

The Sun

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Perhaps nothing further was needed to convince the Sixth Congress of the importance of surrounding with all possible restraints and safeguards the irresponsible employment of secret police by the President of the United States.

The abnormalities and dangerous tendencies of recent experience, however, have just been illustrated in a most striking way by the publication yesterday of Secretary TAFT's confidential letter of April 16, 1908, to President ROOSEVELT regarding the Brownsville injustice.

After reminding Mr. ROOSEVELT that he really possessed no evidence whatever against individual members of the colored battalion which Mr. ROOSEVELT had punished indiscriminately, Mr. TAFT went on to suggest to his chief in the most delicate manner imaginable the propriety of measures to rescue the innocent from the consequences of that wholesale condemnation.

"It becomes your duty," wrote Mr. TAFT, "and that of the Department to make every effort possible to identify the men who did the shooting and to establish the innocence of as many as are innocent among those discharged."

That is to say, the people of the United States were taxed to pay secret police employed by Mr. ROOSEVELT to hunt down the innocent who had been wronged by a sweeping sentence impulsively inflicted by him on innocent and guilty alike in advance of any exact ascertainment of innocence or guilt.

Condemnation, sentence and punishment first, and the spies of the President called in afterward to detect the innocent and to establish their innocence in order that the original injustice might be in part repaired!

When since the first formulation of the principles governing the orderly administration of law and justice has the fundamental principle of criminal procedure been so grotesquely reversed? The fact that a mind so clear seeing and honest and of such eminent judicial habit as Mr. TAFT's contemplated without manifest repugnance the proposition embodied in the letter of April 16, 1908, is perhaps the most unexpected feature of the business. His participation exhibits the pernicious effect of atmosphere.

Man Undismayed by Natural Convulsions.

Nature rages and kills, but in the very place of desolation man builds again and risks annihilation. The cause is largely economic in the East fatalism enters into it. If the site of a city is favorable to trade or politically important not even the repetition of disasters will depopulate it, as the dead are buried and the living move in, rebuild, restore and reorganize industry. Society concerns itself little about past perils, and the individual hopes to escape the fate that overtook others.

"Manila is in constant danger of destruction from earthquakes," says Mr. JOHN FOREMAN in his book on the Philippines. During a shock lasting half a minute on June 3, 1863, 400 persons were killed and 2,000 injured and forty-six public and 570 private buildings were entirely destroyed. In the first Philippine census report, compiled under the direction of Major-General J. P. SANGER, there is a list of thirty-two "notable earthquakes" occurring in Manila between 1845 and 1897. Some of them literally shook the town down. From 1850 to 1897 (inclusive) 221 earthquakes were registered at the local observatory. In the census report this suggestive statement may be found:

"Manila is most advantageously situated for enterprises almost all the shocks radiating from the different centres of Japan; it is no more than thirty or thirty-five miles north of the active volcano Taal and a little more from the extinct volcanoes Maculisan, Tanjako and Arayat."

The mercantile does not check the growth of Manila, and residents lose no sleep over it, although disturbances happen at all hours, and some of the worst have tumbled houses down in the night. The Philippine archipelago has a record of 962 earthquakes in the eighteen years ending with 1897. After a rude convulsion ran over his head and continued to traffic, he turned and multiplied in the zone of devastation. JOSE CENTENO, who made a study of earthquakes and eruptions in Luzon, tells us that Taal, the volcano, has slain its thousands, con-

suming them with lava and shattering the hills under their villages.

"In spite of the terrible lessons of the last century all of these localities have been repopulated. Their fertility, their surpassingly beautiful situation and their healthfulness charm the people into a prompt forgetfulness of past disasters."

Caracas, which is subject to frequent earth shocks, was destroyed in 1595 and 1766; in 1812 a convulsion killed 12,000 of its people; but the thought of abandoning the site of the town was never considered seriously, and to-day, with the memory of a sinister shock in 1900, it is more populous and thriving than ever. Aleppo, Quito, Valparaiso, Mendoza and other cities partially or entirely destroyed by earthquakes were not abandoned but rebuilt on a larger and more ambitious plan. The energy of the Marquis of POMBAI created a modern Lisbon on the very spot where 40,000 people had been annihilated in six minutes. San Francisco is not so much a case in point, for it suffered incalculably more from fire than from earthquake, and the proved loss of life was not calamitous.

