The Sun.

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WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT JAPAN?

From the Washington Herald.

We confess to some degree of anxious curiosity regarding the exact relations between the United States and Japan.

The occurrences of the last few months, taken in their logical sequence, present a condition of affairs that naturally excites speculation. First of all, the anti-Japanese outbreak in San Francisco created a crisis which for some time assumed menacing proportions. The antagonistic feeling has not died away on the United States side of the Pacific slope, while in Canada it has been fanned into a flame by deliberate efforts to arouse a race prejudice. Following the trouble in San Francisco came the order for a fleet of battleships—almost our entire naval force, in fact—to proceed *en masse* to the Pacific Coast. The order, it will be recalled, was involved in much mystery and denial, but the journey of the armed squadron is now assured.

In addition to this there are strange stories, brought to Washington by accurate observers, of great activity on the part of the War and Navy Department officials stationed in Manila and in the meagre defences along the Pacific shore. Ordnance is being hurried to the Philippine Islands, while in California, Washington and Oregon the officers and men of the army are working overtime in an effort to put our forts and batteries into effective condition. Among army officers there is no concealment of the fact that this activity is not a haphazard spurt. It is the result of direct orders, and in military circles such orders presage only one outcome.

In the meantime Secretary Taft finds it necessary to visit Japan and utter words of kind assurance. Is his visit only a coincidence, or has it a deeper significance not apparent unless all the other facts are taken into consideration? What is the truth about the situation? What secret information is in the possession of the Government, or what dire suspicions are entertained by those in authority?

With these questions unanswered there is every reason why vague misgivings should exist in the public mind.

The Cape Cod Target Practice.

What is the truth about the target practice of the Atlantic fleet in Cape Cod waters? In normal times it would be no great matter, but when "there ariseth out of the sea a little cloud, like a man's hand," it would be comforting to know that the scores of the gun crews confirmed the boast that the American sailor has no peer in shooting straight and fast. And it would be disquieting to hear that through no fault of his he was not sustaining his reputation. That his eyesight is good, his hand steady and his intelligence great we do not need to be assured.

From Washington comes an unofficial averment that the target practice off Cape Cod was highly satisfactory. For departmental reasons details are withheld. From other sources, also not official but none the less emphatic, the story is heard that the target practice was not up to the standard claimed for American gunners. It is even said that while some of the battleships made good scores most of them did not, and that the gun crews of one ship previously noted for their excellence repeatedly missed the target. The trouble in this last case, as in the cases of better but still unsatisfactory scoring, is attributed to a defective system of fire control; that is to say, to the want of dependable communication between the observing officers and the sight setters. The unwelcome story is persistent, and the explanation given is plausible.

Is it a fact or not a fact that the best system of fire control has not been installed on all the battleships? Is it true that the work of installing the best system has been so badly done on some of the ships that thorough fire control is not practicable? There may not be time before the fleet's departure, assuming that some postponement has become necessary, to furnish every ship with torpedo tubes and to make all the improvements recommended by the turret board to prevent flarebacks and explosions; but if there are battleships unprovided with workable systems of fire control, surely there should be no thought of sending them away on the "practice cruise" until that imperative detail is attended to. The man behind the gun ought not to be at the mercy of official neglect or bungling workmanship.

Queen Victoria's Letters.

No doubt "Queen Victoria's Letters," published in London yesterday, will have a success of curiosity, but the book will be notable chiefly for what it does not contain. For a long time to come reasons of state will prevent the disclosure of the part which at certain epochs the Queen played in political affairs. The letters, for example, which reveal how she stopped England's intervention in our civil war and averted in 1875 a second German invasion of France will be reserved for the future historian.

So long as Prince ALBERT lived Queen VICTORIA was reluctant to act upon the theory that in Great Britain sovereigns reign but do not govern. Especially with regard to the field of foreign affairs she long declined to efface herself. Prince ALBERT brought from Germany clearly defined ideas of the part which England's ruler ought to play in international politics, and in pursuance of his suggestion the Queen insisted that every despatch of importance should, before it left the Foreign Office, be submitted for her approval. This obviously was a reversion to the attitude maintained during the early part of his reign by GEORGE III., who was inclined to think that he was the State.

While the ruler of England was Elector of Hanover there was some justification for the assertion of personal interest in the Continental situation, but fortunately for Great Britain the dynastic relation with the German kingdom was terminated by the Salic law when a woman ascended the British throne. The family traditions, however, of the house of Brunswick survived the pretext for them, and Queen VICTORIA'S adhesion to them, though she got on well enough with deferential Ministers like Lord MELBOURNE and Lord DERBY, brought her into sharp collision with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs when the latter happened to be a man of sturdy and independent character. It will be recalled, for instance, that without consulting the Queen Lord PALMERSTON instructed the British Ambassador at Paris to recognize the Government of LOUIS NAPOLEON soon after the *coup d'état* of December 2, 1851, for which act he was ejected summarily from the Russell Ministry. To her discomfiture, however, PALMERSTON made himself indispensable to the Whigs and Liberals in the House of Commons, and when, during the Crimean war, the Aberdeen Cabinet was upset, he returned and let it be understood distinctly at Windsor that the Queen, or rather her consort, of whom she was believed to be the mouthpiece, must leave the management of England's foreign affairs to the Minister responsible for the national welfare to Parliament and the electorate. That was a crisis in the life of the "Husband of a Queen," and thenceforward for the most part Prince ALBERT withdrew into the background.

