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An Object Lesson in Politics.

A well known Republican prominent in the affairs of his party and commonly supposed to be familiar with its purposes and methods said in Washington a day or two ago: "We expect to make sure of BRYAN's nomination by the Democrats, in which case the Taft wave will proceed undisturbed. We are in this thing to win, however, and if there is any doubt about BRYAN at Denver we will nominate ROOSEVELT and make sure."

Of course the gentleman spoke in the assurance that TAFT was doubtful against a Democratic candidate other than BRYAN, and that ROOSEVELT would win over any imaginable antagonist. This is a delusion in which we are content to leave him. The fact of importance is that the Republicans, now as always heretofore, make a compact and homogeneous body, susceptible of perfect discipline and inspired by the desire to win. They have their weaknesses, their caprices, their vagaries, in moments of security, and these may take any extravagant, even crazy form; but the first note of danger to the organization as a whole draws them all together, shorn of their easy preferences, divested of the last trace of independence, and biddable as any flock of geese. Above and beyond all other considerations they are in the fight to win. In the face of real danger they discharge themselves of every sympathy and predilection. If they can compass the nomination of BRYAN they are willing to take TAFT, since ROOSEVELT will have it so. Anything to please him. But in default of BRYAN, or even in doubt of him as an adversary, they will none of TAFT. Success is the dominating question with them. And so it is ROOSEVELT in the bitter end. In their philosophy he is unconquerable.

Curiously enough, we already know that the Republican managers are bending every effort to secure the nomination of BRYAN by the Democrats. This is to smooth the path of President ROOSEVELT's present schemes and make TAFT's election sure. The money spent in Minnesota to break JOHN JOHNSON's grip, other expenditures in Massachusetts and elsewhere to check the anti-Bryan movement—these are indications not to be mistaken. In the South nothing has been said or done by outside operators, who trust to mingled ignorance and hysteria. The fact remains that the great corporations are giving up their money where it will be used for the cause—not to elect BRYAN, but only to nominate him—thus paving the way for TAFT's selection to make a White House holiday. Raise but the smallest cloud of uncertainty and in a moment they drop TAFT without a qualm. In the last resort ROOSEVELT is their appointed savior and they will turn enthusiastically to him.

On the other hand, consider the condition of the Democrats, if you please. They are animated by no practical and overshadowing motive of success. They appraise BRYAN by his failures, by the "devotion" on which he has grown fat in pocket, by the standard of his assiduous pretensions. It is all sentiment with them. They are not looking for the certainty of triumph, not even for a hope of it. BRYAN represents their calamities and their sufferings. He is linked with every memory of disaster. He led them into the wilderness twelve years ago. He plunged them deeper in 1900. They have starved in the remote and bosky places; he has thriven on their faith and trust and deep misfortunes. In his capacity as the chosen prophet of the Democracy he commands their audience on his lecture tours and his wallet swells to bursting. In his capacity as a rejected and discredited leader he would represent a fatal obstacle obliterated. The Democrats, however, see nothing of all this. They would rather pay to hear BRYAN preach a sermon on "The Prince of Peace" than win a victory at the polls with all that it implies.

A Democratic Triumph.

It appears from the Washington despatches that last week the Democrats in the House had an opportunity to vote for a currency reform measure drafted or approved by Colonel BRYAN and introduced by Mr. WILLIAMS. They refused to take advantage of this chance to show their devotion to the Nebraska statesman. The bill was brought up by a Republican, a Republican called for the yeas and nays, and all but six of the Democrats present declined to vote.

In the present absurd condition of affairs in the House it is difficult to tell what purpose animates and what fears stir the members of the minority. Mr. WILLIAMS and his associates may explain their course by elucidating the exigencies of the parliamentary situation. Yet from the press reports of the incident the man in the street will draw but one inference—that the Democrats, having ample opportunity to display their confidence in the man whom Mr. WILLIAMS is supporting for President and to make a record for actually trying to do something, deliberately chose to do the opposite. What of compliment to Colonel BRYAN there was in their attitude will be a pleasant subject for his consideration. He will probably not overlook the fact that the vast majority of his fellow citizens are not familiar with the procedure of the House, and that its intricacies are not easily explained to men not versed in parliamentary law and practice.

In short, Mr. WILLIAMS for all practical purposes has achieved another wonderful Democratic victory of the sort to which the country has become accustomed since he began his great filibuster in this Congress.

The Parliamentary Elections in Japan.

Although the official returns of the general election which took place in Japan on May 15 have not yet been published, a telegram from Tokio reports that the relative strength of parties in the Diet will remain very much what it was in the last Parliament. That is to say, the Seiyukai or Liberal party, by which Premier SAIONJI is supported, will with the aid of coadjutors among the independents remain preponderant in the popular assembly. Nevertheless, according to the same telegram SAIONJI's early downfall is predicted in the best informed political circles.

