The Sun.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1907.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	70

Postage to foreign countries added.

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

Paris office, 32 Rue Louis le Grand.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Not Transmissible.

The accusation against those men in buckram called "reactionaries" and "conspirators" is that they are plotting to cause the nomination of a Republican candidate for President who, if elected, will reverse or refuse to carry out Mr. ROOSEVELT's policies. Mr. ROOSEVELT is bound to select a candidate who will carry out those "policies," in order that there may be a third term for the policies, if not for himself.

What Mr. ROOSEVELT cannot bequeath to his successor, however, even if he practically appoints that successor, is the Rooseveltian attitude and way of doing things. Mr. ROOSEVELT's method, his personal equation, cannot be transmitted. These, rather than his "policies," tend to win for him an unparalleled personal popularity, because the public loves sensation, adventure and an unflagging series of incidents.

The truth is that a certain "reaction" is inevitable and there needs no "conspiracy" to insure it. A calm must come after the tempest. The nerves of the country cannot be on the perilous edge continually; and most American politicians are as fond of peace as Mr. ROOSEVELT is of trouble.

Mexico's Doubtful Case.

While the war clouds which now lower along the Mexico-Guatemala boundary may be dissipated by diplomacy, the immediate prospect of such a relief is not at all encouraging. The various experiences which have precipitated the present situation are by no means clear. There has been during recent years a good deal of friction between the two countries, frequent incidents which are not in themselves a cause for war but which when taken collectively seem possible of adjustment only through an armed conflict.

As the matter now stands it would seem that Mexico intends to make the Barillas incident a casus belli if CABRERA does not surrender General LIMA in response to its demand. It is unfortunate that Mexico should use for so serious a purpose a pretext so weak and untenable. If, as there seems no reason to doubt, Mexico has demanded the extradition of General LIMA, it is difficult to see how she can with any dignity withdraw that demand, and it is quite impossible to believe that CABRERA will grant it. From that point of view a clash seems inevitable unless it is anticipated by a revolutionary outbreak in Guatemala which would result in the deposition of CABRERA. This just now appears to be a little more than possible.

In the Barillas-Lima case itself Mexico seems to have little or no justification for her course. BARILLAS, a former President of Guatemala and a bitter opponent of the present incumbent, was a political exile making his home for the time in Mexico. A few weeks ago he was killed by another Guatemalan, who is said to have been the agent of the Cabrera faction. Declaring its possession of documents and evidence virtually proving his complicity in the Barillas murder, Mexico demands the extradition of General JOSÉ LIMA, CABRERA's intimate friend and adviser. He had committed no crime on Mexican territory, broken no Mexican law, and the general opinion among competent authorities is that he would not be subject to extradition on such a charge even though his complicity in the Barillas murder were clearly proved.

Mexico's case, therefore, seems to rest on very doubtful ground. If she makes war upon Guatemala on what now appears as the main and central issue, the Lima extradition matter, she will fall very decidedly from her present high place in the world's esteem.

Railway Rates and Capitalization.

It is asserted by some and assumed by others that many if not most of the railway lines of this country are overcapitalized, and that excessive rate charges are the result of effort to pay dividends on watered stock. The argument is that rates could be materially reduced and the general public be correspondingly benefited if railway capital represented only the material or commodity value of the properties.

We believe that the latest of the various and not always consistent announcements alleged to emanate from the White House is to the effect that it is not now proposed to make retroactive any action that may be taken in the matter. It is merely proposed that henceforth every dollar of stock issued shall be represented by a dollar's worth of some kind of property and that the profits derived from such investment shall serve as an index for reasonable or excessive rate charges. These proposals persist despite the assertions of responsible railway managers that the relation between capitalization and rate charges is only indirect and remote, and despite the fact of ample ground for doubt whether more than a very few of our lines to-day are overcapitalized. Proposals for a valuation of railway properties with the view of making the result of such an appraisal the basis of freight and passenger rate charges have thus far moved in only one direction.

The generally neglected factor in this consideration is the fact that there are many roads the capitalization of which is less than the money actually spent to bring them to their present condition, and less than the amount for which they could be duplicated to-day. If argument for reduction of rates on overcapitalized roads is sound, it would seem equally proper to allow or to compel undercapitalized roads to increase their capital to a figure which would represent the actual value of their material holdings and to increase their rates so that they could pay reasonable dividends on the larger capitalization.

The question of the actual material value of railway properties is by no means as new as many seem to think it is. It dates back to the earliest days of railway construction. The only novelty is the exceedingly doubtful proposal to give the appraisal a national character. For many years State authorities have struggled with the problem of valuation as a basis of taxation. Most of the States use the ad valorem system in taxing railroad properties. A short time ago the Michigan Tax Commission said in a report that "three-fourths of all the States value railroads, telegraphs, telephone and express companies (for purposes of taxation) by some State board." It is doubtful if any man in any State believes that any of these valuations is even approximately correct. There is neither rule nor system in the various appraisals, and there can be neither except through a long and very expensive process. Neither would the value reported by a board of appraisal be other than almost ephemeral. As a basis for rate making it would be worthless.

