The Sun.

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Exhibits From a President's Message.

First, a Chief Magistrate's opinion of the value of the judiciary:

"No judicial tribunal has the knowledge or the experience to determine in the first place whether a given combination is advisable or necessary in the interests of the public. *Somebody, whether a commission or a bureau under the Department of Commerce and Labor, should be given this power.*"

Secondly, a Chief Magistrate's idea of the legitimate function of the law making branch:

"We are striving for legislation to minimize the abuses which give this type (the multimillionaire with a fool of a son and a foreign princess of a daughter) its flourishing prominence, partly for the sake of what can be accomplished by the legislation itself *and partly because the legislation marks our participation in a great and stern moral movement to bring our ideals and our conduct into measurable accord.*"

Thirdly, a Chief Magistrate's conception of an all comprehensive and all powerful Executive:

"There should be an efficient executive body created *with power enough to correct abuses and scope enough to work out the complex problems that this great country has developed.*"

Thus all of the coordinate departments of the Federal Government are disposed of. One hundred years ago, or fifty years ago, or even twenty years ago, an American statesman propounding these theories of our constitutional system would not merely have been denounced as a destroyer, or derided as a freak, or avoided when preaching as a too tiresome person. He would have been scrutinized carefully as to his intellectuais, and in all human probability would have been secluded.

The Sulzer Bill to Raise the Maine.

Representative SULZER of New York has introduced a simple and effective measure designed to obliterate a national scandal and disgrace. Mr. SULZER'S bill is now in the hands of the House Committee on Naval Affairs. It authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Navy to contract for raising the wreck of the battleship Maine and removing the bodies found therein to Arlington Cemetery, to rest hereafter alongside other of the nation's dead. It authorizes and directs the President to make the necessary arrangements for this purpose with the republic of Cuba.

There should be no partisanship of attitude toward the patriotic, just, decent and necessary action proposed by Mr. SULZER. The bill represents the common interests and well nigh unanimous desire of the American people. We are informed that eminent Republicans as well as Democrats from this and other States are hastening to assure Mr. SULZER of their approval and support. The sentiment of the veterans, both Union and Confederate, and likewise of the blue and the gray that blended in the Spanish war, is strongly enlisted in the movement.

How could it be otherwise? The thought of those neglected and forgotten bones in Havana harbor is argument enough. Shall Decoration Day of 1908 pass with the Sulzer bill not yet enacted?

Culberson Emerges.

As the Hon. WILLIAM J. BRYAN'S once dominating figure appears to recede or at least to be obscured, that of the Hon. CHARLES A. CULBERSON of Texas emerges from a long maintained penumbra and begins to disclose its outlines. A day or two ago the Hon. Mr. PUJO of Louisiana permitted himself to be interviewed by a Washington newspaper and as a result gave his reasons for assuming that Mr. CULBERSON in default of Mr. BRYAN would make the Democracy's most formidable candidate.

In the first place, according to PUJO, Mr. CULBERSON possesses the unique quality of being BRYAN'S closest and most constant friend. On no other shoulders could the Nebraska mantle fall and fit so well. He has never antagonized the Peerless One, has stood by him through thick and thin—while antagonizing nearly all his policies when occasion offered—and has presented the spectacle always of a perfect loyalty. Even now Mr. PUJO does not suggest that BRYAN is impossible in CULBERSON'S opinion. Far from it. He is very careful indeed in that respect. It is his own conclusion that BRYAN cannot win, even though he should be nominated, but he points to CULBERSON as a man who has been so cautious in all his acts that BRYAN, once deposed, would have no excuse for open hostility and might actually give him sincere support.

We are not at all sure that BRYAN'S support this year will mean more than his antagonism or his indifference. Our estimate of the man is that he will give zealous advocacy to no one but himself. But it is really of no consequence. He cannot draw away any genuine Democrats, and as for his one time following, the Populists, TOM WATSON of Georgia will herd them with or without his aid. Mr. PUJO, however, thinks that in the event of CULBERSON'S leadership no Bryan man will have a pretext for desertion or malingering, and that is perhaps true. But this is of no real consequence, for 1908 is a year of promise for the Democracy, and the prospect of official spoils is always a more potent and propulsive incentive than the absence of temptation to reprisal.

Otherwise Mr. PUJO goes to the real root of the situation when he says that the Democratic nominee must look for his electoral votes in the East and middle West. That would be true of BRYAN or, excepting Minnesota, of JOHNSON or almost any one else. The solid South will turn up as usual for the party, if we except Maryland and Kentucky in the event of BRYAN'S leadership, and the needed votes must be had from New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and New Jersey. This is where Mr. PUJO looks for them, and he is right. He does not think BRYAN can find them, and there he is right again. But he does think CULBERSON can, and this may be.

