The Sun.

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Mr. Gompers Reverses the Supreme Court of the United States.

In a signed editorial article in the current number of the *American Federationist* Mr. SAMUEL GOMPERS, president of the American Federation of Labor, makes a bitter attack upon the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Danbury hat case. He vehemently disputes the conclusion unanimously reached by the court. In somewhat mystical phrase he accuses it of "mediæval procedure," and to this mysterious indictment he adds that the decision "makes it clear that the Supreme Court has not informed itself on modern economics." With Bryanesque verbal shiftiness he accuses the great court at whose bar he and his federation stand condemned of believing that "the rights of hats seem to be greater than the rights of men." The decision is so thoroughly iniquitous in Mr. GOMPERS'S opinion that only a "selfish, avaricious, conscienceless type of employer" would avail himself of it, even though it be the law of the land. In his judgment the Supreme Court is wholly wrong in its conclusion that interstate trade was restrained by the boycott, which he claims "did not result in fewer hats being purchased by the community." Mr. GOMPERS reverses the Supreme Court by asserting as matter of law that it was justifiable to ruin Mr. LOEWE'S interstate trade in hats, provided the American people still wore the same number of hats.

Mr. GOMPERS, indeed, goes so far as to intimate a disposition on his part to abolish the Supreme Court. In commenting upon the finality of its decision he remarks:

> "It is true that this is the only country possessing such a tribunal and it is a subject of serious speculation whether we might not do better under some other form of procedure."

Moreover, in Mr. GOMPERS'S annual report as president of the American Federation, addressed to that body at its annual convention of 1906, after referring to the practical assistance which the 27,000 central unions had been "in executing the plans" which the executive committee had promulgated, Mr. GOMPERS said:

> "When, however, the final word has been spoken by the Court of last resort of labor, composed of the representatives of the intelligent organized wage earners of America, to these at least conformity by our central bodies is essential to the safety of the well being of the labor movement. * * * It is gratifying to be in a position to report that there is a constantly increasing manifestation of loyalty and faithful adherence by our central bodies to the general trend, policy, *decisions and laws of the American Federation of Labor*, but the greatest good cannot be accomplished nor the largest degree of success achieved so long as there is even one central body which for any reason hampers or blocks the consummation of the attainment of the common concert of action."

The self-styled "Court of Last Resort of Labor" has long since spoken on the subject of the boycott. In an editorial article in the *American Federationist* of November, 1902, Mr. GOMPERS stated

> "that the American Federation of Labor would never abandon the boycott and that the threats against the federation are idle, impudent and impotent."

He added:

> "Why, this [the boycott] may spell ruin and bankruptcy to the boycotted! Certainly it may. But what follows from this? Nothing whatever except that the rabid and indignant critics of the American Federation of Labor have no intelligent notion of the ideas represented by the terms 'liberality of contract,' &c."

When the Buck's Stove and Range case was commenced in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia Mr. GOMPERS in an editorial in the *Federationist* of October, 1907, said:

> "The Buck's Stove and Range Company of St. Louis [of which Mr. VAN CLEAVE is president] will continue to be regarded and treated as 'Unfair' until it comes to an honorable agreement with organized labor, and this, too, *whether or not* it appears on the 'We do not patronize' list."

In the same *Federationist* it was sought by anticipation to nullify any injunction that the Supreme Court of the District might grant by urging the members of the federation to continue the boycott even though the executive council might be enjoined. In the same editorial Mr. GOMPERS added:

> "They [the federationists] have a lawful right to do as they wish, all the Van Cleaves, *all the injunctions*, all the fool or vicious opponents *to the contrary notwithstanding.*"

To this with characteristic grace of diction was added:

> "Go to —— with your injunctions!"

This conflict between the "Court of Last Resort of Labor" (as yet not recognized by the Constitution) and the Supreme Court of the United States would be supremely ridiculous were it not that for all practical purposes the decisions and decrees of Mr. GOMPERS'S court are more effective than those of the Supreme Court of the United States; and this must continue to be so until the United States Government, acting through its sworn officials, shall with one sweeping injunction end the judicial powers of the self-constituted "highest court in the realms of labor of America."

THE SUN had supposed that in this country there was but one citizenship and one system of judicial authority; that no class was set apart from the rest of the community as exempt from law. Mr. GOMPERS'S vociferous and persistent assertion of the superior authority of his "Court of Last Resort" would not convince us to the contrary were it not that its pretended authority seems to find some confirmation in the inactivity of the President and his chief law adviser. Although the Supreme Court of the United States has unanimously adjudged in the Danbury hat case, in which the American Federation intervened as a party defendant to defend the boycott, that it was illegal under the Sherman anti-trust law, yet the Attorney-General openly expresses a doubt as to whether the decision enables him to proceed against those who maintained the boycott or whether he is under any duty to enforce the law and enjoin its further violation. He seems to look for inspiration to the "Court of Last Resort of Labor," which, as previously stated, boldly proclaimed its purpose to enforce its own decrees, "*all the injunctions, all the fool or vicious opponents to the contrary notwithstanding.*"

Would Mr. GOMPERS have profanely consigned the solemn decrees of the duly constituted courts to that outer darkness in which the late Mr. INGERSOLL did not believe if he had not some assurance that the Executive Department of this Government, from the basest of political motives, would respect the decrees of Mr. GOMPERS'S court and practically nullify those of that great tribunal which hitherto without the aid of the President, and latterly despite his openly hostile attitude, has for more than a hundred years supported its authority and power as *the* Supreme Court of the United States?