The weakness of all propositions for appraised valuation of railways lies in the total absence of any recognized and fully defensible economic standard of valuation. The attempt to adjust rates as the basis of any standard which might be adopted would only be hopeless confusion and widespread industrial disaster.

The New Grouping of Powers in the Far East.

According to a telegram from Paris there is official confirmation of the report that negotiations are in progress between France and Japan looking to a mutual guarantee of the political and commercial interests of the two Powers in the Far East. It is understood that the Anglo-Russian treaty and the Russo-Japanese treaty, which are also in course of arrangement, embody similar features. When the three agreements mentioned shall have been concluded they will constitute—in conjunction with the Anglo-Japanese alliance, the Franco-Russian league and the Anglo-French *entente cordiale*—an international combination for the maintenance of peace in the Far East, to which, however, neither Germany nor the United States is a party.

It will be observed that these compacts will practically involve on Japan's part a renouncement of the programme of "Asia for the Asiatics," because the acquisitions already made by European Powers at the expense of China are to be guaranteed, although no further encroachments upon the Middle Kingdom seem to be contemplated. That is to say, Japan is to retain not only Corea and Formosa but also the Liaotung peninsula, which was leased by Russia and subsequently passed by the Peace of Portsmouth to Japan. England is to keep Wei-hai-wei, together with the island of Hongkong and an adjacent strip of the Chinese mainland, and France will continue to hold the Chinese district of Kuangchowan, which she leased in 1898, following the example of Russia and Germany 2,000 miles to the north.

The exclusion of the United States from this international combination is voluntary on our part, so far, at least, as the proposed Franco-Japanese agreement is concerned, our State Department having been informed of the intention to conclude it and having made no objection thereto. But for our traditional avoidance of entangling alliances with Powers of the Old World there is no reason to doubt that we might enter into a similar agreement with Japan, whereby in return for her guarantee of our retention of the Philippines we would covenant to uphold her possession of Formosa and the Liaotung peninsula and her ascendency in Corea. In the absence of such an agreement any one of the four parties to the international combination will be at liberty to try to deprive us of the Philippines, in which event we might be driven to seek the assistance of Germany, which stands in an equally isolated position as regards her lease of Kiao-chau Bay.

It must be acknowledged that by our acquisition of the Philippines we have given a hostage to fortune and placed ourselves in a predicament which casts some doubt on the expediency of adhering to our traditional avoidance of alliances, so far, at least, as the Far East is concerned. If we were to propose to the Tokio Government the conclusion of an agreement similar to that about to be made between that country and France, we take for granted that it would willingly assent, for not only France but Great Britain and Russia, who are signatories to actual or prospective compacts with Japan, are all friendly to us. Neither, in spite of the rumored desire of King EDWARD VII. to isolate Germany, can we believe that a formal proposal to enter the international combination addressed by the Berlin Government to the Mikado's Ministers would be rejected. A refusal would reveal too glaringly a purpose of discrimination against Germany, and neither Great Britain nor France could afford to be accessory to such an affront.

The fundamental motive which leads Japan to enter into agreements with Great Britain and France guaranteeing their respective political interests in the Far East is the desire to refund at a lower rate of interest the existing Japanese debt and to borrow on easy terms large additional sums of money for the development of Corea. It is significant that the new Japanese loan was placed upon the Paris market simultaneously with the beginning of the negotiations for the Franco-Japanese agreement. The same motive must prompt Japan to establish cordial relations with Germany and the United States, in order that her securities may be favorably viewed on the stock exchanges of Berlin and New York. If she could only place her bonds in London she would have to pay a higher rate of interest than if French, German and American investors were inclined to compete for them.

Whether the various agreements to which we have referred are declared to be permanent or whether they will expire by limitation in 1915, when the Anglo-Japanese alliance will terminate if denounced by either of the parties, we do not know. For this reason and because the term "guarantee" is vague, the purport of it ranging all the way from an offensive and defensive alliance to a mere assurance of neutrality, the publication of the texts of the several agreements will be awaited with much interest.

Genesis of the Third Term Movement.

In PENROSE's State, in the very bosom of the reactionaries, the anti-reactionary movement has sprung up and grown strong. The headquarters of "Teddy's Army" is in Norristown. The Philadelphia *Record* has interviewed the commander-in-chief of that force, the manager of a hosiery mill. This warrior is named FINN, and is understood to be related to the Hon. HUCKLEBERRY FINN, now or formerly of Hannibal, Mo. Mr. FINN explains frankly that some time ago at a meeting in his house "it was the consensus of opinion that it would be for the good of the nation for Mr. ROOSEVELT to have another, or third, term." How should the movement to bring about that result be organized?

"'Why not start a petition pleading with the President to reconsider his announcement on the night upon which he was elected that he would not be a candidate for another term?' said one. That seemed good to us all and we adjourned to meet again. After a number of meetings the project crystallized into 'Teddy's Army.' We found that there would be expenses of postage, &c., in having the idea sent broadcast over the country into every village, town and city, and to meet this WILLIAM M. WOOD of 1062 Cherry street, bookkeeper at the Rambo & Regar works, composed a song which was named 'Teddy, the Tried and True.' We saw in this a means of aiding our movement or army, and it was agreed that the composer should give the 'army' a portion of the revenue. I was elected president; MARCUS E. JOHNSON, 215 Franklin avenue, vice-president; JOSEPH H. RITTENHOUSE, 406 West Marshall street, secretary; Professor WILLARD S. CAMPBELL, of Sandy & Tremont, treasurer, and an executive committee composed of these officers and the addition of GEORGE SHEARER. We adopted a membership button with the picture of the President and the inscription thereon, 'Teddy's Army.'"