The Hon. CHARLES A. CULBERSON was greatly talked about during the summer of 1907. In many Southern States, especially Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama, his name was on many important and influential lips. He could be induced to make no sign, however, and gradually gossip passed him by. Now, when others have begun to elbow Mr. BRYAN out of the way and when it becomes manifest on even this slight encouragement that the Democracy in general and the Southerners in particular would like to unload the Old Man of the Sea with any pretext or prospect in plain view, Mr. PUJO of Louisiana comes forward suggesting the Hon. CHARLES A. CULBERSON as the man for the occasion. Here is one who has never antagonized the Prophet of the Platte, who has always bowed down before the Peerless Leader, and who in the event of that gentleman's retirement could take up the succession without incurring reproach.

Mr. PUJO is not an ordinary man by any means. He is a man of brains and courage. The connection between him and CULBERSON may, for all we know, be purely intellectual.

The Diplomatic Corps at Chicago.

The Diplomatic Corps at Washington is reported to be in a blue funk. Is the invitation received by each Ambassador and Minister to attend the Republican national convention at Chicago in June a courtesy or a command? It bears the sign manual of the Hon. JOHN BARRETT, director of the Bureau of American Republics, and it is said to be an elegant piece of script. General POWELL CLAYTON, formerly Ambassador to Mexico and a finished diplomat, stands ready to supply the seats in his capacity as a member of the Republican national committee. The invited dignitaries are at a loss to know whether they will be the guests of the President, of General CLAYTON, of JOHN BARRETT or of the Republican party.

Baron SPECK VON STERNBURG took time by the forelock and pleaded a prior engagement in Germany in June. In view of Senator BEVERIDGE'S fears of war with an Asiatic nation Baron TAKAHIRA is in a delicate position and would certainly attend if he could contribute to the preservation of peace. The Venezuelan Minister may go if assured that he will not be mobbed by the delegates. But most of the diplomats think of following the example of VON STERNBURG. Some of the Ministers whose expense account is limited will not be able to travel and may conclude to accept gallery seats in the convention rather than offend the Administration.

But the salient question after all is what they are to do when the proceedings begin. Is the Diplomatic Corps expected to shout for TAFT or to cheer for ROOSEVELT?

The New Siberia.

There is probably a goodly measure of imagination in Mr. PUTNAM WEALE'S estimate of 15,000,000 as the present population of Siberia and in his prediction of a population of 30,000,000 for the year 1917. A census taken in 1897 showed a resident population of 5,569,382 and an official estimate made in 1905 reported 6,568,000 for that year. The Russo-Japanese war and the policy of the Government since that experience have resulted in a large increase in Siberian settlement and it is possible that there may now be not far from 10,000,000 people in the country. The year 1917 is much more likely to see a population of 15,000,000 than the 30,000,000 predicted by Mr. WEALE.

Although open to question, these statements of an experienced student of conditions in that region call attention to one of the most important, if not the most important, of the world's movements of the present time. The population of Siberia is a matter of vast significance in both the political and the economic developments of the next twenty-five years. It will not be long before the Siberian railway will be double tracked from end to end. The distance from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific by this route is a little more than 4,000 miles. This railway traverses a region approximately 4,000 miles in length and averaging about 300 miles in width, equal to more than one-third of the area of the United States. Most of this area of approximately 1,200,000 square miles is highly productive. It is easily capable of supporting forty people to the square mile, or a total population of 50,000,000. It will soon become one of the important sources of the world's food supply.

A vast increase in population, now seemingly certain, will with equal certainty bring changes in the political boundaries of northern Asia. No serious stretch of imagination is needed to see, at no distant day, an overflow of southern Manchuria by the Japanese, an overflow of northern Manchuria by the Russians, and a political division of that country between the two. In such an arrangement the province of Shen-King would probably go to Japan and the province of Kirin to Russia, thus giving Russia territorial proprietorship along the entire line of the Siberian railway.

As a nation we are little addicted to serious consideration of the events of any time later than the year of the completion of the Panama Canal. If we were to exercise a little reasonable foresight we should pay alert attention to the progress of such lands as Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Mexico; to the rapid development of the Canadian Northwest, and to the more than possible changes in eastern and northern Asia. These are not matters of the far distant future, of some later generation. They are matters of the immediate time, of our own day and generation; and in them, only less than in our domestic concerns, there lie forces of importance to our national welfare.

Mr. Taft's Promise to the Negroes.