Kelsey—and After.

In 1907 Governor HUGHES recommended to the Senate the removal from office of OTTO KELSEY, Superintendent of Insurance. The Senate voted not to remove KELSEY. Then its members became panic stricken and gave Governor HUGHES practically everything else he wanted.

This year Governor HUGHES recommended the removal of KELSEY. Yesterday the Senate refused again to put out the Superintendent. As the charges made this year were practically a repetition of those of last year and the Senate is unchanged, this result is not surprising. But the future conduct of the Senators will be watched closely.

This year, as last, the case has been plain enough. We had hoped for Mr. KELSEY'S removal in spite of the vindictive newspaper persecution of which he has been the object.

Mr. Bingham Recovering Himself.

In his speech to the Police Lieutenants' Benevolent Association Commissioner BINGHAM appeared once more to good advantage.

The strain under which the Commissioner of Police must inevitably work while he is attempting to change the practices of the men on the force cannot be appreciated by an outsider. In matters of small and great importance he finds himself hampered and obstructed from within the department in ways almost incredible. From outside he gets scant commendation and an abundance of unfriendly, uninformed criticism. His most telling successes may be lost to sight in the shadow of a spectacular incident of minor importance. It is not to be wondered at if, under such circumstances, the human being at the head of the department grows irritable and loses his poise.

Commissioner BINGHAM may now examine his force, inquire into the law and see if he has not at present means for the eradication of the two plague spots within half a mile of Fifth avenue and Thirty-fourth street of which he has knowledge and in which "any crime from the lowest to the greatest can be bought for money."

The Senate Investigation of the Brownsville Raid.

The votes taken by the Senate Committee on Military Affairs upon its investigation of the Brownsville raid will afford Mr. ROOSEVELT a temporary gratification, but as a political question his dismissal of a whole battalion of the Twenty-fifth Infantry is more acute than ever and it will figure in the Presidential campaign if Mr. ROOSEVELT succeeds in imposing his personal candidate upon the Republican party. As Mr. TAFT elected to support and condone the hasty decree of the President when perhaps by persistent intervention he might have persuaded Mr. ROOSEVELT to reconsider, it will be difficult if not impossible to convince the negro voters in doubtful States that Mr. TAFT is not in part responsible, although the real question at issue is an army and not a race question, for the gross injustice which was visited upon innocent men.

The resolutions offered in the Senate committee and the votes taken upon them are not as inconsistent and puzzling as they seem at first sight. The five Democrats held the balance of power. All of them were Southerners and no doubt can be entertained that they believed that soldiers of the Twenty-fifth Infantry "shot up" Brownsville.

The minority of the Republican majority—Mr. LODGE, Mr. WARREN and Mr. WARNER—were also consistent. They always voted as the President would have them do. Senator FORAKER was likewise consistent, recording the convictions he has long been known to hold, that the testimony did not fix the guilt of soldiers of the battalion beyond a reasonable doubt and that an unjust and arbitrary thing for which a remedy should be found was done when a whole battalion was dismissed for the alleged crime of a few men.

Finally, consistency cannot be altogether denied the Senators who were generally found voting with Mr. FORAKER, all of them Republicans—SCOTT of West Virginia, DU PONT of Delaware, BULKELEY of Connecticut and HEMENWAY of Indiana. They did not always vote together, Senator DU PONT especially having ideas of his own; but for the most part they resisted the view that the President had done no wrong in finding soldiers of the battalion guilty on *ex parte* evidence and ridding himself of the whole vexed question by a summary dismissal of all the enlisted men. These Republican Senators in standing together for justice to enlisted men of the army arbitrarily driven from it and deprived of their service rights cannot be accused of indifference to the equities in this celebrated case, and their party may yet have reason to congratulate itself upon their firmness.

The American Steamship.

In the extraordinary development of agriculture and industry too many Americans have lost sight of that great ocean carrying trade which once belonged to the United States and was lost under the pressure of war and the general substitution of steamers for sailing vessels. This trade it has not recovered, and every bill which looks in the direction of increasing the American steamship service is practically attacked as a "subsidy," a word which, in an entirely different sense, got a bad reputation under the STUARTS, and is used rather as a talisman than an argument by our Democratic friends. These gentlemen are now hot against the ocean mail subsidy bill; and some of them proclaim their intention to fight till their last breath expires.

