The Sun.

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The American Jews at Portsmouth.

Whatever happens as regards war or peace with Japan, the coming of Mr. WITTE to Portsmouth will be forever a memorable and auspicious event in history if it shall have served in any degree to ameliorate the condition of the oppressed Jews of Russia.

The eminent Americans of that race who went to Portsmouth to confer with Mr. WITTE struck well when the iron was hot. Their mission in behalf of their coreligionists in the Czar's empire represents all Americans of all races and faiths. The mind cannot conceive a nobler cause, for it is the cause of civilization and humanity.

The war is an episode, temporary as to conditions and evils, colossal though its proportions are. Justice and decent treatment by a great nation of a great element of its own population are permanent factors in that nation's standing, its welfare and its title to the sympathy and respect of the rest of the world. Mr. WITTE, acute and broadminded statesman, must have discovered before this how much Kishineff has cost Russia.

Whether there is to be a Peace of Portsmouth or not, what a service SERGIUS WITTE will have rendered his country if a Justice of Portsmouth results!

A Referee of an Uncommon Sort.

We are unable to decide whether Referee PLUMLEY, the arbiter of the French claims against Venezuela, is a distinguished success or a consummate failure. He has reached a decision which is said to be entirely satisfactory to both sides, but he has not played the game according to the accepted and established rules. His decision was reached and his award made during the lifetime of the claimants.

This is a violation of the custom in such cases and may constitute a dangerous precedent. It may lead to a movement to place in Mr. PLUMLEY's hands the matter of the rapidly molding Spanish claims and that old mummy known as the French claims.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the case is the report that both parties are satisfied. The next step will be the collection of $659,287 from President CASTRO. We are unable to say whether or not the United States is to act as collector.

What Stops the Way?

It is obviously creditable to the representatives of both belligerents that they did not break off the conference at Portsmouth when to Japan's announcement of the terms of peace she would accept the Russians replied that some of these were inadmissible. Instead of treating the Russian response as conclusive, the Japanese envoys, comprehending that they had crossed an ocean for the professed purpose of ending the war and that grave doubt might be cast on the sincerity of their professions if they instantly accepted Russia's partial negative as decisive, suggested that the demands most objectionable to their opponents should be reserved for ultimate discussion, and that meanwhile an attempt should be made to reach an agreement on the least obnoxious of the conditions of peace proposed. The suggested mode of procedure, to which Russia promptly assented, has the advantage not only of demonstrating the good faith of the conferees, but also of settling a number of minor questions, so that now, or after further warfare, the capital issues involved may be disposed of with more despatch. The capital issues are four—we name them in the reverse order of the importance which apparently they possess in the minds of the Russian plenipotentiaries—namely, the disposition to be made of the Russian warships now interned in neutral ports, the requested limitation upon Russia's naval power in the Far East, the cession of the island of Sakhalin and the payment of a large indemnity under the guise of a reimbursement of Japan's outlay during the war.

The more carefully the first two of these demands are considered the more probable does it appear that at Portsmouth the Japanese have not pursued the course which they adopted at Shimonoseki, or, in other words, have not presented at the outset an irreducible minimum or ultimatum. By well informed and soberminded onlookers it will be deemed scarcely credible that, provided Russia should eventually assent to Japan's permanent occupation of Sakhalin and to the furnishing of some compensation for Japan's disbursements, the Mikado's envoys would bring the conference to naught on the score merely of Russia's refusal, as a great sovereign Power, to submit to a limitation of her naval strength in the Pacific. It is true that the Czar ALEXANDER II. had to brook just such a limitation at the close of the Crimean War with reference to the Black Sea. In that case, however, the limitation was imposed in the interest of Turkey, with which Japan cannot for a moment be compared as regards the actual and prospective efficiency of her navy. In view of what she has accomplished during the last eighteen months and of the additions already made and impending to her naval force her preponderance in the Pacific could not be challenged now or in the next decade by any sea Power except Great Britain, with which she is about to contract an even more intimate alliance than that which now exists. What is true of paper limitations on Russia's naval strength in the Pacific is true also of the surrender to the Japanese of the Russian vessels interned in neutral ports. The acquisition of those ships would merely save Japan a certain amount of naval expenditure, and she could buy much better vessels for less than their nominal cost.

We incline to think, therefore, that the representatives of the Tokio Government would recede from both of the demands just mentioned if the Russian envoys should defer to their wishes with respect to Sakhalin and an indemnity. We go further and confess ourselves unable to understand how a dispute about Sakhalin could break up the conference. The Japanese have the island; the Russians can never regain it against the will of its present possessors; and when Russia had it she used it solely for a penal settlement. Nor would any loss of dignity on her part be involved in the recognition of an accomplished fact. After the Crimean War Russia had to give up a part of Bessarabia. What is more to the point, even China, in 1689, extorted from the St. Petersburg Government the surrender of the whole region which had been occupied by Russians on the south bank of the Amur River. If, however, it would be folly for the Russians to make a stand about Sakhalin it is scarcely less difficult to see why the Japanese should make the retention of the island an indispensable condition of peace. No doubt Sakhalin has considerable strategic value with reference to the Japanese island of Yeso and to the Gulf of Tartary and the Sea of Japan. But if the possession of that island has not profited Russia an iota during the present war, why is it likely to prove any more important hereafter? It may be said that the retention of Sakhalin is demanded by Japan's national pride. Why should not that pride be satisfied with the practical absorption of Corea and the acquisition of the Liaotung Peninsula? In fine, we should not be surprised if Japan should ultimately consent to Russia's recovery of Sakhalin, provided she can obtain something like an adequate pecuniary equivalent for the burdens imposed upon her by the war.