Thus the army, the uniform, the sinews of the war and the warcry were provided for. The button and "Teddy, the Tried and True," words and music, go for a song, only 25 cents. Anybody who sells ten copies becomes a captain in Teddy's Army. The Hon. IRVING PRICE WANGER, Representative in Congress of the Norristown district, wears the button, but is as yet only a private. Vice-President JOHNSON says that "President ROOSEVELT or his secretary was communicated with regarding the plans." Mr. JOHNSON sees a glorious future for the army, the button and the song:

"I believe that there will be a regular uprising to get onto our petition when it becomes known that every one who helped give him the unprecedented majority can become members of 'Teddy's Army.'"

The officers of the army are young men of the highest respectability. Their motives are beyond dispute. The treacherous hand of the reactionary appears in the rumor sent from Norristown:

"The President—the great and only 'TEDDY,' worshipped by the army, has put the Secret Service on the 'Army's' trail. He doesn't want its help toward getting him a third term and he has a suspicion that a fraud order ought to be issued against it by the Post Office Department. In his opinion the main object of the army is not to help him, but to sell a song entitled 'Teddy, the Tried and True,' at 25 cents a copy."

Surely, Mr. ROOSEVELT is not the man to discourage poetry, especially when it celebrates the manly virtues. At any rate, the bright beginning, if not the bitter end, of a halcyon and vociferous third term movement is the uncontested glory of Norristown.

Seattle.

The other day we tried to beguile the time by calling Seattle "a remote hamlet." Each mail brings remonstrance. This town and every other American town of size contains Seattleans, full of statistics and proud to demonstrate the glory of Seattle; and she herself can spare a moment from business for the pleasure of manifesting her greatness. Her population, one friend writes us, is "more than 200,000"; her sea commerce is in the hundred millions; her bank clearings exceed, and so on. "In those countries which border on the waters that harbor Seattle," writes another, "there are now living people too numerous to count with certainty. Estimate them at 900,000,000 souls, if you will." We are entirely willing to estimate Seattle's population in the same generous fashion. She is mighty, she is growing mightily; she is rich; she is justly proud of herself and of Mount Rainier, the only thing except heaven which she permits to look down upon her. We withdraw "hamlet" and substitute "a world city." We even withdraw "remote" and substitute "adjoining." And may this palinode be accepted graciously by all Seattleans present and to come, and from Profanity Hill to JIM.

Not Infectious.

Mr. HENRY M. WHITNEY took the initiative and he expects the people of Massachusetts to attend to the referendum. The ink of the Hon. WILLIAM L. DOUGLAS's essay on receptivity was scarcely dry when Mr. WHITNEY dropped his pretence of wanting to play second fiddle to anybody and wantonly solicited the Democratic nomination for Governor. Intimate brief association with Mr. BRYAN, which Mr. WHITNEY went out of his way to seek, accounts no doubt for the artful use of the idea of the referendum in the following appeal to the electorate:

"My candidacy is due to my strong desire to obtain an expression of opinion from the voters of Massachusetts upon the business policies, which can only be put into effect through political and legislative action, for which I stand. The only way to get a referendum vote of the people upon these questions seems to be through the candidacy for Governor of some business man who stands for them and represents them."

One E. GERRY BROWN of Brockton, a versatile and clever radical who made a far better run for Lieutenant-Governor than MORAN made for Governor last year, seems to be acceptable to Mr. WHITNEY as his associate on the ticket, although BROWN is not a business man in the spacious sense of the referendum candidate. BROWN is really a ward of the Independence League, but the league seems to be a good enough business institution for Mr. HENRY M. WHITNEY this year. He will look after the conservative vote if GERRY BROWN will round up the radicals.

If the candidacy of Mr. WHITNEY is "ideal" to the Old Guard, there are other opinions and also ominous silences. For instance, there is ex-Governor DOUGLAS, who says: "I have nothing to say." GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS, the fidus Achates of Mr. BRYAN in Massachusetts, is just as noncommittal and more emphatic: "I have nothing, absolutely nothing, to say about the candidacy of Mr. WHITNEY." Mr. WILLIAMS has not always had nothing to say about Mr. WHITNEY; what he has said about Mr. WHITNEY would not be printable in a campaign by a united party. Chairman JOHN P. FEENEY of the Democratic State committee refuses to warm up. District Attorney MORAN is in a sardonic mood. Even Mayor FITZGERALD of Boston observes that "efforts to saddle candidates upon the State convention are very inopportune at this time."