It was hard, however, for Queen VICTORIA to outgrow the tendency contracted partly from her grandfather's example and partly from her consort's injunctions, and on more than one subsequent occasion the effect of her personal interposition can be traced. Nor can it be denied that twice her influence was exerted in a laudable way. It was, as we all know, in compliance with her peremptory order that at the time of the Trent affair Earl RUSSELL toned down the despatch in which he exacted of Secretary SEWARD the immediate release of the Confederate Commissioners, MASON and SLIDELL. Had that despatch reached our State Department in the form which it originally bore a just sense of our national dignity would have constrained the Secretary to resent it, and the result would have been a war which would have had incalculable consequences. Certain it is that had England at that juncture thrown her fleet and her financial resources into the scale on behalf of the Confederacy the Union could not have been restored, nor could slavery have been abolished. It is therefore undeniable that Queen VICTORIA played a decisive, though for a while unrecognized, part in American history.

Both before and after the Crimean war Queen VICTORIA showed her liking for France, and the hour was to come when she would prove her sympathy for the French people by an unforgetable service. In 1875 the military party in Prussia, of which VON MOLTKE was the head, dismayed by the buoyancy with which France recovered from the disasters of 1870-71, and convinced that by the Peace of Frankfort they had only scotched the snake, not killed it, seemed on the point of displacing BISMARCK in the confidence of his master and of persuading the old Emperor WILLIAM to countenance a second invasion of France. Had such a crime been perpetrated when the reorganization of the French military system was but begun the victim would have been fatally dismembered and despoiled. That France still retains an honored place in the circle of great Powers is due largely, if not mainly, to the fact that while Emperor WILLIAM was wavering he received from Queen VICTORIA—whose daughter, it will be remembered, was married to his son, the Crown Prince FREDERICK—a letter in which she adjured him not to consign his name to infamy as the dealer of a death blow to a country which had done so much for civilization.

That memorable letter exists, but it does not figure in the collection published yesterday in London.

The Education of a Prince.

Those who believe in the divine right of kings and in the possession of extraordinary gifts by the Lord's Annointed must find something paradoxical in the strenuous education often inflicted on heirs apparent. If they can do no wrong when once they are seated on the throne, why vex their youth with tedious learning? What can it add to their fitness? Yet from the days of ACHILLES and the Centaur royal scions have not seldom been subjected to a more rigorous training than is meted out to common clay. ASCHAM made the future Queen ELIZABETH "attain to a perfect understanding of the Greek and Latin tongues in a year or two," less than a quarter of the time required by ordinary scholars. FÉNELON is said to have "broken the springs of the character" of his pupil, the Duke of BURGUNDY, by the harshness of his curriculum. To come to our own day, has not WILLIAM II. of Germany publicly complained of the educational burden laid on his youth? In his graduating class, as he has narrated, he had to work twelve hours a day, to which horror he appends the comment:

"If I had not had the opportunity of riding to and from school I should never have known what the world looks like."

Though his class sat in "a specially good room, ventilated according to my mother's ideas, and with only a side light, eighteen pupils out of twenty-one wore spectacles and two could not see the blackboard." By an intervention which was to be expected, WILLIAM II. escaped some harness. Indeed, this was necessary for the safety of the German Empire, for the Kaiser is of opinion that "nearsighted persons are of no particular use."

And now we find the German Crown Prince, already weighted with the cares of marriage and paternity, doomed to a course apparently still more formidable. A telegram from Berlin announces that "as part of his preparation for assuming the crown, when his time comes, he is about to serve successively in each department of all the important Ministries until he becomes familiar with the whole system of administration." How much time the Crown Prince will take to do this feat is not quite clear, but it is mentioned that "an order has been issued relieving him of his military duties for one year." He will of course have quite exceptional opportunities. He is to study the working of each department "according to a programme approved by the Emperor himself and under the personal supervision of the Ministers." Moreover, he is to be present "at the conferences between the Ministers and the heads of bureaus, and to prepare reports on selected subjects for submission to the Cabinet."

None the less it were hard labor, not to say impossible, for any one less than a Crown Prince to acquire this detailed knowledge in a twelvemonth or so, and we are brought back to the question why the royal youth should be subjected to the effort if all the wisdom that is needful will be vouchsafed to him in any case as soon as he begins to rule.

It may be said that the theory of the efficacy of royal inunction has become modified in our days. We do not know what WILLIAM II. would say to this suggestion. But anyhow, a dilemma seems to face us. If the heir apparent does need this preparation, what can be the use of it? If his royal attributes are not sufficient to enable him to steer the ship of state by pure intuition, how shall he fit himself for the job by picking up hastily a mere smattering of, for instance, administrative knowledge?

