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.

Senator Hale.

What is the real purpose of the move for an elaborate and prolonged legislative investigation of the expenditures in the navy yards?

Is it an attempt to promote reform, or to forestall and obstruct? Are the eleventh hour activities of the accomplished chairman of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs inspired by an enthusiasm that will stand the test of the polariscope?

The friends of naval reform and reorganization are asking themselves these questions somewhat solicitously.

Senator HALE is a most amiable gentleman. He is more than that. In the special field of navy politics he is a whale of a politician.

Cuba's New Government.

To-day the Cuban Government again passes into Cuban hands. The foundation laid by the second intervention is far stronger than that laid by the first, and the probability of an enduring institution is correspondingly greater. The hands which now take control are stronger than those of Cuba's first President. JOSÉ MIGUEL GOMEZ is no more patriotic, no more honest, than was ESTRADA PALMA, but he is a man of firmer grip, and he has, moreover, the decided advantage of knowing his people and of being known by them.

When Mr. PALMA landed in Cuba in May, 1902, he saw his country for the first time in more than twenty years. He found new conditions and new men in public life. To some of these, both men and conditions, he was an entire stranger, and with few of either was he at all familiar. There is perhaps no one who knows Cuba and the Cubans better than does JOSÉ MIGUEL GOMEZ, and there is no man who is better known by the people of the island. He knows the individual strength and the individual weakness of every man in public life; he knows who is honest and sincere, and he knows the dishonest and the crafty. His friends are loyal to him, and his enemies have a wholesome fear of him. No man who knows him doubts that in case of need he will strike, and strike hard. Guerrillas, insurrectos, bandits and other disturbers of the public peace, should they plan activities, will do so with full knowledge that the man at the head of the Government will if necessary take the field in person against them, and that an uprising of any kind would be a widely different affair from that of 1906 in both processes and results.

The special weakness in Cuba's governmental system is in the department of legislation. After a time of nonpartisan independence Mr. PALMA definitely allied himself with the minority party. His influence with the legislative branch had never been strong, and his alliance with the Moderados brought him into conflict with the majority in that branch. That choked legislation that was greatly needed, and unlawful efforts to secure control for the minority party brought on the disorder of 1906. GOMEZ has a large Congressional majority behind him, and there is much reason to believe that he will be able to obtain from the Congress a strong support for his policies and plans. The tendency of Cuban legislators to dispute interminably over details is an unfortunate drawback, but it will doubtless be modified by experience, and it may be repressed by a little political "discipline" from the hands of the Executive.

In this country there are many and in Cuba there are some prophets of evil and disaster. If their predictions are of insurrection and fighting they are more than likely to be disappointed. Anything of that kind is exceedingly improbable. Political wrangles are to be expected, and their frequent recurrence in our own land should make us charitable in our opinion and comment if they appear in Cuba. Since the publication by THE SUN some weeks ago of comment on the finances of the island there has been an active readjustment and regulation. The situation has been cleared and improved; and while it may yet be necessary for the Government to borrow money to meet obligations assumed by the Provisional Government, the general situation is much less discouraging than it was. Economically the outlook is hopeful. The crops are promising and prices for sugar and tobacco are fair. The economic situation would be helped if the American Congress in the interest of the American consumers should decide to make some reduction in the tariff on sugar and tobacco. That a reduction in the rate on those commodities can be made without injury to domestic interests is recognized and admitted by all except those selfish groups which assert but never prove that any reduction would ruin them.

Viewed without prejudice and with due regard to known conditions, the probability is that for some years at least there will be peace in Cuba, with President GOMEZ striving to give good government and in fair measure succeeding, in spite of the efforts of his enemies. There may be scandals, just as there are in the United States, interesting little incidents that are the almost inevitable attendants of government in all lands.

At their worst Cuba's prospects are hopeful, and at their best they are full of assurance of peace and prosperity. We wish for the new Government and the people of the island all that is the best.

Turkey and Bulgaria Differ About Money.

The mobilizing of Bulgarian troops on the Turkish frontier might have excited grave apprehension had it occurred while the Ottoman and Austrian Governments were still at variance concerning the amount of the indemnity to be paid for Bosnia. Now, when not the slightest assistance can be expected at Sofia from Austria or Russia, Bulgaria's show of military force is looked upon as a foolish attempt to compel the acceptance of a smaller compensation for the assertion of Bulgarian independence and confiscation of the Oriental Railway than the Turks deem fair.

