The Sun.

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Jerome.

Mr. JEROME says that if the Democrats of this State offer him the nomination he will run as their candidate for Governor.

He sets forth his platform frankly and explicitly. It is the oath of office that he will take when he enters on his duties at Albany.

We would give more for that pledge from JEROME than for all the other platforms that could be erected from now until doomsday.

Iowa's Family Row.

Secretary SHAW points with pride to the Iowa Republican platform as a triumph for the standpatters; and some of the standpatters, under the lead of rejected candidate PERKINS, are on the war-path, painted for battle and flourishing tomahawks. Nothing but the scalp of Governor CUMMINS will appease them. They have proclaimed that it makes no difference to them who is elected Governor, which of course means that they would regard with lively satisfaction the success of the Democratic ticket. They have also blacklisted Republican candidates for Congress for siding with the proscribed CUMMINS.

High Prices SHAW is to leap into the arena in September, prepared to support the tariff plank of the platform if he can do nothing else. As the Cummins interpretation of the plank is different from the Secretary's, a joint debate might be arranged between these implacable rivals. Enthusiasm for the State ticket cannot be expected from Mr. SHAW, who stands to win the Iowa delegation to the national convention if the Governor is defeated. A triumph for CUMMINS would probably have the effect of retiring the champion of high prices from national politics.

With standpatters dedicating themselves to the extermination of the Hon. ALBERT BAIRD CUMMINS and the Democrats full of the ginger of hope, anything dismal and cataclysmic might happen to the Republican party in Iowa this year. Such a Donnybrook fair of a row has not been seen in any party for a long time as that which is now dividing the Republicans of Iowa and filling the air with agonized cries of treachery. No confidence is violated when it is averred that President ROOSEVELT will not take a hand in the shindy. Compared with the Republicans of Iowa, those of Pennsylvania or Ohio are a contented and happy family.

Controlling the Building Industry.

The most important readjustment of business methods that has been observed in some time has come to light in the real estate market. As a result of the change a small group of lending institutions has obtained financial control of the larger part of the building industry in this town.

A notable illustration of the power exercised by the institutions in question is seen in the recent decrease of construction work here. The July building statistics for thirty-two of the leading cities in the United States indicate a considerable expansion of structural activity throughout the country. In New York, on the other hand, a sharp contraction was recorded. The plans filed for new buildings in Manhattan and The Bronx called for an investment of only $11,000,000, as against $21,000,000 in July, 1905.

The *Construction News*, which publishes the figures, admits its inability to account for the showing made by the New York returns. The explanation, however, is simple. The three or four title and mortgage insurance companies which now control the New York building loan business have agreed to restrict building loans for the present, because of the tremendous production of tenement houses during the last two years. As most of the new tenements have been erected in Manhattan and in The Bronx, along the subway, the agreement at present applies only to those boroughs. In Brooklyn more construction work was projected last July than a year ago.

The absorption of the building loan business by the title and mortgage insurance companies has been a logical development of their business. Organized for the exclusive purpose of insuring titles to real estate, the companies found it profitable to invest their idle capital in mortgage loans. The next step was to offer mortgages for sale, the companies guaranteeing both the principal and the interest, for which a moderate commission was charged. "Guaranteed" mortgages were purchased freely by private investors, savings banks and trustees of estates. A new business thus grew up, which became larger than that on which it was founded.

The companies limited their attention to ordinary mortgages until a few years ago, when interest rates on such securities fell below 4½ per cent. The business was then extended to building loan mortgages. These bear interest at 6 per cent. They had previously been made almost exclusively by private operators, who frequently exacted heavy commissions in addition to the regular interest rate. Under the circumstances builders naturally preferred to deal with the title companies. The process of absorption was hastened by the life insurance investigation of last winter, which crippled the life insurance companies as competitors for building loans.

The concentration of the building loan business in the hands of the title insurance companies will undoubtedly have a steadying influence on real estate values. In former years a period of active building was invariably followed by many foreclosures, coupled with falling prices. The private lenders operated largely with borrowed capital. When pressed to discharge their own obligations they were in turn forced to call in overdue loans.

The title companies, with their huge resources, are under no necessity of precipitating liquidation. Besides, by shutting down on new loans, as has just been done, they are in a position to check building whenever that course seems expedient.

The Transvaal's New Constitution.

Now that we have the text of the new Constitution framed for the Transvaal and the explanation of its purport made in the House of Commons by Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL, Under Secretary for the Colonies, we are confirmed in the opinion, based on the telegraphed outline, that there was no ground for the denunciation of it by some Unionists as "another Majuba" and as a reckless surrender of everything for which so much blood and treasure had been expended by Britain in South Africa. On the contrary, the new organic law seems to represent as close an approach to abstract equity as is practically attainable and reflects high credit on the determination of the Liberals to treat the conquered Boers with the same justice, generosity and confidence which, after the suppression of PAPINEAU'S rebellion, transformed the Canadians into loyal and devoted subjects of the British Crown.

