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Mr. Secretary TAFT has invaded the State of Maine, ostensibly in the interest of Representative LITTLEFIELD, whose political career is assailed by GOMPERS, but in reality in the interests of Mr. ROOSEVELT and of the whole Republican campaign.

Mr. TAFT avows boldly that Mr. ROOSEVELT himself is the issue of the campaign, its only issue, its only possible issue, and he explains why this is so in terms of expediency and expediency.

Mr. TAFT has swept aside all local matters and all minor questions with a master hand. It is true that he deals with Mr. GOMPERS as to the particular feature of the canvass in Maine and deals with him in a manner which will make that worthy regret that he ever crossed the Piscataqua.

Mr. TAFT's view that so much new legislation is needed to deal with the abuses that exist and have for years existed. We deprecate all sudden and precipitate legislation of any kind, just as we deprecate the existing measure for rate regulation, which, however meritorious its intent, must, in our judgment, prove unfortunate, mischievous and ineffectual in its application.

It is true that in the present public temper there is little patience with or tolerance of the argument that existing law is sufficient for the common need. We recognize that condition of the public mind, but what created it? We had nothing to do with it, and it in no wise disturbs our judgment any more than it does that of the judicial mind and well balanced Secretary of War.

the rainy season and give even the most languid attention to the weather. Perhaps the intimate personal experience was not actually indispensable. General PETER C. HAINS of the United States Engineer Corps, now a member of the commission and informed by many years of experience in canal work there and elsewhere, could have told Mr. SHONTS all about it. As a matter of fact, he gave the whole country a very thorough diagnosis of the case some months ago through the medium of the North American Review.

Perhaps, however, it is better to see these things for one's self. Personal observation is worth all the hearsay in the world. One does not receive a very vivid impression from a statement at second hand to the effect that as much as one hundred inches of rain frequently falls in any particular locality during a single summer.

Meanwhile it would be interesting to know what Secretary-Commissioner BISHOP, the historian of the enterprise, will give out from his cave in the Mills Building at Washington, in regard to the effect of those rains on the proposed Bohio dam. It will be remembered, no doubt, that the Senate did not take kindly to Mr. BISHOP's appointment as press agent and laureate with a salary of \$10,000 per annum; but it is also of record that he was promptly appointed commissioner and secretary, with the original salary, and so is still on deck.

Has Mr. Bryan Really Backed Down? After telling a Sun reporter that he had no intention of dropping the Federal ownership idea, Mr. BRYAN seems at first sight to have experienced some change of mind or heart, for in Chicago on September 4, at a luncheon given by the Iroquois Club, he repeated in more explicit terms what he had said at New Haven, declaring that in suggesting the Federal ownership of trunk railways he had simply taken the liberty of expressing his personal opinion, and of course expected every other Democrat to exercise the same freedom.

Would it be possible to credit even the most definite assurance on Mr. BRYAN's part that he has no intention of forcing his latest nostrum on the Democratic party in the event of its success in the next Presidential election? Has he exhibited in the past a willingness to tolerate independent opinions on the part of his fellow Democrats, when he had, or thought he had, the power to compel subservience to his own views? At Kansas City in 1900 the Democratic leaders who were best informed concerning the drift of public sentiment implored Mr. BRYAN not to commit the Democratic party for a second time to the free silver asininity, but he was deaf to their entreaties, with the result that he lost State after State which he had carried four years before, including Nebraska, and was beaten by 137, instead of 95, electoral votes.