As a matter of fact, Mr. WHITNEY's faith in his representative capacity is not infectious enough to insure his nomination by acclamation in a Democratic convention. The party in Massachusetts, as elsewhere, is a mob without leaders, purpose or direction. Mr. WHITNEY is rendering it a service by indicating tariff reform as an issue worth fighting for, but what do the Jack Cades and the sovereign specific quacks care about tariff reform?

Senator JOHN RAINES was 67 years of age to-day. Senator GRADY offered a resolution congratulating him upon his anniversary.—*News from Albany.*

A beautiful and appropriate incident in the life of two statesmen. Where is the painter of historic scenes capable of depicting on canvas this affecting and significant scene?

Judge LORING of the Massachusetts Supreme Court declared that the firms whose men struck had a perfect right to hire men to take their places. —*Despatch from Boston.*

Yet he denies to CORNELIUS SHEA and his followers the right to break the heads of the men who enter the employ of the Boston teamsters. It is greatly to be feared that Judge LORING has been schooled insufficiently in the unwritten law of militant labor unionism.

The glad season of the college commencement draweth nigh, and "old grads" are getting ready to renew their youth in the academic precincts. One class reunion committee has sent out this schedule of its expenses: Rent of headquarters (six days), $350; costumes for parade, $500; band, $250; Piel, $300; carpentry, $200; electric lighting and wiring, $100; hired quartet, $100; service (doorkeeper, waiters, &c.), $100; steins and banners, cup for class boy, tent, piano and various "incidentals," $300. The week's jollification will represent an official outlay of about $2,250, for which the committee modestly promises about $10,000 worth of fun. With twenty classes on hand, it is plain that there will be at least $200,000 worth of pure joy on that ancient campus.

In the sudden death of "IAN MACLAREN," author of a group of stories entitled "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush," tens of thousands of whole souled, sympathetic readers of English feel a personal loss. Comparatively few of them have ever seen or heard the Reverend JOHN WATSON, and perhaps a majority are but dimly aware that he has long held a prominent place as a Scotch Presbyterian minister; what they do know, however, is that a dozen years ago his tales of a little village and of the villagers therein broke upon them with delight, causing smiles and tears, enlarging their view of human brotherhood, showing them again what is really worth while in life—love, sympathy, tenderness, courage, charity for others. This Dr. WATSON did, through his unpretentious stories. His readers felt his broad, generous spirit in every situation, in every character; they were thrilled, without knowing why, by his simplicity of utterance. Fortunately for the world at large there is a large class of readers of novels whose natural appreciation of what is good and bad in human character has not been ossified; such readers are grateful to JOHN WATSON.

Virtues of Street Cleaning by Hand.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent who expresses so much surprise that the authorities of this city do not adopt a motor sweeper to clean our dirty streets rather than continue the slow process of hand sweeping, seems to think we are a stupid lot of incapables in need of advice and assistance from outsiders. The fact is that he is blind, and in the dark as to the real secret of the matter. The political bosses who run this town are well up in the mysteries and working of graft, and in the business of politics. They would not dare adopt a mechanical contrivance to clean the streets even though they knew it would result in doing the work in one-half the time, and at one-half the cost of the present way.

The man with the broom is a voter, the motor sweeper is not. Further, the politicians well know that the labor unions would protest against the substitution of machine for hand labor. We require to beg consent in these days to do lots of things.

NEW YORK, May 7. JOHN F. BAXTER.

The Comma in the Text Books.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If "A Hoosier" who complains of the public school English and the misuse of the comma among other criticisms will examine Dr. Maxwell's grammars he will find that there are other systems besides the one he speaks of in his letter.

On page 169 of "Introductory Lessons" he may find, "Poetry, music, and painting are fine arts" (two commas); on page 203 of "Elementary Grammar," "Poetry, music and painting are fine arts (one comma); and on page 272 of "Advanced Grammar," "Poetry, music, and painting, are fine arts" (three commas). BROOKLYN TEACHER.

BROOKLYN, May 6.

Endless Chain Letter Nuisance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* From the endless chain letter nuisance I have suffered. Is there any State or Federal law against the practice? If not, why could not a law be passed covering the matter, as a common nuisance? Then the Federal Government could stop the practice by using a cancellation stamp bearing the words: "Endless chain letters are forbidden by law."

NEW YORK, May 7. C. M. D.

Nothing to Wear.

Jack the Giant Killer had just donned his invisible coat.

"Which reminds me," remarked his wife, "I haven't anything to be seen in either."

Herewith he realized that even magic was powerless to save him.

COMMISSIONS AND COMMISSIONS.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—Three important commissions are now in the preliminary stage of their activities. These are the Inland Waterways Commission, the Immigration Commission and the Postal Commission. The theoretical object of their appointment and operation is the thorough investigation of the various subjects for the purpose of obtaining information to serve as the basis of legislation. It is assumed, doubtless with correctness, that what the Congress does not know about these subjects is sufficient to fill the volumes which will be published as reports.

THE SUN has commented on the work of the Waterways Commission. The magnitude of that work is self-evident. The effective utilization of our inland waterways, thousands of miles in their aggregate length, is of great moment in our national development. That the commission is fully alive to this fact is shown by its intention to meet this week at Kansas City and embark for a voyage down the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Soundings will probably be taken at frequent intervals and a careful watch be kept for shoals, snags, sand bars and other obstructions to navigation. Presumably these are already charted, but it is well that the commission personally verify the work of our official surveyors. The body will also have a very enjoyable trip. Others will follow in due time and prove equally enjoyable.