In order to appreciate the fairness of the plan decided upon by the home Government we should call to mind the conflicting wishes expressed by the British denizens of the Transvaal on the one hand and by their Boer fellow subjects on the other. The former objected to manhood suffrage on the ground that it would enfranchise *bywoners*, or Dutch squatters, and thus strengthen the Boer position, while to increase their own voting power they desired that the term of residence prescribed for naturalization and enfranchisement should be made as short as possible. The Boers, on the other hand, wanted a vote to be given to every adult woman as well as adult man, and the representation to be proportioned strictly to population. They further asked that if the Legislature were to be bicameral both chambers should be elective, whereas the British residents of the Transvaal demanded, first, that the colonial Executive should be nominated by the Crown, instead of being responsible to the Legislature; and secondly, if that concession were withheld, that there should be an upper chamber consisting wholly or in the major part of appointive members. They also thought that as a token of British supremacy the language used in debate and legislation should be English.

Now let us note the even course steered by the British Government between these conflicting interests. Premising that the new Constitution applies only to the Transvaal — the Orange River Colony will be dealt with separately as soon as possible—we observe that the Government could not see its way to try in a young dependency the experiment of female suffrage, which Englishmen are not yet ready to make themselves. On the other hand, manhood suffrage in the fullest sense of the term is to be the basis of the new electoral system. All male adults of twenty-one years of age who have resided in the Transvaal for at least six months will be entitled to vote. Herein lies a concession to each side, for, as we have just pointed out, the Boers had expressed themselves content with manhood suffrage if they could not get woman suffrage also, while the British inhabitants of the Rand had requested that only a short term of residence should be exacted for naturalization. Turning to the distribution of the sixty-nine members to be elected for five years to the popular assembly, we find that thirty-four are awarded to the Rand, six to Pretoria and twenty-nine to the rest of the country. On the face of the figures it looks as if the Boers would command a majority of one; but this, according to Mr. CHURCHILL, will not prove to be the case, for Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal, is likely to return three, four or even five members of the so-called Responsible party, the moderate British party, which has insisted upon making the Executive responsible to the popular assembly. In the Rand division, on the other hand, there are a good many Dutch voters who, in Mr. CHURCHILL'S opinion, will in certain electoral districts be able to turn the scale in favor of moderate British candidates. Even in that section of the Transvaal which lies outside of the Rand and of Pretoria, and in which, no doubt, the Boers greatly preponderate, Mr. CHURCHILL thinks that one or two seats may be won by British representatives of the Responsible party. His conclusion is that a stable pro-Boer majority of the popular assembly is impossible.

We have said that the British residents of the Rand urged that an assembly elected on the basis of manhood suffrage should be balanced by an appointive second chamber. The Bannerman Government has agreed that for the term of the first Parliament (five years) it will nominate the members of a second chamber, but that subsequently that body shall be elective, on conditions to be devised in the interim. As to the question of the official language, the Parliament of the Transvaal, like that of the Dominion of Canada, is to be bilingual. The French, obviously, have no better claim to the recognition of their language in the one case than the Dutch have in the other. Reasonable, also, seem the limitations imposed on the powers of the Transvaal Legislature and of the colonial Executive accountable thereto. For example, Swaziland, the natives of which might be exposed to unjust treatment at the hands of white lawmakers, is reserved for direct administration by the British High Commissioner, and the opening of it to white settlers will be regulated by a land board. The Transvaal Parliament is empowered to abrogate the existing ordinance concerning Chinese labor, but only "after a reasonable time," the Colonial Office being intended apparently to be the judge of the reasonableness, and the Colony is notified that no law will be approved by the imperial Government which sanctions any condition of service or residence of a servile character. Finally, all legislation affecting natives is reserved to the imperial Government at Westminster.

The more carefully the provisions of the new Transvaal Constitution are examined the more intelligible will be the refusal of the bulk of the Unionist party to concur in the hasty condemnation of it by some of its leaders. Public opinion in Great Britain is fast becoming almost unanimous in approving the principle on which the present Cabinet has acted, the principle, namely, of making no difference in responsible government between Boer and Briton. There is, indeed, not only magnanimity but wisdom in the Ministerial decision to extend to all white male adults in the Transvaal the privileges and rights of British citizenship and to make no discrimination between the men who fought loyally for Britain in South Africa and those who resisted the British arms with the most desperate courage. It is, of course, conceivable that the experiment may fail; but in the worst event the British Liberals may say, with ADDISON'S *Cato:*

"'Tis not in nature to command success;
But we'll do more, Sempronius, we'll deserve it."

Governor Glenn to Lynchers.