Again in 1904 Mr. BRYAN insisted that the St. Louis convention should perpetrate the same blunder, and so far committed it that Judge PARKER, its nominee for the Presidency, felt constrained to inform it by telegram of his personal adherence to the gold standard. Does anybody in his senses imagine that Judge PARKER would have run better as an avowed silverite than he ran as a gold candidate on a silver platform? The truth is that Mr. BRYAN is the victim of faith in his own infallibility, of the conviction that all his scripture is the outcome of inspiration. The effect of his obsession is that while expediency might lead him to suspend temporarily the advocacy of a fixed idea, as Moses kept the chosen people for a while in the wilderness, he is practically certain to reaffirm and apply it whenever he thinks he sees a favorable occasion. He may or may not recognize such an occasion in the next Democratic national convention, but were he once invested with the powers of Federal Chief Magistrate he would unquestionably use them and use them ruthlessly to propagate his latest heresy, the Federal ownership of trunk railways. With what severity he would in such an event enforce obedience upon Democratic Senators and Representatives may be guessed from the arrogant tone he takes in addressing the voters of Illinois while as yet he professes to be only a private citizen.

that State expressed by an overwhelming majority its confidence in National Committeeman ROGER C. SULLIVAN and proceeded to endorse as heartily Mr. BRYAN's candidacy for the Presidency. Nevertheless, speaking on Tuesday in Chicago, Mr. BRYAN scored his fellow Democrats of Illinois for not heeding the philippic fulminated by him from London against Mr. SULLIVAN, and went on to repudiate the endorsement of men who presumed to select for themselves their local leaders. If this is what Mr. BRYAN does in the green tree, what is he likely to do in the dry? If when only a candidate he chastises the man of Illinois with whips, is it not certain that if President he would chastise them with scorpions?

Even if Mr. BRYAN should be able for the next twenty months to maintain, from motives of policy, a strict reticence concerning his latest hobby, Federal ownership of trunk railways, could Southern Democrats safely and consistently trust a man of the Nebraska's stubborn temperament to make a sincere and earnest effort to apply that Federal regulation of railways to which they are committed, with a close approach to unanimity and efficiency? Could Mr. BRYAN be relied upon to execute the railway rate act, which received the votes of all Southern Representatives and of all Southern Senators except two, but which he has publicly denounced as bearing on its face the stamp of either fraud or folly? Of what avail will Tuesday's approval of Mr. BRYAN's candidacy by the Minnesota Democratic convention prove twenty months hence against the ineradicable distrust and resentment planted in the heart of Southern Democrats by his avowal that their support of the railway rate bill is an imputation on their intellect or on their honesty?

The Hon. ROBERT MARION LA FOLLETTE of Wisconsin got a good licking in the Republican primaries on Tuesday. His candidate for Governor, LENBROOK, was snowed under by DAVIDSON in practically every political division of the State. LA FOLLETTE himself took an active part in the campaign, made numerous speeches and in every possible way used his popularity and influence against the man who succeeded at the polls. To add to the Senator's discomfiture Mr. DAVIDSON's pluralities are large proportionately in the La Follette strongholds and in the districts in which Mr. LA FOLLETTE was most active in opposition as in the less warmly contested divisions of the State.

This is the first rebuff LA FOLLETTE has had from the voters since he won the nomination for Governor in 1900. It is particularly notable because he is one of the most astute machine managers in the country. His radicalism, by which he has been widely advertised outside of Wisconsin, has obscured beyond his own State his skill as a political manipulator. Within Wisconsin, however, it is generally recognized that LA FOLLETTE in the practical details of party management has nothing to learn from the most experienced among his Republican or Democratic opponents.

Not the least delightful aspect of present day science, at least to the contemplative layman, is the manner in which it is turning back in many points to the exploded theories and superstitions of our forefathers, thus demonstrating that they were not altogether the credulous simpletons that they have been declared to be. The dogmas of science are on a different footing from those of religion or philosophy; a man may doubt the existence of his Creator or the validity of the formula, "I think, therefore I am," and yet be considered perfectly rational; he cannot, however, be considered sane if he does not believe in the law of gravitation or the earth's revolving around the sun.