In order to explain how it happens that a Prime Minister backed by a majority of the lower house of the Japanese Parliament may be in imminent danger of removal it is needful to recall a shortcoming in Japan's assimilation of representative institutions. The species of parliamentary government which we see operative in that country occupies a position about midway between the English and the German type. It is well known that for about 200 years, except for a brief interval during the early part of the reign of GEORGE III., when the King strove to revive the sovereign's original right to name his First Minister, the majority of the House of Commons has been omnipotent as regards the selection of a Premier. Even now, however, the sovereign may not send in the first instance for the statesman whom the majority of the House desires, but the House by withholding a vote of confidence may ultimately compel the acceptance of its favorites. Thus when early in 1855 Lord ABERDEEN'S Ministry was forced to resign, Queen VICTORIA first sent for Lord DERBY and then for Lord JOHN RUSSELL. It was much against her will that finally she found herself constrained to take Lord PALMERSTON, whom she had driven from office in December, 1851, after his approval of LOUIS NAPOLEON'S *coup d'état*. Then again in 1880, when Lord BEACONSFIELD resigned, the Queen originally sent for Lord HARTINGTON, but was coerced by the attitude of leading Liberals in the House of Commons into substituting Mr. GLADSTONE.

In the German Empire, on the other hand, the demand of the Liberals and Socialists that the German Chancellor should be accountable to a majority of the Reichstag, or popular branch of the imperial Parliament, has hitherto been resisted inflexibly by the sovereign. It is true that for a short time after the political framework of the new empire was put in operation—when the Liberals, as yet unsplit into National Liberals and Progressives, had a majority of the chamber—BISMARCK habitually consulted their leaders with regard to prospective political measures. There is no doubt either that VON BÜLOW before submitting an important bill confers privately with the leaders of the so-called *bloc* which at present controls the lower house of the German Parliament. Never, however, has any Chancellor, from the first to the last, accepted publicly the principle of responsibility to the Reichstag, and the time came when BISMARCK himself learned that Kaiser WILLIAM II. had learned his lesson well and meant, even in his case, to exercise the right of changing Chancellors at discretion.

Now, in Japan the Mikado has never consented to limit his authority, which theoretically is still autocratic, by promising to acquiesce in the wish of a majority of the popular assembly as regards the selection of a Prime Minister. As a rule, indeed, whenever the vital interests of Japan have seemed not to be involved the Emperor has permitted the lower chamber of the Japanese Parliament to imagine itself invested with all the powers of the English House of Commons. The rule has had some notable exceptions, however, when the Emperor has been urged by his most trusted advisers, the so-called Elder Statesmen, to disregard the desires of the people's elected representatives. When the will of the latter is thus set aside a new general election naturally follows, but in every instance when such an appeal has been made the Japanese people have sided with their sovereign.

The present case, however, is unique in this particular, that the Elder Statesmen are divided, two of them, INOUYE and MATSUKATA, being strongly opposed to the financial policy of the Saionji Cabinet, while, on the other hand, it is zealously supported by ITO, who saved it from overthrow some months ago, when it was threatened by a coalition of Japanese jingoes with the critics of its fiscal programme.

German Courtship of France.

Germany has probably never had better reason to desire good relations with France than at present. Since the war it has made a good many attempts at conciliation, without much success, but it is now trying again on a new method. It has to deal with a powerful obsession in its neighbor's mind, a difficult case for international medicine. Its previous attempts have all been political, but inasmuch as the antipathy which holds the French aloof is political in origin and character, politics may possibly not be the best field to go a-wooing in. There is one political cure for the case, no doubt, but there is still probably only one—the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine. Short of that, an indirect treatment may be the best, though slow. Inadequate political advances have hitherto served chiefly as irritants. Anyhow, the Germans have decided to try an indirect treatment. *La haute politique* is to be set aside and a democratic, socio-commercial effort made. The one plain people is to hold out the glad hand to the other, while diplomacy and officialdom look on benignly, but with folded arms.

A very important society with this purpose, called the "Committee of Franco-German Rapprochement," which held its first business meeting last February, advertised its existence somewhat noisily the other day and began putting itself in touch with public opinion by inviting the German press to confer with it and granting interviews to the French correspondents in Berlin. In fact, it hung out a sort of manifesto of its intentions, using as a peg a visit paid to Berlin in April by a party of French students, who went as invited guests, in a more or less representative capacity.

This society, which is smiled on by the Emperor and blessed by the Chancellor and the President of the Reichstag and headed by the President of the Prussian upper house, is careful to emphasize the unofficial, non-political, practical, socio-commercial nature of the movement. One of its members, General VON LOEBELL, brother of the head of the Chancellor's staff, says, for instance:

> "We should be taking a wrong road if we tried to reach our end by entering *la haute politique*. That is the affair of our respective Governments. We should avoid it and stick to concrete matters. In automobilism, for instance, appreciable results have already been obtained. The plastic arts and music, too, have more than once afforded happy opportunities of turning existing points of contact to account with a view to a permanent understanding. Experience shows that commerce and capital are easily able to find the road from one country to the other."