Even St. Pierre, whose 26,000 people were destroyed in one minute by a volcanic blast, shows signs of restoration. Dr. EDMUND O. HOVEY of the American Museum of Natural History, who visited the ruins a few months ago, found a small hotel, a blacksmith shop, a police station and other evidences of settlement. Within a few weeks of the St. Pierre cataclysm the people who had inhabited Morne Rouge and other villages on the flank of Mont Pelée returned to their homes, only to be overwhelmed by another consuming blast, two thousand losing their lives in Morne Rouge alone.

Whether a great city will rise from the ruins of Messina depends upon the state of the channel between Sicily and the mainland. If navigation by large vessels is still practicable there will be a new metropolis, and the port of Messina will in the course of time, and perhaps in a very few years, rival the old in its facilities for shipping. Such is Messina's strategic position for commerce that the restoration is likely to proceed rapidly.

The Republican State platform adopted at Saratoga on September 15, 1908, has this to say concerning the primary and ballot systems of the State:

"Every legal voter should be encouraged to exercise his right of franchise, that the will of the majority expressed through a ballot freely cast and honestly counted may prevail. To that end we are opposed to any form of ballot that shall render it more difficult for the voter to exercise his constitutional privilege of designating upon the ballot the candidate whom he wishes to support."

"It is of the highest importance for the preservation of our representative form of government that primaries and conventions should truly express the will of the voters of every political party. That there may be its freest action in the selection of the delegates, we favor legislation which will fully protect every voter against fraud or coercion and secure to him the fullest opportunity to vote at his primary party."

"The candidates selected by the present primary system are not generally representative of the voters of the State. They are not, even broadly speaking, to their party, but to those individuals to whom they feel they owe their offices and upon the continuance of whose good will they deem their political future to depend."

"But the most serious consequence is to the people at large. To the extent that party machinery can be dominated by the few the opportunity for special interests which desire to control the administration of government, to shape the laws, to prevent the passage of laws or to break the laws with impunity is increased. These interests are ever at work stealthily and persistently endeavoring to pervert the government to the service of their own ends. All that is worst in our public life finds its readiest means of access to power through the control of the nominating machinery of parties. Party organization needs constantly to defend itself from these encroachments, and the people for their proper security must see that the defenses are built as strongly as possible."

"There have been and are conspicuous illustrations of party leadership and held in opposition to the people who have represented special interests, and endeavoring faithfully and honorably to perform its proper function. But this does not alter the fact that our present method facilitates the control of government by those whose purposes are antagonistic to the public welfare. Nor should we be unmindful of the extent through which the force of enlightened public sentiment in indirect ways mitigates the evils inherent in our present system. But this sentiment works under conspicuous disadvantages, and it is a defect in our system requiring remedy that the actual power of nomination should reside with those who are under strong temptation to disregard the public interest in favor of private advantage so far as that course may be deemed to be safe."

"When we inquire what remedy is available, it may be said that there is none which can be considered as complete, because human nature cannot be changed by legislation, and opportunities for political mischief will exist under any system. But we may make improvement, and these opportunities may be diminished. We should perfect our primary laws by providing for an official primary ballot, by extending our enrollment system, and by placing our primary elections under substantially the same restrictions as our general elections."

"But we should go beyond this. As the evil so largely resides in the perversion of representation we should further proceed along the line of progress by restoring effectively to the many the powers which properly belong to them and have been usurped by the few. What history has shown to be essential to the protection of the people is likewise necessary for the protection of parties, and is likewise needed for the reinforcement of public rights. We have decided not to trust despotism, though occasionally it may be benevolent, nor do we favor government by aristocracy. Experience has shown that the people can be better trusted than their self-constituted guardians."

"The rule of the people involves vigorous discussion and popular contests, but we are finally committed to it because in the long run our safety depends upon it."

"If we apply these principles to our party activities we shall make them the more wholesome, as they will more readily respond to the intelligent and conscientious purposes of the party members."