On the whole, it would appear that even in this respect we Americans have something to teach to effete Europe. We are the happy possessors of a potentate who without having undergone any very rigorous system of education is nevertheless competent to lay down the law on all matters conceivable and on sundry others. No feeble compromise about the divine attributes of rulers is tolerated here. Let absolute empires sit at the feet of our mere republic if they would rise to a just conception of the innate ability of the enthroned.

The Philippine Assembly.

With what honest pride the bosom of patriotic Americans must fill when they read of the actual organization of the first Philippine Assembly! In less than ten years, under our kindly tutoring, the people of the islands have qualified for the ballot, for self-government within broad limits, for the management, in large measure, of their affairs. What a record! What evidence of our interest, our devotion to an ideal, our determination to uplift the brown brother!

And how practical we have been, too. We have not pampered the Filipinos by opening our markets to them. We have not given undue encouragement to their farmers. We have not let their tobacco and their sugar find a market here. We have not weakened the brown brother by making the tariff reductions he needs. One regrettable incident only mars the record: so far we have not closed the interisland traffic to all except American vessels.

This should be remedied promptly. The coastwise laws should be extended at once to the islands. If the Filipinos complain, then they will prove themselves most unreasonable and ungrateful. Have they not an Assembly elected by themselves, possessing a complete assortment of officers, and empowered to act in all matters except those from which we think it wise to exclude it?

A Despatch From Manila.

We borrow from our esteemed neighbor the *Tribune* this passage in a Manila despatch:

"Much discussion has been caused here by the fact that no liquors will be served at the entertainments in Mr. TAFT's honor at the palace. This step is said to have been taken at the direction of the Secretary."

In consenting, out of the loyalty of his nature, to become the vessel and vehicle of inspiration and to bear—for how short a time!—the title of porphyrogenitus Mr. TAFT consented to put up with a good deal. Nothing, however, shall induce us to believe that he is meek enough to be forced down into the Fairbanks class.

Managing the Police.

Each effort of the Police Commissioner to get at the facts about the men under his command reveals anew the difficulties that must be overcome before the force can be brought to the state of efficiency the public is entitled to expect. The conspiracy that rendered futile Mr. MCADOO'S attempt to find the men guilty of performing a mock marriage between two foreigners united a whole platoon of patrolmen in perjury. Recently a spy stationed at the Staten Island ferry landing to warn the police on the island of the approach of the Commissioner was caught. The experiences of Commissioner BINGHAM'S aids at the police telephones while he was making an inspection tour this week are not surprising. They merely confirm the general opinion that the policemen are always banded together to foil their superiors.

This brotherhood of self-defence is maintained for the benefit of the shirkers and dishonest men in the department. There may be some policemen who are not affiliated with it and who would not give help to a plan to detect violators of the rules and regulations. Yet the most faithful policeman realizes that the Commissioners are temporary officers and that he must live and work with the men in his rank, probably for life. Under the perverted code of honor that exists he is a traitor if he does not conspire and act against the enemies of the loafers and blackmailers in the department. The Commissioner is the natural foe of the blacklegs among his men, and too often he is their victim.

What can the Commissioner do? General BINGHAM uses the means at his hand and tries to accomplish results. If his latest excursion about town ends in severe punishment for tipsters and shirkers he may put fear into the hearts of others. Through fear only can he hope to rule a body of men that has long been unresponsive to the appeal of any other emotion.

Hereafter no man can say that Governor HUGHES is not kindly, thoughtful, humane. His tender consideration for the [illegible] of the Old Guard must force the brine from the eyes of even the hardiest of those veterans. A merciful commander-in-chief is merciful to his Old Guardsmen.

"There is plenty of money in the country, [illegible] will not let it circulate."—[illegible]

The burnt child dreads the fire.

With a thin coating of ice on the water [illegible] in Bear Lake at [illegible] yesterday morning.—*Despatch from* [illegible].

What! ice in the canebrake in mid October! A story for the Mounted Marines!

In the return required of candidates for office in Massachusetts Lieutenant-Governor EBEN S. DRAPER deposes that his renomination cost him nothing. Mr. DRAPER'S campaign bill when HENRY M. WHITNEY ran him such a close race for the high and honorable office of Lieutenant-Governor came to more than $30,000. In the present state of the Democratic party and the political fortunes of Mr. WHITNEY there seems to be no reason why Mr. DRAPER'S campaign for reelection should cost a cent more than his renomination.

BLACKFISH OIL.

A New Bedford Product That Keeps the World's Clocks Going.

New Bedford correspondence Boston Herald.

Few of those who read recently of the stranding of a school of blackfish on the Falmouth shore in Buzzards Bay and of their subsequent purchase by William F. Nye of this city had any idea of what sort of creatures blackfish were or what there is about them that makes them valuable.

