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

Credit Where Credit is Due.

A Berlin newspaper, the Deutsche Tage-Zeitung, gives to President ROOSEVELT the undivided credit for the Central American peace conference and its achievements.

We have no wish to take from Mr. ROOSEVELT one atom of the renown properly due him for his part in the proceedings.

Through it all Mr. ROBERT BACON stood as the guide, philosopher and friend.

The Indiana Candidate.

Vice-President FAIRBANKS is a man of respectable talents and sound legal training. In his profession and in his considerable and useful public service he has been dignified and conservative.

Mr. FAIRBANKS, more or less withdrawn by his office from the making of enemies, is at the same time conspicuous in the public eye, and able to watch closely the field of politics, in which he has labored long.

At the same time Mr. FAIRBANKS and his real friends ought to be warned against the danger that even a boom so respectable and deserving may be made ridiculous if the ever ridiculous BEVERIDGE cannot be prevented from smearing it with his demand for Federal child labor laws, as he did at Indianapolis Thursday.

The Water Board.

The charges brought against the members of the Board of Water Supply by the Commissioners of Accounts allege that J. EDWARD SIMMONS, CHARLES N. CHADWICK and CHARLES A. SHAW were guilty of "incompetency and misconduct in awarding the contract for the Ashokan dam to McArthur Brothers and Winston & Co., whose bid was \$12,899,753, instead of giving it to the John Peirce Company, which offered to do the work for \$10,315,350.

When the bids for the Ashokan dam were opened the Peirce company's proposal was found to be lower than that of any other competitor, and materially lower than the cost of the work to be done as that cost was estimated by the engineers employed by the board.

Investigation disclosed the fact that the Peirce company, though thoroughly responsible and willing to undertake the task, was unfamiliar with the class of work to be done, and that its principals were not sanguine of making a reasonable profit from the contract.

adverse criticism when the facts became known, but for some months the city authorities gave no sign of disapproval. At length, however, the Commissioners of Accounts were ordered by the Mayor to investigate the letting of the dam contract.

When the Board of Water Supply was created it was hoped to carry out the work of tapping a new watershed without mixing politics in the necessary transaction, which involves an expenditure estimated at \$100,000,000.

The United States Supreme Court on Half Fares for School Children.

It is within the constitutional power of a State Legislature to require a street railway company in a city to carry school children at half the fare exacted from adult passengers?

This question was presented to the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in January, 1905, and was answered in the affirmative by that tribunal. The decision was taken to the Supreme Court of the United States at Washington and an opinion has recently been handed down by that court by Mr. Justice HOLMES.

The case arose in Attleborough, Mass., where a street railway company refused to sell tickets for the transportation of pupils of the public schools at rates not exceeding half the regular fare charged for the transportation of other passengers.

The Massachusetts Supreme Court declared that it would unhesitatingly pronounce the law unconstitutional if the effect of the statute were to compel the railroad company to conduct its business at a loss.

The report just issued by the Geological Survey in its Bulletin No. 333 on the causes and prevention of coal mining accidents is a timely contribution to the subject.

The Massachusetts Supreme Court, however, was of the opinion that this discrimination in favor of the pupils of the public schools was not entirely arbitrary. From the earliest times in the history of the Commonwealth the education of children has received the favorable attention of the Legislature, whose duty it is, as declared by the State Constitution itself, to be diligent in the promotion of education among all the people.

and also as set individually to occupy nearly so much space as other passengers, that the difference between full fare and half-fare is of such importance to the parents of many of these pupils, that the number who would ride at half the rate would be nearly if not quite twice as many as at the regular rate, and that for these and other reasons railway companies would suffer no loss from carrying the children at half the regular fare?

The conclusion of the Massachusetts Supreme Court that the half fare statute was constitutional has been sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States, although on a different ground. It appears that this statute was in force when the Attleborough Street Railway Company took its charter from the Commonwealth; and it was therefore held that the railroad company had voluntarily accepted as a condition of going into business the requirement that it should charge school children only half the regular rates of fare.

The Georgia liquor dealers are selling their stock at reduced prices. Jugs and demijohns are being stored. The crackers are preparing for the dry season that begins in the latter part of January and Atlanta will be pinched by the drought at first. Most of the rest of the State is dry already.

Meanwhile, prohibition goes marching on, conquering and to conquer; and Atlanta, ever true to the main chance, is booming herself outrageously as "the largest prohibition city in the world."

Prompt and Official Attention Received by One Company.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: You publish to-day a letter signed "T. W. W." on "Ways of Express Companies." The writer of the letter complains of the delay in the collection of charges at both ends, and that it has had difficulty in getting money for his collection.

Obviously, a shipper can obtain a more satisfactory result by making a straightforward complaint to the proper authorities, than by publishing an anonymous letter containing no particulars.

Two Days. This is Hospital Saturday and tomorrow will be Hospital Sunday. On these days it is the privilege of any attendant at a synagogue or church to contribute toward the support of the Associated Hospitals, which treated 33,550 free bed patients and 366,431 surgical and dispensary patients in the last year.

The money collected to-day and tomorrow will be divided among the hospitals in proportion to the amount they expend in caring for free patients. Favoritism, sectarian feeling, race prejudice do not affect its distribution. It is expended directly and exclusively for the physical benefit of those who need help.

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lions coal mining in this country is becoming more dangerous every year, though it has been made safer in other countries by the enforcement of stringent regulations. More than three times as many men to such thousand employed are killed in our mines as in those of some European countries.

The report describes the favorable results in Europe of measures to reduce the dangers, including effective precautions for combating unfavorable conditions, regulations for the use of explosives, and the compulsory use of tested safety lamps.

