in the hands of the King and Government should the Magyar Parliament resolve to call on the people of Hungary to offer passive resistance personally and in their *comitats* to the appeal of the King's Government—in other words, to strike.

For the first time since 1867 the Rumanians, Servians and other Slavonic elements and the Germans of Hungary would have an opportunity to throw off the Magyar domination by legal means, and I believe they will be only too willing to avail themselves of the chance. The Magyars would find themselves in a helpless minority.

It is true that the latest official statistics place the Magyars of Hungary at 8,742,301, in which are included 851,378 Hebrews, and the other races at 10,462,358, but, as a matter of fact that can be easily verified by unprejudiced inquiry, at least a million and a half should be deducted from the Magyar figures and added to the other side. The Magyar officials employed in taking the census made it a point to "Magyarize" as many Rumanians, Germans and Slovaks as they could, by describing them as such in the nationality columns in order to swell the total for political purposes; and at elections the Magyar officials have used intimidation and every other means to prevent the nomination of non-Magyar candidates, while the disqualifications of non-Magyar voters are such that they have practically no electoral rights whatever.

But in spite of the proscription of their languages, and the kindergartens to which the Rumanians and Slovaks are compelled to send their children from three years upward, the Magyar language makes no progress. In five *comitats* in the Rumanian districts in 1900 only 134,457 out of 1,432,110 persons, or less than 10 per cent., were able to speak Magyar, and in many parts of the country the Magyars and Saxons, as the Germans are called, can communicate with each other only through the Rumanian language. The language statistics of the Hungarian regiments also go to prove that the Magyar element is greatly overstated in official documents.

It is these facts that render a solution similar to that in the Norwegian-Swedish dispute unlikely if not impracticable. Some overzealous Pan-German in the Austrian Reichsrath is reported in Friday's despatches to have proposed a resolution giving Hungary permission to secede, and calling for three cheers for the future Pan-German Emperor, but the resolution failed for want of a quorum and the cheers for want of voices.

It is not in such a way that the matter will be settled, but according to the response of the non-Magyars of Hungary, and of the cooler headed members of the dominating race. It is too early to tell what methods the King and his Government will employ to attain their purpose, but whatever they may prove to be, it is evident that the rulers are proceeding with great caution and deliberation. PERA.

NEW YORK, June 26.

EARLY RAILROADING.

The First Trial Train on the Camden and Amboy in 1831.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your article "Facts in Our Railroad History," which appeared in to-day's issue, you state that the first train between New York and Philadelphia ran on the Camden and Amboy, which road was begun in 1832.

Judging by the following letter, the road must have been begun at least a year earlier:

HERBERTSVILLE, N. J., Nov. 18, 1831.

MY DEAR SON: I should have written you immediately on receipt of your letter, but there was a celebration or first trial of the Steam Carriage on the railroad near Bordentown on Saturday, the 12th inst. I went to see the exhibition, and write some of the particulars to you. They had a coach that held thirty passengers attached to the steam car, and ran one and a quarter miles in two minutes and twenty seconds. This they repeated a great many times, as there was a great assemblage of people there and all wanted to ride. The Legislature was invited and attended in a body, and a great many of the best people in New Jersey. Robert Stevens conducted the machinery himself. It was a fine performance and gave great satisfaction. Your affectionate father,

OBADIAH HERBERT.

In "Glimpses of the Railroad in History," the late Martha J. Lamb says:

"Robert L. Stevens, son of the distinguished John L. Stevens, was engaged in building the Camden and Amboy railroad in 1830, and first laid the standard form of rail known as the 'Stevens rail' in this country and as the 'Vignoles' in Europe. He purchased a locomotive of the Stephensons soon after the trial at Rainhill (1829) called the 'John Bull,' and its first public trial on the partially built road at Bordentown occurred in November, 1831. This old engine was exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition, 1876. The railroad was opened for traffic about 1833 and the engines used were made from designs of Stevens of Hoboken." WILLIAM W. SCOTT.

PASSAIC, June 22, 1905.

Willing to Pay for His Contempt.

From the Boston Herald.

The following anecdote is told of Gen. Gilman Marston, a once famous New Hampshire lawyer:

Gen. Marston was attending court at Dover, when a young attorney made a motion that was denied by the Court. The young man remonstrated against what he thought was the wrong ruling of the Judge. So vehemently did he remonstrate that he was fined $10 for contempt of court. An older attorney took the matter up, and he was fined a similar sum. Still another, who thought he stood a little better with the Judge, endeavored to straighten the matter out, but he too enriched the coffers of the State by paying a "ten spot" for contempt.

Gen. Marston was then seen to rise in his seat and advance to the clerk's desk. Taking his long pocketbook from his pocket he took out two ten dollar bills and laid them on the desk.

"What is that for?" said the Court.

"I want you to distinctly understand," said the General, "that I have just twice as much contempt for this d—— court as any man here, and I am paying for it."

Hard to Play On.

From the Success Magazine.

The experiences of George B. Cortelyou, chairman of the Republican national committee, during the recent campaign were many and varied. With keen relish he tells of one that came under his notice.

A country club about to give a parade was debating as to the number of transparencies to be had in line. It was about settled that twelve would be the proper number, when an old fellow with his trousers tucked in his boots arose and said:

"I guess two will be about right. 'Tain't at all likely more'n two will know how to play on 'em."

A Roman Catholic View of the Japanese.

From the Messenger.

Never was a soil better prepared for a pernicious philosophy. Their beautiful country satisfies them and they do not look beyond. They have been taught to be patriotic from their youth, and they adore the State. It is Statcolatry in its most perfect expression, and the way they immolated themselves for it shows the intensity of their belief. It is one of the most stupendous, sudden and startling triumphs of materialism. While grappling with it in Europe, the Church finds it exulting and crowned with glory in Japan and the whole world applauding.

North Carolina to Build Church With Tobacco Tags.

Shelby correspondence Raleigh News and Observer.

J. P. Withrow, a well known merchant of Hollis and Ellenboro, proposes to build a church at Hollis with tobacco tags. Every tobacco chewer can contribute his part to this cause. Instead of throwing away the tags, just drop them into your pocket and forward them to J. P. D. Withrow, Hollis, N. C.

Mr. Withrow bought and sold $1,000 worth of tobacco tags last year, which fact will give a very clear idea of how easy it will be to collect enough tags to build a church.