Secretary TAFT in Bridgeport on Monday declared with every appearance of sincerity that "the Republican party freed the negroes from slavery, and the time is coming soon when the disfranchisement of the negro in the South will be obliterated entirely." Obviously this must be set against Mr. BRYAN'S recent cordial expression of approval in Cooper Union of the devices by which the Southern whites have prevented the negroes from voting, for in his Connecticut speech Mr. TAFT said that he expected Mr. BRYAN to be the nominee of the Democrats for the Presidency this year.

It will be recalled that the Republicans of Ohio, in the platform they adopted this spring, approved the project for the cutting down of the Southern representation in the House which has been advocated by Representative KEIFER since his return to Congress. Others besides Mr. KEIFER have pronounced in favor of this course, but the plan has found no encouragement from the Committees on Elections, which have refused consistently to go behind the returns from Southern districts to investigate the conditions under which the voters were registered. The House committees have avoided action on this subject by holding the so-called "grandfather clauses" to be matters for judicial consideration, although the Constitution makes each chamber of Congress the judge of the "elections, returns and qualifications of its own members."

Thus Mr. TAFT'S prophecy is a prediction of a complete change of front among Republicans. Mr. BRYAN merely indorsed and approved an undenied, indeed a boasted, policy of the Democrats. Had Mr. BRYAN said otherwise he would have endangered his chances of nomination. A study of the returns from Republican conventions to elect delegates to the Chicago convention indicates that Mr. TAFT cannot be nominated without aid from Southern States. The worldly minded may incline to believe that this probability was not without weight in his mind when he was uttering this unexpected pledge to the negroes of the Black Belt.

Americans Are Not Original.

CHARLES WHIBLEY, an Englishman, once the brother-in-law of WHISTLER, is a writer who occasionally attacks America. He has again condescended to indulge in his favorite pastime. *Blackwood's* contains an article of his that does not leave us a literary leg to stand on. We are provincial, parochial, colonial. Independent as we are in the matter of tradition, nevertheless EMERSON, HAWTHORNE, THOREAU, POE, WHITMAN are derivative talents. They actually thought and wrote in English! And three of them, according to "the best models," "the patient students of masters dead and gone." Not WALT, good old gray WALT WHITMAN, is truly national. The common people, Mr. WHIBLEY says in effect, will have nothing to do with WALT. LONGFELLOW is their man. As for POE, he is an inhabitant of No Man's Land.

What language would Mr. WHIBLEY have these men write—Choctaw, or Esperanto? WHITMAN at times approaches perilously close to those or similar tongues. EMERSON, POE, HAWTHORNE, THOREAU wrote the purest English. They were, if you like the word, stylists. As English was their mother tongue, they employed it to the best of their ability. That the content of their books was individual, original, poetic, fantastic, Mr. WHIBLEY cannot deny. They probably mean as much to America as do CARLYLE, TENNYSON, DICKENS and THACKERAY to England. This is not a literary parallel but the bald statement of a fact.

How curious it is that so many cultivated Englishmen indulge in such singular fancies. America is new; therefore America should fabricate a new speech. We are quite happy, thank you, with the language of SHAKESPEARE, MILTON and the King James Bible. Mr. WHIBLEY finally relents and sees in MARK TWAIN our representative author, the one most truly impregnated by the American spirit. The English critic must have been reading BRANDER MATTHEWS.

I do not care whether I am nominated or not, having schooled myself that there is much to live for besides Presidential honors. I often ran for office in my own county, where of 3,000 voters 2,000 were Republican, so I know what defeat is.—*Governor* JOHNSON *of Minnesota.*

Those defeats must have been in the old days before the voters got acquainted with JOHN A. JOHNSON. His county is Nicollet. At the election in 1906 the poll for Governor stood: JOHNSON, 1,712; COLE (Rep.), 451. For President in 1904 the vote of Nicollet was: ROOSEVELT, 1,677; PARKER, 513.

Mr. TAFT says "it will be BRYAN." Governor FORT of New Jersey insisted on having Mr. BRYAN at lunch and showing him off. Among Republican politicians Mr. BRYAN has always been the favorite Democratic candidate for President.

The industry and intrinsic value of the American hen have been so ofted lauded on the floors of Congress that it is a relief to hear a modest tribute to the usefulness of the American mule. In the Senate on April 25 Mr. ALDRICH of Rhode Island was confuting the statement of Mr. BEVERIDGE of Indiana that England would not have overcome the Boers without her navy, when Mr. NELSON of Minnesota was recognized and said:

"I desire to call the Senator's attention to the fact that the American mules which the British succeeded in getting into the Boer country enabled them to triumph in that war."