Nearly a million dollars a year is paid now by the United States to foreign steamships for carrying ocean mails. That is a "subsidy" to foreigners. Would it be fatal to Democratic principles to transfer that "subsidy," really the consideration of a necessary contract, to American pockets? Leave out the loathly idea and name of "protection" and "encouragement," though our Democratic friends are more than willing to encourage rivers and harbors—especially those in their districts—by the expenditure of enormous sums. Let "encouragement" end at the water's edge, but let not business end there. Aside from any question of the national dignity, it is a businesslike proposition that the United States mails be carried as far as possible in American vessels.

Our Southern Democratic friends, some of whom are so hopeful about the future of the demand for cotton in the Far East—have they no interest in American steamship communication with the other side of the Pacific? The Panama Canal is to do them and the rest of the country so much good. Is that $500,000,000—shall we say?—for a canal to be used only by our rivals? Does the United States really want trade with South America, for nstance

We pass over the ridiculous and even dishonoring spectacle of a great nation in need of foreign markets but dependent upon foreign ships to carry her seaborne commerce. Coastwise trade is worth while, it seems, and foreign ships must be kept out. From foreign trade, on the other hand, the Americans must be and are substantially shut out.

We wonder if the Democratic party will ever change its provincial and mistaken position on this subject?

The Inheritance.

From time to time some humorist or madman makes a will bequeathing pompous legacies and a residuary estate of millions, and is buried, perhaps in the potter's field, at last. He has had his happiness, but the heir and legatees have got nothing by his motion.

If the political testament of THEODORE ROOSEVELT is duly proved and probated, how splendid will the inheritance of the heir be? A nomination, but saddled with crushing debts. Poor TAFT must pay for the highly expensive amusements of his patron. Private confidence and credit shattered; decreasing business; empty freight cars and empty pay envelopes; railroad employees and industrial workers laid off by the hundred thousand; disaster made thoroughly Republican; the Constitution kicked one side like a broken teddy bear; the courts insulted; capital persecuted and frightened; suspicion and hatred sown sedulously among classes whose prosperity or adversity is inseparably mutual; half veiled, sinister prophecies of riot; the army demoralized by favoritism, the navy embarked upon a mysterious and dangerous adventure; currency reform unachieved, civil service reform made a byword: this is the inheritance of Mr. TAFT.

At the first session of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs, which is investigating the charges made by Mr. HENRY REUTERDAHL, Senator PERKINS said to Admiral CONVERSE and Admiral CAPPS: "We ought to apologize to you for calling upon you to refute an article like this."

No apology is necessary, Senator! The people want the facts, and if there is truth in any charges made in the REUTERDAHL article they ought to know it. It is their right. Is it true, for instance, that protests were repeatedly made in writing by naval officers against the vertical open turret which is not to be repeated in the Delaware? Is it true that Commander SIMS and Lieutenant Commander HILL submitted by request articles to Secretary METCALF in which appeared some of the same criticisms that were made by Mr. REUTERDAHL? Surely this civilian critic, whose purpose was avowed and plainly patriotic, did not imagine vain things in every instance.

The Hon. WILLIAM G. MCADOO is now enjoying the respect and receiving the thanks of two States, several municipalities and some millions of enthusiastic and admiring people. Let him not believe, however, that this pleasant state of affairs is necessarily implied for his full term as a magnate of transportation.

THE SUBMARINE BOAT SCANDAL OF 1903.

At the election of 1900 Nicholas Muller, Democrat, of Staten Island was chosen Representative from the Seventh New York district. He resigned in 1901, and at a special election held on January 7 of 1902 Montague Lessler, Republican, was chosen to fill the vacancy thus caused. The Fifty-seventh Congress had met in its first session on December 2, 1901. Thus Lessler had practically a full legislative term to serve. David B. Henderson of Iowa was Speaker, serving his second and last term. The Committee on Naval Affairs was composed of these members:

> George E. Foss of Illinois, Alston G. Dayton of West Virginia, Henry C. Loudenslager of New Jersey, Thomas S. Butler of Pennsylvania, Melville Bull of Rhode Island, Sydney E. Mudd of Maryland, James E. Watson of Indiana, Robert G. Cousins of Iowa, Robert W. Tayler of Ohio, Ernest W. Roberts of Massachusetts, Montague Lessler of New York, Adolph Meyer of Louisiana, Farish Carter Tate of Georgia, John F. Rixey of Virginia, William W. Kitchin of North Carolina, Willard D. Vandiver of Missouri and Charles K. Wheeler of Kentucky.

On January 20, 1903, this committee was in session discussing a motion for the insertion in the naval appropriation bill of a provision for the purchase of ten Holland submarine torpedo boats, when Mr. Lessler, who had opposed this provision from the beginning, declared in an excited manner that he had been corruptly approached by a man who had offered him a bribe of $5,000 if he would favor the appropriation. Mr. Lessler declared to his fellow committeemen that the offer had been made soon after his election. He refused at that time to disclose the name of the alleged bribe giver, but insisted that the effort had been made through a third party by an ex-Representative in Congress. On motion of Mr. Wheeler the Committee on Naval Affairs voted immediately to appoint a sub-committee to investigate Mr. Lessler's charge. Mr. Foss, chairman of the committee, was made chairman of the sub-committee, its other members being Mr. Butler, Mr. Tayler, Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Rixey. Mr. Lessler told his story in full to the sub-committee at once.