The discovery of a new chemical element of disconcerting and not wholly understood properties, however, has sufficed to shake the faith of scientific minds. Radium alone has started a new hypothesis of the construction of the universe, a new version of the laws of matter, and has sent the chemists off in search of what seems to be a new philosopher's stone. The terminology and the methods of investigation are changed, but the hypotheses and the objects to be attained read very much like the older theories and delusions of alchemists and philosophers that modern science has so long scoffed at. In another branch of science the asserted new creation of life in sea urchins reminds us of the "homunculus" that FAUST's scholar, WAGNER, created. It looks as though science were turning back to the researches of the alchemists for light on the new paths that are opening out.

every ill that man is heir to, and when the lancet, the cup and the leech were more sacred than modern sterilizers. Well people were bled freely at regular intervals in order to maintain good health, and the lancet marks on hands and feet were more common than the signs of vaccination. The phlebotomy heresy was swept away generations ago, and Dr. SANGRADO with his bleeding and his hot water, which latter, by the way, has had been rehabilitated, has been laughed at as a caricature that could never return to life again.

A few days ago Professor BOUCHARD announced to the Paris Academy of Sciences that two young investigators, one, it should be said, a woman, have discovered that when a healthy animal is bled the proportion of red corpuscles in its blood increases. They have further found that if this "enriched" blood is injected into another animal its blood is changed and also shows more red corpuscles. Red blood is what is wanted for the strenuous life. Dr. SANGRADO is justified by modern science, and we may look for a return of the lancet and the leech. His graven image should be added to the artistic mortuary statuary of foreigners who never saw America that adorns our public parks.

There may come, too, a revival of that picturesque craft the barber surgeon. FIGARO may again turn MAMBRINO's helmet into a basin, not for soapuds alone, but to hold the ounces or pints of blood the physician may prescribe for the rejuvenation of twentieth century vigor. Red blood is needed everywhere, and bleeding is easy. Let science discover the soundness of some of the grandmothers' remedies and restore the quaint medieval pharmacopoeia.

International Yacht Racing. There is an amusing sameness about international yacht racing. It seems to matter little whether the competing craft are 90-footers or mosquito cruisers which can be carried in snug spots on the decks of ocean liners; the explanations of defeat and the hopes for future victory are couched in almost the same terms. In the earlier days, when the British built long and narrow cutters with deep draught and many tons of lead in their keels, it was said that this type of yacht was dangerously fast in light airs.

When they appeared off Sandy Hook and raced in balmy August zephyrs, they went so slowly that they seemed to be anchored. Then at once were told that all the talk about their being fast in light airs was based on a misconception. How could heavy-hulled, underpowered vessels go swiftly in such weather? What they needed was a housed topmast breeze. And when they got it, lo! they were beaten again.

From Marblehead has come similar talk about the German small yachts now racing for the Roosevelt cup. They had their first innings in a lively sailing breeze, and they followed in the wake of the American champions. Immediately came the explanation that these Fatherland ducks could swim faster in mild weather. They were designed for it, for has not every European yachtsman from time immemorial derided the westerly rim of the Atlantic as a field of poise billows and effeminate winds? In the end the fastest boats will win, and that whether the air moves at a snail's pace or a piping quickstep. Meanwhile the America's cup sleeps snugly in its locker and Sir THOMAS LIPTON vainly cuds his brain for a scheme by which he can induce the New York Yacht Club to accept a challenge.

PHONETIC SPELLING. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: English spelling, like the language itself, is the product of a very complex history, of which its anomalies are the traces. But it is at once historical and familiar. Phonetic clipping will make it unhistorical, unfamiliar and uncouth. Can anything be more uncouth than "thru," commonly tendered as a specimen of the phonetic system? The language eschews endings in "u" except in the case of diphthongs and incorporated foreign names.

The contents of our existing libraries suffer, especially perhaps our books of poetry. They would be perplexity in our schools. Would a slight saving of type or of handwriting suffice to repay us? Such a change at all events would seem to require the consent of the various communities by which English is written. How could this consent be obtained? GOLDWIN SMITH. TORONTO, September 5.