"The time has come, I believe, when nominations by all parties for elective offices should be made directly by the enrolled voters of the parties respectively. This will promote true party representation. It will tend to strengthen and dignify party leadership by making it less susceptible to misuse and more in accord with general party sentiment. By increasing the direct influence of the party voters their participation in party affairs will be encouraged. It will make the elective office more independent of those who would control its action for their selfish advantage, and enable him to appeal more directly to his constituency upon the basis of faithful service. It cannot fail in the main to prove a strong barrier against the efforts of those who seek, by determining the selection of candidates, to pervert administration to the service of privilege or to secure immunity for lawbreaking. It is a reform which is distinct with the spirit of our institutions, and is difficult to see how any party man, however earnest in his partisanship, can oppose the right of the voters of the party really to decide who shall represent them as candidates."

"The object of our primary legislation has been said by the Court of Appeals to be 'to permit the voters to construct the organization from the bottom upward, instead of permitting leaders to construct it from the top downward.' This is not only important with regard to the organization, but the object cannot be effected so long as nominations may be dictated and the power to make them does not actually reside with the party voters."

"I therefore recommend a system of direct nominations by all parties for all elective offices, other than those of presidential elections, filled at the November election or at special elections called to fill vacancies in such offices. Heretofore I have suggested that it be made permissive, because I believed that such a provision would rapidly lead to its general extension. But the objections urged to this course and the strength which the movement for direct nominations has gathered have produced the conviction that we should decide upon a policy binding upon all parties. In this state the way has been prepared for this course by the method of party enrollment now in use in portions of the State and by our familiarity with provisions designed to prevent corrupt practices and frauds at elections. While I do not desire in July to elaborate details, I further recommend:

"1. That provision be made for the enrollment of party voters throughout the State, and that participation in primary elections be limited to the enrolled party voters, with stringent measures to prevent fraud. The enrollment may be made in substantially the same manner as is provided for with regard to registration."

"2. That the expense of holding primary elections, including the printing of official ballots, provision of polling places and the like, be borne by the public."

Committee on Appropriations, had evidently expected that some objection would be raised to the appropriation, for he had ready a list of acts and resolutions of Congress granting relief to the people of foreign nations in times of emergency to urge as precedents.

The first of these enactments carried \$50,000 to be expended by the President for provisions to be given to the sufferers from the Venezuelan earthquake and was approved May 8, 1812. Thirty-five years later, on March 3, 1847, the Secretary of the Navy was authorized to use the United States ships Macedonia and Jamestown to transport food to the famishing poor of Ireland and Scotland. Again, in 1871 the President was empowered to use naval vessels to receive and convey to France and Germany supplies for the people of those countries. In 1880 the Secretary of the Navy was authorized to use a national ship or to charter a privately owned vessel to take supplies to Ireland. This course was followed twice in 1897, when the Secretary of the Navy received authority to transport to India at the expense of the Government foodstuffs given by private individuals.

The resolutions of May 10, 1898, and of March 3, 1899, for the relief of Cuba, the latter carrying an appropriation of \$100,000, seem hardly to belong in this category on account of our peculiar relation toward the island in those years. But at the time of the Martinique disaster in 1902 \$200,000 was appropriated for the relief of the victims of Mont Pelée, and in 1907 the President received permission to distribute among the people of Jamaica "such provisions, clothing, medicines and other necessary articles belonging to the subsistence and other stores of the naval establishment as may be necessary," the resolution putting no limit on the amount to be expended.

It will be observed that, disregarding the measure for the relief of Cuba, only in three cases—the Venezuela crisis of 1812, the Martinique disaster and the present hour of Italian need—have appropriations of money for the relief of supplies been made. Mr. MADISON was President in 1812, when the first relief act cited by Mr. HALE was passed. The measures for Cuba were approved by Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. ROOSEVELT has signed three bills of this character, two of them carrying money appropriations. The unpleasantness of interposing what would be called a technical objection to prevent an act of charity at a time when the public was deeply stirred by sympathy is obvious, and a serious effort to hold up an appropriation bill in this way is almost unthinkable. Still there is weight to Senator BAILEY'S opinion, and an adequate discussion of the subject in Congress would be of wide interest.