Governor DUNCAN C. HEYWARD'S unsuccessful appeal to the reason and patriotism of the leaders of the mob that on August 16 lynched a negro near Greenwood, S. C., is only another illustration of the futility of meeting men bent on such enterprises with nothing more substantial than words. Governor HEYWARD would undoubtedly have employed force to uphold the law if it had been available, but in the absence of a party of armed supporters he was powerless. Another Southern State, North Carolina, has recently been the scene of a lynching, and its Governor, ROBERT B. GLENN, realizing the uselessness of arguing with passion crazed rioters, has issued explicit orders to the National Guard to guide it in any future emergency. These directions are of more than local interest:

"Hereafter in case at any time you hear of an attempt at violence by mob law you are hereby commanded to report the facts to me, and also notify the Sheriff of the county where the violence is threatened of your readiness to tender him your services.

"In the event you are ordered out by the Sheriff you are hereby commanded to obey his lawful orders. Attempt no violence as long as there is a chance to enforce order peacefully. If the Sheriff, after ordering the crowd to disperse, and they refuse, orders you to fire, do so. Arrest all the mob you can and deliver them to the Sheriff, and continue to guard and protect and jail until you are relieved.

"Do nothing rash, but in every way possible aid the civil authorities in suppressing mob law. I have confidence in the willingness and ability of the military to carry out this order. This is a general order in force now and hereafter until countermanded, and of it you will take notice and act accordingly."

This order is signed by the Governor as commander-in-chief of the State militia, and its terms are not easily mistakable. It means that the National Guardsmen are directed to shoot, and shoot to kill, in every case in which the situation is beyond the control of the peace officers. Thus Governor GLENN has instructed his troops to use the only argument a mob is capable of understanding, to meet force with force, and to put down lawlessness by killing those who persist in it. Such plain language cannot be twisted into meaning blank cartridges, nor are "leading citizens" or "representatives of the best families" exempted from punishment by it.

The Governor supplemented his order to the National Guard with a proclamation to the people of the State, in which he repeated his determination to uphold the law and to "protect all prisoners, no matter who they are." In it he said:

"Law abiding people should keep out of the mob, render it no assistance or sympathy, directly or indirectly, use every effort in their power to get it to disperse and should willingly help the officers in the discharge of their duty.

"Living in Raleigh, often far from the scene of trouble, I can only act through agents, and in person when I can arrive on the scene; so again I call on all good citizens, civilian and military, who love their State, who desire to protect its fair name, to give me both their physical and moral support."

Neither "law abiding people" nor those who wish to overthrow the regular machinery of justice will join mobs if the Governor's orders to the National Guard are obeyed in the spirit in which they were written. Recently a Florida Sheriff dispersed a lynching party by making plain his intention to fight in defence of his prisoners. If a lyncher understands that he is in danger of being shot his enthusiasm for the sport will cool very quickly. Mob law has been encouraged by blank cartridge government. It will end when peace officers and National Guardsmen shoot to hit and not merely to make a noise.

Injustice to Mr. Cannon.

The Hartford *Times* uses an unhappy illustration to support its contention that "coarseness and profanity in the common speech of the American people" are on the increase when it points to the Hon. JOSEPH G. CANNON as a conspicuous example of those vulgar and stupid persons who cannot be emphatic without violating good taste and good morals. Of Mr. CANNON it says:

"As a present indication of the growth of the use of coarse language we have the almost daily report of certain more or less profane expressions by a candidate for the Presidency, "Uncle JOE" CANNON of Illinois. With him the "cussing" habit is not occasional but habitual, and the example which he is setting is, it must be admitted, very bad. Twenty years ago he lost his seat in Congress for one term largely on account of some indelicate language which he used on a certain occasion on the floor of the House of Representatives. That fact is quite forgotten now, and it seems probable that no similar "break" at the present time would interfere materially with his political prospects."

Mr. CANNON does use strong language, but in comparison with the CANNON who was not elected to the Fifty-second Congress he is as mild as milk and seltzer is to moonshine. The big D's with which he sprinkles his conversation now are but the faintest echoes of the heated phrases with which he once embroidered his ideas. He has labored with himself, putting a check on an unruly tongue, until a verbatim report of his utterances for a day would be prosaic and commonplace beside the record of a similar period in the early '80s. In a quarter of a century he has improved greatly, hard as it has been for him to shake off the habits of his youth.

Mr. CANNON should not be condemned for his occasional lapses into vulgarity and profanity. When it is considered that he has made a tremendous advance over the state in which he lived a few years ago it is apparent that he deserves applause, not censure. If the everyday speech of his fellow citizens improves in the same proportion as his, the disgusting and useless custom of swearing and the use of vulgar words and phrases will soon be completely obsolete in the land.