IN THE SUBCELLAR. Where the Forgotten Engineer Makes the Wheels Go Round. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: As time flies humanity's condition progresses. This is true in all callings save in the engineering life. Years ago the engineer received some recognition. Today he has been relegated to the rear ranks of appreciation. The old time engineer used low pressures, slow speeds and good horse sense. He worked on the earth's surface, and nature was his ally. Today he is buried under an abundant supply of air, which he utilized as waste. He knew nothing of electricity, pneumatics, refrigeration, ventilation, etc. Two atmospheres were high pressure, and the engine was operated with the loudest exhaust. Today he is buried under a heavy load of machinery. To be fair and honest, the old time engineer gave us the essential laws of mechanics. He was based on facts and was calculated for a foundation on which to build engineering progress, both for the science and for the art. The modern engineer is guarded by one mile a minute locomotion, unheard of rotative speeds, exceedingly high pressures and tremendous forces. The engine rooms of to-day are constructed in an economical and concentrated form as in the case of the skyscraper. The place in every building that nobody wants is given for the engineer. In this place the engineering staff is imprisoned from ten to twelve hours a day, and is no letup, because if ever the vital organs of the body become chilled, the result is malaria, rheumatism, impaired health and general debility. The cellar is the garbage receptacle. The sanitary apparatuses are under the supervision of the engineer. In the case of the vacuum, and the sweepings, laden with microbes collected from all over the building, he gets heaps of abuse from ignorant, impatient and ungrateful humanity. If the public would only understand the real conditions of engineering problems, the miserable conditions, small pay, long hours, poor ventilation, and the fact that he is doing a job which is not appreciated, they would be more liberal to those who constantly look out for their own welfare.

Engineering departments are placed low in the scale of the law of gravitation. The student who is not a millionaire in heat units, now, hovers, oilers, and the like, is not a millionaire in heat units, economy in heat units would mean shorter hours, thereby giving all hands an opportunity to take a little more of this good old humping world. Inflation dampens ambitions. Parasites are rampant. The truth is common. J. G. M. BROOKLYN, September 5.

THE EDUCATION OF THE RUSSIAN AUTOCRACY. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: The prediction on which I ventured a few days ago in regard to the situation in Russia has received a fulfillment beyond what could be expected in so short a time. It is not only the Russian revolution, but the spread made by the revolutionary feeling throughout Russia against the autocracy and its instruments. The attack on Mr. Stolypin inspires a certain personal regret, as I saw a good deal of him and his family in the winter of 1905-7 at Philadelphia, when his father, the late General Arady-Stolypin, was the Russian military corps of occupation in East Roumelia, at the time of the international commission that organized it as an autonomous province after the war of 1877. Mr. Stolypin was then quite a young man, but gave promise of intelligence which has since been justified. One of the victims who deserved a better fate was Prince Shervashidze, who in the early '90s was Governor of Tiflis in the Transcaucasus. He was a man of high intelligence and a Georgian noble family, he exercised much influence among his own people, and was known to be very liberal minded. He was also a man polished in the ways of the world, and was a man of high political principles, was probably the cause why he was later called to St. Petersburg, where he was attached to the court in some capacity. Under the circumstances which he should be in such a combination as Mr. Stolypin was, he should be held to form, by means of which the empire might be held together.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: The letter on "Hogs and Their Outings" moves me to inform some people who can afford to travel in various countries that Sunday outings are mostly for the benefit of the country and not for the benefit of the city. I have been on the Rockaway boats with my children on Sundays and went on board at the last landing at the Battery and had no trouble in getting a chair, but perhaps the same boat was away from Rockaway on Sunday we would have more breathing space. OLD READER. NEW YORK, September 4.

THE OVERWORKED CHILD. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: In hundreds of towns and villages all over the country school boards, taxpayers and voters generally are meeting this month for their annual discussion as to the most advantageous way in which to invest money for the education of the children and to decide how much money is needed to carry out the plans adopted. It will be noted that where the public schools are concerned the general feeling is that to raise money in any way or to decide first of all on plans for the highest interest of the students and then to raise every cent needed to pay for them. In all but a few moth eaten, unprogressive communities there is little or no opposition to the natural increase, year by year, of the school tax.

