The Sun.

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

It must not be forgotten that to the prescient initiative of Republicans of the Empire State twelve years ago was due that movement within the party which enlisted it squarely and unalterably for the gold standard. Because of New York's timely action the real issue became the only issue, the campaign of 1896 took its unexpected and triumphant course, and the victory of McKINLEY and HOBART preserved the nation's financial honor and insured for a long time the material prosperity of our people. We are impelled to this reminiscence by the impressive demand of NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER, JOSEPH H. CHOATE and other distinguished and patriotic Republicans of this State for such a declaration by the Chicago convention next week as will pledge the party to the maintenance of what is even more important than the gold standard, more vitally essential to the preservation of our institutions than an honest measure of values.

Revolutionary Procedure in Insanity Cases.

The announcement is made that Judge WARREN W. FOSTER of the Court of General Sessions in this city proposes "to revolutionize the procedure in connection with the disposition of murder cases where it is alleged that the defendant at the time of the commission of the act was of unsound mind."

It appears that in the case of a woman indicted for murder in the first degree in whose behalf a plea of not guilty on the ground of insanity had been interposed Judge FOSTER has appointed three medical experts to examine into the condition of the defendant at the time of the homicide, and it is stated that if these commissioners report that she was then insane Assistant District Attorney ARTHUR C. TRAIN will recommend that the indictment be dismissed. Judge FOSTER, we are told, will then sign an order committing the woman to the asylum for the criminal insane at Matteawan.

This procedure is only revolutionary in one respect, and in that respect it is very revolutionary indeed. We mean in regard to the proposed dismissal of the indictment. The proposition that a person who pleads insanity as defence to a charge of murder in the first degree shall have the validity of that plea practically and finally determined by a commission of three experts instead of being submitted to a jury is a novelty in the law.

For many years the Code of Criminal Procedure has provided that when a defendant pleads insanity the court in which the indictment is pending, instead of proceeding with the trial of the indictment, may appoint a commission of not more than three disinterested persons to examine the defendant and report to the Court as to his sanity at the time of the commission of the crime. The same statute also provides that if a defendant in confinement under indictment appears to be insane at any time before or after conviction the Court may appoint a like commission for the same purpose. If the commission find the defendant to be insane the trial or judgment must be suspended until he becomes sane, and the Court must order his commitment in the meantime to a State lunatic asylum. The law expressly requires, however, that when such a defendant becomes sane the superintendent of the asylum must certify that fact in writing to a Justice of the Supreme Court and the Judge must then require the Sheriff to bring the defendant from the asylum and place him in proper custody until he be brought to trial.

In the case before Judge FOSTER, therefore, there is nothing unusual or out of the common run in the appointment of the commission of experts to examine the defendant, but it will be a very unusual procedure indeed if the Court consents to dismiss the indictment in case the commission reports that the defendant was insane at the time of the commission of the homicide. The adoption of such a course will be in effect substituting the decision of the commission for the verdict of a jury. The proper procedure if the defendant is now insane is to detain her in an asylum until she recovers her reason and then place her upon trial.

The Quebec Tercentenary.

Is there any political purpose behind the projected commemoration in July of the three hundredth anniversary of CHAMPLAIN'S founding of Quebec?

On the face of things the anniversary is one that interests primarily and mainly French Canadians. It is natural, however, that the English speaking inhabitants of the Dominion should also wish to celebrate an event which opened their country to civilization. But why should a vigorous and concerted movement be made in England itself to exhibit the sympathy of the mother country in a demonstration which on the surface is chiefly of colonial importance? Is there among the promoters of the movement an unavowed desire to further the aims of the imperialist party, or is there rather a wish to emphasize the present cordial understanding between Great Britain and France?

There are well informed and expert onlookers who believe that they discern in the earnestness with which an imposing commemoration of the Quebec tercentenary has been advocated in England an attempt to further the aims of those who want to tighten the bonds of union between England and her self-governing colonies by means of a preferential tariff. We should be more inclined to accept this view of the matter if the interest evinced by Englishmen in the celebration were confined for the most part to Unionists. This, however, does not appear to be the case. The Liberals, who came into power toward the close of 1905 on the crest of a free trade wave, have taken quite as zealous a part in preparations for honoring CHAMPLAIN'S achievement; indeed it is obvious that without the approval of the present Government the Prince of WALES would not have been delegated to play a conspicuous part in the ceremonies.

What the dominant Liberals really have in view seems to be suggested by the form which the permanent memorial of CHAMPLAIN'S founding of Quebec is to take. That form is to be the rescuing from desecrating or ignoble associations of the famous Plains of Abraham and the dedication of them forever as a public park to the memory of the great deeds that there were wrought. We need not say that those plains are not merely of British but of interracial and international interest. It would be a narrow insular mistake to connect that locality with WOLFE'S victory and death alone. Not only all French Canadians but all Frenchmen remember that MONTCALM was stricken on the same field and died with equal glory. Indeed no fewer than five battles took place around Quebec, in two of which the Britons have victories to their credit, while the French have three. That France and England derive equal renown from the storied annals of Quebec has long been attested by the monument in the Government gardens of that city which bears on one face the name of MONTCALM and on the other that of WOLFE.