The truth is that the mule, in spite of the blot upon his escutcheon and the handicap of small feet, a rat tail and ears that excite laughter, is first in peace, being found on every farm and in every railway cut, and first in war as a feeder of armies and hauler of guns, baggage and medical supplies. The hen makes more noise over the laying of one egg than is heard from a mule in a whole campaign. And the hen is cheered to her work by the ringing vaunt of her polygamous partner, while the only inspiration of the mule is his simple devotion to the gray horse which he swings after up the trail. The hen is all very well as a contributor to the breakfast table, but for general utility and homely worth she is not to be mentioned in the same breath with the American mule. May his ungainly shadow never grow less!

Senator EVERETT COLBY of West Orange was arrested at Highland Park yesterday for violating the speed limit in his automobile. He was taken before Justice of the Peace WILLIAM A. HOUSELL, who suspended sentence because the Senator was not far above the limit.—*Despatch from New Brunswick, N. J.*

As a true blue reformer Senator COLBY should have paid his fine. The speed limit ought not to be adjusted to accommodate any man. In England no guilty scorcher is allowed to escape, however illustrious. There the law is more generally obeyed and respected.

Representative NICHOLAS LONGWORTH, trying to hold the balance true between Senator KNOX and Secretary TAFT at the American Club banquet in Pittsburg on Monday night, indulged in this classical illustration:

"Both are competent to serve their country in any capacity. Either one could with justice to himself say, as said the Greek philosopher in ancient times, 'If I were not DIOGENES I would be ALEXANDER.'

"If I were not KNOX I would be TAFT. If I were not TAFT I would be KNOX."

We can imagine Mr. TAFT as ALEXANDER, because he is the Secretary of War, but Mr. KNOX as DIOGENES living in a jar on husks and asking MR TAFT to stand out of his sunshine is rather beyond us. Perhaps neither gentleman wants to be confounded with the other, the genial LONGWORTH to the contrary notwithstanding. By the way, he has mixed up ALEXANDER and a Greek philosopher. We are afraid that Mr. LONGWORTH would not pass one of Mr. ROOSEVELT'S civil service examinations.

That New York is the centre of life seems proved if we consider conjointly two recent and expert opinions:

(1) "Life," says the gray sage of Wantage, owner of Orby, "is a gamble."

(2) "New York," says Canon CHASE, "is the gambling centre."

There is an idea for larger use in the challenge of a Washington opera manager to a critic to demonstrate how a criticised number should be sung. Blistering rebukes are at times administered by baseball critics to a home team for having lost a game really won for the visitors by a well timed hit no player could have stopped without armor plate. Let such a critic be anchored in the field, and let the subjects of his disesteem bat liners at him until he has shown how to stop just such a hit.

DR. HERING'S LACHESIS.

His Own Story of the Robbing of the Fer-de-Lance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The story in THE SUN describing the method of obtaining a new supply of lachesis greatly interested me, for it has been one of my valuable remedies for fifty-two years. I have some of the sixth trituration given to me by Dr. Hering fifty-three years ago, and I presume I am the only person living who ever heard Dr. Hering describe his method of obtaining it. Other statements have been made, but they were incorrect. The following he told me fifty-three years ago:

In looking for the snake he found quite a number in a large ledge of rocks with many openings. When they were all inside Dr. Hering closed securely every opening except one. Then he took a position on the ledge above this opening, with a forked iron in his hand. When a snake projected his head Dr. Hering fastened him with the iron, and while an assistant held the serpent he with forceps and scalpel dissected the poison bag, and in that way secured all that has saved so many lives, especially those suffering from diphtheria.

A. M. CUSHING, M. D.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., April 27.

The Roosevelt Democrats of 1904.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Immediately following the nomination of Judge Parker at St. Louis in 1904, or to be more accurate, immediately following his miserable straddle on the currency question, you were good enough to print a letter from me urging Southern Democrats to support the Republican nominee as the lesser of two evils. You dignified my letter by alluding to it editorially, which, to judge from the letters received by me, attracted wide attention.

As explained in my letter above referred to, I quitted the Democratic party, like thousands of other Democrats who love their country better than any political party, following the nomination of William J. Bryan at Chicago in 1896, and have since then, while usually voting with the Republicans, regarded myself as absolutely independent of party. Becoming utterly dissatisfied with Colonel Roosevelt, I am anxiously awaiting an opportunity to vote for a safe man for President, regardless of party affiliation.

The nomination of Judge Taft seems at this writing a foregone conclusion. I regard him merely as a Roosevelt substitute and therefore equally unsatisfactory to all voters who are dissatisfied with the President and "his policies." It appears equally certain that Colonel Bryan will for the third time be chosen as the standard bearer of the Democratic party. This would leave the independent voter in a peculiarly unenviable predicament.