Five Cent COLER in the toils of Jersey justice was letter perfect in the duty of a citizen to bow to the law, except that when stopped for automobiling without a State license he assumed the alias of JOHN JONES; pardonable, perhaps, if he was thinking of how HERMAN METZ would chortle when he heard of the "holdup" over the river. No man as famous as the Five Center of Brooklyn could long retain his incognito, even in New Jersey; and he must be credited with a correct tribute to the policeman who performed his duty by arresting the champion of the pee-pul and with outspoken appreciation of the courage of a Judge who could fine an august personage $25 with unwinking austerity. At the same time the Borough President of Brooklyn must have thanked his stars that the scene of his riot making activities for notoriety and a five cent ride on the Brooklyn Rapid Transit occurred in New York and not in New Jersey, where the law is no respecter of persons and politicians.

In the battle of Rio Hondo, reported from Cuba, Colonel Pozo, "the well known veteran," met his Waterloo but succeeded in extricating his command from the field of carnage, leaving one horse dead upon it. In these fierce collisions with the Rural Guard the Cuban horse usually suffers, for being much emaciated and burlap worn he doesn't share the enthusiasm of the patriots to fight another day. A society for the prevention of cruelty to animals is sorely needed during these periodical "uprisings" in Cuba.

LAST WORD OF THE STARED AT.

Their Annoyance Illustrated by the Reply of the Trombone Player.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Allow me, as the humble inciter of your recent symposium on staring, to say just one final word. It is, I believe, a sort of right, inherent in the opener, to close the discussion.

Your editorial wherein you attributed self-consciousness to the stared at reminds me a little of the man who when remonstrated with for playing a slide trombone in a boarding house replied: "Well, why do you listen?"

My concern was for a refined young woman whose escort I had been privileged to be. She it was who compared the humbler classes that stare in this country, aided by a sprinkling of the better dressed, if not better bred, with the corresponding classes in England and France, that do not make people uncomfortable by staring at them. On the other hand, we observed with delight, as indicating the solidarity which breeding causes in all lands, that at an art exhibition on Fifty-eighth street we were unmolested by either conscious or thoughtless staring.

Your editorial on the subject struck me as very clever, and so were some of the communications that followed mine; but nothing said disproved my original assertion that the humbler classes in this country and others who have not yet outgrown the manners of their humbler days or forbears are much more given to offensive staring than their brethren of other lands. O. I. B.

BROOKLYN, August 18.

THE BRITON AND THE FLAG.

His Denial That He Hissed It Should Be Accepted, an American Thinks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* You had a letter in THE SUN of August 18 giving the "Defence of the Flag Hissing Englishman." According to the account of the incident published in your own columns, the man denied having hissed the flag, but said he hissed what the actor said. Why not take his word for it? He certainly ought to know why he hissed.

American as I am, I think the man has been badly treated, and it is my opinion that the Recorder's conduct in giving a prisoner before him the lie, assuming to know his motives better than he knew them himself, and inflicting such a large fine as $25, calls for the severest censure.

NEW YORK, August 18. E. R. WILLIAMS.

A Defence of the "Petty People" by an Englishman's Son.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Apropos of the assertion by Mr. James Watts, presumably an Englishman as he seeks to defend the Englishman who was charged with hissing our flag, that "the small and petty people in this country have too much to say," I agree with him. If "petty people" did not dare to speak their minds, he, James Watts, would have to keep his mouth closed.

He says that no American would be arrested in a London theatre for hissing. I should like to see any American try to hiss the Union Jack in a London theatre. Something would happen to him so suddenly that he would imagine the heavens had fallen. HENRY B. INGRAM,

The son of an Englishman who fought for the flag.

NEW YORK, August 18.

Shower Baths.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The efficacy of the shower bath as an aid to keeping cool is not duly appreciated. It drives the blood out of the head. Followed by a brisk rubbing it is the best of all baths. Those sensitive to shock should take only one-fourth force at first and gradually increase it after a few days. This bath is superior to any other and can be taken three or four times a day with fine results, by the hardy.

Sea bathing is not as beneficial to women as to men because they will not keep their heads wet, mainly because of the trouble of drying the hair. In consequence of this women prefer ill health and get no beneficial effect. The same is true of their bathtub bathing. C. D. L.

EATONTOWN, N. J., August 18.

English Remarks on Ice.

From the London Globe.

The great fault which Americans have to find with England when they come over here for a visit in the summer is the absence of ice. In the States ice is a cult. Wherever the traveller may be, even if he is in the backwoods, he finds ice. But in England the thing is looked upon as an almost unobtainable luxury. "Oh no, sir," says the English purveyor of drink with an amused smile, "we've got no ice. But you will find it nice and cool." Nice and cool means that an egg would not actually boil in it. No wonder Americans say that England "cuts no ice."

Ungallant Texas "Society Man."

From the Colorado Springs Gazette.