Let us indicate briefly the respective points of view of the parties to the controversy. Turkey's demand for an indemnity is based upon four grounds, namely: First, the Berlin Congress imposed an annual tribute upon Bulgaria proper, that is to say, the province north of the Balkans, when that was created an autonomous vassal State, subject to the suzerainty of the Ottoman Sultan. That tribute the Bulgarians have never paid and repudiate the idea of paying. Secondly, the Turks hold that Bulgaria is chargeable with her proportionate share of the Ottoman foreign debt, which existed up to 1878, when the province secured autonomy, and with the share of the debt which belonged to Eastern Rumelia at the time of its forcible annexation to Bulgaria. Both these claims are rejected by the Sofia Government. Thirdly, when the Bulgarians in violation of the Berlin treaty invaded and annexed Eastern Rumelia they agreed to pay and have since paid in whole or in part the tribute previously receivable from the confiscated province by the Ottoman Government. This obligation is acknowledged by the Bulgarians. Lastly, Turkey maintains and Bulgaria admits that the latter Power must make good with a lump sum of money the value of that section of the Oriental Railway which traverses Eastern Rumelia. In other words, Bulgaria admits the justice of two of the four claims made by the Ottoman Government and offers $16,000,000 by way of liquidation. Turkey insists that $25,000,000 is the minimum sum which she can accept as compensation for all of the losses incurred by her in the four ways just named.

It is incredible that the great Powers will permit a conflagration to be kindled in the Balkans over a matter of $9,000,000. It looks as if Bulgaria would have to increase her offer, especially as it is believed that a European conference would uphold every one of the four claims urged by Turkey.

Two Instances for Governor Hughes.

Governor HUGHES was unfortunate in the moment of his latest allocution in favor of direct nominations. On the same day Senator DAVIS of Arkansas, child of the popular primary and *Caliban-Pantaloon* of the Senate, was swishing the "red broom" of his rhetoric, smelling blood and seeing revolution.

A tu'penny demagogue and a zany, projected into the Senate by the device which Governor HUGHES so sincerely, so courageously, and as we think, so unreasonably admires. The "Low Collared Rooster" of Arkansas is one kind of product of that device.

On the same day in the Wisconsin Senate charges were made and supported not only by Democrats but by Republicans who are partisans of Senator LA FOLLETTE, the father of the Wisconsin primary law, that his colleague, ISAAC STEPHENSON, used large sums of money for bribery and corruption at the primary elections by which he was nominated for reelection.

These charges may or may not be true. It seems to be the general belief in Wisconsin that Mr. STEPHENSON did use large sums of money; and an extensive belief in Wisconsin that he won at the primaries by that means. They have yet to be investigated. Meanwhile, is there nothing in this Stephenson matter to make Governor HUGHES distrustful of the panacea in which he trusts so ardently? Is there any special virtue in the people or politicians of this State which would make human nature and direct nominations work in one way in Madison and in another and better way in Albany?

The buffoon and ignoramus "popular" Senator from Arkansas; the rich suspect in Wisconsin: does Governor HUGHES put away from him such ungracious practical and actual manifestations of the "reform" and dream of direct nominations simply as they appear to his own honorable and austere spirit?

A Masterly Report From the Committee of One.

To say that President ROOSEVELT literally bathed his subject in light when he addressed the Dependent Children Conference in the East Room of the White House on Monday last is to convey but a feeble idea of what really happened. The fact is that he occupied the entire field of the investigation, explored its utmost distance and bypaths, classified the neglected infants, prescribed remedies for each variety, and then referred the matter to the assemblage squeezed dry of its last drop of mystery and guesswork—reduced, in fact, to an orderly diagram with every possible emergency foreseen and neatly tagged.

The audience was delighted. Strong men wabbled in the sudden glare of illumination. Experienced matrons wondered that they had never thought it out before. Spinsters of all ages were especially reassured and enlightened, and bachelors were rapt in a spell of admiration. He told them just what to do with full orphans, with half orphans, with children who couldn't be properly reared at home and had to be reared elsewhere, and then he washed his hands of the whole business by ostentatiously admitting that the wit of man could not devise a perfect system—he pointedly ignored the Superman—and leaving them to their own devices. Discussion followed, but it was feeble and perfunctory. All the radiance possible had been shed. Subsequent flashlights were mere works of supererogation. Something might come later of the adjourned conference when the delegates had regained their equilibrium after the eruption. For the moment they were plunged in a respectful, not to say reverent, daze, and they led each other out with tenderness.