Never, in truth, have we had much doubt that, provided an acceptable disposition were made of Corea and Manchuria, and provided Japan were reimbursed for the outlay incurred to avert the Russianization of those countries, Russia would be able to secure a peace the terms of which in all other ways would be made as light as possible.

Are College Athletics Physically Injurious?

This question has been answered emphatically in the affirmative by President JAMES of the Illinois State University, and his position is sustained and reaffirmed by Dr. G. FRANK LYDSTON, a professor of our College of Physicians and Surgeons, in a paper in the last number of the New York *Medical Journal*.

President JAMES, after investigating the subject for more than five years, has come to conclusions which are summarized by Dr. LYDSTON thus:

"The severe strain undergone by college athletes largely unfits them for business or professional life, leaving them unable to play a man's part in affairs because of the physical weakness induced by overexertion. Nearly all football players, baseball men and lawn tennis experts have weak hearts and are more liable to diseases of other forms than men who exercise moderately."

President JAMES announces that he will shortly publish statistics collated by him which will prove conclusively that the college athlete does not develop into the vigorous man who "does things."

As to tennis players, for example, he declares that there is scarcely one of the "top notchers" but has suffered from heart disease, many of them having died of that disease between the ages of forty and forty-five years, or at a time of life when they should have been at their best physically. Few of the winners of the Oxford and Cambridge foot races, of which the records for a hundred years are available, ever achieved more than moderate success. The same is true of the strokes on boat crews and of "crack" football players.

Dr. LYDSTON says there is nothing new in this, for the whole subject was thoroughly gone over many years ago by Sir BENJAMIN WARD RICHARDSON of London, the results of whose examination of the careers of college athletes were similar to those of President JAMES.

Athletics for health and athletics for prowess Dr. LYDSTON separates broadly, pronouncing the first "the ideal of physical training" and condemning the other without measure. "The idea that the celebrity in athletics is rarely a celebrity in intellectual or commercial achievements," he says, "cannot be too often reiterated." Moreover, he lays down as indisputable the proposition that extraordinary physical development is incompatible with extraordinary intellectual development, and "the individual who accomplishes most in the field of intellectual endeavor is rarely distinguished for phenomenal muscular development or physical endurance."

Dr. LYDSTON, however, gives a high value to physical development if only it is normal and symmetrical, "above the average, but by no means extraordinary." Such a development has been proved to be capable of the best intellectual endeavor. He leaves out of consideration the "genius," whom he calls a "sport," to be "considered chiefly from the standpoint of psychopathy"; and neither the athletic "sport" nor the "genius," in his estimation, is "as important in the social scheme or as a racial integer as the man of well balanced brain and muscle development."

Accordingly, speaking from many years of personal experience with athletics and in observing athletes, he lays down the rule that "after having attained a fair degree of muscular development and strength it is usually unwise to carry physical development further." Anything that the man may acquire in this direction which is not of service in whatever occupation he may select as his life work, Dr. LYDSTON holds, is likely to be detrimental. For example, "it is not wise for the individual who contemplates entering on a more or less sedentary pursuit, such as a professional or commercial occupation, to have the large muscles and heart and lung capacity of a man whose life work involves heavy muscular labor."

As to "crack" college athletes specifically, Dr. LYDSTON points out that their training is "decidedly unfavorable for the development of a physique which shall endure throughout the student's after life." It is not moderate and continuous, like manual labor, and while a student is training for an athletic event he is also expending considerable nerve force in his studies. The more ambitious he is as a student the greater the wear and tear on his brain cells.

Undoubtedly these admonitions will be resented in the college world and facts adduced to contradict the conclusions on which they are based. For example, the Harvard rank list for the last year contained the names of many students of distinction in the college athletics—in running, rowing, football and tennis, the sports especially condemned by President JAMES.

Dr. LYDSTON, however, would reply to such a citation that it affords no evidence in opposition to his argument, that in the future life work of these students the preeminence obtained by them in college athletics will not be sustained and repeated; and probably the preponderance of medical opinion would agree with him.

Reports of Trouble in Cuba.

During the last few days news despatches and editorial comments have appeared in a number of papers expressing serious apprehension of impending trouble in Cuba. Some have even suggested the possibility of a resort to arms and the precipitation of a condition which would compel American interference.