The work laid out for the Postal Commission is also of importance to the country. The basis of our present postal administration and an accounting which involves some $200,000,000 a year is a law of 1878. A considerable change has taken place in our mail business since that time. There is more of it and it is more complicated. Under the existing methods we are unable to determine whether we pay too much for what we get or get more than we pay for. There have been various changes, both by laws and by department rules, but as Mr. Cortelyou said in his last report "the department needs to be modernized." The plans and the itinerary of the commission are not yet announced, but the commissioners will doubtless travel extensively and comfortably, investigate carefully and report elaborately.

The Immigration Commission will inaugurate its labors with a trip to Europe, where several months will be spent in studying the immigrant in his original habitat and in observing the influences which determine his departure for America and the processes which attend his migration. There are nine members of this commission, three Senators, three Representatives and three laymen. They take with them a clerical staff of about the same number, secretaries, stenographers, &c. The lay members and the clerical staff are of course remunerated, and the Government pays the travelling expenses of the whole party.

It is doubtful if any of these commissions will complete its work much inside of two years. The expense of maintaining them will probably exceed half a million of dollars, and all good citizens should pray that their reports will be worth the money they cost.

Schoolhouse Needed.

We, the undersigned merchants of the town of Fort Payne, Ala., respectfully appeal to you for financial help to aid in the building of a schoolhouse for the children of this town. Our town lost its building by fire several years ago, and is without a schoolhouse of any kind, and is unable to build one. Its total revenue received from direct taxation is less than $1,500, and its revenue from all sources is less than $2,500, all of which is required to keep up its streets, police protection and other necessary expenses of local government.

It is collecting taxes up to the constitutional limit.

It has 200 children deprived of school advantages.

We have raised among ourselves about $2,750, besides a donation of the land site for the building.

At least $5,000 is required to provide a building suitable for the needs of its 200 children.

You are doubtless appealed to often for help, but we doubt if ever before from as needy a community.

Think of it, the sound of the school bell is not heard here and 200 children are without school advantages.

Of whatever donation you will make us advise Charles M. T. Sawyer of this town, who will place your name on the subscription list, to be called for when a contract for the building has been awarded and the contractor bonded.

CAMPBELL & LANKFORD,	W. W. RUSSELL,
H. B. BROCK,	W. L. HARALSON,
E. S. KILLIAN & NIX BROS.	W. W. DOBBS,
W. E. QUIN & CO.	H. H. KILLIAN,
S. L. PARRISH,	J. H. MCCARTNEY & CO.
G. L. MALONE,	G. W. PHARR,
ROBERT L. WRIGHT	F. M. CUNNINGHAM,
J. D. MONROE,	H. C. WEDGEWORTH.

The only town in America to-day without a school house of any kind.

Woman Suffrage and the Birth Rate.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A recent jocose editorial in THE SUN suggests that if women are allowed to vote "the task of child bearing may ultimately be fastened upon the men." This is not much more fantastic than some of the predictions made in good faith by the opponents. One member of the Massachusetts Legislature some years ago prophesied that if equal suffrage were granted the consequences would be twofold: (1) there would be no more children born in Massachusetts; and (2) all the children that were born would be girls.

The Rev. Dr. Chapman, ex-chaplain to the Wyoming Legislature, in a letter published several years ago in the *Religious Telescope* said that equal suffrage tended to large families, because it made women less frivolous and more domestic. I do not myself believe that it affects the birth rate one way or the other; but it is clear that it does not prevent the increase of population, since in England, Scotland and Ireland, where women vote for all officers but members of Parliament, families are large; and in France, the country which is the most conspicuous example of race suicide, women are not only unable to vote but the husband still has the entire control of all his wife's property and earnings. French women have been laboring in vain with Parliament for fourteen years to get a married woman the right even to control her own wages.

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL.

DORCHESTER, Mass., May 6.

Notes from Africa.

German diplomacy has obtained concessions in Abyssinia for liquor and tobacco monopolies.

The Cape Government, South Africa, has brought out a scheme for State loans to farmers to assist settlement and development of the country.

British South Africa had an export trade of $218,750,000 in 1906, and an import trade of $161,250,000, making in all a foreign commerce of $381,000,000.

A waterworks scheme is about to be undertaken in Cape Colony, South Africa, by the Government, says *Daily Consular and Trade Reports.* Already $75,000 has been spent in preliminary work. A total outlay of $3,600,000 is contemplated. The water is to be piped forty miles to Cape Town and adjacent towns. Debentures are to be floated, pumping apparatus, engines, boilers, pipe, &c., will be needed. Further particulars can be obtained from the Bureau of Manufactures, Washington, D. C.

Special Agent Crist of the Bureau of Manufactures says that South Africa offers a good field for the sale of American mining machinery. Catalogues are useless. Salesmen are necessary. The district buys about $35,000,000 worth of electrical and mechanical mining machinery and other equipment yearly. See *Daily Consular and Trade Reports,* No. 2796.