In Washington one perceives and can examine intelligently a true projection of the President's theories in respect of other people's children. There they are formulating a vast playground scheme, with teachers, employees, checks, restraints and guidance, so that the little ones may disport themselves under salaried supervision and acquire hilarity by rule. Washington is a city of broad streets and almost innumerable parks and vacant places. There is not a neighborhood in which the children cannot find ample space for roller skating, tag, prisoner's base, ring around rosey, "Chickamy craney crow" and all the games and sports upon an endless list. It has come to pass, however, that the children must be segregated for purposes of recreation and duly instructed in the art of making merry in a groove. Upon this complicated system President ROOSEVELT proposes to erect a still more complicated structure of paid superintendents, assistants and general understrappers, all fed at the public trough and all expert in taking the joy and the heart out of every childish aspiration. Miss HAVISHAM is represented in the person of every functionary.

"PIP, go play!" And away goes PIP with dragging step to melancholy imitation beneath a cold professional eye.

So, paid supervisors are to say whether this or that child needs Government control, whether this or that family circle is a fit place for the individual baby, whether a certain amount of poverty is to open the once sacred fireside to ruthless invasion and regulation. The Government puts an end to the individual, and callous conferences and their liveried hirelings efface the mother's knee!

A Minister's Duty.

Addressing the members of the Industrial Christian Alliance and their guests on Tuesday evening, the Rev. CHARLES F. AKED asserted that:

"I don't know whether you know it or not, but every one of these poor half starved creatures was obliged to sleep in a municipal lodging house the night before he got this pitiful little job, had to pay 25 cents to a foreman before he was appointed, and those that didn't have a quarter couldn't get on the staff."

The unfortunates to whom Dr. AKED referred were the men who applied for work at snow shovelling after the last storm. Why, if Dr. AKED had knowledge of such blackmail, does he not lay it before the Street Cleaning Commissioner, the Commissioner of Police, or the District Attorney of New York county? Why does he reserve it for the entertainment of a number of well lined and comfortably clad "clergymen and philanthropists," and omit to perform the duty that every man having knowledge of wrongdoing owes to the community in which he lives?

Dr. AKED is informed that "the slums of New York contain more elements of violence than do those of London and Liverpool," and he seems to believe it, for he talks darkly of "mobs of helots" which "may become a positive danger." If anything is likely to give color of truth to this dismal forecast it is the neglect of their civic obligations by men like Dr. AKED.

Rhinoceroses.

Mr. ROOSEVELT in conversation at the White House on Monday with Captain FRITZ DUQUESNE, an experienced hunter, enumerated the savage and curious beasts that he desired to slay, collect and stuff in the wilds of Africa when he retires from the Presidency of the United States. The lion, elephant, blessbok and oryx he referred to with enthusiasm, and exclaimed:

"And I want a cheetah and leopard—they've got such bully marks. I want to run up against white rhinoceroses, because I like something that will come back at me. I don't want to have my own way."

If he does not want to have his own way—that is to say, to kill easily and securely—Mr. ROOSEVELT ought to seek not the white rhinoceros but the black rhinoceros. The white is much the larger beast, with a head one-third the length of its body and a truly formidable horn projecting from its square nose. It is, besides, much rarer than the black rhinoceros and correspondingly prized by collectors. But it is the testimony of a famous Nimrod, CHARLES JOHN ANDERSSON, who killed scores of rhinoceroses in his explorations of Africa, that if one craves danger he must encounter the smaller beast, the black rhinoceros. Mr. ANDERSSON says in his book "Lake Ngami," describing four years of wandering, generally alone and unmounted, in Southwestern Africa:

"In disposition there is a marked distinction between them; for while the black is of a savage nature the white, on the other hand, is of a comparatively mild disposition, and unless in defence of its young, or when hotly pursued or wounded, will rarely attack a man."

According to this daring explorer, the African white rhinoceros is exceeded in size only by the elephant. A full grown male is between fourteen and sixteen feet long from nose to tail, ten to twelve feet in circumference, and weighs between four and five thousand pounds. In strength it is almost equal to the elephant. Mr. ANDERSSON gives some instances of its powers of destruction when running amuck that are almost incredible. Ungainly as it looks, the rhinoceros is remarkably swift and nimble of foot. "A horse with a rider," declares GORDON CUMMING, "can rarely manage to overtake it." "From its clumsy appearance," says Captain HARRIS, another authority, "one would never suppose it would dart about as it does, like lightning." Emphasizing the ferocity of the really dangerous rhinoceros Mr. ANDERSSON writes:

"The black 'species' are of a very sullen and morose disposition. They are, moreover, subject to sudden paroxysms of unprovoked fury, rushing and charging with considerable fierceness animals, bushes—in short, any object that comes in their way."