Unfortunately there is some foundation for these reports. In a recent issue of *La Lucha* of Havana there appeared a cartoon showing President PALMA in bed. By his side stands the shade of JOSÉ MARTI, whose sincere patriotism aroused the Cubans to their revolt of 1895. Leaning on the footboard is DOMINGO MENDEZ CAPOTE, who has made himself Señor PALMA's political right hand. He is portrayed as a sardonic, horned and tailed Mephistopheles. Peering over the headboard is a beaver hatted Uncle Sam. Fearfully contemplating these specters, Don TOMAS says:

"The past I have at my side, the present at my feet, and the future at my head. Will it be a dream or a nightmare [un sueño o' una pesadilla] ?"

It cannot be denied that Cuban affairs are sorely tangled. A political campaign is on, and although election day is more than four months away the contest is already active and bitter. The present Administration proposes to succeed itself, and a vigorous opposition plans to defeat it. The opposition is not, as some have stated, composed of an ultraradical and irresponsible mob led by an anti-American fire eater. Included in its membership are some of the ablest and the sanest men in the island. Numerically the Liberal opposition probably exceeds in strength the Moderates now in power and seeking by somewhat questionable methods to retain control. For the questionable practises of his party the much respected ESTRADA PALMA is not to be blamed, except for the fact that he has not flatly refused to be a party to them or in any way to profit by them. His Administration started admirably and so continued until recent months, when there has been a distinct reversion to methods and systems which are almost identical with those against which Cuba arose in rebellion in 1895.

The situation is susceptible of concise statement. There will be no trouble in Cuba if the Administration adheres to the principles and the provisions of the Cuban Constitution and if the processes of the election be carried on lawfully and fairly. There may be local disturbances rising out of campaign activities. Such experiences are not unknown in older and larger republics. Sometimes blows are struck and guns are fired during campaigns in this country. But the peace and order of Cuba during the next six months will depend chiefly upon the fidelity of the Cuban Administration to the principles of republicanism as they are expressed in Cuba's Constitution and her electoral laws.

Mr. Shea's Reward.

At the annual meeting of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, held in Philadelphia on Aug. 12, Mr. CORNELIUS P. SHEA of Boston was reelected president of that organization by a vote of 129 to 121. Mr. SHEA is the distinguished gentleman who ordered and conducted the recent teamsters' strike in Chicago, which resulted in utter failure and much disgrace to the cause of unionism.

It is reported that Mr. SHEA, cheered by his victory and regarding it as a vindication of his work in Chicago, plans another attack on the freedom of transportation in the streets of that city. The other experience cost a score of lives and many millions of dollars.

Men of the Shea type and the methods employed by them bring into disrepute an institution which otherwise would command approval and support. Organized labor should cut out its Sheas and eschew their methods.

Is Mr. Chandler at Work Again?

From Washington comes a report that when the Hon. LESLIE M. SHAW retires from President ROOSEVELT's Cabinet in February the Hon. GEORGE B. CORTELYOU will succeed him as Secretary of the Treasury, and the Hon. HARRY S. NEW of Indianapolis will be asked to become Postmaster-General. A horrid thought for the Hon. CHARLES WARREN FAIRBANKS is this. Mr. NEW is one of the ungrateful Indiana statesmen who do not pine to see Mr. FAIRBANKS President of the United States. Were he Postmaster-General his indifference to the ambition of the Wood Sawyer of North Meridian street might become painfully apparent.

Mr. NEW is vice-chairman of the Republican national committee. Mr. CORTELYOU is chairman of that awe inspiring gallery of party potentates, and anxious to quit the job. Mr. FAIRBANKS has a fine and noble faith in the committee's power to make or mar the career of an aspirant for high political honors. But Chairman NEW of the national committee would not cause Mr. FAIRBANKS as much uneasiness as Postmaster-General NEW might. Mr. FAIRBANKS knows fully well the value of the postmasters in a hot political campaign.

Perhaps the report is a bit of dog day politics. Perhaps some enemy of Mr. FAIRBANKS put it in circulation merely to see that dignified gentleman jump. Until officially confirmed, it will not be accepted as true by the public that venerates Mr. FAIRBANKS.

Incidentally, it would be interesting to know whether the Hon. WILLIAM E. CHANDLER, president of the Spanish Treaty Claims Commission, whose sense of humor Mr. FAIRBANKS has had cause heretofore to admire, was in the city of Washington when this story about Mr. NEW was sent abroad.

A Chicago paper gives the total volume of the wholesale trade of that city in 1904 as $1,781,000,000, a sum greater by more than $200,000,000 than the total exports of the United States. The same authority gives the value of Chicago's manufactures for 1904 as $1,314,000,000. This is a little less than one-tenth of the value of all the goods manufactured in the country. It is more than the total value of the manufactures of the entire country fifty years ago.

Over the twenty-four trunk lines which center there 1,900 trains arrive and depart daily. Within a twenty-four hour railway ride there is a population of 50,000,000. All of these people do not go to Chicago to trade. Some of them come to New York, in and around which city several of the 50,000,000 make their homes.

Yes, Chicago is a big and busy town.

Saving the American Flag's Birthplace.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The many thousands throughout this land who have contributed to a fund with which to buy the house in which the first American flag was made by Betsy Ross will be interested to know that soon the cottage in Philadelphia will be safe from the encroachments of time. For some years back a systematic collection has been in progress, each contributor giving a dime, and for this sum "having his name placed in the archives of the association, there for all time to come remaining a testimonial to his patriotism."