E. H. Reynolds, school principal and prominent society man of Houston, Tex., has been missing from this city since 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, and the forty-two Texas women excursionists whom he conducted on a two months trip to Manitou and Colorado Springs are mourning the loss of considerable money intrusted to him. The entire amount involved is said to aggregate $2,000.

HONDURAS.

In its geographical outline Honduras is a broad, wedge shaped country, thrust point downward into the Central American isthmus. Its southern end has a frontage of about 60 miles on the Pacific Ocean, while its northern coastline stretches for 400 miles along the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea.

Honduras claims distinction in that, among the countries of the mainland, her soil was the first to have the honor of kissing the foot of Christopher Columbus. Arriving in what is now the Bay of Honduras he sighted mountains to the southward and landed on Cape Honduras within a few miles of the present city of Truxillo. A few years later Cortes, having subdued the empire of Montezuma, pushed his way southeastward. After a march of two years, during which he encountered almost incredible difficulties and suffering, he and his companions reached the place of the landing of Columbus and there founded the city of Truxillo. Upon this point, however, historians do not entirely agree. It is claimed by some that Truxillo was founded before the arrival of Cortes by one of his lieutenants, Las Casas, whom he had sent to punish one Christoval de Olid, who, having discovered the country, was engaged in establishing himself as its lawful ruler. Whatever the facts of this incident, it is certain that nearly a century before Henry Hudson sailed up the Bay of New York Honduras had flourishing cities and towns.

Honduras was made a province of the Kingdom of Guatemala, established by Charles V. in 1527. Its early history repeats the story of Spanish conquest and iron handed rule common to all Latin America. The people found in occupation of the region by the Spaniards were at least semicivilized. They lived in houses and were clothed in garments of cotton cloth. It is generally held that these people were the decadent descendants of a race which has left evidences, still to be seen in many places in Central America, of no mean order of civilization. These evidences are found to-day in the form of ruined cities and carved monoliths in various parts of Honduras.

In its general topography Honduras is a land of hills and mountains. These are mainly spur ranges branching in disordered array from the chain of mountains which runs from Panama northwest into Mexico. On the north coast are vast stretches of forest covered plain broken by ranges which at some points extend almost to the coast line. In the northwestern part there lies the great plain of Sula, which includes an area of some 1,500 square miles, endlessly fertile and easily accessible. Eastward and a little to the south of the Sula plain are the Sulaco Mountains, near which are elevated plains famous as cattle ranges. Scattered throughout the entire area are fertile valleys and equally fertile table lands, whose different temperatures make possible the cultivation of the products of the tropics, the subtropics and, to limited extent, of the temperate zones.

The 40,000 (estimated) square miles of Honduras give it an area a little less than that of the State of Virginia. Its geological formation shows it as of volcanic origin. Many of its mountains are clothed with luxuriant vegetation, while others are bare and unproductive. The climate of the lowlands of the north coast is hot, damp and unwholesome for white men. On the Pacific side there is improvement in health conditions and some modification of temperature. On the higher levels of the interior temperature and health conditions are not unlike those of southern California. The range of the thermometer at Tegucigalpa, the capital city, is officially given as from a minimum of 50° to a maximum of 90°. The average rainfall is given as 48 inches, or about three inches more than that of New York. In the forests of the lowlands there grow mahogany, cedar, dyewoods, logwood and trees and plants supplying rubber, copal, gums and other substances used for medicinal and mechanical purposes. On the higher levels are the pitch pine (long leaf) and the red cedar.

Among the commercial products and possible products not already mentioned are coffee, cacao, lemons, oranges, bananas, vanilla, sarsaparilla, indigo and sugar. Large claims are made for the mineral wealth of the country. In an official publication the statement is made by Alfred K. Moe, formerly United States Consul at Tegucigalpa, that "Honduras is the richest of the five Central American republics with regard to mineral resources." But the development of these resources, whatever they really are, depends upon transportation facilities. It is known that the aboriginal tribes obtained gold by river washing and also by crude methods of crushing. They also used fire in the reduction of ores. The Spaniards also obtained gold in considerable quantity. But both the aborigines and the Spaniards worked only in a superficial way, and it is believed that deeper mining and modern machinery would place the mines of Honduras on a par with those of Mexico. Copper, silver, iron, zinc, tin and antimony are also reported in quantity promising good profit on their exploitation.