Of a notorious rhinoceros in India Colonel WILLIAMSON says that its ferocity was such "as to render the roads impassable by attacking travellers." To return to Mr. ANDERSSON, he observes that all the other beasts of the wilderness hold the rhinoceros in awe and fear; "none ventures to attack this truly formidable animal; the lion, if they chance to meet, slinks out of his way; even the elephant retreats if possible without hazarding an engagement." This explorer had several hairbreadth escapes himself in killing and collecting the rhinoceros, and having concluded that discretion was the better part of valor he recommends that the beast be shot from the "skärm" as he approaches a pool to take his nocturnal drink, which he is a long time about. To hunt the rhinoceros on horseback is a sport attended with grave danger. Mr. ANDERSSON tried it and lost his horse, which was gored through and through, the rider escaping miraculously.

In short, if Mr. ROOSEVELT really wants to have his own way he must try conclusions with the black rhinoceros in the open, reserving the placid white rhinoceros for the collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

The police believe the man is either a West Philadelphia storekeeper or a New Yorker.—*Despatch from Philadelphia.*

Thus do the residents of the Quaker capital take revenge for many ungenerous flings.

I shall send a special message to Congress.—*President* ROOSEVELT.

Lately a few special messages have gone astray, to Governors. After all, Congress has the first call.

If a European Power were to invade Abyssinian territory to-day it would encounter an army fairly well equipped with modern artillery and magazine rifles that were captured from the Italians at the battle of Adowah. General BARATIERI had a force of 44,700 men and seventy-eight guns on the eve of hostilities, but owing to faulty dispositions made by him he had only 28,000 men of all arms when the Abyssinians in overwhelming numbers advanced to the attack at Adowah. The Italian infantry fought bravely, but so sudden was the assault of the fanatical Shoans that almost all the Italian artillery, fifty-two guns in all, fell into the hands of the enemy before the guns could take position. Half of the officers of the invading army and one-third of the men perished on the field. The Abyssinian casualties were 4,000 killed and 6,000 wounded. Two thousand prisoners fell into the hands of the Emperor MENELIK. Nearly all the equipment of the Italian army was captured. The rout was one of the most complete on record. Italian prestige in East Africa being altogether destroyed. The military court of six Generals that tried BARATIERI acquitted him of "criminal intent," but deplored the fact that the command had been committed to an incompetent soldier.

The Abyssinian regular army at the present time consists of 150,000 men, most of whom are mounted. They are stationed in garrison at strategic points throughout the country. In the event of war an army of 500,000 men could be mobilized. The mistake of the Italian Government, which underrated the fighting strength of the Abyssinians and the skill of MENELIK'S Generals, is not likely to be repeated by any other European nation.

The "Life Belt."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why cannot President Roosevelt—he is a sort of flat maker anyhow and doesn't need a Legislature at his back—pass a law making it unlawful to paste, slide, stick or otherwise place upon a cigar that abomination known as a cigar label, tag or band?

In the good old days when we trusted the manufacturer and didn't mistrust the trust it was not necessary to advertise a cigar by any meretricious tag on it, nor was it necessary for a gentleman to show by a blue and gilt sign in front of his mouth that he was smoking a twenty-five cent cigar. If you take off the label ten chances to one you tear the cigar wrapper, and if you leave it on it smells like a smudge when the fire reaches it, and then, too, every maker of "twofers" puts a tag on them to make 'em look swell, you know.

If our valiant President would only perform this useful act he would go out of office not in a blaze of glory but in a cloud of smoke blown toward him by thankful smokers, who would have one reason at least to keep his memory fragrant in tobacco fumes.

A SUFFERER.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., January 27.

An Argument in Favor of Smoking.

From the London Chronicle.

Smoking has been under discussion in the Anglican Church Synod at Bendigo. One member wanted the temperance pledge extended so as to ban tobacco as well as alcohol. Canon Bryden warned the proposer that he would have the whole female population up in arms against him. Every wife knew that the pipe was her husband's best friend. It kept him at home and away from the hotel. Opposition to smoking was frequently a case of sour grapes. Either the objector had not the physique of a smoker or the necessary genial temperament. He was sometimes a person who had tried to smoke, but with only partial success.

Workingman Senator in France.

From the London Standard.