The entente cordiale may indeed be said to have begun when that memorial was erected, and it will but be deepened and made more enduring by the more impressive monument to the same heroes which is now to be reared upon the Plains of Abraham. The delegates of the French Republic who will participate in the ceremonies side by side with the Prince of WALES and the Governor-General of the Dominion cannot but keenly appreciate the hearty recognition by their quondam foes and present friends of the large share of France in a common illustrious heritage.

Another Big Stick.

That radical tariff revisionist SERENO ELISHA PAYNE was quoted yesterday as saying that:

"As surely as the next Administration is Republican the preparation of a [tariff revision] bill will be undertaken by the committee very soon after the election with the view of a special session of Congress to enact it into law."

The full significance of this statement will be plain when the subjoined extract from the Washington news of the New York *Tribune* is read:

"If the turn of the political wheel should elect a Democratic majority in the House this autumn, there will be no tariff revision next year. This announcement will be made with considerable emphasis, for on the face of the proposition it may be seen that no revision could be brought about by a Senate and House divided on the great issues involved. Therefore the voters of the country will be informed that if they want changes in the present tariff schedules they had better see to it that the Republican party be retained in power both in the executive and legislative branches of the Government. The Republican leaders will not hold out hope of tariff revision on any other terms."

In effect the Republican statesmen say to the voters: "The tariff is unscientific, inequitable and works gross injustices on you; we admit this. But through our control of the Senate we shall prevent any revision unless you turn over to us the House and the Executive. Continue us in power and you may have relief; defeat us and we will punish you by maintaining the improper and unreasonable schedules of which you make complaint."

Thus the public is informed that its choice is between the conceded evils of the Dingley law and that measure of relief to be obtained in a readjustment of the tariff duties engineered by Mr. CANNON, Mr. PAYNE and Mr. DALZELL.

The City's Duty to Mrs. Sage.

Mrs. SAGE by her originality, sympathetic imagination and generous instincts succeeds in devising at frequent intervals charming surprises for her fellow citizens. She performs a high public service in restoring the Governor's room in City Hall. She founds a great fund, free from hampering restrictions, for the study of social conditions. She helps with advice, with cheerful labor, with material aid. She deserves some public recognition, some token of respect, for her efforts in behalf of New York and her countrymen.

Probably her modesty would compel her to refuse to permit the erection of a monument to herself. She might shrink from the ordeal of a great public demonstration in her honor. Quite possibly she might decline to be the guest at an imposing celebration, ending with a dinner and speeches by the most respectable and tiresome orators. How, then, may the esteem in which she is held be expressed without discomfort to her and with credit to the city?

Without having Mrs. SAGE'S consent, without her knowledge, THE SUN presumes to suggest a method by which the affection and gratitude of the town and its population may be made evident in a manner at once convincing to Mrs. SAGE and worthy of an enlightened civilization. It is that her gifts to the people be protected from thieves and vandals by adequate guards, whose duty it shall be to prevent, for instance, the theft of rhododendrons from the Sage plantation in Central Park, or the destruction of the shrubs by careless or malicious persons, or the undoing of the notable work in City Hall, even to furnish contracts for political workers or for other similarly high purposes.

It will, of course, involve considerable sacrifice for New York to protect that which Mrs. SAGE'S generosity has made its own, to punish the despoilers of its beauty spots and to preserve those things that merely make life within its bounds pleasanter and more cheerful. Yet it might be done, and Mrs. SAGE deserves, we think, a recognition and a memorial as unusual as that which we have outlined.

Life Insurance Disbursements.

In 1907 the insurance companies of America paid to insured persons and their beneficiaries in the United States $331,603,258, in Canada $19,512,334, and for dividends, surrender values, to foreign policyholders and to annuitants an amount estimated at $123,000,000. These figures, compiled by the *Insurance Press*, show that in the year the companies distributed $474,115,592, and the major part of this great sum went to persons of small or no means. The disbursements on the same accounts in 1906 were $327,576,199, and $307,019,972 in 1905. The increase unquestionably would have been greater had it not been for the agitation, the restrictive legislation and the distrust which followed the Alexander-Hyde quarrel of three years ago.