Why will not the real leaders of the party take the bull by the horns, throw off the Bryan fetish and nominate such a man as Johnson of Minnesota, Gray of Delaware or Harmon of Ohio? Such unlooked for action would be the signal for the enthusiastic return to the party of thousands and tens of thousands of voters who deserted it in 1896 and who will continue to remain out of it just so long as the shadow of Bryanism hangs over it, an omen of business disaster and party defeat, either to vote the straight Republican ticket or like myself refrain from voting altogether should the expected unfortunately happen at Denver and Chicago.

NOAH PALMER.

NEW YORK, April 27.

California's State Flower.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your interesting despatches from the fleet contain frequent allusion to the prevailing color in the coast cities' decoration, yellow, the color of the California State flower, which Spanish California called "copa de oro"—cup of gold—but which we, alas! call eschscholtzia. Concerning that flower are not these lines by Miss Ina Coolbrith, a California poet, good and timely enough for a place in THE SUN?

Thy satin vesture richer is than looms
Of Orient weave for raiment for her kings!
Not dyes of olden Tyre, not precious things
Regathered from the long forgotten tombs
Of buried empires, not the iris plumes
That wave upon the tropics' myriad wings,
Not all proud Sheba's queenly offerings
Could match the golden marvel of thy blooms.
For thou art nurtured from the treasure veins
Of this fair land; thy golden rootlets sup
Her sands of gold—of gold thy petals spun,
Her golden glory thou! On hills and plains,
Lifting exultant every kingly cup
Brimmed with the golden vintage of the sun!

MONTCLAIR, April 28. E. W. T.

THE "NEW ENGLAND COMMISSION" IDEA.

Comments on the Younger Charles Francis Adams's Remarkable Plan.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will you permit a little comment on the "plan of railway control, neither Federal nor State," mentioned in your editorial of April 22?

The scheme outlined by Mr. Charles Francis Adams for a New England railway commission sounds ingenious. Actually it is to be doubted if there is sufficient community of interest among the New England States to make the control by such a body worth anything at all. One of the stock arguments put forth by the advocates of the proposed merger of the New Haven and the Boston and Maine systems is to the effect that a railroad unity must be established in New England as a means of getting favorable treatment from the great trunk lines.

That such railroad unity is neither possible nor from the point of view of the manufacturing communities of eastern Massachusetts desirable was a principal point made in the address of John H. Bickford, civil and consulting engineer, before the legislative committee on railroads at the Massachusetts State House on April 24. Mr. Bickford's generalizations, which were supported by an astonishing array of facts and figures, are of such universal interest that I may be pardoned for restating them, the more so since the Boston newspapers did not seem to grasp the real significance of his utterances.

What Mr. Bickford maintains is that by keeping a reasonable degree of independence through retention of control of the Boston and Maine the communities of eastern Massachusetts will be in position to play the two great continental railroad interests against each other and thus to hold a balance of power in the industrial situation.

These two interests are the American, centring in New York, and the British, centring in Montreal. All future developments, unless present tendencies are decidedly checked, point to an intensification of the competition between these two interests. If the proposed merger should take place Boston and the nearby manufacturing cities would be reduced to the position of a provincial annex to New York. If such independence as is involved in control of the Boston and Maine is retained the manufacturers of Lynn and Brockton and Lowell will to a considerable extent be able to command their terms from the railroads.

It is therefore, according to Mr. Bickford's argument, for the financial advantage of eastern Massachusetts to resist the consummation of the merger.

And that is precisely what is happening, due to an instinctive recognition among business men of eastern and central Massachusetts that their position will be singularly favorable if Massachusetts is not made a State within a railroad. That is why such organizations as the Boston Chamber of Commerce, the New England Shoe and Leather Association, representing the largest single industry of the Bay State; the State Board of Trade, the New England Hardware Association and many other associations have taken action in opposition to the merger.

That Massachusetts must fight this controversy alone and that there is absolutely no community of interest as regards transportation facilities among the six New England States Mr. Bickford's argument undertook to prove. Maine produces raw materials. It is so closely connected with the Canadian railway systems that its affiliation with the British interest is assured. There is every reason to suppose that the port of Portland will continue to be developed as the Dominion of Canada prospers. Maine therefore is absolutely indifferent to the merger.

The chief industry of New Hampshire is taking summer boarders. People in the Granite State as a rule are more interested in questions of passenger service than of freight transportation. To a limited extent the manufacturing communities of southern New Hampshire have community of interest with those of eastern Massachusetts. But the matter probably does not seem to be of sufficient importance to give the State a distinctly anti-merger bias.

Vermont is bound up in the main with the New York interest. Connecticut is, of course, distinctly a New York suburb and can hardly be expected to act with Massachusetts in any issue where the welfare of Boston is in any sense pitted against that of New York. Rhode Island for both political and industrial reasons is likely to maintain an attitude of neutrality in the present issue.