Mr. Bingham's Indiscretion. Commissioner BINGHAM was very indiscreet to bring once more to public attention certain incidents in the life of a member of the Finn family. The obvious thing for this representative of the Finn family to do under such circumstances is to resort to billingsgate, and in the use of that Mr. BINGHAM is no match for the Finn now most conspicuous in New York city affairs. Mr. BINGHAM is handicapped by his antecedents, a disadvantage he cannot easily overcome.

On the Finn side every influence of opportunity, inclination and environment unite to make the present spokesman of the clan invincible in such a contest. For several years, protected by the authority of a powerful if lowly judicial job, freed from the restraints that curb and soften the words and conduct of men in private life, he has had unusual opportunities for the exercise and development of his vocabulary of attack. Surrounded by persons almost entirely within his power, he has been able to give free rein to his faculty and to enlarge beyond the possibilities of most men his capacity for abuse. That he has not failed in office to improve a gift for hard words already carefully cultivated the attendants in his court bear cheerful testimony.

Mr. BINGHAM should not engage with such an adversary. A remarkable indication of progress in matters conducive to the welfare of the State may be found in the widespread interest in forestry affairs which has recently absorbed the attention of thoughtful people to an unusual extent. —SANGHVI, in the preface to "Annual Reports for 1904-1908, 1907."

Also a remarkable indication of progress in art may be found in the illustrations which with this official publication are enriched and beautified. "Sportman and Guide—A Friendly Chat," "Venison for Supper," "Snowshoeing in the Woods," "Forest Surveying," "Discussing the Catch," "Typical Sugar Bush"—in fact all of the scenes from the woods and waters of the State up to and including "Lost in a Snowstorm" attract attention, excite interest and doubtless serve some high if hidden public purpose. The study of the last named plate we urge on all who are likely to go searching for persons supposed to have wandered from the roads or paths in winter time. With this portrait in mind almost any man, or woman, could identify the helpless victim at a glance.

Dr. Wiley. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Will you please allow me a few words regarding the attempt being made to tie the hands of Dr. Wiley in his honest efforts to carry out the pros who desire to search themselves at the interest of their own benefit, against the people, in getting a "liberal interpretation" of that law? Senator Heyburn, from my own State of Idaho, the father of that bill, succeeded only after years of fighting against great odds; then much of its effect was lost by interpolations at the last moment by the powers that be. The people know that a wonderful amount of good Dr. Wiley has already accomplished by reason of it, and every woman and man should rally to his support now and endorse him in no uncertain language, for if he loses in his battle against a "liberal interpretation" the American people might as well save the money and years of effort it costs to get such a law and acknowledge themselves defeated by those who desire to search themselves at the cost of human lives. Women, this means much for the home. (Mrs. E. C. ATWOOD, NEW YORK, JANUARY 5.)

Her Lesson in Astronomy. Juliet had just asked Romeo not to swear by the moon. "But," he retorted, "the new planet hasn't any name yet."

Aid for Foreigners From the National Treasury. When the bill appropriating \$800,000 for the succor of the sufferers from the Italian earthquake was taken up in the Senate on Monday Mr. BAILEY of Texas asserted as his opinion that the Congress had no right to authorize the expenditure of money from the treasury for such purposes. Mr. BAILEY was the only Senator to express this belief, and he specifically disclaimed any intention to oppose the appropriation, although his remarks indicated that other Senators took the ground held by him. Mr. HALE, the acting chairman of the

CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT. The Secret Service Message. From the New York Commercial. The President professes to be wholly at a loss to understand these demands, and drops the matter flatly with a flat protest that he does not regard it as within the province or the duties of the President to report to the House the "mangled delinquencies" of members of the supposed "secret service" of a member in his official capacity. Why, then, did he by implication place the whole body of the House in the "criminal classes" and represent them as standing in fear of investigation for their alleged crimes?

Plainly enough, the twenty-sixth President hasn't at hand any information of the sort requested by the House, and so has only a weak and evasive answer to make to its resolution. The House will not of course be satisfied with this lame defence.

And there is the Senate resolution calling for a probing into all the facts in connection with the "secret service" amendment incident. President Roosevelt isn't through with the Congress yet in this affair—nor is the Congress through with him.