The Praise of Seattle.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Seattle, from whatever standpoint she is regarded, can only arouse sentiments of admiration and wonder. At present a great city, a coming greater city, and finally, perhaps for centuries, the greatest city of the world. A beautiful city, yet in future to become more and more beautiful. Already a rich city, yet now her present riches are only a penny to the thousands of pounds that they are destined to be. A commercial city, yet soon absolutely certain to be the one great commercial centre of all those peoples that border the Pacific Ocean.

A MEMBER OF THE SEATTLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

NEW YORK, May 7.

Limited.

Knicker—Does Jones diet?

Booker—Yes, his doctor only allows him to eat things he can pronounce on a French bill of fare.

THE PUBLISHER TURNS.

Severely Practical Remarks to a Complaining Author.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am glad, for his sake and my own, that "Three Stars" did not stifle his impulse "publicly to unveil the star of hope" in the full light of THE SUN of May 3. I thank him for his spontaneous encomium and hope that he will forgive me if in my lamentable sensitiveness I thought that I detected just a suspicion of sarcasm in his tribute; and therefore waft him from "the free air of these upper regions" a cool little breeze to temper the warmth of his generosity.

If by chance "Three Stars" is not in a financial position to accept his golden offer (which one of New York's most successful publishers characterizes as "wildly generous") he has my sympathy. We publishers are almost moved to advise him "to beg, borrow or steal" the amount necessary to seal the contract.

If on the other hand he has the fifteen hundred in his pocket and doesn't know a good thing when he sees it, he has our pity—and our further advice. Has he any conception of what it costs to make the plates of a book? Of the nature of the volume, how long it is to be, whether illustrated or not, I am, of course, in ignorance. In any event, after the plates are paid for, there will be little left of that $1,500 for such luxuries as "margins and deckle edges."

Let us consider the offer seriously. The author is to pay $1,500 toward the expense of getting out the first edition. This sum, I infer, would constitute him proprietor of the plates and allow him to transfer the same to another publisher at any time, if he should so desire. The publisher is to stand the expense of manufacture, paper, printing, binding, &c., as long as the book sells, and is to give the author the benefit of his advertising facilities. The terms for the author are "50 per cent. of the entire proceeds (not the profits) from its sale, and twenty-five copies without charge" (the customary number of free copies being anywhere from two to twelve).

We assume that "Three Stars" has confidence in the success of his book and that he expects it to sell up into the many thousands, yet he laughs, and not pleasantly, at the suggestion of his risking $1,500 at the start, when forever after he is entitled to 50 per cent. of the entire proceeds of the sales! Ask any inventor who has perchance discovered what he knows will prove to be a good selling commodity, which he wishes to put upon the market, what he thinks of the proposition. Would he hesitate, do you suppose, to sign a contract with a manufacturer who offers (1) to place the commodity upon the market, standing the expense of manufacture as long as there is demand for the article, (2) to push its sale through his agents and by advertising, and (3) to give the author 50 per cent. of the entire proceeds from its sale, provided the inventor himself will risk $1,500 in the adventure?

Let us, as an illustration, take a "practical ideal" (which puts "Three Stars" in such a "ferment of admiration"). Several years ago certain authors contracted with a certain New York publisher for the publication of a series of books on the following terms: The authors were to receive 50 per cent. of the profits (not proceeds) on all sales of the books. After some seven years the authors, having received not a penny of profits, made a tremendous assault upon the publisher. And who could blame them? They obtained the right to inspect the publisher's books, with the result that they learned that far from there being any individual profits, the publisher had lost in the making, manufacturing and advertising of the books the neat little sum of $75,000. What was the next move of the authors? The claim that the publisher had no right to charge against the cost of the book any agency or advertising expenses involved. The publisher was to stand for that out of his own pocket! In vain the latter argued that he might just as legitimately be called upon to stand the expense of making the plates of the books and that of their manufacture. Finally, in order to keep the case out of the courts, a compromise was effected, whereby the publisher agreed to pay the authors a small per cent. royalty on all sales made since the publication of the books, thereby increasing materially his loss to date of $75,000. An exceptional case, the books being very expensive to manufacture, and a bad bargain all around, but of the reckless publisher it may well be said, "Aye, too liberal, too liberal" was he.

I fear all this advice comes too late. There looms before my romantic imagination the picture of a nascent genius, the star of hope all battered in his brow, calling for help from the lonely depths of a "defunct oil well"—or possibly, an "abandoned mine."

AN UNSOPHISTICATED PUBLISHER.

NEW YORK, May 7.

Norway As a Market.

Consul-General Bordewich of Christiania, Norway, reports that the American exports finding a market in Norway are packing house and farm products, machines and machinery, leather, petroleum, paints, oils, tobacco, tools, boots and shoes, rubber goods, &c.: that many American goods reach Norway through Denmark, Germany and England, and are credited to those countries in Norwegian records of imports; that Norway had a foreign trade in 1905 of $134,911,200, consisting of $80,292,800 imports and $54,618,400 exports, which average kept up well for the first eight months of 1906; that Great Britain and Germany have the bulk of the trade; that far too few American salesmen visit Norway; that American trade there could be largely increased; that Norway buys $3,000,000 worth of cotton goods a year from England; that American cottons, if pushed, could secure part of that large trade.