This is the indirect treatment, clearly defined. Another member, Herr RENÉ, Privy Counsellor of the Emperor, says: "The *rapprochement* can only come through the people, not through diplomatists." Prince VON HATZFELDT, also on the committee, says:

> "If the committee can give the movement, above all, that practical character which it should have, it will probably succeed."

The methods proposed conform to this central idea; they are social and commercial. "We shall organize lectures; invite French savants, artists, engineers; start touring parties of Deputies, journalists, professors; encourage Franco-German art exhibitions, dramatic representations, sporting contests." And so on.

As to the upshot of the movement, it would seem that General VON LOEBELL and Prince VON HATZFELDT are right in regarding its success as largely conditional on its remaining in the practical, non-political sphere—making its approach through automobilism, the plastic arts, &c. Within these limits it can hardly fail to be useful in the long run. The old antipathy must be dwindling of itself, as its cause recedes and memory weakens, and any increase of social intercourse ought to hasten its decay. But quick political results of such an indirect treatment cannot be expected. The case is very different from the Anglo-French situation, where in the absence of any definite mental obstruction on either side an interplay between the political and social sentiments could easily be established. The committeemen for the most part profess to be well aware of the folly and impossibility of hurrying matters. "It seems to me prudent not to try to go too fast," says Prince VON HATZFELDT. "We are in no hurry," says General VON FETTER; "we know by experience that to get good results nothing must be done in haste, and we are content to go deliberately."

It seems, however, that all the members are not so wise, or so discreet. A non-political, unofficial campaign conducted under such highly political and official auspices might of course appear to a suspicious mind somewhat incongruous. Is Germany really content to go quite so slow as a logical application of the indirect treatment would imply? Well, one of the committeemen, Herr RENÉ, appears to have rather let the cat out of the bag, though of course he may have been speaking only for himself. This "Aulic Privy Counsellor," by the bye, receives some prominence in the movement as a probable *persona grata* to France, being the grandson of a Napoleonic officer who reached Germany wounded after the Russian campaign and, nursed there, married and settled down in the foreign country, and was afterward decorated with the St. Helena medal by NAPOLEON III. Herr RENÉ, in a moment of abstraction perhaps, certainly left the automobiles and plastic arts far behind and rushed waist deep into *la haute politique*, for he said:

> "The Moroccan question is not settled yet. The Algeciras pact is not eternal and there is a general feeling that sooner or later the legitimate interests of France should be more fully acknowledged. When that time comes, a Franco-German entente will be needed. The task of the committee is to prepare the way for it."

If so the committee will not be "going slow" at all. Political fruit of the socio-commercial treatment will be gathered pretty quickly. And Herr RENÉ prophesies some other quick political returns, not all so purely in the interests of France. Indeed, under his spokesmanship the indirect treatment assumes a strangely direct aspect. We incline to think that Herr RENÉ is making a mistake, and that to show such expectations of the movement is the best way to stultify it. He seems to realize this to some extent himself, for he concludes thus in a posture of self-defence:

> "We rely on the generosity and keen intelligence of the French people. We feel sure it will not impute to us designs which are far from our thoughts, and that even those who do not wholly approve of our aims will appreciate this *élan du cœur* which makes us long for more vitality and friendliness in our mutual relations."

The French have never concealed their readiness to welcome better commercial relations with Germany. Yet their representative papers carefully refrain from uttering one word of encouragement to these latest German advances. Why? The *Figaro*, for instance, contents itself with saying: "Our readers are now thoroughly informed as to the importance, aim and tendencies of the movement which is being started in Germany. We leave it to them to decide, after weighing the pros and cons, the drawbacks and advantages of this situation, which was certainly unexpected three years ago."

Undeniably, the political physicians of Germany have an intricate problem of international medicine to tackle, and if they are to remove that obsession they will have to be extremely careful in their "suggestions."

Governor HASKELL of Oklahoma has vetoed an anti-trust bill because he "would not destroy the cow to kill the tick." The Governor should take care. He will be condemned as a hireling of the corporations if he behaves in this way.

> If the differences between the Senate and House are reconcilable on the currency question adjournment may be taken without an agreement, but it will not be deferred beyond Thursday.—*The news from Washington.*

Apparently the adjournment of Congress is regarded as of more importance to the nation's welfare than the enactment of much needed statutes.

THE EXEMPT TIMBER BILL.

Why the Tax as Remitted Would Work an Injustice to Many Land Owners.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* State Forest Commissioner Whipple is reported as commending at the Washington conference "a bill passed in this State to exempt reforested areas from taxation." This description is as misleading as the title of the bill, which implies that it relates only to the growing of timber, &c.

If the bill, now in the hands of the Governor, becomes law all standing timber, whether matured or immature, can be exempted from taxation upon a certificate from the Forest Commissioner, and the land on which it stands must be assessed, regardless of its value, at the rate of barren land.