Every State in the Union has contributed, and in some the contributors are numbered by thousands. 'Tis a pleasing thing to realize that this hearty response was prompted by the patriotism which is found in every corner of the country. But notwithstanding the generosity displayed, should there be any real need to rely on the private subscriptions? Should not the Government concern itself deeply in the conservation of all shrines with which are associated events in history connected with the life of a truly great nation?

We have money to spend on all kinds of benefits, why not a small sum (comparatively speaking) to be expended for the maintenance of a landmark which now and in the future will ever be an inspiration to the citizens of our free republic?

It is a consoling thought to know that soon this Betsy Ross cottage will be handed over to the proper authorities—but not before some thousands of subscriptions come in. Before this takes place, fire may destroy that little building—who can tell? Its situation makes it possible for this to happen, and who then will be responsible? The writer was informed by one in attendance that when sufficient funds have been realized the cottage will be moved bodily to some park and kept there under Government jurisdiction. But, friends, why should it be necessary to wait before Uncle Sam steps in?

NEW YORK, Aug. 16. ARTHUR THOMAS.

What Is a Christian?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In his letter published in THE SUN of Aug. 13, "Mr. Goldwin Smith a Christian," "Churchman" says: "Christianity consists in being and doing rather than in believing."

Jesus Christ didn't think so. Jesus told His disciples that they could not cast out devils because of their unbelief (Matt. xvii., 20). Jesus said: "All things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark ix., 23); "He that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark xvi., 16); "He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life" (John vi., 47). See also John iii., 14-18, 36.

In John v., 45-47, Jesus lays down the law to the higher critics and evolutionists, declaring that belief in Moses is a prerequisite to belief in Christ. According to Jesus Christ, neither Mr. Goldwin Smith nor "Churchman" is a Christian.

NEW YORK, Aug. 15. S. WIGGINS.

A Volunteer Protector of the Harbor Channels.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will you kindly inform the writer, through the medium of your morning edition, the proper authorities to whom to write regarding the violation of the laws as to the dumping of ashes, &c., in the channels of nearby waters?

The writer has noticed that the College Point ferryboats have, at different times, dumped ashes into the channel between Riker's Island and the Astoria shore, and desires to call the attention of the Federal authorities to this fact, so that they can take such action as is deemed necessary.

NEW YORK, Aug. 16. A. G.

Write to the Supervisor of the Harbor of New York, Army Building, 39 Whitehall street.

Loading, Not Evading.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A peculiarity of my penmanship, perhaps, caused the printing of the word "evading" instead of "loading" in two instances in the summaries included in my communication on "Insurance Accumulations," published in THE SUN to-day. The reported savings were on the loading of premiums for expenses.

BROOKLYN, Aug. 15. HENRY W. ODION.

Ben Butler Vindicated.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

If Benjamin F. Butler takes any interest in things here below he will have a chance to say "I told you so" when he glances at New Orleans. During the time when he was in control of things in that town in the rebellion days he stamped yellow jack out so completely that it did not dare to sneak back until long after he left the town. He cleaned up New Orleans in 1862 as it had not been cleaned before since the days of Bienville. And not since Bienville's time was the town freer from yellow fever and other pests than he made it.

Gen. Butler may or may not have had a line on the mosquito theory of infection. He made the Crescent City so clean, however, that a mosquito could not fly over it unless he brought his rations with him. There were no feeding grounds for him left in that town when Ben's soldiers and laborers finished their work of cleansing, deodorizing and disinfecting. The mosquito remained away while Butler had his headquarters there. He established a Federal quarantine against the stegomyia compared with which the present barrier is as full of holes as any of Rojestvensky's ships.

A Romance.

There was a certain chimney once
That loved his next door neighbor,
And so to win her young regard
Became his constant labor.

He breathed his furnace sighing forth,
The god of love invoking;
Then to propitiate his choice
He swore to give up smoking.

'Twas love that worked the miracle,
The household little knew it,
For Jones remarked with sooty boast,
"Gee whiz! I knew I'd do it!"

McLANDBURGH WILSON.

THE JAPANESE IN TEXAS.

How Their Neighbors View Them and Their Remarkable Success in Rice Raising.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There is no longer any question of the complete success of the first colony established in Texas with the object of making the raising of rice by Japanese methods a specialty in this country.

Mr. R. Onishi, an instructor in Doshisha College at Kioto, and a prominent citizen of Japan, made the first purchase of rice lands in Harris county, midway between Houston and Galveston, in 1903, and about forty of his industrious, intelligent countrymen came with him to make homes. The country around Webster, where they located, is well adapted to rice growing, being mostly prairie and level near the bay, and very rich.

They purchased at first but 500 acres, near two prominent railroads and near the famous Clear Lake, where fresh oysters can be had at any time for the gathering.

In 1904 more had arrived from Japan, and they purchased 4,000 acres more of rice land, the crop of that year being the first raised by them in this country. They brought their own seed from Japan, cultivated the crop by methods of their own, with the result that they raised about 100 sacks of rice to the acre, against about sixty to eighty sacks by the Texas growers.