A Painful Analysis of Statements From the White House. From the Springfield Republican. The President has written a long message in which he attempts to justify one of his most reckless statements in the previous message and then to shift the issue on to other ground entirely. It is difficult to treat this part of the performance with the respect which one owes to the Presidential office. It is all the more difficult because Mr. Roosevelt as a man and an official has given so much cause for offence in the past by his unfair controversial methods with individual citizens and has at times made use of such questionable means to justify an awkward personal position in the public mind. This message is an example of his audacity in seeking to produce immediate popular effects through the unrivaled publicity which a President's utterances command—a publicity so extensive and far-reaching that even Congress is at an overwhelming disadvantage in securing a popular hearing in a controversy with the Executive.

The original assertion by the President that "the chief argument in favor of the provision was that the Congressmen did not themselves wish to be investigated by secret service men"—this assertion was the one first to arouse angry comment in Congressional circles and it was the primary cause of the trouble. It was a plain statement of fact in an official document and should be susceptible of proof. Mr. Roosevelt does not now withdraw it, as he is morally bound to do; he maintains that it was not an attack upon Congress's honor, that it was nothing which should give offence to any member properly sensitive as to his personal character, and then he attempts to show that the statement is sustained by the evidence. The evidence he offers is an extraordinary exhibit. The chief item is the debate of May 1 last, in the House of Representatives on the sundry civil appropriation bill, in the course of which the secret service was discussed in connection with the appropriation therefor. The President now maintains point blank that that debate "entirely supports" his original statement, and he boldly calls attention to pages 3553 to 3560 inclusive of the Congressional Record as an ample justification for his declaration. We have carefully read the verbatim report of the debate in the Record, and the result is that we are under the painful necessity of flatly contradicting the President. It is simply ridiculous to maintain, as the President does, that in that debate the "chief argument" for the secret service clause adopted by the House was that "the Congressmen did not themselves wish to be investigated by secret service men."

A reading of the debate instantly demonstrates not only that such an argument was not the chief one used but also that it was practically negligible in the discussion. The debate fills fourteen columns of the Record, and it was participated in by thirteen members. Chairman Tawney and Mr. Smith, Republican members of the Appropriations Committee, gave the committee's explanation in regard to the amendment in question; and neither so much as referred to the point that Congressmen did not wish to be investigated by secret service men. Nor did any one else, except Mr. Sherley of Kentucky, a Democrat; and the total space occupied in the Record by his references amounts to ten lines out of fourteen columns of the debate as a whole! But Mr. Sherley's reference to Congressmen in connection with the secret service was merely incidental. He was discussing with Mr. Bennett of New York the question whether the Navy Department had been justified in using a secret service man in running down a certain naval officer who had been involved in a domestic scandal. Their controversy was entirely on that point, and to elucidate his idea regarding the Navy Department's action in the specific case mentioned Mr. Sherley asked Mr. Bennett whether secret service men should also be used in investigating the private conduct of a member of Congress. Mr. Bennett quickly disposed of the inquiry, and not another reference to Congressmen being shadowed or investigated by the secret service appears in the remaining seven columns of the House debate. To say that the debate in any degree, however slight, justified the President's original statement is nothing but a travesty on the truth.

The President falls back, however, upon an unsigned article in the Chicago Inter-Ocean on the secret service, which, he understands, was written by a man named Busbey. Mr. Busbey is a great comfort, for he was at one time Speaker Cannon's private secretary; and the President triumphantly infers that Busbey's sentiments must have been Mr. Cannon's sentiments and that Mr. Cannon's sentiments must have been those of the majority of the House. The soberest mind must find the Busbey exhibit a subject of mirth as soon as it appears that the article was printed no less than four years and four months prior to the debate and vote of the House on the secret service in May last; yet Mr. Roosevelt, with the audacity peculiar to him when in a tight place, proceeds to quote from the four year old article in the Chicago paper as proof of his assertion concerning the present Congress. At this point the entire subject in controversy seems to degenerate into farce, from which it is not lifted by Mr. Roosevelt's solemn avowal that certain Congressmen, whom he does not venture to name, have in private conversation with him taken the Busbey view.