The millions of boys and girls who have attended the common schools of this country, say for the last quarter of a century, have had a chance to see the progress of the world. The parents never dreamed of, and the unprecedented strides the country has made during the past decade or so amply attest the value of spending all the time and money that can be profitably expended in building up the system of public education. All Americans think of better schoolhouses; improved lighting and ventilation; desks and chairs made so that the boys and girls can study in reasonable comfort; instead of being made more and more weary as the day passes; the gradual disease of corporal punishment save in flagrant cases; of the introduction of such seminaries as the study of music; of physical development in the field and in the gymnasium; of the introduction of such amusements as provided at public expense for pupil and parent alike; of medical oversight of pupils; of instruction in matters of hygiene; of the introduction of such healthful and wholesome amusements as the more valuable to the State's productive citizens. The multiplication of libraries filled with good books, the opportunities for skilled technical instruction in various fields of work, the increased feeling that citizens in schools should be made to feel that they are not to be a good sign of the times, and make the tax-payer for a moment at the time of the danger which is threatening the progress of public education may have in store.

From the scientific point of view the danger that comes to mind is that there is laid out for the children a daily routine so complicated and so hurried that the child is not able to receive the benefits expected therefrom. That is the one danger which above all others also concerns the parents. In the school system we are hustling too much; all save a few philosophers who do not care a hang whether the child is in school or not, we are hustling too much; we are not giving the child a living and a recognized position. Naturally we are ambitious for our children; we want them to be able to do anything they can do, in order that they may be able to assume any of the duties which may be called upon to take later in life. Every once in a while some one of prominence in a speech or in a medical journal, or in a speech or in a large percentage of pupils, and the defects of a large warning, it is seldom listened to and the child is not able to receive the benefits expected therefrom. It is not necessary to say that the child is not able to receive the benefits expected therefrom. It is not necessary to say that the child is not able to receive the benefits expected therefrom. It is not necessary to say that the child is not able to receive the benefits expected therefrom.

TEMPERED BY ASSASSINATION. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: The prediction on which I ventured a few days ago in regard to the situation in Russia has received a fulfillment beyond what could be expected in so short a time. It is not only the Russian revolution, but the spread made by the revolutionary feeling throughout Russia against the autocracy and its instruments. The attack on Mr. Stolypin inspires a certain personal regret, as I saw a good deal of him and his family in the winter of 1905-7 at Philadelphia, when his father, the late General Arady-Stolypin, was the Russian military corps of occupation in East Roumelia, at the time of the international commission that organized it as an autonomous province after the war of 1877. Mr. Stolypin was then quite a young man, but gave promise of intelligence which has since been justified. One of the victims who deserved a better fate was Prince Shervashidze, who in the early '90s was Governor of Tiflis in the Transcaucasus. He was a man of high intelligence and a Georgian noble family, he exercised much influence among his own people, and was known to be very liberal minded. He was also a man polished in the ways of the world, and was a man of high political principles, was probably the cause why he was later called to St. Petersburg, where he was attached to the court in some capacity. Under the circumstances which he should be in such a combination as Mr. Stolypin was, he should be held to form, by means of which the empire might be held together.