This money was distributed throughout the country practically in proportion to the density of population, as might be expected. The manufacturing States, in which large sums of so-called industrial insurance are carried, show the largest receipts, the farming States the smallest. A study of the subjoined tables of disbursements by States will show, however, that the benefits of insurance are generally understood in every part of the land. Beginning with the New England States the distribution was as follows:

Maine	$3,314,197	Vermont	$2,009,873
N. Hampshire	2,376,762	Rhode Island	3,560,817
Massachusetts	24,424,754	Connecticut	7,444,254

Rhode Island's small population is largely engaged in manufacturing, and it is to be assumed that policies for small amounts go to make up its proportionately large total. In the Middle States the figures are:

New York	$69,055,386	Delaware	$882,343
New Jersey	17,065,429	Dis. of Colum.	3,201,486
Pennsylvania	37,024,137	Maryland	7,977,784

The District of Columbia here seems to show the effect of a comparatively high degree of intelligence in a population largely composed of salary workers. The table for the Southern States is:

West Virginia	$1,641,289	Mississippi	$2,523,426
North Carolina	2,797,308	Louisiana	4,445,365
South Carolina	2,522,466	Texas	6,344,807
Georgia	5,065,254	Tennessee	4,054,348
Florida	1,459,480	Virginia	4,326,347
Alabama	3,781,496		

It is unlikely that such a showing would have been made previous to the beginning of the industrial development of the South. For the Central States these figures are given:

Ohio	$17,825,348	Kentucky	$6,672,724
Indiana	8,228,513	Michigan	7,581,526
Illinois	20,807,143	Wisconsin	6,682,044

Again, the effect of large cities, with extensive manufacturing plants, is seen in this table. A comparison of these figures for the Central States with those for the States classified as Western emphasizes this:

Arkansas	$1,751,496	North Dakota	$699,924
Missouri	9,847,631	South Dakota	898,963
Minnesota	4,664,745	Oklahoma	602,385
Nebraska	2,404,648	Indian Territory	732,438
Kansas	3,234,823	Iowa	4,489,312
Colorado	2,971,657		

Next in order come the Pacific States, which, because of sparse population and comparatively few manufacturing establishments, make smaller showings:

PACIFIC		STATES.	
California	$7,194,276	Nevada	$313,589
Oregon	1,366,246	Utah	865,326
Washington	1,225,456	Arizona	449,943
Wyoming	395,628	New Mexico	503,137
Idaho	363,295	Montana	1,235,476

The payments in Alaska were only $38,230. In the Hawaiian Islands $226,317 was distributed. To the Philippines $15,138 was sent, and half as much to Porto Rico. No list of non-American countries receiving moneys from our insurance companies is given.

One feature of the insurance business in 1907 was the loans on policies during and after the panic of October. The increase of loans on policies by thirty-seven companies reporting to the New York State Insurance Department was $72,587,325, as compared with an increase of $27,279,826 for forty-three companies in 1906. In the past such loans have not generally been repaid, but in the last three months many of the advances made to policyholders have been returned. Thus men who may have taken insurance with no other object than the protection of their survivors have found it of benefit to themselves at a time when every other resource failed.

Golfers and Their Titles.

This is likely to be a pivotal year in the making and breaking of reputations on the links. In Great Britain the two greatest amateur meetings have brought into fame two players previously unknown except on their local links, to the discomfiture of old time celebrities. At St. Andrews, where for the only time in history the ban had been lifted against women players, the English Miss TITTERTON won the championship of the Ladies' Golf Union. An even greater surprise was the winning of the amateur championship at Sandwich—the scene of TRAVIS'S victory in 1904—by E. A. LASSEN, with another obscurity of the clubs as runner-up, one H. E. TAYLOR. Both players are Englishmen.

In this country the men will not play their amateur championship until September at Garden City, nor the women until a month later at Chevy Chase. Yet as to the fixity of the American titles there is a spirit of doubt in the air. There are many—some think too many—minor tournaments to be decided before the fall that bestow a title on the winner and usually establish the favorites for the national competitions. Three contests regarded as straws are just over and seem to prove that the old order changeth.

Throughout the winter none would deny to JEROME DUNSTAN TRAVERS, holder of the triple crown of national, New Jersey and metropolitan championships, the right to be first favorite of the amateurs for this season's blue ribbon. Yet at Baltusrol TRAVERS lost the metropolitan title to C. H. SEELY, who won as a man the tournament he had gained as a boy in 1905; and while he successfully defended the New Jersey honor at Englewood last week, only in the semi-final with a 74 did TRAVERS reveal reliable championship form. Still more iconoclastic was NELSON WHITNEY'S defeat of H. CHANDLER EGAN at Memphis on May 30 for the Southern Golf Association championship.

Mr. WHITNEY defended the title he had first won the year before by excellent golf, the stroke score being 76, 77—153. There may be a shaking up of the old guard should he and LAWRENCE EUSTIS, who shares the distinction of being at scratch on the Southern Golf Association handicap, enter at Garden City. Mr. EGAN was national champion in 1904 and 1905 and is now Western champion for the fourth year. To beat him on one's merit means something. For one thing, neither here nor abroad has the young season been kindly to golfers of musty titles.

It is doubtless well for all concerned that the five States composing the Commonwealth of Australia have now a large territory on their hands. For forty-four years the northern territory of South Australia has been an expensive luxury for that struggling colony and State, and in December last it was glad to get rid of the burden by shifting it upon the Federal Government, which appears to be happy to assume the responsibility.