So anxious were these people to acquire our language and the American ways of farming that some of them worked for their board only for the old settlers there, and attended night schools to learn better the English language, and their teacher said: "The work is fascinating, as they are apt and studious pupils."

As rice must be in two or three inches of water during the eighty or ninety days to its maturity, the water question is the first thing considered.

At Webster artesian flowing wells can be had at a depth of about 550 feet, and already this colony has eight wells, from eight to twelve inches in diameter, constantly flowing to irrigate the land for any crop requiring more than the average amount of rainfall, which is sufficient for any crop except rice.

This pure artesian water is made into ice resembling huge blocks of plate glass, for home use and for shipping.

This pioneer colony is steadily growing in numbers and influence, being composed of intelligent men and women, who are learning the English language, though Mr. Onishi and several of his workers write and speak the English language fluently.

They are all rapidly learning the way of Americans, and are considered by the Texas people as decidedly valuable acquisitions to her growing population.

These new settlers are quite proficient not only in the raising of rice but also any other crop they may wish to raise. They are steady, hard workers, saving, honest and intelligent, and are showing the native Texans new ways to cultivate fruits and vegetables that certainly prove them "money makers."

This is a strawberry section, and these people are already raising and shipping this luscious fruit, that ripens there in February and March and is profitably shipped to July.

At Alvin, on the Santa Fé, eight miles west of this colony, twenty-two cars of strawberries were shipped during the months of March and April of this year, besides a large amount sent North by express.

The fact that the market gardeners bring into Houston and Galveston fresh fruits and vegetables during every month in the year will give the readers of THE SUN an idea of the advantages of the section in which this colony has located.

There is no danger of overproduction of rice, as this country does not produce one-half as much as it consumes and the area of level land that can be irrigated is limited.

Mr. Kinzabure Gada was in Texas recently from Tamsui, Formosa, and has arranged to buy 40,000 acres of land in Texas for farming, settling further west, where lands are from $2.50 to $5 an acre, and he proposes to move from Japan to Texas 1,000 families during 1906.

These people have in the last six months been confronted with a serious question involving their right to become full citizens under our immigration laws.

Early in 1905 Mr. C. J. Vandusen of the United States Bureau of Immigration received the first papers issued to Japanese to become citizens at Galveston.

United States District Attorney Marc McLemore of Galveston took the matter up with the Department of Justice at Washington, and the Attorney-General gave it as his opinion that they could not become full citizens under our naturalization laws.

This decision caused consternation among the Japanese who had become land owners in this country, though the members of the Japanese colony at Webster stated that, although they did not wish to mix in politics in this country at present, the recognition as full citizens was especially desirable.

This important question has now been definitely settled, and in this way, as reported by Mr. Onishi:

Mr. M. Mayakawa, now a practising attorney in Chicago, has been living in this country for several years, and had taken out his first papers in Indiana. He had been in this country long enough to take out his final papers, and, if allowed, this would make him a full citizen. When the question was sprung by Vandusen at Galveston, desiring to have the question settled finally by the Government for himself and his people, he at once made application for his final papers.

Owing to the opinion expressed by the Attorney-General, as given to McLemore, the Washington authorities hesitated in granting final papers. The question had assumed national importance, and recently a delegation of attorneys accompanied him to Washington to present the case to the legal authorities there, with the result that Mr. M. Mayakawa was granted full citizenship in the United States by the highest authority, thus settling for all time the question of the Japanese becoming full citizens of this country.

Mr. Onishi of the Webster colony is delighted over this final decision, as the doubt would seriously impede immigration to this country if even a doubt remained that they might have all the benefits of full citizenship.

As these people have already made large purchases of lands and are coming in large numbers to make homes here this recent decision will add thousands more of Japanese to the immigration during 1906 and later.

The Southern Pacific company in western Texas will locate in the near future a colony there, another at Brownsville along the coast, and one is already located at Palestine, where the Elberta peach and other fruits will be extensively cultivated.

The Webster colony in southeast Texas was the first in the State and has in every way proved successful. They paid $25 an acre for first class lands near good markets and water and railroad transportation. They are men of means, intelligence and thrift, eager to learn and adopt our ways of living and working. Rice is the most beneficial cereal produced in the world. Although it is only ten years since it was made a business in that portion of the South, yet three-fourths of all the rice raised in the United States is now produced on the coast lands of Texas and Louisiana.

These new citizens have made no mistake in the location selected, and their success is assured.

The price paid them for their rice now is 40 per cent. more than that they received for the crop of 1904, and this means more of the people of Japan will come to this country in 1906 than in any previous year, and they are receiving a royal welcome here. W. B. S.

HOUSTON, Tex., Aug. 14.

The Last Straw.

The psychological moment had come.

Komura arose.

"Gentlemen," he began, "Japan will press no claim for an indemnity."

A great sigh of relief vibrated through the listening group.

"Provided," the wily Asiatic diplomat went on——

All ears became alert. The situation grew intense.

"Provided," came the solemn words, "that Russia agrees to settle our hotel bill."