The latest official census, taken in 1901, gives the population as 543,741. Of this 50 per cent. is Indian, 5 per cent. negro, 40 per cent. mixed and 5 per cent. white. By that census there were in the country 2,236 Englishmen, 566 Americans and 75 Germans. Tegucigalpa, the capital city, lies in an amphitheatre among the hills about 100 miles north of the port city of Amapala, on the Bay of Fonseca. The visitor to this quaint little city of 12,000 people and a history of 327 years may reach it by two routes. A fruit steamer will take him from New Orleans to Puerto Cortez, a run of 900 miles. From there he may ride 200 miles overland on mule back. The alternative is either via Panama or San Francisco, or the Mexican ports of Acapulco, Salina Cruz or Mazatlan. From any of these points a steamer may be taken to Amapala. The mule back trip at that end is only 100 miles. Some day there will be a railway from Puerto Cortez to Amapala, with branch lines to Tegucigalpa and other places. The Honduras railway scheme has a history.

A railway route from the north to the south coast was investigated and reported on in 1853 by a party of Americans. A concession was obtained and a company was organized. This went to pieces and was succeeded by a company representing English, French and American capital, with its office in London. Some $400,000 was spent in making surveys. Action was suspended by the civil war in the United States and the invasion of Mexico by the French. The concession lapsed. The Government then undertook the work. The sum of $5,000,000 was borrowed in England, and nearly fifty miles of road was laid southward from Puerto Cortez. There was bad management and Honduras found herself defrauded and burdened with a huge debt, the work suspended and the country without power to go on with it. Only 38 miles of the line is now in operation. Frequent efforts have been made to straighten the matter and go on with the work. Some day this will be done, and Honduras, as well as Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama will have its interoceanic railway.

Honduras has had its full share of insurrection, civil strife and trouble with its neighbors during its life as a self-governing State. It is charged with an enormous and seemingly hopeless debt of about $100,000,000, a considerable part of which is represented by the old railway steal of $30,000,000 and its accumulated interest. Of all the debtor nations of the world, Australia alone has a larger per capita indebtedness.

The commerce of a country so destitute of transportation facilities can only be trivial. Up to date statistics are not available, but assuming fair increase during the last year or two the present trade should be not far from $7,000,000 worth of imports and $8,000,000 worth of exports, about three-quarters of the imports coming from the United States and about four-fifths of the exports going to this country. Banana shipments by the United Fruit Company constitute about one-half the export trade.

CALL FOR A DICTATOR

By a Disgusted Veteran Who Thinks There Are Too Many Stupid Voters.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A recent editorial in THE SUN headed "Time that the people took a hand" was full of meat as to the duty of voters. Sound advice it was, but how little heeded!

The average voter is a failure. He lacks acumen and the keenness rightly to measure the professional politician and placeholder. The voters who are sharp enough to detect the political tricksters and as keen to cut their kind at the polls are few, comparatively. Hence the hold on public life which dishonest men have.

If men who are really capable and have the moral standing to exercise the right of suffrage regardless of party ties were the only ones clothed with that power, political bosses would be impossible and the public life of rascals and grafters would be short. There are too many incompetent voters, and their number is the politician's opportunity.

I believe in government by a dictator with a just man at the helm. Under our present system honesty, straightforward methods and a square deal for every one are out of the question. CIVIL WAR VETERAN.

NEW YORK, August 18.

A Republican Hope.

From the Rochester Post-Express.

But possibly the 800,000 Republicans of the State of New York, thoroughly tired of their bickerings, may take it into their heads to throw both Odell and Higgins overboard, in which case the party is not likely to need an undertaker at all!

No Fakes This Year.

From the Rome Sentinel.

A phrase ascribed to Fernando Wood rises to the memory. It looks as though both parties in this State might have to "pander to the moral sense of the community."—NEW YORK SUN.

There is nothing more certain. The people are not going to be fooled by any fakes this year.

Darkest Staten Island.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* On a *lucus a non lucendo* principle the absence of local light is giving this island a fillip that it needed badly. Attention is not only being drawn to the fact that there is such a place as Staten Island, but Staten Islanders are actually on the way to be convinced that there are other places in the world besides their own "tight little island." They are gradually though unwillingly acknowledging that New York is only twenty minutes distant, that it would be possible to run boats to Brooklyn, to New Jersey, even to Coney Island. When light is thrown on the situation, not specifically at night, provincialism will disappear, eggs will be fresh, meat will not be so high (in price, of course), groceries will be cheaper, and the average man will not be compelled to metamorphose himself into a daily express wagon. Trolley cars of ancient and antiquated types will disappear, transfers will be freely given, no more of the shore will be surrendered for shunting purposes; in fact, everything will be *couleur de rose*.

There are mosquitoes around, but they are human mosquitoes. They will bite and bite the bigoted native until he gives up his antiquated notions, and they will not be driven out.

That such a beautiful spot should have remained unimproved for so long is deplorable. The small light that there was has flickered and gone out. Now let it shine again with the latest improvements. New Yorkers have captured the stronghold, and even Boston is beginning to believe that this island is really something more than a spot on the map.

As Brooklyn is the embodiment of burlesque, so is this a paradise of scenic beauties, spoiled at present by the apathy and crass stubbornness of a foreign conservatism. ST. GEORGE.