The territory is a half larger than South Australia and has vast tropical resources and great grazing possibilities, though little mining has developed. But it takes plenty of funds to place such a proposition on a paying basis, and though South Australia has poured about $10,000,000 into the territory in the effort to establish government, attract white settlers and reach it with a north and south transcontinental railroad, the volume of groans from the taxpayers has been exceeded only by the howls from the territory for a more vigorous policy and larger expenditure.

The feeling in Australia now is that there will be rapid development in the naturally rich but still untamed territory, and that some day it will be ushered into the Commonwealth as its sixth State. No one doubts the potentialities of the region; but the brightest hopes at present relate to the development of transcontinental communications.

South Australia has never been able to extend her north and south line further than Oodnadata, about a fourth of the way across the continent. Under Federal auspices it is predicted that in a few years this road will be completed to Port Darwin, where European steamers will call and shorten the time of travel from Sydney to Southampton by a week; and now that South Australia is relieved of her white elephant she says that she will push her pet project of building a line from Adelaide to Kalgoorlie, which has looked well on paper for several years, and thus complete the east and west continental line, Kalgoorlie being already joined by rail with Perth and Freemantle on the west coast.

DAME NATURE'S PART.

How the Production of Monsters Is Kept Down.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The discussion on "mismating" is enough to provoke a smile on the face of Nature. That estimable dame has her little hobbies the same as the rest of us, and her pet fad being the maintenance of the average she accomplishes her purpose by making extremes meet whenever they appear. The vast majority of tall men, for instance, mate with women of medium height or under, and the tall woman (except in comparatively few cases, about the medium height for a man) marries a man of her own height or slightly beneath it, and there is overproduction of neither giants nor dwarfs.

But this principle governs individual selection not only through anatomy but through temperament and mentality as well. The grouch marries the angel because he needs her in his business, and the good natured, easy going, mañana type of man marries a woman whose motto is "No backward step" and who stands constantly on guard at his spinal column to see that he doesn't sneak in a couple when she isn't looking.

The individual of "purely speculative" tendencies, already mentioned in this discussion, simply conformed to this law, whether he knows it or not, when he picked out a "purely practical" wife. She is his ballast, and in all probability if he threw her overboard he'd perish of starvation between the clouds and the stars.

I know just such another couple, and perhaps a little incident from their experience will illustrate the interdependence that exists in such a match better than any abstract argufyin' can. They were walking along the street one clear, cold night last winter. The beauties of the sky thrilled him.

"How wonderful the stars are," he remarked.

"Yes," she replied, her eyes on the sidewalk, "but you'd better not step on that ice."

She clipped his wings but she saved his neck.

BROOKLINE, Mass., June 7. GORDON KELSO.

Gratitude of the Riis Settlement.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* On May 20 forty-seven concerns in the building business of New York contributed to a banquet given to Francis H. Kimball, Esq., architect, at Delmonico's, commemorating the opening of the City Investing Building.

After the bills had been paid the committee, of which Mr. John H. Shipway is chairman, finding an excess of $174.44, decided to contribute this amount to the Jacob A. Riis Settlement, 48 Henry street, to be spent in providing vacations, at their Twin Island House, for mothers and children.

The settlement wishes publicly to acknowledge this gift, which is much appreciated.

LILLIAN C. HOUSE, Treasurer.

NEW YORK, June 6.

Examined and Approved.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* May the doors be opened to the firm of Love & Sunshine, who are wholesale grocers at Johnstown, Pa., and A. Glassmann, who is a glazier at 1824 Park avenue, this city? E. J. H.

NEW YORK, June 7.

Stroke Thirteen.

There's nothing underneath the sun
 That lends to life a greater zest
Than finding out a fellow's done
 A little bit beyond his best—
The sort of work that seems to show
 A hidden self more strong and fine,
And makes the worker mutter low,
 "That's good; too good; it can't be mine."

Alas for proud, Icarian wings!
 The time will come, and come it must,
When ribald, mocking failure brings
 The soaring spirit down to dust;
When that which ranged from pole to pole
 Is pent in limits poor and mean.
Remember then, despairing soul,
 The clock can't always strike thirteen.

So build the bridge or mould the phrase
 Or ply the brush or grip the helve
And learn the worth of blame or praise
 And count the strokes from one to twelve.
New light will dawn to clear the eye,
 Brave thought will come to guide the pen;
Join faith to work, and by and by
 The clock will strike thirteen again.

ARTHUR GUITERMAN.

WHAT LABOR GOT.

WASHINGTON, June 6.—Organized labor demanded much and got little from the first session of the Sixtieth Congress. The anti-injunction bill for which it clamored is buried in the room of the House Judiciary Committee. Sundry proposed amendments to the Sherman law repose peacefully in the same corral. These are the measures for which the strongest demands were made. A flood of memorials and petitions poured into Congress at the instigation of Mr. Gompers and his associates. Here and there a Congressman stood in fear of defeat next fall, but there was either too much conscience or not enough courage to insist upon objectionable legislation solely for the purpose of getting votes.