With a low groan Witte sank back into his chair.

The conference had failed. H. K. V.

Stop Smoking to Enjoy It Better.

From the Baltimore American.

An excellent plan for smokers is to abstain from time to time—that is, fast from all tobacco say for weeks or a month at a time. This method enables the smoker to enjoy his smoke more when he goes back to it and is less harmful to his health.

"It is a fine scheme," said one man. "When I stop for a month I am equipped with the keenest relish and liking for a good cigar at the end of that month. I am rested, refreshed, recuperated—in pocket, too. Thus I show that I am master of my habit, and not mastered by it. I have been doing this way for a long time now, and I heartily recommend my plan to all smokers. I do not limit myself to any number of cigars while in one of my smoking months, but simply smoke at will, and then absolutely quit until another month is through."

Three Stages.

Great big sunshade by the seashore;
Plain umbrella after marriage;
After while in blissful season
Parasol on baby carriage.

A NEIGHBOR'S PHONOGRAPH.

Reflections Aroused by His Apparent Preference for a Dog Fight Record.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Adjoining my place in the country is a family which has lately acquired a phonograph. It seems to be a large specimen of that wonderful invention, for when it is set in motion it makes a loud noise, all the more resounding because otherwise the country in my neighborhood is as still as if it was an Adirondack region, though it is only about twenty miles from New York. By the way, my neighbor always operates his phonograph in the open air.

The mere din the machine makes, however, is not a matter of which I would speak so much as the sort of noise which the taste of the family seems to prefer to get from it. Generally this is cheap and vile concert hall music, made the more distressing because of the metallic sound given to it by the machine. Hearing it has the compensation for me that it tends to induce a philosophic mood. Is it possible, I reflect, to listen to such music without debasement, moral and intellectual? Does not taste for it, as a preference, indicate lamentable moral depression? May it not be taken as one of the symptoms of the "race deterioration" of which THE SUN has written recently?

The most remarkable suggestion of that sort, however, appears in what seems to be the favorite rendering of the machine for this family. Half a dozen, a dozen times a day a dog fight in its most realistic form is performed, apparently to the unalloyed delight of my neighbors. A hoarse voiced tough announces the terms of the fight in tones only possessed by the variety of mankind of which he is a representative. "Stop that dog, please!" he calls out again and again, as his eloquence is interrupted by the barking and yelping of the dogs, and the crowd he is addressing yells in impatience for the fight to begin. At last the fight is on, and if you were actually assisting at it, in defiance of the Penal Code, you could hardly get a more realizing sense of the elevating amusement. The phonograph tells the whole story.

If the dog fight was actually taking place on the lawn and the refuse of humanity had gathered there to see it the proceedings would hardly be more real than they seem in this machine reproduction. I have never had the privilege of witnessing a dog fight, but from repeated hearing of that phonograph's report I feel as if I had now subjected myself to criminal arrest for violating the law by sneaking into that sort of ring.

Moreover, as I have said, the reflections which the hearing of this performance a dozen times a day arouse are somewhat depressing. What does enjoyment of such a performance suggest? What effect must the constant hearing of the dog fight performance have on the children who are regular auditors?

I do not write of this matter in the way of complaint. Perhaps people have the right under the law to set their phonographs making any noise which suits them without regard to their neighbors. You can't indict a man for bad taste. You can stop his having a dog fight on his lawn, but a dog fight by phonograph seems to be within his privilege. He can't go to a dog fight without inviting interference by the police with his liberty of taste, but if he wants to familiarize his wife and his children with the details of a dog fight as interpreted by a phonograph it seems to be a mere exercise of taste on his part and not criminal under the Penal Code.

The question arises, however, whether a phonograph may not be made the means of committing flagrant offenses against moral decency. It might be made to rattle off in its metallic tones the most offensive language—profanity, obscenity, blasphemy. It could be made to teach the vilest doctrines, the most subversive, the most forbidden. Set in motion it could shriek out defiance of every law, moral and statute, and load the air with every filth of which human language is capable. An anarchist phonograph might preach assassination, a free love phonograph contempt for the marriage laws of civilization.

Such philosophic thoughts as these are a solace for me while my neighbor's phonograph is working at the dog fight for the delectation of himself and his family. Such reflections serve to draw away my attention from the performance of which I am made an unwilling listener. Now when I get home in the afternoon and hear the sounds of the dog fight in their many repetitions my mind refuses to take in all the details—the barks, the yells and the yelps. I am up in the clouds meditating on the curious manifestations of human perversity. COMMUTER.

NEW YORK, Aug. 16.

TOLSTOI'S NEW NOVEL.

Plot of His Latest Work of Fiction—Comments on the Count's Reform Views.

WARSAW, Poland, Aug. 1.—The *Syn Otiechestva* (*Son of the Fatherland*) is the first publication to give a sketch of the new novel which Count L. Tolstoi has just completed and which will soon be published. The chief characters are a peasant and his two sons. The elder of the boys decides to remain in the country village with his father and till their allotment of land. The younger, allured by the attractions of city life, decides to leave his rural home and goes to work in a city factory. The story follows the career of these two young men. It is full of incident, and is a powerful and artistic piece of composition, while at the same time the story is the medium for presenting the latest development of the moral and philosophical views of the author.