The Forest Commissioner can prescribe the size and number of trees to the acre required to secure exemption, but there is nothing that limits the exemption to reforested areas or even to immature trees. If he certifies that land worth $50 an acre is suited for the growth of trees and enters into agreement with the owner the land must be assessed at the rate of barren, unproductive land, which may be 50 cents an acre. The possibilities of abuse and the injustice to other land owners are obvious.

Only those who get the consent of the Forest Commissioner can obtain these exemptions. If taxation now bears so heavily on standing timber as to be an unfair burden or to discourage industry, any exemption should be of a general character, automatic in operation, and apply to all timber in the State. The few acres of woodland on a small farm should have the same exemption as the large forest tract or private game preserve.

Growing timber is a crop that requires a long time to reach maturity; being therefore exposed to repeated assessments that discourage forestry, a proper exemption of growing timber seems desirable. It may even prove desirable to exempt all standing timber. But the proposed underassessment of the land is inequitable; it discriminates even between forest owners who come under the bill, besides opening the door to speculation. Because of the defects in the bill the New York Tax Reform Association has filed objections to it with the Governor.

A. C. PLEYDELL,
Secretary New York Tax Reform Association.
NEW YORK, May 15.

THE CITY BATHS.

Number, Not Wages, of Attendants Criticised by the People's Institute.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If P. J. Coleman had seen the full statement on municipal baths published by the People's Institute he would have found that we in no way criticise the rate of wages paid by the city. The study of the public baths showed that they are employing three times as many men and women attendants as well managed private baths require. The number of employees has of course no relation to the rate of wages paid.

We see no ground to criticise the city's administration for paying to the employees at the baths the wages noted in our report. The fact that good wages are paid by the city, however, is additional reason why the public service rendered by its employees should be satisfactory and efficient. The criticism of the quality of the service and of the cost of the baths in relation to the service rendered is not "bosh" as Mr. Coleman says, but is based on published financial statements and on careful, and I think unprejudiced, observation.

The municipal baths are important for the well being of large numbers of persons in the city, and our interest in calling attention to the defects in their present management is solely to improve them and to increase the public service which they will render.

MICHAEL M. DAVIS,
Secretary People's Institute.
NEW YORK, May 16.

Delights of Boyhood.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Do I remember Washington pie? You bet I do! I think 'twas about '63 that it first impressed me with its satisfying qualities. "G. Q. C." is right concerning the materials with which it was compounded, and what more did a feller want than a two cent hunk of Washington pie, a cinnamon cigar that cost a cent, and then go over to Washington parade grounds and see the "sogers," and if one had an extremely robust appetite, why, a penny Bolivar was very filling.

Fellers, do you remember when we were let out at night and told to come in when the 9 o'clock bell rang; how we used to hook charcoal and potatoes from the Dutchman on the corner, build a fire in the gutter and roast the potatoes; and didn't they taste good? A session with a "Beadle's Dime" finally completed one of those happy days.

NEW YORK, May 16. R. J. BELL.

Songs of the Nations.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The English do not offend us by singing "Rule Britannia." We are not tyrants, nor are we unfriendly toward England, therefore we need not object to any part of it. When we sing "The Star Spangled Banner" we may offend a friendly people by giving them to understand that we regard them as belonging to that "Haughty host whose blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution." This would not be courteous, however gratifying it might be to certain dispositions.

I do not believe that Newman would inflict pain under any circumstances, even though he might not have had patriotism in mind at the time he wrote his definition of a gentleman. He proclaimed himself a thorough Englishman, but in doing so he did not deviate from his standard of ethics.

NEW YORK, May 15. JOHN FOSTER.

Aspersions on Scottish Antarctic Explorers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The claim to Scottish greatness made by one of your correspondents is little less than absurd. What is known about the south pole is due solely to the efforts of Norse, German and British explorers. The few Scotch expeditions that have ventured into the region of the Antarctic have come back with some wildly exciting stories, but with very little helpful scientific data.

Doubtless the crews of these Scotch vessels were shanghaied and their captains full of the fierce wild joy born of the consumption of many hot Scotches.

BROOKLYNITE.
BROOKLYN, May 16.

Civic Zeal in India.

From the Lahore Tribune.

In consequence of a Lahore literary society announcing a lecture, "Man, the Index of Creation," the city authorities sent twenty-five armed constables down to the lecture hall, which only held fifty people.

Where Summer Dreams.

I know a quiet, sandy beach
Where laughing waves creep up and play,
Where ripples dance and climb and reach,
Where north winds never find their way.

Cliffs crowned with cedar hem it in,
With here and there a line of green,
Where junipers and mosses win
A hold, the crevices between.

Above the sea there is a seat
Reached by a narrow, winding way
Where one may watch the tides retreat
And listen to the waves at play.

Where the swift sea breeze passes by,
Dark shadows ripple to and fro,
And outlined far against the sky
The glimmering white sails come and go.