Consul Cunningham of Bergen, Norway, says: "A striking instance of personal canvass: Two years ago an American machinery and tools sales agent entered this new field, and sold $250,000 worth of goods. A firm in Christiania was appointed agent and some stock sent on consignment, and almost every shipyard, foundry and workshop was visited, nearly all of which bought something. Cash in advance was not exacted." Bergen buys $15,000,000 worth of barley, rye, dry goods, tallow, oil, wool and shoddy, provisions, machinery and parts, flour, sugar, wheat, yarn, thread, raw metals, worked metals, cotton, &c., each year.

Consular Agent Berg of Trondhjem, Norway, tells the same story, adding: "Importers say that as a rule the best and most satisfactory lines of dry goods are obtained from the United States. American cotton goods are recognized as the best and American boots and shoes are held in high favor."

At least fifty American salesmen should be turned loose in Norway. The present market is good and will be better, as "New Norway" is bound to go ahead.

Talked Them Into Prison.

From the Kansas City Star.

"About thirty years ago Henry Clay Dean, the eccentric Missouri lawyer and orator, was attending a term of court at which I was defending a man on a pretty serious charge," said Judge Risdon of Kirksville the other day. "Two horse thieves that were in jail sent for Dean. He took their case, and after looking at it from all sides concluded the best thing for them to do was to plead guilty and take two years each.

"His men balked on the idea of pleading guilty. He told them that the penitentiary wasn't a bad sort of place; he had been all through it and knew. 'The warden—a personal friend of mine—is one of the kindest men that ever lived,' said Dean; 'he never makes you work when you are tired, and when you are sick he always looks after you like a mother. You get roasted beef and brown bread every day, and pie and turkey on Sunday. Why, when Bill Jenkins—you boys know Bill—used to run a little sawmill over in the corner of Putnam county, they sent him up for—er—borrowing corn. When he went there he didn't weigh over a hundred and thirty pounds, regular skin and bones, and in six months he weighed 200 pounds avoirdupois and was made captain of the guard—just getting along fine; said he wouldn't swap his job for any other in Missouri, and wrote his folks to come down and live with him. The prison can't hurt anything but your reputation, and what does a fellow who's been stealing care about reputation anyway?'

"The two horse thieves by this time were dead anxious to plead guilty and begin life in the pen. More than that, all the other fellows in the jail who had heard Dean's talk insisted on pleading guilty and going along."

Where Anthracite Comes From.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Luzerne county produced nearly 40 per cent. of the total production of anthracite coal in the United States during the year 1906. Its output was 25,265,978 tons, as compared to 26,655,815 tons in 1905, and while there is a decrease of 388,337 tons it does not detract from Luzerne's position as the most fertile anthracite field in the country. The decrease can be accounted for principally by reason of the suspension last April and May, when the mines were idle for six weeks while negotiations were going on between the miners and operators, which ended in a continuation of the award of the strike commission. The other 60 per cent. was mined in the counties of Carbon, Columbia, Dauphin, Lackawanna, Northumberland and Schuylkill.

Missouri Editor Explains.

From the Ozark Republican.

Owing to the fact that we write our editorials on Tuesday evening, and were called home by the urgent illness of our rabbit dog, our editorial column this week is shorter than ordinary.

POWERFUL MR. PINCHOT.

Forest Reserves as Looked on by a Stock Raising Ranchman.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If the people of the United States want an object lesson as to what centralized government means, a study of conditions on the so-called forest reserves of the West will provide one. Why they are called forest reserves is beyond the comprehension of the average man, as a great part of the land embraced in their boundaries does not contain a single tree, the land being farming and grazing land. These reserves include many ranches, the owners of which are mainly engaged in stock raising on a small scale. These small stockmen are absolutely dependent upon being able to graze their stock outside of their ranches during the summer, the ranches being utilized in providing hay for winter feeding, the average holding being too small to provide year long support for enough stock to support a family. It must be remembered that the right of free grazing has existed from the beginning of the republic, and that the entire stock raising system of the West is based on it.

The forest reserves are under the management of Mr. Gifford Pinchot, a close friend of the President and an expert tennis player. Mr. Pinchot is said to have made a close study of forestry conditions in Germany and to be thoroughly familiar with the system in use in that country. In the forest reserves he has been pleased to permit each resident to graze six head of stock free of charge. But if the ranchman is lucky enough to possess seven head this is what he must do:

He must fill out a blank telling who he is, where he lives, how much land he owns and how much land he cultivates. He must give the age and a description of the animal he wishes to graze, must tell where said animal passed the last winter, and how much hay it ate. He must tell how long he has allowed any stock to pasture, and where, in the past. He must agree, under awful penalties, to obey any and all rules and regulations made by Mr. Pinchot; and also to be ready at all hours to fight fire. He then forwards this application to the forest supervisor of his district, who, if he wishes, may approve the application and forward it to Mr. Pinchot. If Mr. Pinchot approves he notifies the supervisor, who notifies the applicant, who thereupon forwards to Mr. Pinchot the sum of 20 cents. When Mr. Pinchot receives this sum he acknowledges the receipt of the same to the supervisor, who thereupon issues a permit to the applicant, who may then turn the aforesaid animal out to grass. As the entire proceeding usually takes about three months the aforesaid animal is generally dead of starvation by the time the permit arrives.