THE TOOTHBRUSH BRIGADE. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: One of the up-happy editors of the Sun has written me to deary my assaults on the toothbrush platinists. As "Well, where are we to go to use it, if not at the table?" I am sure that the toothbrush platinists are not the only ones who are not to be used at the table, but every other habit which causes offence and annoyance to those about us. Don't do it. Rinsing the mouth quietly with water, and not with any of the toothbrush platinists. I recommend to the hygienic and unscrupulous schoolboy that a careful scrubbing of the teeth at night and morning, or at most three times a day, is the best way of keeping the mouth clean and to look them over several times a year. I'll wager your toothbrush, rank and file, are better than a fifty dollar bill, although I'm not a betting man. Mine out of them, they would hardly know a tooth brush if they met it. "Toothbrushing is just a vile, beastly habit, founded on bad bringing up, or used to impart ease or conceal nervousness at meals." NEW YORK, September 5.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: The letter on "Hogs and Their Outings" moves me to inform some people who can afford to travel in various countries that Sunday outings are mostly for the benefit of the country and not for the benefit of the city. I have been on the Rockaway boats with my children on Sundays and went on board at the last landing at the Battery and had no trouble in getting a chair, but perhaps the same boat was away from Rockaway on Sunday we would have more breathing space. OLD READER. NEW YORK, September 4.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE. LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA, ONE OF THE DISEASES WHICH IT OVERCOMES. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Although not specially invited to do so, I desire to express great sympathy with Mr. Frank Boutler, who states in a letter published in THE SUN that he has been afflicted for more than seven years "from an incurable disease, locomotor ataxia." Christian Scientists unite with him in honoring those broad minded, big principled men, members of the medical profession who have devoted their lives to humanity's good and become noted as wise philanthropists. Nothing can detract from their humanitarianism or minimize the great good they have done. No one, and least of all the Christian Scientists, would wish to see Mr. Boutler's suffer under the necessity of declaring that the particular form of disease from which he suffers is "incurable"; the doctors tell him so, and they, after 4,000 years of accumulated experience, ought to know, at least from the least of views. Mr. Boutler says that he has exercised his right and "always refused to try Christian Science," and then offers the same sort of reasons for not trying it that are advanced so often by others who have not carefully studied and applied the teachings of Christian Science. Therefore we still find him regarding locomotor ataxia as incurable and entertaining a perverted concept of Christian Science.

The personal qualities he admires so much in the physicians are the very qualities which we all admire, succeeded in curing the disease. And after all the primary object for which he goes to the physician is to be healed. Why, then, this effort to condemn Christian Science, which has persistently refused to try and knows nothing about, while at the same time he proclaims loudly for a system which he has thoroughly tried and found to be of no avail? He says he "hoped to be cured." What is it that prompts him to repudiate Christian Science, which he had so long tried, and to uphold a system which does not even pretend to do so?

It has already been applied to Christian Science regarding this disease as it has been reported to me by a prominent Christian Scientist who has not as yet proved their understanding of Christian Science. The fact that he has not as yet proved their understanding of Christian Science, which confront them in every case, is very generally admitted that they have met with failure in their treatment of locomotor ataxia included, which are usually considered incurable. Because of the proof which all persons who have tried Christian Science, facts, proof which more often than not includes the diagnosis of reputable physicians, as he can at this time be readily referred to, instead of making a new system which to ground his faith for a trial.

THE TACON THEATRE. Curious History of Havana's Famous Playhouse. From the Cuban Review. The history of the Tacon Theatre of Havana, which was recently purchased by the Spanish Dramatic Company for \$350,000, is very interesting. In the year 1855 Francisco Marty, who was then the leader of a band of pirates which infested the island of Cuba and who had a price of \$10,000 on his head, was captured and ordered to be put to death. But on the way to the gallows he was rescued by General Tacon, who was then Governor-General of Havana, and told him if his life was spared he would denounce his entire band and would assist in ridding the island of the number of pirates who were then in the island. Accordingly, General Tacon gave him a two weeks parole, and inside of a week Marty had turned over to the Government all the names of the pirates who were then in the island. For this service he was pardoned.

Mr. Labouchere's Joke on Lord Russell of Kilowen. As Carlisle had once a curious experience with the late Lord Russell of Kilowen. He was fond of playing a little game of cards, and one day he met him in the street and told him that he would play at bridge. A friend of his with whom he was walking happened to have a pack of cards in his pocket, so we sat down at a table before the reading room and played. A person in civilian garb came up to me and told me that we could not play with the cards that we were using. I supposed that he was a waiter of the reading room, and he said that we were to buy our cards at the same. He then said that he was a Government official, and that only cards with the Government seal were allowed in the reading room. "What is he saying?" I asked. "He is saying that we are to buy our cards at the same. He then said that he was a Government official, and that only cards with the Government seal were allowed in the reading room. "What is he saying?" I asked. "He is saying that we are to buy our cards at the same. He then said that he was a Government official, and that only cards with the Government seal were allowed in the reading room. "What is he saying?" I asked.

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