In view of this lack of community of interest among the New England States it would seem that you are quite right in speaking of Mr. Adams's scheme as a "romance." The stern reality in the railroad situation of New England as viewed by thousands of business men of eastern Massachusetts appears in the certainty that if the present scheme of consolidation is permitted to go through their provincialized community will be under further necessity of paying tribute to "the American interest" and without the possibility of relief from the north. Specifically they know that in the event of the New Haven acquiring control of the Boston and Maine freight rates on that system will be raised to the level of those prevailing in the New Haven system.

NORMAN H. WHITE,
Representative from Brookline, Massachusetts Legislature.

BOSTON, April 27.

The Prjevalsky Wild Horses.

The two Prjevalsky wild horses at the Zoological Park seem to have reached a higher stage of civilization than is conceded to their kind in the book recently printed in Europe on these interesting animals. We are told in that volume that twenty or more of them, now captive in Russia and England, have developed no confidence in the human species, that all efforts to tame them have failed and that it is impossible to get nearer than a rod or two from them unless they are cornered.

On Sunday last our two specimens were sticking their noses out of their respective enclosures to accept handfuls of grass from the admiring public. One of them showed a weakness for candy that impelled her after receiving a sugarplum to follow the donor to the other corner, where she obtained another, in violation of the rule against the public donation of foodstuffs to the animals.

This seems to show that the wild horse, if long enough in captivity, may develop some degree of confidence in the good intentions of mankind. The authentic story from Turkestan that one of these same Mongolian animals carries his young master around on his back and follows him up and down stairs like a dog is fair evidence that the Prjevalsky wild horse may be completely subjected. This probability is increased by the fact that all the captives have spent practically their whole lives among men. No adult horse, it is believed, has ever been captured, and specimens have been secured only by following a herd till some of the foals a few days old have dropped of exhaustion.

Compensation for Higher Freight Rates.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I understand that the trunk lines contemplate an increase in the class rates of from seven to ten per cent. on business moving between Trunk Line and Central Freight Association territory. If the railroads decide on this advance, and they probably will, to become effective at an early legal date, what is the result? There will not be any improvement in the service rendered, and in a good many cases there will be a falling off of business directly traceable to the increased rates.

It is probable that the shippers of the country will be powerless to prevent this advance, and it therefore seems an opportune moment to agitate a movement on their part to obtain from the transportation companies some compensating returns for it:

Have the transportation companies agree to either settle or decline claims for loss and damage, overcharge, &c., within ninety days from date presented.

Have the transportation companies agree to deliver high class package freight at destination within a reasonable length of time. It is a hardship on the shipping public to assume responsibility on astray freight that turns up several months after date of shipment.

Have the transportation companies agree to restore the present basis of rates one year from date of the cancellation.

H. T. LEEMING.
Traffic Manager National Phonograph Company.

ORANGE, N. J., April 28.

A Reincarnation.

From the seven rooms and bath
And the janitor's hot wrath
We are moving once again,
Nineteenth time in Lord knows when.

And the flat we left behind
As too dismal and confined
Brand new tenants count a gem,
Just the very thing for them.

Likewise praises do we load
On our new and bright abode,
And with joy in every breast
Settle down to peace and rest.

But a faint suspicion gleams
And across our troubled dreams
Comes a feeling that of yore
We have lived in it before.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

PEACE FOR BUSINESS.

A Protest Against "Moral" Reform That Causes Economic Disaster.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There are more than sufficient causes for disgust with the whole tribe of humbug or misguided political reformers headed by President Roosevelt. There seem to be many of "my people," particularly in the West, whose sublime faith in the high moral purpose of their "ruler" is sufficient ground for their indorsement of his public acts and utterances. Such mental attitude may require additional treatment of commercial disaster or even the elemental pangs of hunger before enlightenment is forced upon them.

Just at a time when every effort should be made to reestablish the business of the country and to cut off at its source the ominous rising tide of the unemployed, the President and a large number of State and Federal legislators and officeholders are making strenuous exertions to thwart such effort and to make the situation as bad as possible. We are told that we must not complain because we are suffering in a good cause, namely, the reformation of our morals, which is to be accomplished by legislation prepared by the aforesaid politicians. Take Senator Burkett's speech, reported in yesterday's SUN, as a recent mild example of the stuff that is put before the people. The Senator says that no man dares deny that there has been "rottenness in Wall Street." Quite so, it is as certain as that there has been rottenness in the Senate. We can annihilate both and thus prevent such future rottennness, but there would still remain the heart of man, which when evil can be relied upon to find ways in which to be "rotten." We are told that "railroads have been guilty of discriminations and rebates and breach of the law." Quite impossible as a moral proposition. Men connected with railroads have doubtless been morally guilty of giving rebates, &c., and these political moral reformers seem carefully to avoid touching that root of the evils that they harp on with such eloquence and zeal.