Here beauty finds a resting place,
And fair nights merge in fairer day;
Here summer shows her kindest face
To thee, O little landlocked bay!

NENETTE M. LOWATER.

THE AMERICAN GRAPE IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE.

The serious disorders, almost amounting to revolution, in the south of France last summer attracted general attention to the changes which have come over the vine growing industry of sunny Provence in recent years. The subsidence of that incipient revolution was chiefly due to the energy of the Government in dealing with the outbreak and to the promises of Governmental redress for the wine growers. In part those pledges have been redeemed. More stringent laws have been passed against adulteration of wines, and more important still as a means of final relief, the French Minister of Agriculture began a thorough examination of all the facts in the case in regard to the wine industry. Professor Daniel of the University of Rennes, an authority in applied botany, was specially commissioned by the Department of Agriculture to make an examination as to the effects of grafting, or what is technically known as "reconstitution," on the wine product of the south of France. The professor's report, recently submitted, throws new light upon the crisis of last summer and through which the wine growing industry of the Midi is still passing.

Historically the trouble which has so seriously affected the leading industry of the South of France may be traced back for its beginning to more than half a century ago. It began in 1850, when in order to combat the ravages of a fungus known as oidium, which then threatened to destroy the vineyards of France, American vines were introduced in the Midi. The experiment was at once hailed as a success and the grafting of the French variety on the hardier American stock was regarded as the solution for the evils then threatening the vineyards. That exultation was not only premature but the general adoption of the grafting process by which the vineyards of Provence were practically reconstituted has led to the crisis of to-day. The imported American vines were suffering from phylloxera, but as they were hardy and the parasite attacked only the roots while the rest of the vine seemed to flourish, grafting of the old variety of vine on the new stock was regarded as the sure and profitable solution of the evils afflicting the vine industry. Disregarding the well known principle as to grafting only between allied varieties the French viticulturists proceeded to graft the native vine upon the American stock and congratulated themselves upon the resulting immunity from the oidium pest in their vineyards. To add to the popularity of "reconstitution" it was found that the grafted vines were twice or thrice as prolific as the older vines, and for a time everything went well. The vine growers prospered and the Midi was happy.

In former years in a season of plenty wine merchants were accustomed to buy up all the wine offered, selling what there was a demand for and then storing the remainder in their cellars, where age improved its quality and added to its value. This was done at first also with the product of the reconstituted vineyards and all went well. Soon, however, it was discovered that in taste and quality the new wine was inferior to the old product, and moreover that the new would not keep so well. Under these circumstances the vine growers were at once confronted with the crisis which has gradually been growing in intensity for many years. As the product of the wine presses had to be marketed soon, the vintagers found that in seasons of plenty it was impossible to sell their wine at remunerative prices. To add to their distress the wine growers, who in scarce years had resorted to making artificial wines from dried raisins, sugar and other ingredients, some of which were unwholesome if not actually poisonous, found to their dismay that the public was ceasing more and more to drink wine of any kind, except the famous brands which had retained their purity. As a result in recent years and particularly last year there was a glut of wine in southern France and the growers found that the industry to which they and their forefathers were accustomed no longer furnished them a reasonable subsistence. The movement of last summer under the leadership of Albert was the consequence.

Professor Daniel's report seems to be conclusive and the remedy he urges is radical. He is fully convinced that there is but one remedy for the present plight of the Midi. The wine growers must abandon grafting on American vines, which while producing good wine in their native soil are not adapted to French soil and climatic conditions, or at least not adapted for grafting with French vines of a different variety. To dig up these reconstituted vineyards and to replant them with the native stock is the remedy Professor Daniel recommends. He is strengthened in this recommendation by the fact that in the region producing the famous Burgundy champagne and Medoc the vine growers never yielded to the "reconstitution" craze and have found means successfully to combat the old time plague of the vineyards, the oidium fungus. As a result there is still prosperity in the wine producing districts under the old methods, while in the Midi there is only poverty and bankruptcy ahead of the wine growers under present conditions.

Still another change in addition to digging up the present vineyards in the Midi and replanting them with native vines is recommended by Professor Daniel in his report. Finding that the American vines grew even more luxuriantly in the lowlands and meadows the viticulturists of the Midi forsook the hills and rejoiced in the greater productivity of the vines in the lower and fertilized lands. This change also acted deleteriously on the quality of the wine from the presses, for it still remains true, as Vergil wrote 2,000 years ago, "the vine loves the hills." Of course these radical changes, even if promptly adopted by the more intelligent vine growers, will involve several years of unproduction waiting for the new vineyards to arrive at a stage when their yield will once more be remunerative. But this seems to be the only way out of the present crisis and the sooner the vine growers of the Midi act upon these official recommendations of Professor Daniel the sooner will that land of the vine and the sun be on the road to a complete restoration of its old time prosperity.

Agricultural Pest in France.

From the London Globe.