The wage earners of the country will derive large benefit from general legislation, but the gains in that direction are disregarded. Mr. Gompers wants special legislation, laws that will recognize and give standing to the organization. He and his associates are probably much better pleased with the child labor law for the District of Columbia, the substitute for the employers' liability law declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, and the law providing compensation for Government employees injured in the line of duty, than they are with the millions of dollars which will be paid to labor in the construction of battleships and the erection of public buildings, lighthouses and bridges. Organized labor takes little or no interest in the fact that scores of thousands of American citizens have had their pay increased by the appropriations for the military and naval establishment, that the pay of the life saving service was increased, that thousands of pensions were granted to veterans and widows of veterans. All such matters as these are as naught compared with the legal right to wreck the business of an offending employer.

The Federation of Labor, through its voluble mouthpiece, now declares its purpose to enter the political arena directly and actively. Heretofore it has done little or no more than flutter around the edge of the game and make noises. Its right to come in, to indorse this candidate or to work against that one or to nominate its own particular candidates, none will deny. Two years ago organized labor strove to defeat certain Representatives who were regarded as hostile to its interests. Mr. Gompers now claims that the reduction of the Republican majority in the House from 112 to 56 in the campaign of 1906 was the result of labor's efforts. He remarks that this fact "has been sedulously ignored by the partisan press of the country." It is possible that the "partisan press" sees the matter in a different light. In the coming campaign Mr. Gompers will essay the defeat of every candidate, Republican or Democrat, who will not dance to labor's tune.

Mr. Gompers's fulminations are alarming to those who accept them at their face value. He would doubtless regard it as quite inexpedient to publish any analysis of the political composition of his organization. The Federation claims and probably has a membership of about 1,750,000. It would be interesting to know how many of this number are minors, how many are women, how many are aliens, how many may be counted on to vote a Republican or a Democratic ticket in any case, and about how large a contingent the president of the Federation can muster to do his political bidding. He may have a following that would change an election in a few localities. But he is not to be credited with the reduction of the Republican majority two years ago, nor is it probable that his campaign will change materially the results next fall.

Out of the session just closed organized labor comes with small gains because its demands were unreasonable and not because Congress is controlled by enemies of labor.

A Bridgeport Cat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The letter in to-day's SUN from Fortress Monroe in defence of the reasoning powers of animals calls to mind a clever performance of a cat. Our basement floor contains a storeroom, furnace cellar, laundry and laundry kitchen. Stairs lead from the laundry to the kitchen, and stairs also lead from the front basement hall and storeroom up to the front hall of the house. Our cat was usually locked downstairs at night, with access only to the front basement hall and storeroom. In this storeroom was an old baby carriage piled with half worn garments awaiting a visit from the collector for the Salvation Army.

The landing place on the stairs, which was the cat's usual sleeping place, was none too soft, and the little fellow went downstairs, climbed up in the baby carriage, took a flannel garment out of it and carried the garment to the head of the stairs. After spreading it out with teeth and paws he curled himself down for a well earned rest. The next morning we carried it downstairs and the next night he carried it back. This was repeated night after night while he slept there. We were amused at his persistency and carried it back every morning in the hope that some night we might catch him in the act, which we finally did. He had one end of it in his teeth and came slowly up the stairs, dragging it along, so that we were able to see the whole performance. This we thought a very intelligent act, but a later one pleased us still more.

Some time later on the cat was locked in the laundry for the night and all the doors downstairs were left ajar. He did not go back to the front basement stairs, for he always seems to prefer the laundry as being nearer his base of supplies (the kitchen), but he found the laundry stairs were hard too. Thereupon he went through the laundry, kitchen, the cellar, the basement hall and into the storeroom at the front of the house and stole a garment from the basket again. This he carried back with him, up the stairs to the landing, and then spent the night curled up on his improvised bed on the laundry stairs.

Now, would not this seem to approach to the reasoning of human beings? The above incidents are vouched for by three members of the household. M.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., June 6.

A Gifted Ohio Cat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Some friends of mine owned a large, handsome tomcat, who in common with some other males had the reprehensible habit of absenting himself from his own fireside for "a night off" now and then. And during his absence in the midnight hour the children of the household would be thrown into a state of abject terror by hearing noises from the front door that suggested an idea of burglars tampering with the locks. These noises remained unexplained until one afternoon, the front door being shut, a member of the family, unobserved, noted what appeared to be strange, uneasy actions on the part of the cat. Suddenly the cat sprang high, clasped his forepaws about the door knob, so that the toes met at the top, and then threw the full weight of his body to one side, thereby imitating the movement of a human hand in turning a door knob.

I presume a naturalist would consider this use of the forepaws as a mere coincidence, but had the cat reversed himself and encircled the knob with his hind legs, that, I suppose, would have shown that the cat reasoned. V. S. W.

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, June 5.

The Next President.

For President of this U. S.
 There is of candidates a raft.
Who will be It 'tis hard to guess,
 But some are sure of Mr. Jones.