STATEN ISLAND, August 18.

Cause of the Mixed Drink's Unpopularity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The decline in popularity of mixed drinks, punches, cobblers, juleps, flips, sours, toddies, fizzes, sanashes, floats and sangarees is generally ascribed to the indifference of most drinkers and larger preference for straight drinks or highballs.

There is another, a trade reason, and it has nothing to do with, or at least little to do with, the preference of patrons. It is the "decline in barkeepers." The skilful barkeeper of other days who got from $18 to $25 a week was an adept at mixing drinks, and by his skill and proficiency was supposed to bring to the establishment where he was employed considerable trade. Where a barkeeper became known as able to mix certain drinks to advantage he soon built up some popularity, which led either to an increase in his salary or to his starting a rival place.

The barkeeper of this day, often a "greenhorn" or a beginner, gets from $8 to $12 a week, and knows little (as any expert patron can testify) about mixing drinks. He builds up no special popularity either for himself or for the place where he works, his pay is small and he fulfils the requirements of the customers in drawing beer, handing out bottles or putting together the simple ingredients of highballs. MIXOLOGIST.

NEW YORK, August 18.

Bryan and Ingalls.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Melville E. Ingalls hit the nail on the head in his comments upon the increased cost of living without a corresponding increase in salaries.

I cannot understand why men like Ingalls are not more in evidence in the Democratic party. We have plenty of gamblers, racetrack sports and loud mouthed buffoons. Men like Ingalls have the confidence of the people. Perhaps that's why they are not at the head of the party.

I should be glad of the chance to vote for Ingalls for President or even Vice-President. He is a fine example of the self-made American. While a great success in his work, yet he retains strongly the spirit and sympathies of the common people.

If we have had but one Democratic President in almost a half century there is a reason. The history of the country has taught us that if the American people want anything radical done they want it done by conservative men. Mr. Bryan's declaration against Socialism is as much his present *raison d'être* as was his Chicago silver speech in 1896. No doubt he is now conservative. Bryan and Ingalls would go all right.

BOSTON, August 17. J. H. S.

Pennsylvania Names.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* About twenty years ago there were living in one of the trout fishing counties of Pennsylvania two gentlemen and one lady who had the distinguished patronymics of Ink, Pie and Custard.

I never knew their "front" names, and I am unable to say, with affidavit certainty, which was the lady, though I am almost sure that she was Miss Ink. W. R. C.

MANHATTAN, August 19.

Maintaining Family Discipline in Indiana.

From the Indianapolis Morning Star.

The gun is, of course, not to be recommended as a means of enforcing family discipline.

Encouraging the Enterprising.

I live in a mighty queer cottage
A struggling young architect planned;
Its walls are adorned with some pictures
A struggling young artist thought grand.

A struggling young doctor attends me,
Prescribing due quota of pills;
A struggling young minister preaches
Regarding my soul and its ills.

A struggling young lawyer protects me
From running afoul of the crooks;
A struggling young author engages
To furnish my shelves with his books.

A struggling young dentist exploring
Among my poor molars makes free—
Me! I'm just the struggling young public,
And no one commiserates me.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

QUEER WAYS OF THE UPOTOS.

Can't Look at Their Mothers-in-Law, and Women Eat Special Fish.

From the Athenæum.

The Upotos live on the northern bank of the Congo between Ikonmango and Dobbo, or between the twentieth and twenty-second degrees of east longitude, and seem to have long resided in the region. They show a marked disinclination to quit it. They live chiefly by fishing, and one of the first things to strike a visitor is that certain fish are reserved for the men, others for the women and yet a third kind for the slaves. These slaves are chiefly slaves by birth or men sold for their debts. They are well treated, and opposite Iringui is an island in which all slaves who are incapable of working are allowed to reside by themselves. One form of semi-servitude is called lisokko. This is when a man, not having money to buy a wife, sells himself to a chief to obtain one. The offspring of such a marriage becomes the property of the chief.

One very curious custom is that a man may never look at his mother-in-law. If he does, he has to pay her a fine of 30 to 50 mitakkos, which are brass rods equal to a half penny. Neither must the mother-in-law look at her daughter's husband. Children are treated with great kindness, and in fact spoilt. Their mothers do not chastise them, even if the children strike them. Among the duties of the women is that of shaving their husbands. The chief amusements are singing, dancing and wrestling matches between villages. The victors are painted red; so also are corpses before burial, but in the case of women it is not the bodies, but the coverings in which they are wrapped, that are so colored.