Blackfish oil is the finest in the world for delicate mechanisms, such as watches, clocks and chronometers, and the monopoly in petroleum enjoyed by the Standard Oil isn't in it for a moment with that enjoyed by William F. Nye in the manufacture of watch oils. The watch of the conductor who has charge of the train across the continent, the watch of the bearded official who controls the destinies of the trains across the Siberian deserts are oiled with oil made in New Bedford; while the same oil is used in lubricating the mechanism of the clock in the Strasburg Cathedral, the necessary supply being furnished gratis by Mr. Nye in commemoration of a visit to that city some years ago.

Mr. Nye makes blackfish oil, but the credit for the discovery of its superlative merits belongs to a Fairhaven man, Ezra Kelley. A Provincetown sailor saved some blackfish oil free from the oils of other species of fish. Ezra Kelley, a repairer of watches and ships' chronometers, tried it and found it the best he had ever used. He began using it in chronometers brought to him for adjustment. The whale ships carried these chronometers to foreign ports and there took them ashore for adjustment. The repairer noticed the excellent quality of the oil and made inquiries. Mr. Kelley sent samples abroad and soon built up a considerable business. It remained, however, for Mr. Nye to push the trade into practically all the countries of the world.

There is hardly a railroad in the world but what has an account with Mr. Nye. Every one has noticed the bells at unprotected grade crossings which signal the approach of a train. These bells are operated by a delicate mechanism, which of necessity is exposed to extremes of heat and cold. The best of oil is required to keep them in good condition, and that oil is manufactured in New Bedford. At the time of the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia Mr. Nye offered a prize of $1,000 to any one who would produce an oil other than fish oil that would be the equal of fish oil. The offer is still standing.

THE PRESIDENT'S COCKTAIL.

A Recipe for Those Who Entertain the Nation's Great.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now that the fumes of the deadly cocktail have drifted away into the troubled past and the peaceful dove of total abstinence perches with unruffled plumage over the political fireside of Mr. Fairbanks, a question of heart searching import remains unanswered. Patient investigation, having gathered up the disjointed, scattered and battle stained fragments of history found on the gory field of fray, finds one deeply significant fact ignored or at least unexplained.

Some cringing dodger of consequences has followed the pitiable example of the father of mankind and tried to blame it on a woman, but this one unexplained fact proves that no woman was guilty of a stealthy endeavor to acquaint the Vice-Presidential interior with the delusive joys of artificially stimulated appetite. It appears that the cocktails were placed upon the table before dinner was announced and that the guests on going to the table found the drinks waiting beside the plates. Yet they dare to say a woman did it!

Breathes there a woman with soul so dead that she would fail to inquire how a course which was a novelty to her ought to be served? Perish the base insinuation and the churl insinuator! A woman would find out that a cocktail should be served and drunk immediately after mixture, lest its deftly combined parts should cease to fuse before the hour of achievement is reached.

To permit a cocktail to tarry till its succulent juices, juggled into one harmonious whole, separate and sink into a sodden mass of jarring discords, is an offence no real lady could commit. The cocktail stands divided. It falls united into its natural receptacle. One quarter French, one quarter Italian vermouth, one half driest of dry gin, the juice of half an orange and the dash of bitters, the ice, the shaker, the shake, the strainer, the glass, the hand, the lips, the throat—these should follow in strict and swift and rhythmic time. That—and that only—is the true President's cocktail.

NEW YORK, October 16. H.

Milk and Bread.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* An inspector of the Board of Health will chase a milk wagon all over town that is peddling milk with but 7 to 8 per cent. of solids and will dump the milk in the gutter. Cows are known to give milk with an average solids content of 12, and that's the standard adopted.

The average loaf of bread to-day, made by the baker from blended flour, contains 7 to 9 per cent. of value in a food sense based on an albuminoid content, gluten, the lean of the meat of wheat.

Sixty million bushels of durum wheat were grown in this country this year and harvested, containing 15 to 22 per cent. of gluten, and you can't buy a loaf of straight durum bread in New York city or any other city to-day. Why should the Board of Health make milk of one and bread of the other? Every reader of THE SUN is interested in this query. CHARLES CRISTADORO.

POINT LOMA, Cal., October 9.

Free Land in Arkansas.

From the Little Rock Gazette.

There is still a great deal of Government land in Arkansas subject to homestead. Much of it, of course, is what is known as waste land, being either mountain or swamp, but there are still large areas that are desirable as farms. During the last year there were 362,657 acres of Goverment land patented to actual settlers in Arkansas, leaving a total of 1,497,142 acres that will in time be taken up. This is an encouraging indication for the success of the back to the farm movement, for the larger number of these doubtless represent bona fide settlers, although there are some land grabbers among them.

Flags at the Exposition.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* During my stay of a week at the Jamestown exposition I have many times met Southern women who were wearing miniature Confederate flags.

I have no objection to make; but would it be inappropriate for Northern women at the exposition to show their colors in the same way?

To see the old flag thus honored would gladden the heart of at least one UNION VETERAN.

NORFOLK, Va., October 14.

As to Illumination.

Sunday School Teacher—No, Johnny, there will be no sun or moon in heaven.

Johnny—Nothing but limelight!