Vested Rights Under a Treaty. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Under the heading "Treaty With Germany" has been reprinted an act of the British Parliament concerning foreign patents is referred to in THE SUN. If vested rights under a treaty may not be divested, even after the termination of the treaty, as in the case of the Havens & Wheaton, 441; how, then, may this other party to a treaty with the United States claim exemption from the same rule? THOMASVILLE, GA., JANUARY 5.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 6.—The proposal to put a duty on coffee has excited a discussion in which there is evident a lack of information regarding fundamental facts. For instance, it appears to be a general belief that when the United States in 1872 put coffee on the free list Brazil took advantage of the opportunity and imposed an export duty on the commodity, thereby robbing the American consumer of the benefit which would otherwise have come from the removal of the duty. Brazil does not impose an export duty on coffee. The belief that it does grow out of the fact that soon after the passage of the tariff act of 1872 some of the coffee producing States of Brazil imposed an export tax. It was a State, not a Federal act.

The assumption that these State taxes would be removed if the United States should again put coffee on the dutiable list is without warrant. Such a course on the part of Sao Paulo and its neighbors is most improbable. The money obtained from that source is needed by the various States, and that source is unlikely to surrender so important a part of their revenues. Even were such a policy to be adopted, the tax is not the same in all the States, but the rate in Sao Paulo, the largest producer of coffee, is 9 per cent. ad valorem. The valorization scheme now in operation fixes the price of coffee at from 55 to 65 francs a bag of 132 pounds. Taking 60 francs as an average price and the Sao Paulo tax rate of 9 per cent., it appears that the tax amounts to \$1,082 a bag, or about four-fifths of a cent a pound in American money and weight.

The argument that a tariff on coffee would little or not at all increase the cost to the American consumer cannot be maintained. It would even increase the retailing price by a sum greater than the duty imposed. The present basis of market prices is about 8 1/2 cents a pound for Rio standard No. 7, and distributors' profits are calculated on that basis. If a duty of five cents a pound is imposed it is evident that distributors' profits would be based on the market price plus the duty and that retailing prices would be advanced by more than five cents. Coffee now retailing at say 15 cents would probably sell at 21 or 22 cents, and coffee now retailing at 20 cents would probably sell at 27 or 28 cents.

Imports of the last seven years have averaged about 950,000 pounds a year, and the per capita consumption has averaged eleven pounds. On that basis a tariff of five cents a pound on coffee would increase the family cost of living by about \$3.40 a year. The poor man's family might be a cheerier one than does the family of the rich man, but it consumes on the average a much larger quantity. The proposed duty being specific and not ad valorem, it follows that such a duty would fall heaviest on the class least able to bear it. The country may or may not stand in absolute need of the revenue to be derived from a tariff on coffee, but if a tax is to be imposed it should be adjusted with proper consideration for those who must pay it.

Sturdy Defense of Clerical Rights. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Referring to the articles concerning the "Blows for Liberty" of the city clerical force, I write to say that the Realty League approved the resolution of the Greater New York Taxpayers' Conference recommending that the office hours in the greater city be extended one hour, so as to give the public access from 9 to 5 instead of from 9 to 4, on Saturdays.

Out of some thirty-two letters addressed to the heads of departments and to county officers, I have received only one reply to the effect that the office hours will hereafter be from 9 to 5 o'clock, i. e., from the Commission of Licenses. Such a reply should not pass unnoticed, so I hope you will let your readers know it. I anticipate many protests from the "Cradle of Liberty," Leonidas, Arnold von Winkelried, Andrea Hofer and Westcott Bunker Hill are not to be compared to the heroic patriots who will strike for liberty from now until election day and fire a shot heard round the city. ALFRED R. CONKLING, President Realty League, NEW YORK, JANUARY 5.

Two Scranton Feels. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Let the poets of the Carolina look to their laurels. Scranton, Pa., may be the one map geographically, but poetically we have a John Fern and a C. D. Hemming, those masters of the art of poetry whose effusions are so eagerly sought in the evening issues of the business press. Hemming has a savor till they have been read. Hemming, having the advantage of the warm approval of the literary editor of the Scranton Times, has been invited to contribute to the practical side of life, while Hemming goes to the flower and its philosophy for his.

The columns of the Scranton Times for the last year or so have scintillated with sparks from the poetic fires of Fern and Hemming, but the real literary folk of Scranton are shy of expressing a preference lest they lay themselves open to the imputation of lack of discrimination in things literary. SCRANTON, PA., JANUARY 5.