On January 21 Mr. Lessler was examined further by the sub-committee, being questioned rigorously as to the details of his allegations. His charges had created a sensation. The names of a number of influential men were connected with them. It was asserted that the owners of the Holland patents, the Electric Boat Company, had distributed stock among owners of newspapers to obtain their adherence and that Lessler had been threatened with defeat at an approaching election if he persisted in his opposition to its product. John McCullagh, Superintendent of Elections for New York, volunteered the statement that he, to oblige a friend, had spoken to Mr. Lessler in behalf of the Holland boats, but denied that he had mentioned the possibility of Lessler's defeat as a threat.

When the House met on January 22 Mr. Foss offered a resolution empowering the Committee on Naval Affairs to investigate the Lessler charges and authorizing it to summon witnesses, administer oaths and to do whatever else might be necessary to establish their truth or falsity. While the House was adopting this resolution without opposition, Isaac L. Rice, president of the Electric Boat Company, was swearing to an affidavit denying that any of the stock of his company or of the Holland Company had ever been issued except on payment at the full and regular price, and specifically declaring that none of it had ever been used to corrupt the press.

The investigation authorized by the House began on January 23 and was open to the public. Mr. Lessler was the first witness, Mr. Tayler doing the questioning for the committee. Mr. Lessler informed the committee that his friend and confidant, Philip Doblin, who had been employed by the New York Republican county committee and by the State Superintendent of Elections, had told him that Lemuel E. Quigg, a former Representative in Congress and ex-president of the New York county committee, had said "there was $5,000 in it for Lessler and $1,000 for Doblin" if Lessler would "vote right," or for the purchase of the Holland submarines. Doblin, according to Lessler, represented himself as an agent of Quigg in the matter and Doblin also suggested the possibility of Quigg's bringing about Lessler's defeat. Lessler said that he saw Quigg later, but at their interview no money was talked of. Lessler also testified that McCullagh had told him that the men who owned the Holland boat patents could elect or defeat him in his district.

Mr. Quigg was represented at the hearing by De Lancey Nicoll, who cross-examined Lessler at length. Mr. Lessler said he understood Mr. Quigg to say he was not interested in the Holland boats except to do a favor for a friend, whose name Mr. Lessler got as "Mr. Hunter of Virginia." Mr. Lessler said he had told his story to Mr. Foss, Mr. Dayton and Mr. Wheeler of the committee. At this hearing ex-Senator Hunton of Virginia, of counsel for the boat builders, swore that no money had been used to influence legislation and declared he had known Quigg only since 11 o'clock that morning, and Lessler's secretary, Frank B. Son, corroborated his employer's version of the McCullagh conversation.

When the hearing was resumed on the following day Doblin was examined and gave testimony that upheld Lessler's. He declared that Quigg had made the offer through him, explaining what was wanted at a luncheon they ate together. Doblin declared that Lessler rejected the offer and that he so reported to Quigg.

John McCullagh at this hearing denied having threatened Lessler and quoted that Representative as saying that "there was not a man on the Naval Affairs Committee he would trust except one." Mr. Quigg was also called to the stand on this day, and his denial of attempts to corrupt Lessler was as detailed, as complete and vigorous as the charges had been. He said that to oblige a friend, Dr. Kerr of Chicago, he had spoken to Lessler, asking him the reason for his opposition to the Holland boats, but that he had found Lessler immovable. He quoted Lessler as saying that the members of the committee would "line up as honest men and knaves," and that he (Lessler) could not afford to be with the knaves. This testimony was taken on Saturday.

On Monday, January 26, the committee met again and a lawyer representing Doblin appeared with a request for permission to read a statement from his client. This the committee would not allow, and Doblin was called to the stand. He then retracted completely and in detail every charge he had made against Quigg. He declared that he had sworn falsely when he told of Quigg's alleged offer of money and that no offer of $5,000 and $1,000, as he had described, had been made. Doblin's explanation of his conduct was that Lessler, after making the charge in the committee meeting, had appealed to him for help to save his face; had assured him "it would be all right," and had finally prevailed on his friendly disposition to make a perjurer of him.