If the ranchman sells the animal a new permit must be obtained, transfer of permits not being allowed. Also, a permit to graze stock cannot be obtained unless the applicant actually owns the stock he wishes to graze, and as there is no certainty that permits will be issued, the result on the buying, selling and handling of live stock may be imagined.

If regulations like the above were put in effect say in Turkey, the result would be armed revolt; but here in the United States we simply take it out in cussing the Administration and waiting for the next election.

RANCHMAN.

FREMONT COUNTY, Wyo., May 2.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENGLISH.

Conditions Bad Not Only Here but Throughout the Country.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It would be idle to attempt to deny that many of the children, as well as some of the teachers, in our schools speak and write wretched English. I doubt, however, and doubt very strongly, whether this is altogether a local condition. I have heard the same complaint in others of our large cities, and even in Boston. Then, too, it is a quite generally acknowledged fact that many of the graduates of Harvard, Yale, Vassar and of other colleges are not noted for the use of entirely unimpeachable English. Whether these graduates were students of music (and possibly of basket making) while in college is beyond my knowledge, but of this I am certain, that in no case were they so occupied by the study of music that they had no time to study correct English also.

The ordinary proportion in colleges where music is included in the curriculum is at least five hours for English to one for music, and in this estimate I am taking no account of the study of the classical and modern languages, which should also have its influence on the acquirement of a proper English style. In this department a fair estimate would be fifteen hours for the study of languages to one for the study of music. The study of history, mental philosophy, logic, political economy and similar branches, which receive a degree of attention as compared to music nearly as large proportionately, might also be considered as having some bearing on the case.

It would seem from all this that a very large proportion of the time in high schools and colleges is devoted to branches of study that might be expected to develop able and ready writers of good and correct English, and that the study of music (and possibly of basket making, if we must couple these branches) is certainly not at all responsible for so much poor English. HENRY T. FLECK.

MUSICAL DEPARTMENT, Normal College, May 7.

Defence of the Teachers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In an article published May 2 you have cast a very unfair aspersion upon the characters and abilities of the male teachers of the public schools of the city.

Your statement is apparently used indiscriminately as an attack upon all teachers, and you have thereby been carried away by your usual good judgment.

Of the 12,000 female teachers how many "bona fide" communications have you received; and what number of these do you include in your accusation?

How many of the 1,500 or more male teachers need higher instruction in composition?

As a matter of fact, you are aware that such a broad statement reflects even upon those who are entirely underserving. JOSEPH WEIL.

PUBLIC SCHOOL 27, The Bronx, May 6.

Teachers' Children in Parochial Schools.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If a list were published of the school principals, trustees, commissioners, assistant superintendents and minor employees of the Board of Education who send their children to parochial schools this city would be astounded.

NEW YORK, May 7. J. C.

Disappearing German Custom.

From the London Tribune.

One of the most curious customs is the habit, which until quite recently was almost universal in German society, of trimming and ordering the mustachio and the hair in public.

In the café or the restaurant a gentleman would produce a neat leather case containing two miniature brushes. The backs of the brushes might be of the costliest materials, genuine tortoise shell, silver and even gold being comparatively common. These little brushes were used for rearranging the mustachio when it was disordered by eating or drinking. It was never a pretty custom, especially before ladies, but it became in time ridiculous, and is now disappearing.

A year or two ago it was usual enough to see an errand boy set down your hot rolls or your meat on the doorstep, and with the aid of a broken fragment of lookingglass and an old brush gravely set in order the incipient down of his upper lip. I believe that this custom was originally an appendix to the invention of the imperial mustachio. But the custom is almost overpast. Germany is going through a period of pessimism, and mustachios, thank goodness, begin to be worn downward.

Effect of Abolishing Corporal Punishment.

From the Shanghai Times.

The jail has been well administered but is fuller than it should be, due, I fear, to the abolition of the cangue and bamboo. The ordinary criminal has no great objection to repeated short visits to the jail but shrinks from a repetition of corporal punishment. Punishment with the bamboo is in vogue throughout China, and here only has it by special edict been abolished. We deprecate the Chinese authorities making this settlement a field for experiment, and will press for the reintroduction of this salutary method of punishment.

Family Religion.

From the Boston Herald.

Ex-Gov. John D. Long, in speaking of religious beliefs, said: "The census taker called last year at the residence in Worcester of the late Congressman Rockwell Hoar. Mr. Hoar's daughter Marjorie, aged 11 years, answered the bell. When the question regarding religious belief was asked Miss Marjorie said: 'Papa, he is a Unitarian; mamma is an Episcopalian; Alice, my sister, is only 3 and is too young to decide, and I, well, I am wavering.'"

How Little the World Knows Its Greatest Men.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Who the hell is Colonel Sid Tapp? EDWARD BRODERICK.

NEW YORK, May 7.