FEDERAL REGULATION OF CORPORATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The basis of the perpetual contention by President Roosevelt that the Federal Government must take over from the States work heretofore in their hands is that the people of the States have shown themselves incompetent therefor. If that is so another presumption is that the States and their people, which people are in the aggregate the people of the States united, have [illegible] because of the habit in recent years of looking to Washington for so many things, as Senator Foraker has said.

It is not easy to understand how it is that if the people are incompetent to make good State Governments the same people and voters are competent to make a good Government at Washington.

The chief interest, however, for the moment is in the answer to the inquiry: Who at Washington—which head of which bureau—is to regulate each and all the industrial corporations of the country doing an interstate business, and regulate them as the charters, organization, shares, share owners, choice and conduct of directors, note circulation, deposits, payment of checks, loans, surplus, examinations, liabilities, limitations and official reports of national banking associations are now regulated, even if the country will endure such inquisition?

It may and probably will be answered by the President that the managers of State corporations resist his scheme of nationalization because they prefer conditions under which they can plunder the owners and despoil "the people."

The latest accessible census of banks and banking reveals 6,137 national banks in the country and 8,862 State banks. There are in Manhattan and The Bronx forty-seven State banks and only forty national banks, besides thirty State banks for savings and forty-two State trust companies, without regard to Brooklyn and Queens. The capital of the State banks in the United States is more than four times that of the national banks, saying nothing of 742 State loan and trust companies, 1,319 State banks for savings and nearly 1,000 private banks.

Do the managers of those State banking institutions rob the owners and swindle "the people"?

The main questions recur:

If there are in our country so many banking institutions as set forth, how many industrial and transportation corporations are there? How can the divergent ideas of their management which prevail in the differing territorial areas of the United States, north, south, east and west, be harmonized under one head in Washington? Which Department, which bureau and which head of either will be found with intelligence, wisdom, strength, impartiality and tact sufficient for such an undertaking as applying to each and all the industrial corporations of the country the comprehensive and microscopic code of rules now applicable to national banks?

Will the Republican party declare itself in favor of such a colossal scheme?

HARVARD.

PROVINCETOWN, Mass., October 15.

American Securities in England.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The writer recently made an offering of securities to an English correspondent. The securities were first class in every respect and ordinarily, it is believed, would have received prompt and favorable consideration. As indicative of the present state of feeling in England as to American securities I quote the following from the frosty reply I have just received from my correspondent:

"In view of the present condition of financial things on your side it is worse than useless to offer such investments here. While from long residence in the States I believe that things will right themselves in time, still people here very naturally don't care for securities which their very creators are doing their best to belittle and besmirch. A fish dealer, for instance, would do little business if he was constantly calling attention to the fact that his fish were rotten, and that is what it amounts to. The American securities which are known and quoted here are still bought, I believe, somewhat from force of habit, but anything new from your side will not be even looked at for many a long day to come."

I beg to submit the above to the thoughtful consideration of your large circle of intelligent readers. HENRY A. CROSBY.

NEW YORK, October 16.

English Debt Penalties.

From Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

Consul F. W. Mahin writes from Nottingham that imprisonment for debt was nominally abolished in England many years ago, but the actual number of cases of imprisonment has since annually increased, faster than the population. He continues: "Much more judicial option is possible than formerly was the case, and is exercised under the existing law. A debtor against whom judgment is rendered may be summarily required to pay before a given date on penalty of imprisonment. This power of committal resides in the Judge of the court. Some Judges exercise it much more freely than others. In Nottingham county imprisonment for debt is rare. In other populous court districts with much court business the cases of imprisonment do not exceed fifty a year, while in some less populous districts with less court business the number reaches 500 a year. But it would seem that on the whole the indulgence shown to delinquent debtors is steadily decreasing, for the cases of imprisonment in the country have decennially increased as follows under the existing law: In 1876, 4,228; 1886, 5,486; 1896, 8,190; 1906, 11,986.

"Technically the imprisonment is for contempt of court. The Judge orders the debtor to pay before a given day, failing which he may be jailed for contempt, not exceeding forty days, however, in any case, and he is released at once if he pays in the meantime."

New Mountain Railways.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Up the Swiss mountains runs a sensational aerial cableway from which a car body is suspended by means of running gear. The cable is stationary, the tractive effort being exerted by motors on the moving vehicles. This latest form of railway mountaineering does not disfigure the scenery, it requires no cuttings or tunnels, and there is no smoke. The railway up the Matterhorn, for which the money already has been subscribed and a concession granted, will be constructed on the same principle.

The line will be divided into two sections. The second section will consist of a double aerial railway passing through a nearly vertical tunnel, inclining only a few degrees out of the upright, to the summit station on the north of the Matterhorn at a height of 14,582 feet, only sixty-five feet below the top of the mountain. The total length of the railway would be 7,700 feet, and the work would be completed in four years. The trips would take 1 hour and 30 minutes.

The highest mountain railway is in Peru. The culminating point at the Central Peruvian Railway occurs in a tunnel 15,774 feet above the sea level, or forty-four feet higher than the summit of Mont Blanc. The highest rack and pinion line in the world is that up Pike's Peak, Col., which reaches a point 14,000 feet above sea level.