Two days later Mr. Lessler denied Doblin's retraction and asserted his inability to understand the course his friend had pursued. Having listened to this fresh evidence the committee took the evidence of Mr. Roberts, one of its members, to whom Lessler had said he would like to drop the matter. Mr. Roberts had communicated with the boat builders, one of whose officers prepared a statement which Lessler refused to sign when it was presented to him by Mr. Roberts. Mr. Roberts admitted that he favored the purchase of Holland boats and was in frequent communication with their agents. Then the committee, over the protests of Mr. Kitchin and Mr. Vandiver, went into secret session to consider its report. A sub-committee of Mr. Foss, Mr. Dayton, Mr. Tayler, Mr. Tate and Mr. Meyer was named to prepare this document. It sustained Lessler's charge that an attempt had been made corruptly to influence him, and absolved every one named in the testimony except Doblin, who was found to have offered a bribe to Lessler, falsely representing himself as coming from Quigg, for the purpose of sounding Lessler's honesty with the idea of profiting from his corruption if he turned out to be purchasable. Lessler, Quigg, the Holland boat constructors and all others involved were declared to be innocent.

A minority report, in which it was declared that the charge that an attempt had been made corruptly to influence Lessler had not been sustained, was presented by Messrs. Kitchin, Vandiver and Roberts. When the vote on the reports was taken Messrs. Kitchin, Mudd and Roberts voted "present," and Mr. Vandiver voted against the majority report, which was adopted and presented to the House. It was never called up for consideration and sleeps in the file room to-day. In the index of the *Congressional Record* the incident is preserved in this form:

> COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS (*House*)
> Authorized to investigate certain alleged attempts to corruptly influence legislation 1070.
> *Reports by* Bribery charges (H. R. Report 3482). (Omitted in *Record*).

Immediately after adopting the report the Committee on Naval Affairs voted 9 to 6 against purchasing five Holland submarine boats, and 8 to 7 against authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to purchase submarine boats.

THE MOON NOT ROUND, EITHER.

A Fellow Townsman of Mr. Morse Also Takes a Fall Out of the Scientists.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Brother townsman Morse is correct. The "pendulum proof" of the earth's rotundity is pretty far fetched. I for one cannot accept it as conclusive, any more than I can reason that the moon is round because it appears to be so about once a month; or believe that our slow but steady recovery from the recent depression demonstrates the equilaterainess of President Roosevelt's "square deal."

It is my firm conviction that the moon, in shape, is nothing but a celestial marshmallow with a large bite taken out of the left hand side, and that it is being slowly revolved, as on a gigantic skewer, over the sun—like some one was toasting it, as they say down South. Perhaps some one is; who shall say? The existence at least of this peculiar shape is demonstrated by observation, if the actual marshmallow substance and the toasting process are not. As the new moon becomes visible the unbitten section opposite the bite is nearest the observer, but is already sufficiently turned to disclose the edge of the bite slowly approaching from left to right.

A child can follow the varied aspects our satellite presents from this stage through all the succeeding ones to the time when the bite is nearest the observer and he stands deluded by the merging of the rounded tops of the bite with the bulging convexity of the sides into a belief in the moon's rotundity. On the next night the bite appears on the other side and the process is repeated indefinitely; yet, notwithstanding the fact that in all the moon's appearances, save once each month, the bite is plainly visible, the unspeakable error that the moon is round still holds its own.

Its twin fallacy, the "green cheese" myth, has long since perished ignominiously, and it has become my most serious purpose in life to see that this erroneous theory is consigned to a like oblivion. In this I am inspired by the sight of my fellow townsman Charles W. Morse, who stands on his own feet and refusing to be blinded by the dazzling technicalities of science bravely combats the old, old story that Atlas is a humbug and the earth is round. GORDON KELSO.

BROOKLINE, Mass., February 25.

To the Yankee Clockmaker.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will Mr. Charles W. Morse of Brookline, Mass., kindly enlighten a waiting world as to the shape of the earth? If it is not a globe, how does he account for the fact that it has been very recently en-Tafted by starting from New York westward and reappearing there from the East, via the Atlantic Ocean?

NEW YORK, February 25. T. B. D.

Internal Commerce of 1907.

Our internal commerce during 1907 calendar year was fully up to the high standard of 1906 except in a few instances, notably the live stock and coke movements, as shown in the records of the bureau of statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor, which follow:

	1906.	1907.
Total shipments by lake, net tons	73,809,648	83,387,919
Iron ore shipments, gross tons	36,872,508	40,727,972
Coal shipments, net tons	17,575,917	19,358,414
Grain shipments (except flaxseed), bushels	145,376,536	144,136,281
Freight through the "Soo" canals, net tons	51,751,080	58,217,214
Live stock receipts at four Atlantic ports, head	8,171,172	8,782,383
Grain and flour receipts at same, bushels	245,200,577	258,836,435
Grain receipts at fifteen primary markets, bushels	798,521,585	835,277,291
Live stock receipts at seven primary markets, head	40,727,657	40,218,435
Chicago packing house shipments, pounds	2,808,754,084	2,450,806,223
Coal and coke shipments over seven roads, tons	125,563,645	140,174,348
Total anthracite coal shipments, gross tons	55,647,296	66,671,149
Connellsville coke production, net tons	19,909,165	19,716,273
Pig iron production, gross tons	24,808,584	25,315,387
Yellow pine (Southern) lumber shipments, 1,000 feet	3,354,881	3,628,256
Lumber shipments by lake, 1,000 feet	1,807,570	1,380,284
Redwood lumber shipments, 1,000 feet	409,702	437,51
Pine and fir at California ports, 1,000 feet	1,192,122	1,315,882
Building operations, value	$567,032,499	$580,492,196
Cars handled by thirty-four car associations	29,799,976	31,384,708

While the events of the last quarter of the year affected building operations more seriously than they did any other line of American activity, still for the year those operations exceeded $11,000,00 a week in average value.