The conclusion reached is that life in the country conduces to the preservation of purity of soul and conscience, while the influences of the city have a tendency to dwarf and deteriorate the best qualities of its inhabitants.

A writer on the staff of the daily *Rus* has been spending a few days with Count Tolstoi and has just printed a long interview with him on the political reforms which the Government proposes to carry out. The nature of this interview has probably been published in the United States, but it may be interesting to supplement the following summary of the Count's views with some of the comments which they are evoking among the educated classes in this country.

The Count says in effect that the Government is putting the cart before the horse; that what it is trying to do is not bad, but that it is not touching the essential need of Russia, which is to secure the ownership of the soil by the peasant. The vast majority of the nation needs nothing so much as ownership of the soil it tills. The landed property must be given to them just as freedom from serfdom was given to them forty years ago. This policy must be adopted and made primal and all lesser reforms must be based upon it. Until this is done all the reforms now authorized will be about as helpful as combing the hair of a dying man.

It is very noticeable, both here in Poland and in all other parts of Russia, that among the landed gentry and the educated classes generally Count Tolstoi has entirely lost the prestige which his earlier writings secured for him. The feeling evoked among property owners by the Count's latest utterances is fully presented in many letters to the newspapers and in the editorial expressions of the leading journals. Many of the writers call Count Tolstoi a common scold, and others say he is the most impracticable visionary Russia has ever produced. Numerous facts are mentioned to show that Count Tolstoi's theory of land distribution as the only salvation for Russia is not founded upon correct ideas of the present situation.

It is said, for example, that the peasants are not deprived of land, for all received small holdings after the abolition of serfdom. The peasant families have divided and subdivided these holdings until they are undoubtedly too small. It is a fact, however, that there is a continual increase in the quantity of land owned by the peasantry and the large estates are being correspondingly reduced. With regard to this statement, the correspondent of THE SUN has personal knowledge of peasants who went to America for no other purpose than to earn money to increase their land holdings at home. They know just what land they wish to buy, and in two instances the writer knows that the necessary money has been sent from America, and the land has been purchased by the wives of the immigrants, who intend to return and spend the rest of their days on their increased holdings.

An article printed yesterday under the title "Subdivision of the Land and Peasant Banks" quotes many statistics for 1903 showing conclusively that peasant proprietors are multiplying and that the land is passing slowly but surely into the hands of the common farming people.

The burden of all the protest against Count Tolstoi's views is that what the whole country needs is not the violent distribution of the landed estates among the peasantry, that is actually advocated by the Count, but the education of the peasantry. Many of the writers say that the whole country, excepting Count Tolstoi, realizes that this is the most crying need of Russia. The fact is fully recognized that most of the peasantry are wretchedly poor, but so, for that matter, are many of the small landed gentry. The most enlightened public opinion of Russia is that this condition can best be relieved by the education of the peasantry and the carrying into effect of the reforms that have recently been authorized.

UNCLE SAM'S MAP OF THE CATSKILLS.

Many visitors to the Catskills this summer have found a new source of pleasure in the eight topographic survey sheets of that region which the Geological Survey has completed. These sheets take in the whole of the Catskill plateau and the Hudson valley to the east, excepting that a few of the Catskill outrunners in the Slide Mountain region to the southwest are yet to appear in the next tier of sheets to the south; but nine-tenths of the Catskill area frequented by the "summer boarder" are presented on these eight sheets.

The boarder has learned how to utilize these sheets so as to get a lot of fun out of them. He and his family may be driving along one of the main turnpikes that have latterly become good specimens of road making. Reaching a branch road winding up among the hills, they whip out the map to decide whether they had better follow it. What streams does it cross, and are there any waterfalls near the road? Are there any steep hills to negotiate? Yes, some of them are pretty tough, but the horse is likewise and trained to hard scrabbling. Are there points of view where they may have a wide prospect of high hills, valleys, villages and farm lands? Yes, there are places along the road that are plainly high above the surrounding country except for the mountains, through which there is a wide valley that will afford a glimpse of the region beyond. Where does the road lead to, anyhow? Why, straight to Barber's Corners, where there is a transverse road, and from it they may take any one of four roads leading back to the turnpike.

Now they know just what is before them; and as they rattle along they find on the map every house, every bend in the road, the names of the streams in the valleys below, and of the hamlets seen in the distance; and it is no trouble to find at any point on the drive how high they are above the sea or above or below their boarding place. If the drive brings into view an unfamiliar range, a minute's study of the map gives the names of its summits and their height above the sea. In many other ways these beautiful sheets give information that is interesting or saves time and trouble.

Any one may procure this map at the price of five cents a sheet by sending to the United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. The names of the sheets are Hobart, Gilboa, Durham, Coxsackie, Margaretville, Phoenicia, Kaaterskill and Catskill, and they should be ordered by name.

Things Japanese.