Lobsters for the Pacific Coast.

From the Portland Oregonian.

A few months ago the Canadian Fisheries Department planted a few lobsters at different points in the waters of British Columbia. Professor Prince, who is at the head of the Canadian Fisheries Commission, is now on the coast making an examination of the beds where lobsters were planted to see what increase they had made, and he will investigate a number of different places with a view to large planting of lobsters if it is found that those already planted have done well. It is said that Professor Prince will look into the temperature of the water, the character of the bottom and other particulars, before any decision is reached regarding planting more lobsters.

Limit of Progress.

Knicker—Do you think physicians will ever be eliminated?

Bocker—No; there will always be sick friends as long as there is poker.

BILE FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

A Democratic View of the [illegible] Judge [illegible].

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* You have seen fit in to-day's SUN to speak of the Hon. Augustus Peabody Gardner. Have you estimated him at his true value? Let us reason together. The Hon. William Henry Moody represented the Essex district in Congress and was ready to stay there, but he was made Secretary of the Navy; and the Hon. Augustus Peabody Gardner, as you say, "gave up to politics what was meant for sport." Afterward, when Mr. Moody was Attorney-General, the papers reported that he was getting a little weary of the Attorney-Generalship and might like to run for Congress again. Massachusetts already had an Associate Justice. What so natural as that Mr. Moody of Massachusetts should be put upon the Supreme Bench and that the Hon. Augustus Peabody Gardner should remain unmolested?

The Hon. George von L. Meyer got tired of cooling his heels, metaphorically, in foreign parts and the papers stated that he was coming home to run for Congress in the Essex district. What so natural as that Mr. Meyer should be taken into the Cabinet and that the Hon. Augustus Peabody Gardner should remain unmolested?

I am not writing as the friend or enemy of Mr. Gardner. The only time I ever saw him that I remember was once when he came into our most "exclusive" haberdasher's to buy some part of a polo outfit. I am astonished when flippant persons speak of him as "Gussie" or "Gus," and I maintain that the simplest way for any man in the Essex district to get appointed to a high office is to manifest a desire for the Congress seat of the Hon. Augustus Peabody Gardner.

BOSTON, October 15. DEMOCRAT.

THE CHELSEA LIBRARY.

A Patron Defends Its Management and Arrangements.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Carnegie Library in West Twenty-third street, the management of which was criticised recently by one of your correspondents, is at present being used as a temporary headquarters for the thirty-eight other branches of the library pending the completion of the building in Bryant Park. Your correspondent would have the public infer that some city officials (other than library officials) "had seized and occupied" a portion of the second floor. This part of the building contains the offices of Dr. Arthur G. Bostwick, chief of the circulation department of all New York libraries, also his assistants. From here are issued all orders, &c., which control the different branches. No one would expect the officials to establish headquarters on the sidewalk. The rear portion of the floor is being used as a children's circulation department and reading room, which is described as "an old hat box."

On the third floor is a cataloguing department, where books are catalogued for the other thirty-eight branches, the offices of the school work supervisor and children's room. In the rear of this floor is the training class, where young ladies are taught the fine points of library work.

On the main floor the library people willingly admit that the room now used as a reading room is too limited in space, but is merely a reference room. It never was intended for the present purpose. The public reading room probably will be on the top floor (now occupied by cataloguers) when the new main building is completed. As to the low book shelves of which complaints are made, it is one of those defects due to want of space and which can be remedied in the near future. The "book order affair of some kind" in the basement is one of the most important departments in the library. Here all books are received, slipped and checked before being catalogued, and from here also all the new books and rebound books are distributed to the various branches from Staten Island to The Bronx.

In a short time the Twenty-third street branch will be vacated by the various departments complained of and the entire building used for the public.

On looking over the books in the reading room I find that your correspondent was in error regarding the encyclopædias upon the shelves. I found the "Americana," "New International," "Britannica," "Universal" and about 400 up to date reference books on various subjects. VERITAS.

NEW YORK, October 16.

THE "HEATHEN" RISE.

Grand Diluvial Programme of the New Far East Company.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I enclose a copy of a circular recently received by a friend of mine which may possibly interest you.

BOSTON, October 16. EDWARD V. HENDERSON.

The New Far East Companies are distinctly anti-missionary and anti-invasion. Our hope, with which our actions will always and everywhere conform, is to see the finish of the invasion policy of the Western Powers under which 400 million "natives" and "heathen" have been ruthlessly slain and despoiled during the last four centuries. We believe that all tribes and nations should be left in possession of the countries the Infinite God has given them, and following the glorious example of Japan should be left free to work out in their own way the problems of their national progress, happiness and honor.

Leon Lewis, President, Honolulu, Hawaii; L. Jezireh, First Vice-President, Calcutta, India; E. Aguinaldo, Second Vice-President, Manila, Philippines; K. Mitsukuri, Third Vice-President, Tokio, Japan; Li Chang Ahfong, Fourth Vice-President, Shanghai, China.