Last of the "Water Drinkers."

From the London Globe.

The last representative of the once famous society of "Water Drinkers" has just died in France in the person of Leopold Desbroses. The deceased gentleman, who was an engraver by profession, was in the habit of receiving the members of the society at his house, where art, painting and literature were the subjects of discussion. There Murger, the author of "Vie de Bohème," used to resort, and when his fortunes were at their lowest ebb was kept by the hospitality of M. Desbroses. It is said to have been at this house that Murger met the two characters whom he afterward portrayed in the famous book and opera under the names of Rodolph and Schaunard.

Under the Golden Sun.

Modena correspondence Princeton Post.

On last Saturday evening, while the golden sun was gently thrusting forth its soothing beams, Squire B. F. Bushong pleasantly pronounced the beautiful and heart welding phrases that made Mr. Enoch Hubbard and Miss Stella Canady man and wife.

Negro Banks in Mississippi.

From the Mobile Register.

There are ten negro banks in Mississippi and they have organized a State bankers' association of their own.

In the *North American Review* for March Postmaster-General Meyer pleads for a parcel post, the German Ambassador discusses the expansion of Germany, Mr. George W. Perkins speaks on corporations, Sir William Crookes on diamonds, and Dr. A. McLane Hamilton on insanity on the throne. Other articles deal with aerial navigation, the Panama Canal, the new Ireland and other matters of present interest.

THE MANSFIELD SALE.

What an interesting, gossipy sort of paper might be written on actors' taste in art. Some one who has the amiable curiosity of a Mr. Pepys and the sweet humanity of a Charles Lamb, such a one—and he is not to our knowledge on the globe at the present moment—could point out without undue emphasis that given the actor's temperament, his selection would follow inevitably. The dyer's hand, you know. The late Richard Mansfield, despite his crowded, vivid career, still found time to collect pictures, engravings, old armor and objects of art. His temperament was even in private life of the histrionic, nay, the heroic type. As he ill brooked contradiction and took other people's advice with more than the usual quantity of salt, it may be easily imagined that in art he would indulge his own, no one else's, predilections. You can appraise his judgments at the American Art Galleries, Madison Square South, this week. It is a heterogeneous gathering. It is eminently an actor's collection. The main attraction for the public will lie in the fact that these things were once precious in the eyes of Richard Mansfield. With this pious idea the various objects to be sold may appear in a different light. Americans are a souvenir hunting nation.

As might be guessed the pictures largely consist of male heads—the engravings are Hogarth's principally. Action and a definite subject the actor always demands. His favor in the matter of oils inclines to historic heads and the countenances of tragedians or comedians. Among the forty odd pictures many are ascribed to that popular old painter from eternity, "Unknown." This is well. There is a Turner, a little picture, 5½ by 8½, of the Dogana, Venice. It has an excellent Turneresque quality. Two fruit and vegetable pieces by Mignon are attractive. There is also a small George Inness. Who is Gravinsky? He has here the head of a woman. And Constantin Netscher? He was the son of the famous Kaspar Netscher. But as a painter there is a slight difference. A Richard Parkes Bonington is always good to look upon even though it is not a masterpiece. "Young Fisherman" is signed with the painter's initials. Verboeckhoven figures in the list. Also a painting of interest is the "Hôtel Bourgoyne in Molière's Time," by an early French artist. Van Loo, George Romney, Echardt, a rare visitor in our galleries; Sir Peter Lely, "The Duke of Marlborough in Armor"; William Dobson, Hogarth's portrait of himself; Largillière, Sir Thomas Lawrence—sold to Mansfield May 18, 1906, by the nephew of the sitter (Mr. Kirby shrewdly points out that it might be a Romney, but it is a Lawrence); a portrait of Mme. Malibran which ought to be of worth to musical folk, a school of Pourbus, Sir Godfrey Kneller, Allan Ramsay, John Riley and Gainsborough Dupont are to be found in the catalogue. The latter named is a portrait of David Garrick.

The black and whites are chiefly Hogarths, the familiar sets. Not remarkable states. That comical "Finis, or the Bathos," is to be found, Hogarth in his most extravagant and scathing humors. There are theatrical portraits, play bills, autograph letters and an ancient map published in 1610 showing King Richard's battleground. Also some etchings by Houdard printed in colors. We suspect that the storm centre of the sale will be the prints and the numerous art objects. Monday and Tuesday afternoons and Tuesday evening, March 2 and 3, the entire collection will be sold to the highest bidder.