The Upotos believe in life after death and in spirits. They think their dead relatives and friends are always watching them, although they cannot be seen. Their God is named Libanza. Their account of the origin of the white and black races is curious. Libanza sent his son Tserenga on earth to see what the races of mankind were doing. Among Europeans he was well received, so he gave them a white skin and much knowledge, but among the Africans he was badly received so he left them black and stupid. One of the myths entertained by this people is that the Congo and its many tributaries were created by the tears of the tribes weeping for a favorite chief long ago. The moon is supposed to be an immense ship engaged in conveying the souls of the dead to Libanza, and the stars are the eyes of the dead, who sleep during the day.

DOUBT FROM WITHIN.

Faith in an Inspired Pentateuch Shaken by the Biblical Commission.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* According to reports appearing in Sunday's papers, Dr. Grannan of the Catholic University at Washington has sent to Biblical scholars throughout the United States a translation of the report of the Biblical commission appointed by Pope Pius X. which again unjoints their faith in certain postulates of religious belief; for the commission appears to have conceded that the Pentateuch is not "wholly" inspired.

While the question of inspiration would appear to be a delicate one for a layman to discuss, the admission by eminent Biblical scholars "that Moses in his work used sources—that is, written documents or oral traditions—from which, to suit his special purpose, he selected some things and inserted them in substance, summarized or amplified," seems to leave the question as to how far and what particular portions of the five books are inspired and how much of them is "selected to suit his special purpose" so wholly in doubt as seriously to affect their entire value as "inspired" writing.

The explanations touching "words and forms translated from ancient language to more recent language and faulty reading to be ascribed to the errors of amanuenses" are familiar ones. But how about the concession: "It may be admitted that in the long course of ages some modifications have been introduced into it, such as additions, after the death of Moses, by an inspired author"?

Broadly speaking, in spite of this analytical report, Catholics will continue to take their pill of faith in about the old fashion. But to intelligent and critical lay members of the Church the "eminent Biblical scholars" within it have given a telling blow to belief in the whole subject of divine inspiration.

FINDLAY SACKETT.

NEW YORK, August 17.

The Year of the Awful Harvest.

From the Kansas City Times.

In the great Southwest 1906 is still remembered as "the year of the awful harvest." Anything the farmers happened to have planted grew so far beyond expectations that all the usual farm harvest plans were unavailing. Thousands of happy agriculturists were driven from their houses to hotels in the nearby cities or Eastern resorts. Where the wheat didn't push farm buildings off their foundations the corn completed the wreckage, spreading beyond the lines and blockading the highways. Secretary Coburn stayed to the last. It was he who brought the news of the western Kansas line having been bulged across eastern Colorado as far as the mountains.

"Unless there is a way to turn the awful flood of wheat and corn into New Mexico," he said, "there's no telling when a half dozen States east of us will be buried. It's awful—awful!" he said, as crashing noises came from Kansas. "Those sounds are made by the cornstalks pushing against each other, finding space to spread out," he explained.

It was weeks before the farmers could dig their way back to their houses, and night and day work was necessary to clear the farms for fall ploughing. All the grain had to be moved out of the State, the elevators being used as banks.

Twenty-three Varieties on One Tree.

From the American Fruit and Nut Journal.

A tree bearing twenty-three distinct varieties of fruits and nuts is growing on the farm of Thomas Glaze in Benton county, just across the Willamette River from Albany, Ore. It is healthy and flourishing. Mr. Glaze undertook to grow the tree as an experiment, and by judicious grafting has succeeded in producing a marvel. He secured all the kinds of peaches, plums and prunes that he could and grafted them onto the trunk of a healthy growing apple tree. All the grafts are growing and bearing. Then, as a further experiment, he grafted an almond branch on the same tree, and it also is growing.

Bravery of a Famous Man.

Poultney Bigelow in the Bulletin of the American Geographical Society.

For my part I may be permitted to interject here that Panama is not the first tropical country that I have visited—that, indeed, I have made a study of nearly every tropical colony in the world, including the German islands of New Guinea, where I cruised alone in my canoe to places which the German Governor assured me no white man could approach without risk of being eaten up by cannibals.

Queen Alexandra's Best Portrait.

From the London Tribune.

King Edward has ordered forty copies to be made of Sir Luke Fildes's portrait of Queen Alexandra, which was exhibited in the Academy. He considers it the best likeness of her Majesty in existence, and he intends to present one to each of the Colonial Parliaments and to the British Embassies abroad. The Great Hall at St. James's Palace has been transformed into a studio, where the work is being superintended by Sir Luke Fildes himself.

A Princely Signalman.

From the New Haven Palladium.

While Prince Arthur of Connaught and his suite were recently travelling by steamer along a Canadian river a man standing on the bank began waving a pocket handkerchief on a stick, and the Prince, taking his own handkerchief from his pocket, waved back again. Then, turning round to the bystanders, Prince Arthur said: "The man signalled the words, 'Welcome to Canada,' and I have replied, 'Thank you.'"

Social Preeminence of Pea Ridge.

*From the Edgefield (S. C.)