Hundreds of these companies are being organized throughout Asia and the Far East with an aggregate capital of hundreds of millions. Cable address, Deluge, Kamakura, Japan. Stock all taken! Not a share for sale. The New Far East Company of Kamakura, Japan. Incorporated under the laws of the Empire of Japan to acquire the most desirable portions of the earth's surface that will remain above water when the Great Glacial Deluge—now impending—shall have come again and to establish therein centres of refuge and zones of safety. Capital, yen 972,000,000 (100,000,000 pounds sterling; $486,000,000).

Leon Lewis, President, Kamakura, Japan. Families and colonies located. Particulars on application.

The Marrying Age in London.

From the London Daily Mail.

The seventeenth volume of "London Statistics," issued yesterday by the London County Council, is a compilation of absorbing interest. Perhaps the tables which set forth the ages at which Londoners marry are of supremest interest. The great marrying age for both sexes is from 21 to 25. Boy and girl marriages were comparatively few. Two girls of 15 married during the year, one a man of 25 and the other a man of 30. The youngest age at which boys married was 16. There were two of these, one marrying a girl of his age and the other a girl five years his senior.

Four bachelors did not marry until turned 70, and seventeen spinsters until turned 60. In all, 1,477 bachelors married widows, 2,099 widowers married spinsters, and 1,151 widowers and widows were united.

The total number of marriages for the year was 39,858 (fifty more than in 1904), or 16.9 per 1,000 of the population, as against an average of 18.7 for the period 1851-1905, and a rate of more than 22 for 1851.

A Ballad of Balloon Week.

From the Denver Republican.

The chauffeur's seen his little day,
He's been shoved to the rear;
He honks in vain upon his way—
Men neither see nor hear;
Their necks are stretched, their eyes aloft,
A-watching cloudland's boats,
While from above this song comes soft
In downward fluttering notes:

Balloonacy,
Balloonacy,
It is the latest fad;
Balloonacy,
Balloonacy,
The world is airship mad!

The pensive farmer, as one hurt,
Now thrusts his horny hand
Adown the neckband of his shirt
In search of much coarse sand;
A bag of it has dropped kerplunk
Upon his shining head,
And while he curses, chunk by chunk,
He hears this song o'erhead:

Balloonacy,
Balloonacy,
It is the latest fad;
Balloonacy,
Balloonacy,
The world is airship mad!

On yonder tree, in distant field,
A gas bag's seen to shoot;
The tree was never known to yield,
But now it bears strange fruit;
For there has landed in its crown
And hangs there by his belt,
A cloud pusher who can't get down,
And chants this lay heartfelt:

Balloonacy,
Balloonacy,
It is the latest fad;
Balloonacy,
Balloonacy,
The world is airship mad!

ALIENS IN NORWICH.

A Tribute to Their Worth by a Descendant of the Founders.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The pleasant editorial comments in THE SUN of October 13 on "A Somerset Exiles'" [illegible] of Norwich are especially interesting to a native and a descendant in [illegible] from the founders of Norwich in 1659. Themselves were immigrants, and [illegible] acquired the original nine miles square by treaty and purchase from the Mohegans, with whom they never quarrelled, they and their descendants, counting as foreign nothing that is human, have opened their doors to all sorts and conditions of men, and have passed no exclusion acts against the Chinese, Japanese or any other people.

All that you and the returned exiles Henry Ward Beecher and Edmund Clarence Stedman have said about Norwich is perfectly true, but the town becomes better every year. The elms that stand near Mrs. Sigourney's birthplace, like confidence, are plants of slow growth, but they are larger than they were when Mr. Beecher saw them fifty years ago.

Norwich always has a welcome for her returning sons and daughters who have gone into exile. One of them has for fifty years made an annual pilgrimage hither.

If "the alien forces of occupation" that are here "are not to be thought of further," neither are they to be regarded with alarm. The newcomers improve on acquaintance and soon learn the American language and understand our laws and customs. When they make Norwich rhyme with porridge they have learned the shibboleth and are on the road to citizenship.

Here is an Armenian driven from his native land by persecution; he is a skilful cabinetmaker, works hard, saves money, has bought one of the old houses, and is giving his children a first rate education.

Here is a German, a successful florist, who, beginning business in a small way thirty-five years ago, has now not less than twelve greenhouses and a large family of children and grandchildren, all doing well.

Here is a physician of good standing, in large practice, whose father, an Irish laborer, determined to give his children better educational advantages than he himself had enjoyed.

Here are lawyers of foreign descent, who have risen to distinction from similar humble origin.

Here is a Swedish woman, trained as a nurse in the Backus Hospital, who is an honor to her profession.

Here are two hundred Italian laborers relaying trolley tracks, Sunday though it is, so that descendants of the men who made the blue laws may ride to church.

Here are people of all European nationalities engaged in manufactories which but for their labor could not exist.

Here are Jews, very many of them pursuing what seems to be their natural vocation as merchants, and others gaining a living on their small farms.