Though there are willing ones galore,
 There aren't many roaring lions;
And there are folks who think the roar
 Of triumph will be Colonel Allen's.

It may be from the East will come
 The man to step in Teddy's shoes.
Not long ago we heard a hum
 That sounded similar to Haines.

The winner may be from the West,
 Or even from the North—Wisconsin
Or Minnesota. Have you guessed?
 You think we can't have too much Smithson?

Well, don't be sure about the name
 Of him the people's vote indorses;
Remember in the racing game
 There may be several dark equi.

RHEBECUS LOVE.

WHO GOT THE $15,000?

A Townsman of Mr. Bryan's Quotes Emerson to Absolve Him.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The all absorbing question in Nebraska to-day is not the alleged momentous import of the Senate's changed practice governing debate, but "Who got that $15,000?" Our senior Senator has prepared for us a digest of the procedure whereby Democratic hopes of victory this fall and panic possibilities were squelched by the Senate at one blow, or rather after the blow; but we have more important things to think of just now. The far called fleet is forgotten.

This irruption of tainted money from the enemy's country must be vigorously dealt with. It must be put down, and put down right. The invader must be found and sent back, or at any rate must be found. A lesion in our economic system of the highest concern to every voter has been developed. "You produce admirably, but you distribute abominably," said a distinguished foreign economist, travelling across the country, to an Omaha reporter recently. Probably his words had no local reference, but he spoke more wisely than he knew. The truth is our most cherished doctrine of equal rights in special privileges has been trampled upon.

We have the frank statement of Mr. Bryan's brother-in-law, known as Assistant Congressman Tommy Allen 'way back in the early nineties, that he received the $15,000 from Chairman Taggart and turned it over to Mayor Dahlman. The cowboy Mayor of Omaha declares it was spent to further the candidacy of George Washington Berge, Demo-Pop nominee for Governor. Per contra, Mr. Berge warmly asseverates that no money so originating was used in his behalf, and that he paid his own campaign expenses. The chairman of the Third District Congressional Committee exclaims that he handled all the money that came into his district, and that none of it came from New York. "I did not get a penny from Mayor Dahlman," he insists. No trace of the hated fund has so far been discovered in other districts of the State, though the search is not ended.

Here in Lincoln, where the characteristics of the Omahog are clearly seen from a high spiritual elevation, the explanation is simple. The theory that money smells of its source and is consequently sometimes tainted is unknown in Omaha. It could not be comprehended there because of a lack of brain cell development in that line of thinking. Also, the proposition that money should be permitted to go outside of Douglas county could not be understood for the same reason. Mayor Jim is therefore absolved from any intent to do wrong. He received the money, as he admits, and results were demanded of him. He got them. Douglas county gave Berge, a total abstainer with prohibition proclivities, two thousand majority! For such an overturning of lifelong conviction and practice, $15,000 was a small price to pay. Will this be denied in the home of Tammany?

Mr. Bryan is also guiltless, of course, and likewise Mr. Berge, his bosom friend. Of any promises made by Mayor Jim in their behalf, if any, they were as innocent as babes unborn. "The pious and charitable proprietor has a foreman not quite so pious and charitable," says Emerson. Not necessarily by choice—"balance loving nature" sends him one, if he does not voluntarily choose. The law of opposites, or compensation, draws him. The coincidence of sharp private and political practice with public spirit and good neighborhood, common in many prominent men, is wholly absent, we are proud to say, in both Mr. Bryan and Mr. Berge. In a crisis of the 1904 campaign it devolved upon brother-in-law Allen and "Lariat Jim" to fulfil the law. To be a Martha, perhaps even a martyr, as now seems likely, was their portion. Did they blanch or falter? The report of campaign expenses filed with the Secretary of State does not so show, as the contribution is not mentioned. Knowing well that "a little wickedness is necessary to make muscle" they received the tainted money, and the mayor spent it where it would do the most good, without the knowledge of the great and pure men leading their party. The latter have no right to complain that they were not informed. A glance into Emerson's Essays would have put them wise.

Meanwhile the solemn visaged captains of the anti-saloon league, who have expected that the famous lariatist would be their opponents' candidate for the Governorship, are repeating with unctuous satisfaction the old familiar saying, "All things work together for good to those who love the Lord," and the harassed personal libertyites, as they anxiously sniff every breeze from the south, are reported to be scouting for a new boss herder to round up their fear-shot bunch. The situation calls for tears and plenty of them. LINCOLNITE.

LINCOLN, Neb., June 4.

DETECTIVE METHODS IN INDIA.

How Oriental Sherlock Holmeses Spot the Guilty.

From the Westminster Gazette.

A very old Indian detective trick played its part in the arrest of the Bengali youth Khudiram Bose, who threw the bomb which killed Mrs. and Miss Kennedy at Mozufferpore.