The first workingman in France to be elected to the Senate took his seat this week. His name is Victor Reymonency, and he is employed in the arsenal at Toulon. There are a number of workingmen in the Chamber of Deputies, including two miners, a wineshop keeper, two hatters, an engine driver, a shoemaker, a lacemaker, a locksmith and a bus conductor.

Memories of the Past.

From the Louisiana Press.

Some of our friends suggest that we run a "Twenty Years Ago" column in the paper. All right. How is this for a starter? "Twenty years ago John Dobbins promised to pay his subscription when he sold his wheat. Now the question is, 'Did John lie, or is he still holding his wheat?'"

Education.

Father—What did you learn in school to-day?

Johnny—Ten upper cuts equal one solar plexus.

SUPREME COURT SALARIES.

It Is a Reproach to the Country That the Justices Are Paid so Poorly.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir.* It is to be hoped that the House will take a broader and wiser view of this question of the Supreme Court salaries than the Senate is disposed to do.

The true standard for such salaries is not so much what those able men in the Supreme Court could have made if they had remained at the bar, but "what the country ought to pay them for the sake of preserving its own self-respect." And yet the amount of their salary should certainly have some relation to what they could earn as lawyers. There is therefore great force in the contention that the minimum salary for a Justice of the Supreme Court ought to approximate to the minimum income that could be earned at the bar by any man qualified for such a position. That income would never be less than $25,000 a year, and would oftener reach $50,000, and sometimes even $100,000.

No one who is conversant with the rather mediocre ability of the overwhelming majority of the Circuit and District Federal Judges will doubt for a moment that more adequate salaries would enable successive Presidents by means of their own appointments gradually to improve the ability and standing of those courts.

On the other hand it is probably true that in the case of the Supreme Court "more money would not mean better Judges"; for the ablest lawyers are always proud to serve on that bench, even at the present meagre salary. But isn't it rather small for this big and prosperous country to give its Supreme Court Justices just one-fourth of the salary England gives its Lord Chief Justice? If a Supreme Court Justice has no income beyond his salary of $12,500 and has a family of children to educate it is simply impossible for him under the conditions existing at Washington to leave one dollar to his widow and children. If he has sons of sturdy health they can of course take care of themselves and be all the better for having to make their own way; but can any Senator look the American people in the face and say that there is anything unwholesome or un-American in the plea that a Judge should have sufficient salary out of which to accumulate a small estate for his widow and children, if he has any?

To lug in as a counter argument against so reasonable a demand a cheap fling against those multimillionaires who give their "girls a dower with which to attract some brainless nobleman from the other side" is nothing but talk to the galleries and a bit of demagogic buncombe. I venture the assertion that the very Senator (Bailey of Texas) who made this irrelevant argument is able by means of his practice at the bar between sessions of Congress (which is his legitimate right) to add enough to his Senatorial salary (and mileage) to give him a total income considerably larger than the present salary of a Supreme Court Judge.

Not a few Senators with perfect propriety have earned in cases before the Supreme Court as much as the salary given to that great court. Many Representatives by retaining partnerships in law firms and important business enterprises in their home towns have an income considerably larger than the Supreme Court salary. I know one Representative, an able lawyer, having an equally able partner in his home town, who leaves Washington every Friday night, spends Saturday and Sunday at home and gives his personal attention to the work of his firm. He returns by the Sunday night train in time to be in his seat in the Capitol on Monday morning. By this plan, in addition to his work between sessions of Congress, he enjoys a lucrative practice which when added to his official salary yields a much larger income than the salary given to the Supreme Court.

It is needless to say that in the case of a Judge all opportunities for practising law and making money in business are forever closed when he accepts a place on the bench. A leading Western paper puts this argument in a way that will appeal to every American lover of fair play:

The jurist whose abilities fit him for a tribunal like our Supreme Court is worthy of his hire. It is pusillanimous to trade in the honor of such an office as a makeweight in the bargain, a cheap inducement to forego pecuniary compensation.

As a matter of fact the nation is not stingy. It is uninformed and hence inconsiderate. Congress has let this matter lie too long. Will it not now deal with it in a justice seeking and businesslike spirit?

When it comes to comparing the proper salary for the Vice-President and Speaker with the Supreme Court salaries the very fact that a place on that bench is accepted for life does justify the tradition—as old as the nation, and never threatened until this recent report of the Senate committee—that a Supreme Court Justice should have a larger rather than a smaller salary than those two officers, who can always go back to private life with increased rather than diminished opportunities for accumulating an estate for their widows and children.