We are surely in sore need of a campaign of education. Let every voter inform himself as far as possible on the actual situation and the facts of general importance in our banking system, commercial exchanges, the railroad business, public service business in general and public ownership and operation of the latter. It is a large undertaking, possibly too large for many of the politicians to undertake, but it is necessary to have a sound working knowledge of these things in order to form intelligent judgments as to the men and measures that are now uppermost in our political world. The voters of this land are confronted by purely business propositions. The introduction of the "moral" element is largely ignorance and humbug. We have a vast number of laws to punish evildoers, and if rich and powerful rascals cannot be punished under these there is but little hope that new laws will hurt them. Persecution of corporations certainly will not help morals. Dishonesty in all business will exist to some extent as long as business exists or until there comes to men a moral uplift from a power higher than any man made laws.

New legislation respecting private and semi-public business may be desirable, but only after calm and deliberate consideration in the light of a comprehensive knowledge. There has been so much loose talk, ill considered legislation, misapprehension and evil agitation heaped upon us while we are trying to struggle through a period of commercial depression that our present urgent need is a rest from political agitation, restrictive lawmaking, &c., until we can get on our feet again. Business ethics can hardly suffer seriously through such a rest, while on the other hand individual morals are not likely to be improved by poverty and misery even though the latter are brought about by the noblest of politicians. Let us unite in demanding peace for a season. One breath of such a demand throughout the country would surely bring a great calm upon those who thirst to have and to hold place and power at the public expense.

A VOICE FROM THE PEOPLE.

NEW YORK, April 28.

Call for Reduced Temperature in the White House.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is the duty of the father of the family to teach economy and frugality, and as far as in him lies to see that it is practised.

So it is the duty of the head of the nation to impress upon the country the observance of such habits.

Has the present occupant of that position fulfilled his duty in that respect?

Has he not, on the contrary, advocated the expenditure of vast sums on needless projects and largely to gratify his own personal whims? Has he not and is he not attempting to dictate that money which the country needs and should carefully husband be spent in a way not justified by the present condition of affairs?

Surely we should have some cool headed public men to call a halt on this mad road upon which he is leading.

E. T. W.

NEW YORK, April 28.

Warning for School Teachers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Teachers in the elementary schools and kindergartens of New York and vicinity should be informed that a faker who takes subscriptions to a bird magazine (*Birds and All Nature*) and nature study pictures has for several months been doing a good business in various parts of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and is now working in this city. Several of his victims have written the following information:

"He is an elderly Quaker, gray hair, slender form, minus two fingers on right hand, signs his name F. W. Cooley (but last month he seemed to be James Rogers) and pretends to represent a nature study company, which is sometimes given as 1135 and again as 1235 Broadway. Letters addressed in this way have been returned by the post office officials."

The magazine is evidently intended to imitate *Birds and Nature*, which was for several years published in Chicago. Teachers having further information concerning this specialist in paid in advance subscriptions are requested to inform the Secretary of the American Nature Study Society, at the Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

M. A. BIGELOW, Secretary.

NEW YORK, April 28.

Eggs for Election Expenses.

From the Norwich Bulletin.

Robert Palmer, a member of the board of relief and prominent in Fourth ward Republican affairs in Waterbury, filed a novel statement of his expenses to be elected a member of the Republican town committee.

Mr. Palmer was detailed to have the primary ticket of the Fourth ward printed, and he made a deal with George R. Abbott, whereby he paid for the printing with two dozen eggs.

Mr. Palmer's statement read as follows:

"This is to certify that at a primary election held by the Republican voters of the Fourth ward of the city of Waterbury, on April 15, 1908, I was duly elected a member of the town committee of said ward. I expended to secure said election as follows:

"To George R. Abbott, for printing primary tickets, two dozen eggs, at 20 5-10 cents a dozen, 40 3-5 cents.

ROBERT PALMER."

An Unappreciated Gift.

From the British Australian.

The late James Munro of Victoria, a strong teetotaller, presented a bowling green to the Armadale Club, on condition that no intoxicating liquor was ever to be sold or consumed on the ground.

As a result of this the Armadale Bowling Club is the thirstiest institution on the Australian continent, and veteran bowlers avoid it as they would the Great Sand Plain in midsummer. It was a Sydney patriarch who, on hearing of the conditions under which the ground was held, said to Munro: "The man that would do such a thing would present a barrel of salt herrings to waterless castaways on a raft in the Indian Ocean."

The Purpose of the Reservation.

Nebuchadnezzar had just finished the Hanging Gardens.

"To execute my chicken raising neighbors," he gave out.

Taking the hint, they allowed him to raise a crop.

The Spirits of Spring.