Urban Life in Arkansas. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: A battery of United States Field Artillery en route through Minnesota was approaching the adjacent horse establishments of two prosperous farmers. A misadventure on the road had shifted his tobacco and called back the horse. "Hey, Lacy, ef ye hed them two horses down in Arkansas, wud ye reckon ye call 'em?" "Give it up," the Arkansas man ironically answered. "Why, the two horses?" "No, the man who cracked his whip at 'em by his horse and quietly enjoyed the laugh which followed at the expense of his comrade. QUINCY, WEST POINT, JANUARY 6.

Defense of the Whistlers. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The SUN has printed two or three letters from correspondents who complain of the whistling habit. Please let us have something different. It is not more pleasant to hear a whistle than a growl. I like to hear anybody whistle. A whistle is sure to be heard. No one can whistle with a load on his mind. Don't you like to see a pretty girl with her lips all puckered up ready to whistle? What if a messenger boy is whistling out of tune? His heart is in the right place. Let us all learn to whistle. H. P. NEW YORK, JANUARY 6.

The Gas Decision in the Home Circle. We feel as though an uncle had died and left us cash on hand and a house. Beyond our visions range. To celebrate the fortune which unexpected comes Brother gave a dinner To twenty-seven chums. Mother bought a ticket Upon next Thursday's ship—she feels we can afford it. To take a foreign trip. Sister bought some dresses And father by the crate appropriate and proper To grace our new estate. Father bought an auto. The latest model car—He never yet has money. Been known to go so far. How much is coming to us? That we so rich are made? Just eighty-seven dollars. When we at last are paid. MCLANDBROUGH WILSON.

DOUGHNUTS. With a Commentary on Crullers and Other Creations. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The feeling of apprehension aroused in me by the gloomy predictions for 1909 of Zaddick, Madama T. Oberon and the other disciples of Cassandra seems to find its justification in this morning's SUN, wherein "H. P." opens a line of inquiry the far reaching and awful consequences of which I shudder to contemplate.

Harmed as we are with perplexing questions ranging from the makeup of the Cabinet of the incoming President to the question of the use of rubber heels in Marathon contests, why must we be called upon at this particular juncture to determine what distinguishes the doughnut from its congenere the cruller?

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Notes From Abroad. Canadian bank deposits, which increased by \$15,000,000 in 1907, also increased by \$17,000,000 in 1908, while commercial loans, which increased by about \$50,000,000 in 1907, decreased by \$60,000,000 in 1908.

In the eleven months ended November British imports decreased \$267,500,000 and exports \$200,000,000, a total decrease of \$67,500,000, or 6.00 more than the American total decrease of \$68,000,000 for the entire year.

Yalu River timber is to be exploited by a Chinese Japanese company, with two managers, one of whom is to have the right to employ a company in felling and moving timber, including the rafting of logs, must be Chinese.

From \$112,000,000 in 1908 to \$85,000,000 in 1908 is the total decrease in clearing House in the handling of bills of exchange.

The Japanese Government has decided to import and lease machinery for small manufacturing plants, to diversify and increase the various industries.

Brazil is exporting yearly \$6,000,000 worth of leaf tobacco (96 per cent. to Germany) and \$100,000 worth of twisted tobacco (also to Germany). The tobacco is low priced.

Ecuador imports four from California in German steamers. Two years Canadian foreign trade, years ending July 31:

Exports. Imports. 1907. \$252,987,532. \$205,945,529. 1908. 252,987,532. 205,945,529.

Canada is gradually extending her trade commissioner service abroad, which now consists of nine commissioners engaged in seeking markets for Canadian products. The latest appointment is in Glasgow, Scotland.

The German naval estimates include \$35,000,000 for new ships, which will be raised by \$100,000,000. The Navy is to have the German navy at Wilhelmshaven is being developed on a very ambitious scale. The money value of Germany's war feet is \$250,000,000, and the personnel is 55,700 officers and men.

Bicycles in Japan. From Daily Consular and Trade Reports. It is thought that the import of bicycles into Japan has not only decreased of late, there is still some 40,000 bicycles imported every year. In that country they are used