He was seated in the railway station at Waini, some twenty miles from the scene of the crime, and was eating a meal of rice, when two constables approached him. One of the constables noticed that the youth's saliva had ceased to flow, apparently through fright at the sudden appearance of the policemen; and that, in spite of his nonchalant air, he was unable to continue his meal. The constable toyed with his man for a while, and then, having his suspicions confirmed, seized him before he could fire the revolver with which he was trying to shoot himself. This system of detection, it is stated, is traditional among the Indian police.

A suspected person will be placed with others, and a native inspector will mutter some gibberish over an old four cornered rupee. Having thus worked upon the fears of his auditors, he will give each of them a handful of rice, and instruct them to eat it as fast as they can. The guilty one, it is averred, will be unable to eat, and the strike of the salivary glands is regarded as furnishing a prima facie case for arrest.

Ramifications of John.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "The mantle of John," like charity, covers a multitude of sins.

In cookery, "Johnnie cake," "slap jacks" and many "Beefsteak Johns."

Men who seek notoriety and a dangerous fall by hazardous ascent of church spires, tall chimneys, flag poles, &c., without necessary precautions, are all termed "steeple Jacks."

Men of the deep blue sea, when engaged in commerce or war, are termed "sailors" or "bluejackets," but when on shore in the company of questionable grog are called "jack tars."

All children of the male sex who foolishly wander from their guardians and get "lost" are addressed as "Johnny."

The unreasonable of both sexes are termed with emphasis "jackass."

The most biting cut a "maiden fair" can apply to a persistent but undesirable suitor is "He is a regular jack."

The fear of double postage prevents the enumeration of even a tithe of my possessions on this matter. JOHNNY-GET-YOUR-GUN.

MANHATTAN, June 7.

Cherry History.

From the Cornhill Magazine.

It is still asserted in school books that cherries were introduced to this country by the "fruiterer" or greengrocer of Henry VIII.; also that they were not common for a hundred years after that time. This is an error. Mr. Thomas Wright found the name in every one of the Anglo-Saxon vocabularies which he edited. So common were they, and so highly esteemed, that the time for gathering them became a recognised festival—"Cherry fair" or "feast." And this grew into a proverbial expression for fleeting joys. Gower says the Friars taught that "life is but a cherye-fayre," and Hope "endureth but a throwe, right as it were a cheryefeste." There is more than one record of the purchase of trees for the King's garden at Westminster, centuries before Henry VIII. was born. But Pliny contradicted the fable, as if in prophetic mood. After telling that Lucullus first brought cherries to Rome (from Pontus, in 680 A. U. C.), he adds that in the course of a hundred and twenty years they have spread widely, "even passing over sea to Britain."

The Curse.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There is a sign on Second avenue in this town which says "Dwork." Them's my sentiments, too, only I would put a little dash into it. C. S. P.

NEW YORK, June 6.

CIVIL SERVICE RED TAPE.

The Comments of a Chemist on Questions Asked Him by the Commission.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I recently asked the Civil Service Commission for information concerning a place as chemist. After graduating in Europe I have given twenty years to hygienic work needed by the commission. To avoid appearance of self-advertising I won't specify. I received an application blank.

This blank is a horror, a nightmare. Nowhere else in the world would such purely gossipy questions be asked. On every line it is emphasized that the answers are under oath, every word and figure. How can any man answer under oath when and where he was born? It is mere hearsay to him, often incorrect. "Have you tuberculosis?" No man knows that; still under oath I must say yes or no! "Of what county are you an actual bona fide (legal) resident?" The laws are complicated. I would have to study them before I could answer that question under oath. I have not the time. "Were you ever married?" How would the answer affect a chemist's knowledge of water analysis? But the gossips want to know it. "Are any members of your family in the Government service." Very important for the analysis of water! "State fully what salaries you received?" An outright impertinence, thus to pry into my private affairs. What has it to do with water analysis?

In section 27 you are asked to give the names of five persons, preferably employers, who have knowledge of your capacity. There are not five employers in the United States for water chemists. Only another chemist is competent to judge my capacity, but under oath I must find five liars or incompetents in the nature of things. I was my own employer for twenty years. I don't know three persons who are competent (under oath) to judge me. Section 27 is evidently a door to sneak in political backing. Where examinations are held, all the past history of the applicant from question 1 to 29 is pure gossip and chicanery. The examinations, if honestly conducted, should tell the story. For a $1,000 a year job there is, by the way, a medical examination far more rigid than is required for a $500,000 life insurance policy.

No man of any value or spirit will stand for such petty prying into his affairs. Supposing I had killed my grandmother, was a morphine fiend, drank cherry sundaes to intoxication, had gout in my ear joint, had a wife in every county, what does it all matter? How does it affect my ability to make a good water analysis?

All "recommendation" features required by the commission are disguised political pulls. I would rather commit suicide than submit to an employer who pries into my affairs before I am engaged. C. A.

MILWAUKEE, June 4.

KILLING BIRDS BY MILLIONS.

Ruthless Destruction of Useful Birds in Southern Europe.

From the London Daily News.