Days are getting longer,
Spring is stirring some,
When we hear of rickeys
And of punch with rum.

Days are getting warmer
Finest in the year,
Mint is in the julep,
Froth is on the beer.

TULLY [illegible] ARBUTUS JIM.

AN OFFICE FOR MY BARBER?

Circumstantial Allegations Concerning a Recent Executive Appointment.

From the Army and Navy Register.

The office of the auditor for the Navy Department is in need of some measure of relief, and especially is this true in that branch of the office known as the paymasters' accounts division. Some recent events have attracted attention to the office, notably the appointment by the President of his colored barber to a clerical position in that office. The work of the auditor's office has been behind and it was only last July that by the employment of extra clerks the accounts were brought up to a settlement within six months after rendition. On June 1, 1907, Ralph W. Tyler, a colored newspaper man from Columbus, assumed the headship of the office, having been appointed by President Roosevelt on the eve of Mr. Foraker's Brownsville speech in Ohio, in the effort to attract the colored voters from Foraker. Upon the appointment of Mr. Tyler one of the best of the naval clerks, Mr. William M. Gulick, immediately resigned. Mr. C. L. Huey sought and obtained transfer to the office of Comptroller of the Currency. Mr. E. M. Hooper to the division of bookkeeping and warrants, Treasury Department. Mr. Carl E. Beatty to Panama, and lately Mr. A. W. Barnes to the division of bookkeeping and warrants, Treasury Department.

All these are among those clerks secured by transfer from the naval establishment and were among the best clerks in the auditor's office. The reason in every case has been the dissatisfaction in the office, especially by the action regarding promotions, of which the latest is an instance. Mr. C. V. Haskell, an old soldier, was reduced from $1,600 to $800. The vacancy occurred in the paymaster's accounts division and as some reward for faithful and efficient work a line of promotions should have been made in the division, instead of which the President excepted from the civil service requirements his colored barber, William B. Dulany (carried on the rolls of the executive mansion as "messenger, $1,200, appointed from Tennessee, residence Alexandria, Va."), and this colored barber was appointed to the $1,600 clerical vacancy in the auditor's office. This was on March 13, 1908. He still performs his duties as valet and barber and the auditor's office is short one clerk. The injustice to the clerks and the resulting demoralization may be imagined. Through Treasury and Navy Department changes since July 1 in the methods of rendering and settling accounts the work has been greatly increased in the auditor's office, and the highest efficiency is now required. It would seem that something should be done to protect pay officers as well as the Government and put a stop to the demoralization in the auditor's office.

SCHOOL ATHLETICS.

Protest Against the Conditions Under Which the Pupils Compete.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is time that the responsible officers of the Public Schools Athletic League took decisive steps toward curbing the tendency manifested of late with ever increasing frequency by those immediately in charge of athletics in the public schools to push the various branches of sport under their supervision to such limits as seriously to endanger the health and morals of those under their charge. The writer has been a close follower of all branches of interscholastic athletics for the last ten years and an ardent advocate of sane sport, but his enthusiasm is hardly proof against the exhibition of frenzied athletics displayed at a very recent elementary school meet. Just to mention a few instances of gross mismanagement, to say nothing worse:

On the notices sent to the various schools 7 P. M. was the time set for competitors to be present and for the games to start. At the appointed time the little aspirants for athletic honors were on hand, but notwithstanding the absurdly long programme the first race started nearly an hour and a half later. At 11:45 o'clock there were six events still to be decided. Just what particular benefit the unfortunate youngsters derived from being held for hours under severe nervous tension, in a hot, stuffy atmosphere, vile with the reek of tobacco and witch hazel, perhaps those in charge can explain. Another interesting and doubtless highly beneficial innovation was introduced by running the final in at least one race immediately after the trials. One little boy, with more sense than his elders, pleaded for a little respite, but, still gasping, was gruffly ordered by the starter to take his place on the mark. Just how the much desired spirit of fair play can be inculcated into boys who are asked to line up thirteen abreast for a dash on a narrow circular track is another mystery. Again, the writer would be pleased to comprehend the benefits accruing to boys of six or seven years by running them in thirty and forty yard dashes.

Instances such as these are not going to help the very worthy cause of public school athletics. Teachers and officials in the main have the good of the pupils at heart, but too often the mistaken zeal and at times the ignorance of those in charge has led to grave abuses.

The writer seriously questions the advisability of any set training, as such, for either elementary or high school pupils. Any healthy normal boy in the ordinary course of school life gets plenty of exercise to keep him in good physical condition, and that is all we desire. The activities of teachers should extend no further than providing adequate supervision and instruction in the essentials of training. Is it the aim of athletic instruction to turn out a lot of arrogant, empty headed spe