In the Kraushaar galleries, 260 Fifth avenue, near Twenty-ninth street, you may see one of Dagnan-Bouveret's new portraits. The subject is Mrs. Robert Stafford of this city. It is not only an admirable likeness but a brilliant specimen of Dagnan's very showy art. Need we add that there is more devotion to surfaces than to psychology? The still life, that is, the fabrics of the lady's gown, the white effectively relieved by black, the flowers and the jewels and the curtains at the window, is all set forth with signal success. Near by hangs another Dagnan, one of his familiar pretty Oriental models' heads.

Following the Paul Cornoyer exhibition at the Powell Art Gallery, 983 Sixth avenue, near Fifty-sixth street, is a collection of George H. Shorey, "consisting mostly of scenes in child life." There are thirty-five of these notations full of humor and sympathy. Several are capital studies of the tender bodies of little boys and girls. It is hardly necessary to enumerate the various designs treated by the skilled draughtsman, that is Mr. Shorey. If you like babies go to the Powell gallery. Mr Jerome Myers invites art lovers to view some recent paintings by Edward Adam Kramer at 142 West Twenty-third street until March 7 during afternoons only. At the Durand-Ruel galleries, 16 Rue Lafitte, Paris, there is an exhibition of the landscapes of Gustave Loisseau. This *paysagiste* ought to be better known in America.

High Precedent.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why should Justice Guy lecture the poor jurymen for tossing a coin? They were only following the example laid down for them by the President of the United States. E. T. W.

NEW YORK, February 26.

Dr. Johnson a Nature Faker.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A few days ago the public was shocked to learn from your North Carolina correspondent that even a teddy bear will lie when he gets cornered. But I was still more surprised to run across this passage in Boswell's "Life of Dr. Johnson": "He [Johnson] seemed pleased to talk of natural history * * * swallows certainly sleep all the winter. A number of them conglobulate together, by flying round and round, and then all in a heap throw themselves under water, and lye in the bed of a river."

It occurs to the writer that if Dr. Johnson were living to-day he could be employed successfully by President Roosevelt to prove that Federal officeholders, especially fourth class postmasters, are not being used in this campaign for partisan purposes. THOMAS P. IVY.

CONWAY CENTRE, N. H., February 25.

Railways in China.

From the North China Herald.

In China, during the last year, through traffic was resumed on the Manchurian railways. The Hsinmintun-Mukden line has been redeemed by China at a cost of $1,666,000. The Shanghai-Nankin Railway has been extended to Chinkiang and should be completed within a few months to Nankin; the Kalgan Railway, built entirely by Chinese, of which the first section was opened on September 30, 1906, has been steadily pushed forward; the Chentung-Taiuan branch of the Pekin-Hankow line was opened on December 6, the construction of the 182 miles having taken three years and three months, while another branch from Kaifeng to Chenchou was opened earlier in the year. Work on the Canton-Kowloon Railway is also being pushed on rapidly.

Taft.

Upon one arm the Judge's gown
  In soberness is hung,
While on the other shoulder broad
  Is Roosevelt's mantle flung.

McKinley's shoes he fain would fill,
  And with an eager grip,
For Lincoln's coat tails reaches out
  To drape his ample hip.

He wears the jeans that Bryan wore
  Before he went to swim,
And tries to see if Labor's cap
  Is not a fit for him.

And while we gaze on his array
  And all his motley scan,
We see nine tailors all may work
  And yet not clothe a man.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

PARANOIA REFORMATORIA.

Study of the Psychopathic Ruler, by One of the Greatest of Alienists.

From the North American Review for March.

Many individuals, while not necessarily insane in a way to necessitate their being shut up, are at all times making their presence unpleasantly felt in the community. Some of them are kept more or less in order by their environment or by restraint of various kinds which is inseparable from communal requirements and interests. These persons are quite likely under slight excitement or opposition, or perhaps dissipation, or even too much license, to indulge in conduct which is so characteristic as to be recognized by most normal people and to be especially clear to alienists. When their psychosis has developed sufficiently it may be expressed by expansion and false and exaggerated ideas of personal power; by vanity, love of display and personal decoration, and a futile attempt to correct the abuses supposed to exist by the person of diseased intellect, who is always prone to magnify trivial things or those in conflict with his morbid ego. Psychiatrists are familiar with such defects, for there is a well-known disorder called *paranoia reformatoria* which is expressed in erratic attempts at social betterment when none is needed, and in disorderly efforts which usually fall far short of accomplishment. De Fursac says:

> The psychopath is apt to pose as a champion of justice, as an avenger of humanity. He is given to anarchistic ideas, seeks to interfere in public affairs, to become the leader of popular movements, and he succeeds but too often. His conduct is often inconsistent with his ideas of justice and charity, though he fails to see it himself. Theoretically, he strives for the good of the universe; practically, for the satisfaction of his own egotistic tendencies.