So great have been the ravages caused by the dodder—a leafless, twining, parasitic plant—that a decree has been issued by the French President prohibiting its importation into the country. It is a veritable agricultural scourge, attacking and destroying hops, vines, clover, peas, tomatoes and many other kinds of agricultural produce. Once having found its way into any district, it is most difficult to get rid of, and constitutes a permanent source of anxiety to the farmer. Cutting down, burning and poison have all been tried with unsatisfactory results.

A Chinese Objection to Railroads.

From the Indianapolis News.

An Americanized Chinaman, Chin Gee Hee, is the projector, president and engineer in chief of a railroad which has recently been opened in the Hongkong hinterland. Of the six locomotives used four were purchased in the United States, the others coming from Germany. The president says his chief difficulty in building the road was in overcoming the obstinacy of the natives, who opposed the work on the ground that the smoke from the locomotives would ruin their crops.

THE GROWTH OF BERLIN.

The growth of Berlin during the past ten or fifteen years has been phenomenal and still continues. The suburbs of the city proper are growing so fast that Greater Berlin will soon be a reality as well as a mere name.

A few years ago, hardly a decade, Charlottenburg was a distinct and separate town. To-day there is no line of demarcation, and the suburb is practically a part of the city. So it is in all directions around the old city.

The United States is supposed to be the country of wonderful growth and development, but Berlin of late years has shown an increase in buildings such as few American towns or cities can boast. The suburbs of Schöneberg and Wilmersdorf a few years ago were mere sand wastes with a few scattered houses. To-day they are an integral part of the nation's capital not distinguishable from the city proper. Then they begged to be made a part of Greater Berlin; to-day Greater Berlin is making every effort to induce these suburbs to enter the lists for annexation to the Greater Berlin, which does not yet exist officially.

The various suburbs of Berlin are well built, the houses generally of a uniform character, with apartments containing all the modern improvements; consequently the business men, who used to live in Berlin proper, now have only their business there, and their residence in the suburbs, and as they pay their income tax where they have apartments the suburbs are becoming rich and the city proper is losing revenue in proportion.

The growth of the city is indicated in its schools. In 1872 instruction was imparted in only seventy-two communal public schools (which at the time were adequate for the demands made on them) and there was but one public gymnasium (Turnhalle). To-day there are 300 such public schools and twenty gymnasia in Berlin proper, while Greater Berlin (so called) has over 400, and the number in the suburbs is continually and rapidly increasing.

The higher schools, on the contrary, have not increased in the same proportion in Berlin proper, but in the suburbs such increase is very evident. Thirty-five years ago there were in Berlin proper ten classical gymnasia (humanistische gymnasien, or grammar schools) and in Charlottenburg one. In 1908 Berlin itself has sixteen while the suburbs have three State and twelve communal establishments of the same rank. Of other gymnasia (real gymnasia, or grammar schools) Berlin has had but one added in the past thirty-five years, while the suburbs have had nine.

The higher girls' schools have increased in number in even a greater ratio. In the early days of the imperial capital there were but three higher girls' schools in Berlin proper and one in Charlottenburg; to-day there are over twenty communal and two State schools of this kind in Greater Berlin.

It is thus seen that the schools are also crowding into the suburbs and leaving the old city. Greater Berlin is therefore only a question of a very short time.

The number of foreigners in Berlin has also increased in a remarkable degree in the past twenty years, but especially in the past ten. The records of the police show the figures, in which, however, the transients only are included, not those who take apartments and remain for longer or shorter periods for various purposes. The number of the latter, if we consider the Russian and English colonies alone, is very considerable. The American colony (one of the smallest) is said to number about 4,000. Of transients there were in Berlin in 1887, 388,271; in 1897, 620,476; and in 1906, 1,029,461. The number, therefore, in the past twenty years has nearly quadrupled, the increase in round numbers being about 30,000 a year. But the increase is not uniform; indeed, it appears to depend largely on business conditions. For example, during the four years of business depression from 1890 to 1893, the number remained practically constant at about half a million; the steady increase of the past ten years is therefore an indication of the constant improvement in business.

There is probably to-day no large city in the world that is growing and developing in a material point of view in the same proportion as Germany's capital, and the surplus in the treasury is an indication of her business prosperity as well as her excellent business management.

The Stewart Case.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Of the case of Colonel Stewart, "the exile of Fort Grant," it seems to me—and I claim no monopoly in the thought—that we are upon hard times indeed when the elected servant of the people can so far forget his commission as to ride roughshod over the laws and arrogate to himself the powers of a dictator and to trample under foot the lawmakers.

HONESTY IN HIGH PLACES.
NEW YORK, May 16.

Labored Justification for Taking a Drink.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* From all I have been taught, read or learned, the sole object of food is to maintain our bodily heat, which in health is nearly 100 degrees Fahrenheit, internally. Given that equilibrium life remains in us. When anything disturbs this equilibrium then disease results. It may be measles, typhoid fever, pneumonia or smallpox. It may be certain brain disturbances (when we get sub-normal temperatures) or the temperature may remain at 100 and we suffer from some chronic complaint because of certain kinds or forms of food which set up poisons in our systems and do not normally liberate the necessary and required heat.