The whole subject undoubtedly demands thorough investigation, and any measures required to make coal mining as safe in this country as in any other should be applied.

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REPLY TO "ADMIRAL" RIXEY.

A Sailor Explains Why Hospital Ships Should Not Be Commanded by Doctors.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: "Shiver my timbers," but this new medical command Bureau, "the last word," a pill for a command a naval vessel, fitted with officers and enlisted men of the navy, manned by enlisted men of the navy, and accompanying a squadron of Shadys of all our naval vessels, from Paul Jones to Sampson, is too much!

The late lamented Commodore Joe Fyffe is the only fitting person to express adequately the situation. During the civil war he was put in command of a hospital ship, and his specimens of converted marine architecture, a sidewheel ferryboat; the forerunner of those "converted gunboats" we "fit" on during the Spanish war.

Dr. Rixey quotes the famous Relief. Her hydrophobic, quarantined, quarantined, senior officer, present-sailing-master, command of the Relief, the Relief, the Relief, who had occasion to travel in her on a "regular" trip, and who, in the course of her voyage, had heretofore afforded hilarity to many a ward-room crew.

With all due respect to Dr. Stokes, who is as much suited to command as any doctor, I think the Relief is a very good ship, but it is not a hospital ship, and it is not a relief ship.

Dr. Rixey's principal plea seems to be that the Relief is a very good ship, but it is not a hospital ship, and it is not a relief ship.

A Precedent From Swampscott.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: What's all this talk about a doctor not being able to command a ship? For land sakes! In the times of the Spanish war did not the Col. Armstrong, formerly an eminent liverman in Boston, command a troop of cavalry while fighting the hated Castilian down near Swampscott?

"Admiral" Rixey's Baptismal Name.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I read your editorial on the resignation of Rear Admiral Brownson with pleasure. Permit me to call your attention to an inconsequential error: the baptismal name of Surgeon-General Rixey is Presley, not Preston.

Dangerous America.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: It seems to me that our newspapers should devote more attention to the alarming prevalence of crime throughout this country, where self-government controls. Especially in this city is the condition deplorable.

The Diabolical Conspiracy Against Woolton.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Your letters signed C. Wesley Woolton made me laugh. I live in Germantown. There is no such man here as the alleged C. Wesley Woolton, though there is a Wesley Memorial M. E. Church.

Renaming the Days of the Week.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Don't you think it's about time to get a new set of names for the days of the week, something equally poetic, but in the spirit of modern times? I have not yet evolved a complete list, but suggest the following as a starter:

"IN GOD WE TRUST"

A Plea for the Restoration of the Motto on American Coins.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Permit me to add a few words in reference to the laws relating to national banks and as to the manner of administering failed banks through the Comptroller's office.

In the first place he said: It is a motto which is indeed well to have inscribed on our great national monuments, in our temples of justice, in our legislative halls and in public buildings such as those at West Point and Annapolis-in short, wherever it will tend to arouse and inspire a lofty emotion in those who look thereon.

As regards its use on the coinage, we have actual experience by which to be guided. In all my life I have never heard any human being speak reverently of the motto on a coin.

Oliver Cromwell's Body.

"What became of Cromwell?" The question is a vexed one. According to an ancient tradition Cromwell's body was conveyed away immediately after his death, in obedience to his last orders.

To Mark Buchanan's Philanthropy.

Chamberlain Buchanan's Philadelphia Record. It is a pleasure to note that the monument of the United States, James Buchanan, has been adequately marked.

Story of a Famous London Street.

Downing street, which it is proposed to take legislative steps to "stop up and discontinue as a thoroughfare," had a fairly long and interesting history before its official record commenced.

Silk Hat Better Than Card.

Washington correspondence Chicago News. When J. A. Johnson was in the United States in Washington he ran across J. Adam Beck of the Minnesota delegation wearing a silk hat.

From the London Globe.

An old Dutch Bible found in the Hunsandorp district of Cape Colony has a frontispiece depicting Cain shooting Abel with a blunderbuss.

WAY AHEAD BANK LAW.

Indications of an Inquiry into the Manner of Administering Failed Banks.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—There are symptoms in Congress of a general inquiry into the laws relating to national banks and as to the manner of administering failed banks through the Comptroller's office.

An effort will be made to revise the old bill proposed by the late Senator J. Bryan to guarantee depositors in national banks against loss by creating a sinking fund through a tax of 1/2 of 1 percent on the average daily deposits of the national bank for the last quarter of the calendar year last passed, the fund to be limited to \$100,000,000, after which the tax is to be suspended.

ANALYSIS OF ARMY BULLETS.

Found to Contain Antimony as Did the Bullets Fired at Brownsville.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—At the direction of Gen. Crozier, chief of the ordnance bureau of the army, several bullets used in army rifles were analyzed and the discovery has been made that these bullets contain a small percentage of antimony.

TROOPS NOT LIKELY TO STAY.

Nevada's Governor Has Taken No Action Toward Policing Goldfield.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Secretary Root and Secretary Taft had a conference to-day in regard to the strike situation at Goldfield, Nev. Secretary Taft also talked with Senator Newlands of Nevada about the withdrawal of troops from Goldfield.

MAY BE SECOND LIEUTENANTS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The War Department to-day made public the names of the candidates for appointment as Second Lieutenants in the Army who successfully passed the recent examination and are eligible for appointment.

Movements of Naval Vessels.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—John A. Kasson, for many years Reciprocity Commissioner for the Government and for fifty years prominent as a diplomat, is critically ill at his residence in this city with bronchial trouble.

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