Our useful swallows, warblers and fly catchers are annually slain by the million as they come home through the gates of the Alps or go southward into winter quarters.

It is a hard thing that Italian gunners (and what Italian is not a gunner?) should destroy the birds that belong to Italian agriculture. The agriculturists of that country deeply rue the virtual extermination that has fallen on the tiny, industrious, insectivorous birds. Humane and æsthetic people are ashamed at the way in which their fellow countrymen slaughter all their feathered friends down to even the tits and wrens. They are not in Italy numerous enough, wise enough or courageous enough to stop the scandal. It is, however, clearly one of international importance, in which the whole voice of Europe is entitled to be heard.

In spite of the fact that we meet bird shooters at every step, comfortably practising their sport beside the road, the gun is but a trifle by comparison with the nets that are spun round Lago Maggiore and Lago di Lugano during the spring and summer flights. There are nets a mile long and five yards high, into which the tired birds fly by the hundred; "roccolo" hedges of hornbeam specially planted for that purpose and tenanted by blinded songsters and other decoys; square miles of entanglement, with imitation hawks to scare the birds into false refuge; and in the south of France, before France joined the convention, electric wires for the killing of swallows by the thousand.

At one station in upper Italy an ordinary morning's taking is 500 birds, ranging from thrushes to willow wrens. If we take an average of 200 throughout the season of ten weeks, that one station is responsible for 15,000 birds at each autumn migration. At Como and Varese "redbreasts" are sold not by the hundred but by the thousand in a day, their price ranging from 75 centesimo a dozen when the weather is cool to 5 centesimo when the small bodies are liable to rapid decay.

In October, 1890, nearly half a million small birds crossed the frontier at Brescia, not as they come into Sussex in spring, gladly winging north to greet us with happy twitter from the apple tree in the morning, but in indiscriminate shapeless packets of fifty, from which you can pick out flycatchers, white throats, garden warblers, pipits and titmice. From Udine 200,000 are despatched by rail; near Montegrado 14,000 swallows fell in three days, and "on the stone field Crao" no less than 3,000,000 in one season.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH MANNERS.

Also Directions How to Behave at a Lady's Reception in Paris.

From the Spectator.

It is strange that the short journey of fifty-five minutes from Dover to Calais should divide two such distinct nationalities as the English and the French and that the conceptions of life, manners, and customs should be so different on the two sides of the Strait of Dover. Not only are our customs totally different, but in many cases they are the direct opposite of those that prevail in France. Thus in England it is the lady who bows before the man ventures to take off his hat, while in France no lady will venture to bow until the man has taken the first step: the furthest she will go is to give him the direct hint by looking at him fixedly for a few moments. Then, again, the inferior is supposed to take his hat off first, and no landlord or country magnate will think of bowing to an inferior before he has done so. Furthermore, it is the stranger or new arrival who is expected either to leave the first card or to pay the first call. In fact manners and customs are so distinct that it is almost safe to assume one is to do the exact opposite in France of what one is accustomed to do in England.

Manners are somewhat stiffer than they are with us. The Louis XV. and Louis XVI. chairs do not encourage any one to loll or take it easy. At the present moment a man is supposed to keep his gloves on and to hold his hat in his hand, but this may change at any time. He must not ostentatiously cross his legs or take up an easy position. He is always more or less "at attention." When he arrives he usually kisses his hostess's hand, but this is not absolutely essential, and Englishmen are not necessarily expected to do so. There are many nuances as the lips touch either the finger tips or the wrist, but they are far too complicated for any one who is not to the manner born to grasp their sense or meaning. Tea is served either at the tea table or in an adjoining room with a due accompaniment of cakes and sweet wines. The officious Englishman is generally disposed to proffer his help, but this is a rash step on his part. The hostess herself helps the tea, with the assistance of her daughter or of any unmarried girl who happens to be present. She may possibly appeal to a man whom she knows well and say to him "Faites la jeune fille," but otherwise it is officious on his part to make a move of his own accord. Englishmen are sometimes shocked when they see girls help men to tea and cake while they remain seated and complacently accept the good things that are showered upon them, but the foreigner had better not interfere unasked or he will get himself disliked by the Frenchmen who happen to be present. They will think he is giving himself airs and resent it accordingly, especially if any lady thinks it her duty to draw unpleasant contrasts between English and French manners. Should a lady rise to leave the room the hostess accompanies her to the door. The ever attentive Englishman may think it his duty to open it, but this is another solecism. On one occasion a foreigner did this and his hostess was very anxious. It was so unusual that she thought he must have been seized with a sudden indisposition, but her mind was relieved when she saw him return to his place, and she put his interference down to British peculiarities. It was only long after he had done this that he discovered he had made a mistake and promised never to offend again.

In Windy Troy.

The Greeks were entering Troy in the wooden horse.

"It had more spirit than the Democratic donkey," they explained.

Herewith they pressed on to victory.

He Got the Day Off.

Employer—Whose funeral do you want to go to?
Office Boy—The umpire's.