Discussing the question of peace the *Sun Trade Journal* of Tokio for July says: "The intervention of the President of the United States might possibly have been anticipated, for no Power in Europe could undertake the task. America is regarded by each belligerent with an eye clear of all suspicion."

Japanese authorities freely admit that their monetary reform and adoption of the gold standard in 1897 was one of the greatest blessings the Empire has ever enjoyed.

The *Sun Trade Journal* further says: "The completion of the Panama Canal will stimulate our trade with North America, open a new era for our trade with South America, especially Brazil and the Argentine Republic, and not improbably enable us to find new markets on the West Coast of Africa."

Japan's tariff was revised (up, not down) in 1899; in that year her customs receipts were $4,300,000; five years later they were $7,300,000, an increase of $3,000,000 for the one year. In Japan, as in the United States, high tariff not only increases home production, but it also increases imports. That sounds paradoxical, but it is a fact. The point is that under protection more money is available for the purchase of foreign made luxuries.

Between 1873 and 1904, thirty-one years, Japan's export trade with Asia has increased twenty-eight fold, with America twenty-five fold, but with Europe only six and one-half fold; in the same period her imports from America increased fifty-eight fold, from Asia nineteen fold and from Europe seventeen fold.

Two-fifths of Japan's exports go to Asia, one-third to America and one-fourth to Europe; in imports the ratios are one-half from Asia, one-third from Europe, and one-sixth from America. In this and the foregoing paragraph "America" means the United States and Canada. Japanese figurings frequently "marry" the two countries.

The raw materials for manufacturing purposes which Japan buys most freely are raw cotton, wool, flax, hemp, jute, China grass, leather, hides and skins, metals and fuel.

In 1904 Japanese fiscal year (March 31) her exports of raw silk and habutaye were of the value of $65,500,000, an increase of more than $11,000,000 over the prior year.

War material imported direct by the Imperial Government of Japan does not appear in the statement of imports, as those statements are based on customs receipts; the statements, however, do include large quantities of woolen cloth, blankets, wool, leather, iron and so forth which the Government buys from firms in Japan for war use. That largely accounts for the fact that in 1904 Japanese fiscal year there was an excess of imports over exports of $36,000,000.

The *Asahi* is of the opinion that this year the excess of imports will be $100,000,000.

Coal is in great demand in Japan. It is scarce in the cities owing to the railroads being crowded in the moving of men and material for the war. In Tokio, for instance, the daily consumption of coal gives employment to 500 wagons. Moreover, since the fall of Port Arthur and the Mukden victory electric railways, gas works, cotton spinning and many other factories have become very busy, increasing the demand for coal. In Kyusha the stock of 1,000,000 tons has been reduced to a tenth of that quantity. The reserves at the various mines are all contracted for. Exports of coal to Manchuria had stopped, but are now more active than ever. Arrangements are being made to increase largely Japanese imports of coal from Australia.

Baron Suyematsu says: "Foreigners now may not only travel in any part of Japan, but may reside and do business anywhere. Their status in Japan is almost identical with that which the Westerners have in another country among themselves. The *lex loci* of Japan governs every person who finds himself in the lands of Japan. The liability to arrest, prosecution, punishment and appeal applies to natives and foreigners alike. All foreigners may sue and be sued in Japanese courts. Any company made up of foreigners can own land if they admit even but one Japanese subject into their company. Mining concessions can only be granted to Japanese subjects and to companies formed according to Japanese laws; but any foreigner may be a partner in any company which works mines; in other words, in mining matters, foreigners may be partners with Japanese or may own shares in a Japanese mining company. There are some banking and shipping companies in which foreigners cannot participate. These are exceptions under supervision of the Government and are very few in number. These include subsidized companies. It is not thought wise to subsidize foreign shareholders. The banks which are under the protection of the Japanese Government are also closed to foreign ownership. Nor, as yet, can foreigners, for military reasons, own shares in the Japanese private railways. This point, however, may be considered, for the present, as a pending question. The sphere of foreigners in Japan is very large."

Admiral Togo's report of the battle of the Sea of Japan opens with: "By the help of Heaven our united squadron fought with the enemy's second and third squadrons on the 27th and 28th of May and succeeded in almost annihilating him." The language used in the report is modest in the extreme, and gives full credit to all Japanese participants in the battle.

Philippine Coat of Arms.

From the Washington Star.

The bureau of insular affairs of the War Department is in receipt of a copy of a law passed by the Philippine Commission prescribing and adopting the arms and a great seal of the Government of the Philippine Islands of the following designs, which were prepared by Mr. Gaillard Hunt of the State Department:

Arms—Paleways of thirteen pieces, argent and gules; a chief azure; over all the arms of Manila, per fess gules and azure, in chief the castle of Spain, or, doors and windows azure, in base a sea lion, argent langued and armed gules, in dexter paw a sword hilted or. Crest: The American eagle displayed proper. Beneath, a scroll with the words "Philippine Islands" inscribed thereon.

The great seal shall be circular in form, with the arms as described above, but without the scroll and the inscription thereon, and surrounding the whole a double margin circle, within which shall appear the words "Government of the Philippine Islands," "United States of America," the two phrases being divided by two small five pointed stars.