Another class come under the head of what is known as *querulants*, whose unhinging is usually manifested by purposeless and unnecessary litigation, while ideas of persecution and conspiracy are accompaniments of both forms to a greater or less degree.

It can easily be conceived how in other countries than our own an autocratic monarch may subject his people to all sorts of cruel oppression, his derangement being entirely unappreciated. All of these subjects are more or less "constitutionally inferior," and like certain high grade imbeciles they are perhaps exceedingly brilliant in some directions while deficient in others. There is, however, a conspicuous lack of stability in all their plans and a want of consistency in what they say and do. They are obsessed by the *cacoethes* both *loquendi* and *scribendi*, and the literature of the insane furnishes us with striking examples of verbosity, their oral and written productions being quite characteristic. Specimens of the writings of the expansive insane are not only redundant in exalted phrase and florid rhetoric but in energetic invective as well.

While it is easy, as has been said, in other countries than our own to beware of certain pitfalls or to know what to expect from degenerate monarchs, it cannot be denied that there is a great danger attached to all republican forms of government, no matter in what part of the world, where new Presidents are chosen every few years about whose antecedents and mental health little or nothing is known. While we are careful enough to question the political principles and declarations of such candidates as present themselves for this high office no proper or adequate attempt has ever been made to analyze the mental integrity of Presidential or other nominees or to question for a moment the existence of any bad heredity or any previously expressed trouble, which, under the prod and stress of newly acquired power and great responsibility, may develop into a psychosis. It may be seen, when such is the case, that an entire country may be exposed to the gravest consequences through the unrestrained influence of an irresponsible demagogue, who may even impress others by his apparently lofty but really visionary ideas.

In other times than ours there have been occasions when nations, fretting under the oppression and misrule of licentious monarchs, have unhesitatingly accepted the leadership of some fanatic whose initial attempts to bring them freedom have for a time been successful, but ultimately the psychopath has always asserted himself. Every one must recall the career of Cola di Rienzi, who in the fourteenth century for a long time exercised his fanatic sway and put in operation his insane populistic and religious ideas, completely demoralizing Italy. Lombroso and several older writers have pictured him as a paranoiac, Lombroso analyzing his extraordinary writings. "By his fantastic eloquence he harangued the populace and with stilted oratory enchanted their ears." He soon had a mob following, and after his usurpation of power he first brought about a number of apparent reforms through the exercise of stringent measures which appealed to the masses. He abolished the rather aristocratic and licentious Roman Senate, rearranged taxes and ordered that the granaries should be opened for public use. When his insanity became pronounced he next insisted that confession should be made once a year under penalty of confiscation of one-third of a person's property. He became more and more unbearable, and his religious vagaries and enthusiasm were such that he compelled immediate obedience to his mandates, comparing himself to Christ; he believed in mysticism and symbols, and upon one occasion he waved his sword three times to the known divisions of the world and said: "They too belong to me." He became "incapable of undertaking any resolution which was not merely theoretical." His early more or less altruistic conduct was followed by erratic excesses and a violent death, yet there are many to-day who think that he was anything but insane.

The existence of mob feeling, it is unnecessary to say, is just now making itself felt in the condition of unsettlement, and not a little of it is due to the existence of a temporary emotional instability which should be out of place in a country like ours, where Anglo-Saxon ideals have always existed and where sturdy men of healthy mentality have always governed us. Perhaps we are more than ever in need of discipline and the controlling influence of official dignity, for never in the history of the country has our population been so heterogeneous and so susceptible to the influence of the moment as it is at the present time. Within the past few years there have been landed upon our shores an unassimilated crowd of "undesirable" immigrants, many of whom are the unfit of overcrowded Europe and have come here with an absolutely erroneous idea of what they are to find or what they are to do and are quite ignorant of our law or social customs. Many of them undoubtedly soon learn to believe that we are a swashbuckling, restless people, eminently selfish and undisciplined, and that the one thing for them to do is to "hustle," and that this must be done with an utter disregard for the feelings and rights of others; to find that older and slower business methods, even if stable and honest, are for the time discarded, for money must be made quickly and easily.

What is really wanted is an example of unquestioned dignity and the logical and unvarying administration of justice, which requires absolute mental lucidity and poise.

The power vested in a President of the United States is so great that if there be not sanity, self-control and self-respect and a regard for the rights of every one, its immoderate and irrational use may be readily directed in a way which may be compared with the tyranny of any of the worst monarchs of other ages. President Roosevelt has elsewhere said:

> The President of the United States occupies a position of peculiar importance. In the whole world there is probably no other ruler, certainly no other ruler under free institutions, whose power compares with his. Of course a despotic king has even more, but no constitutional monarch has as much.

The investiture, therefore, of power in an unstable person is likely to lead to an abuse of privilege and a quasi-delusional assumption of the right to regulate in an arbitrary way the affairs of a great nation with a total disregard of individual rights.

ALLAN MCLANE HAMILTON.