Several years ago a number of men, most of them of Irish descent, obtained permission, under the name of the Noah Webster Literary Association, to occupy a brick schoolhouse built in 1783 on the uptown green. So far from abusing the privilege they have kept the place in perfect order and have found it a source of much pleasure and profit. All these are typical instances that might be multiplied indefinitely. A Norwich lady of the old stock said to a bright Irish girl: "You know that all these houses were once owned and occupied by native Americans?" "Yes," was the reply, "and soon will be again!"

The old timers must accept the situation, and if the places that now know them shall know them and their descendants no more forever they may confidently believe that the newcomers, respecting all that is best in the principles and traditions that have come to them from the past, will build up a new Norwich that shall surpass anything that was dreamed of in the philosophy of the founders. WILLIAM C. GILMAN.

NORWICH, Conn., October 14.

A CITY EMPLOYEE'S STORY.

Advice to Young Men: Don't Work for Father Knickerbocker.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As a city employee in one of the departments requiring expert knowledge as a food inspector, and having thirty years practical experience in the business, handling the commodity which my duties require me to inspect, I think I can claim to be competent, faithful and honest in the discharge of my duties. I was appointed from the civil service list seven years ago at a salary of $1,200 a year. Then that meant $1,200. To-day, with the increased cost of living, I consider I receive only $650, as the purchasing power of the dollar has diminished so that 50 cents went as far the first years of my holding this position as a dollar does to-day.

My duties take me all over the borough in which I am, and my carfare is about 30 cents a day. This I have to pay out of my own pocket.

I have been promised an increase of $300 a year for three years past, but it never materialized. I have twice declined a position that pays $2,000, with a chance of promotion. I am very sorry I did not accept this position in private life. To all young men let me say: Never accept an office in the city government where your individuality is wiped out.

A fair salary will make a weak man strong and a strong man still more strong in refusing graft. ANOTHER TAXPAYER.

BROOKLYN, October 16.

FATAL RATTLESNAKE BITES.

Many Instances of Death From the Poison in the Southwest.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I lived in a real rattlesnake country a score of years, and that is where no intelligent person underestimates the deadliness of the *crotalus* venom. I knew of many fatal cases of snake bite in those years, ranging from the death in fifteen minutes of a man who was bitten in a vein while working in a hay field to that of a man who lived two days after he had been bitten by a baby rattler less than a foot long, with only a button. This man laughed at the infantile bite and took no precautions against it until too late. When his death throes began, on the second day, he cursed and raved because so insignificant a reptile could end his life.

A boy was stung twice by a rattlesnake (for he fought it) in a cañon near San Diego and died on the spot.

A pitiful case was that of a young lady artist who lived in Los Angeles. In the summer of 1906 she went to the Sierra Madre Mountains, and while rambling in a cañon jumped down a bank onto a rattlesnake. She was bitten and died before the girl with her, who hurried for help, could return.

Not all rattlesnake bites are fatal, however, even in regions which produce the most dangerous varieties of the reptile. It depends on the location of the wound, the amount of poison injected, the remedies applied and the speed of the application. If the wound is immediately slashed and sucked, a tourniquet quickly arranged, permanganate of potash applied or ammonia used both outwardly and inwardly, there is hope—but no certainty—that the victim may recover. Constant application of cold water is advocated by some people.

Everybody, too, who has lived in the Southwest knows that rattlesnakes will sometimes strike without giving any warning. They are apt to do this in August, when partially blind from shedding their skins, and at other times when suddenly disturbed.

CLARA S. ELLIS.

UPPER MONTCLAIR, October 15.

A Dressmaker of Yarmouth.

From the London Chronicle.

In the churchyard of Caister, close to Yarmouth, is a shrine to which many pilgrims will resort this week—the grave of the "quiet, little, gentle voiced dressmaker," of whom at her death in October, 1843, the then Bishop of Norwich said, "I would canonize Sarah Martin if I could." Yarmouth reveres her to this day: a stained glass window has been placed to her memory in the parish church, where her prayer book is still preserved, while her journal is one of the treasures of the public library in the Tol-house. Underneath this building was the miserable dungeon which served as the borough prison, and it was to the amelioration of the lot of the wretched prisoners that Sarah Martin devoted her life. Earning a bare subsistence of fifteen pence a day by toiling from early morning till far on into the night, she yet managed to give up one day in the week to her labor of love. She died in poverty, but the result of her life's work was the reform of the prison system of Yarmouth.

On the Trail in Kansas.

From the Iola Index.

Determined that the red mist of crime which shrouds in crimson mystery the death of Caroline May Sapp must be cleared away, convinced that the cruel palm of the hand of a fate now most terrible must be opened to disclose the bloody finger prints of murder most revolting, and with practised eye and tact born of ripe experience inspecting every possible clue and cross-examining any one, every one who he thinks may reveal information of value, a man with a jaunty carriage, springing step and keen, piercing eyes is mingling with the people of Moran.

Classified.

Knicker—We have two classes of statesmen.

Bocker—Yes; those on whom mantles fall and those who steal the clothes of swimmers.