This being so does it not stand to reason that the best forms of food are those which shall generate heat easiest?

Now we know or at least have been taught that in the final breaking up or splitting of the products of our foods heat is generated, alcohol is formed, which finally splits up into carbonic acid and water, and passes out of the body by the lungs, skin, and kidneys. It would seem, therefore, the human body is to a certain extent a distillery, a living active distillery, ever manufacturing alcohol in order to create and maintain our animal heat.

If so, then why not take alcohol itself in form of whiskey, wines, beers, etc., as a food? Professor Starke, in his recent work "Alcohol: a Sanction for Its Use," maintains that alcohol is a food up to a certain point or percentage; for an adult man an equivalent of from three to six ounces of alcohol a day.

Yet the human body cannot live and maintain its health or equilibrium on alcohol alone. It would seem nature demands certain food stuffs out of which to manufacture its own alcohol.

So it comes down to this proposition—that man or woman will live the longest and keep in the best health who takes the most suitable and simple kinds of foods, plus a little pure spirits.

This actual alcohol does not appear to be required until after fifty, when, in the natural order of things, nature is failing and man is on his downward grade.

Q. E. D.
NEW YORK, May 16.

Origin of Pommes Soufflée.

From the London Globe.

With reference to the fiftieth anniversary of the first railway in France a French contemporary points out that it was in connection with this event that the virtues of pommes soufflées were discovered. A French chef was travelling on the new line from Paris to St. Germain, and was preparing in the train the banquet which was to celebrate the opening. Just before arriving at St. Germain he threw some potatoes in the boiling butter. The train, however, was delayed, and the potatoes had to be taken out again. When the train restarted the potatoes were once again put in the boiling butter, and to every one's delight were found, on being taken out, to be deliciously light and inflated. The beauties of the pomme soufflée had been revealed.

In California Town 518 Homes Without Children.

Whittier correspondence Los Angeles Express.

In the result of the city and school census, finished yesterday by N. D. Ellis, some unusual conditions are found to prevail in Whittier.

There are no negro, Indian or Mongolian pupils in either public or private schools. One hundred and twenty-six children of school age are not attending school. There are 518 homes in Whittier where there are no children. The bona fide population is 4,000; with sojourners, Chinese and Japanese the total population is 4,208.

Sir John Bowring's Creed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As to the authorship of "In the Cross of Christ I Glory," which a correspondent of THE SUN points out was written by Sir John Bowring, I think Sir John is of the Liverpool family, all strong (i. e., courageous, enlightened) Unitarians.

W. C. M.
NEW YORK, May 16.

THE EPISCOPAL OPEN PULPIT.

Nothing Surprising in Canon 19 as a New Venture in Liberality.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One contemplates with mingled surprise and amusement the present disturbance among our friends of the Episcopal Church with regard to the "open pulpit Canon 19."

But why should there be objection to this additional departure from the conservatism (?) of a denomination wherein one congregation, following the special teaching of its pastor, acknowledges two sacraments only and plain services; another adopts Catholic practices and dogma, believes in seven sacraments, celebrates a so-called mass, with a general aping of the ceremonies of the ancient Church; while a third seeks to combine, in a very inexplicable procedure, high, low, broad and ritual services, and all under the guidance of Bishops who courteously and obligingly confirm the members of these contradictory and conflicting beliefs with a liberality no doubt highly creditable to strict impartiality but, it must be admitted, somewhat enigmatic in a spiritual sense.

A prominent clergyman denies absolutely that the Episcopal Church is Protestant, and he has followers who insist that it was always, is now and ever will be "Catholic." And yet the venerable Bishop from whom other Bishops have their only legitimate official descent, a man revered in his day and held in loving memory unto these late times, affixed to a certificate of marriage in 1823 of the parents of your correspondent, written entirely in his own hand, his official signature as follows: "William White, Bishop of ye Protestant Episcopal Church in ye Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." Evidently this exalted and esteemed authority in the Episcopal Church of those days believed in the Protestant and not at all in the Catholic origin, history and existence of his denomination.

Now, however, that "Canon 19" permits officially the public teaching of all sorts of doctrine from the Episcopal pulpit by outsiders—teaching which has been inculcated for years past by insiders—varying from Catholicism to Unitarianism, it is no wonder that the so-called "Catholic" part of this confusing and discordant denomination hastens to pour forth remonstrances, petitions and pleadings that the deposit of faith be not thus rudely destroyed. But how can these remonstrants logically call for a revision or recall of the canon solemnly adopted by the Church in general convention? Have the Bishops erred? Must they take back their own words, revoke their decision, consent to their own condemnation as not really teachers of sound doctrine and the truth? Assuredly not. And indeed why has a "Catholic" in the Episcopal Church the right to demand such stultification from its accepted rulers? He is certainly an anomaly there; a being to be gazed upon with endless curiosity and wondered at as an ecclesiastical freak. The canon will not be rescinded. Possibly it was adopted to remove these so-called "Catholic" thorns from the sensitive body of the Church. It is awkward after all to have people in the fold who try to hold Henry VII. with one hand and Pius X. with the other. It is an impossible acrobatic miracle. Doubtless, therefore, some of the disturbed gentlemen, obeying the "still, small voice" within and the resistless logic of circumstances, will withdraw from communion with what they must now consider, in accordance with their public and emphatic declarations, a schismatic Church. Others, less sincere and more subject to the influences of their environment and material ease, will continue to endeavor to balance themselves on the top rail of the fence enclosing so wide a field of irreconcilable beliefs in the somewhat important subject of eternal loss or gain. Like the present coadjutor Bishop of Pennsylvania, they may think the Church's "great virtue lies in its magnificent comprehensiveness." Perhaps it does in a double sense. He also adds that "the great fact about the Episcopal Church is that it is in no sense a sect." Certainly not since it embraces in its "magnificent comprehensiveness" a multitude of sects. Whatever it was in the past, it is evidently now "all things to all men" in spiritual teaching.

But let us await further developments. Perhaps "Canon 19" is merely evolution or an apt illustration of modernism, or another sign of the continuing process of disintegration. Who knows?

C. R. I.
PHILADELPHIA, May 16.

Recasting the Government.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is it proper for the President to invite the Governors to confer on matters affecting the States to the exclusion of the Senators? If so, why not abolish the Senate and establish a Congress of Governors?

If Senators of the United States are chosen with a view to represent the interests of their respective States, would it not have been more fitting if the President had recognized them in the matter of conserving the country's natural resources than to have ignored the principles of government by disregarding the States' regular representatives at Washington?

One step further and we will need no House of Representatives, for could not the President, with just as much reason, call a council of their constituents on other questions, ignoring the functions of the Congress altogether?

JAMES W. BELLINGER.
YONKERS, May 16.

Commerce of Hudson Bay Region.

From the Washington Herald.

"The utilization of Hudson Bay for commerce seems near at hand. The recent movements in Canada have materially changed long standing theories about northern conditions," said William Williams of Ottawa, who is interested in trade and commerce of Canada. "Regions which have been deemed of little value, because of the supposed cold of the climate, are being developed into prosperous farming communities. The suspicion that fur companies have held back immigration for their own selfish ends has been confirmed.

"The proposition is now to make Fort Churchill, on the west side of Hudson Bay, a shipping point for grain and other products of that new country. The Canadian Government has been studying conditions for a number of years. It has been found that there is safe navigation to Fort Churchill for three and a half to four months of each year after July 1.

"By building a few hundred miles of railroad connection can be made with established lines to the southwest. A new outlet by way of Hudson Bay will save freight rates to present shipping points. It will help to develop a country toward which the attention of settlers is already turning."

Street Cars for Shanghai.

From Zion's Herald.

The problem of tram traffic in a Chinese city presents peculiar difficulties, in view of the crowded condition of the streets and the lack of familiarity of the people with time saving devices generally. The construction of a new tramway system in Shanghai has been practically completed, although the current will be turned on at first only in sections where the inexperience of the Chinese drivers and conductors will be less likely to have bad effects. Upward of twenty-three miles of tracks have been laid, and the tram routes have been divided into eleven sections, over which the passenger is entitled to travel—the first class fare for one section being only two and a half cents. Each car is divided into two compartments, not on a color basis, but rated according to fares paid. The cars are lighted by electricity, and notices posted in English, French and Chinese warn passengers against smoking, spitting or bringing dogs on board. A notable feature is the entire absence of advertisements on the cars.

To Save Arbutus in Vermont.

From the Ludlow Tribune.

Arbutus hunters have not returned laden with trophies this season thus far, at least in this section of the State. Very little of the beautiful blossom has been gathered but it will be remembered that large quantities of it were secured very late last season. Lovers of the arbutus are endeavoring to prevent its wholesale destruction through carelessness in picking it. It is important if the presence of this early and most beautiful flower is to be retained that the stem bearing the blossom is cut off instead of broken as the latter process injures the plant and not infrequently uproots it and destroys its life. It ought not to require much persuasion to induce adults to exercise care in gathering arbutus, and the children, who thoroughly enjoy the hunt for it, should be instructed in the same direction.

Industrious Pennsylvania Congressman.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Congressman Lafean has distributed 24,000 packages of garden seed among his constituents in York and Adams counties. The original allotment to each Congress district was 10,000 packages. Mr. Lafean must have a pull with the Department of Agriculture or else he has been awarded some other Congressman's garden seeds.

A Question.

Knicker—Are you interested in crop rotation?
Bocker—Yes; would the snakes be pink?