On the other hand, over the door of entrance to the Supreme Court are written these words: "Leave behind you all thought of money making, ye who take this exalted seat." In accepting a position on the Supreme bench a man must burn his bridges behind him and surrender all the pecuniary prizes of his profession.

Many of our Justices come from cities and towns where living is far cheaper than in Washington. The legitimate cost of life at the capital is very great and is increasing, rents being unusually high for a city of its size. The American people do not wish the Supreme Court Justices to live in the cheapest quarters of the city nor in the less expensive suburbs. They do not have fine houses, and none of them would ever desire to spend much money in "entertaining."

In order to eke out their salaries Justices Harlan and Brewer have for twenty years taught in the law school of the George Washington University, and until a few years ago that school was a night school. No one dreams of criticising them for accepting outside employment of that nature, but it is thoroughly discreditable to this nation that it should have compelled such men, because they have no income except their meagre salary, to put this heavy additional tax upon their time and strength.

When the American people, who revere and trust the Supreme Court as the sheet anchor of their liberties, come fully to understand the facts in the case there will be general approval of the proposition that the Supreme Court salaries be fixed without further delay at $25,000 (with the usual nominal addition of $500 for the Chief Justice).

On the very same afternoon when the Senate cut down to $14,500 the modest amount ($17,500) suggested in the appropriation bill the Supreme Court was listening to arguments upon the famous "commodity clause" in the Hepburn amendment to the interstate commerce law. That case involves tens of millions of dollars, not only for the railroads but for the whole American people, whose daily coal bills will be materially affected one way or the other by that court's decision. The coincidence furnished an ironical contrast between the importance and power of that great tribunal and the apparent estimate placed upon it by those Senators who have deliberately refused to give to the members of the most exalted tribunal in the world a salary which even then would only be equal to the amount given to the Justices of the Supreme Court for the First District of New York.

When this question comes up in the House let the controversy as to what proportion the salaries of the Vice-President and Speaker should bear to the President's salary be fought out upon its own merits, keeping in mind the fact that in the case of the incoming President (who is a comparatively poor man) a proper increase must be made before March 4 or must wait four years more. But let not the House take so petty a view of its responsibility as to permit that controversy to be mixed up with the important question of the Supreme Court salaries, which vitally involves the self-respect of the American people. By all means let us avoid extravagance; but surely this rich nation does not wish its representatives in Congress to economize in the salary list of the nine men who are the final interpreters of the Constitution and laws of the United States.

COMMON DECENCY.

NEW YORK, January 26.

POST OFFICE SURETIES.

A Detailed Statement From One Bonding Corporation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Permit me to comment on some of the statements made in the article which appeared in THE SUN of January 23 relative to premium rates for bonds on behalf of postmasters and postal clerks. The rate for these bonds is $2 and not $2.50 a thousand, with the exception of superintendents and clerks of substations, this rate being $2.50, but the aggregate of these bonds is comparatively small.

No surety company is permitted under the rules and regulations of the Post Office Department (unless they have been changed quite recently) to act as sole surety on the bond of a postmaster, and only as one of the sureties when the company is organized under the laws of the State in which the post office is located. I think bonds on behalf of third and fourth class postmasters must be signed exclusively by personal sureties.

Practically all postmasters furnish bonds signed by personal sureties, and therefore are not taxed with any premium. Comparatively few postmasters furnish indemnity bonds signed by surety companies in favor of the personal sureties, and when such bonds are executed they are, generally speaking, in amounts far below those mentioned in the official bonds, generally about 50 per cent. less.

All employees in the postal service are permitted to give bonds signed by personal sureties if they prefer to do so, and there are very few who are unable to give such sureties in preference to corporate suretyship (for which they pay a small premium) if they feel so inclined.

While the aggregate of these bonds may be, as stated in the article to which I refer, $300,000,000, I am satisfied that the records of the Post Office Department will show that the aggregate liability assumed by surety companies does not exceed $50,000,000, and may be considerably less; but if as much as $100,000,000 the annual premium charge at the rate of $2 a thousand would be $200,000 instead of $500,000, as stated by the First Assistant Postmaster-General. In all probability the surety companies would not receive at the rate of $2 a thousand more than $100,000 a year.

While the statement that the average annual collections from surety companies and individual bondsmen amounted to less than $32,000 may be correct, I seriously doubt it, for the annual defalcations must be largely in excess of that amount, hardly less than $60,000 a year, because during the last four years the claims made under our bonds on behalf of railway postal clerks alone (and these number only about 14,000) aggregated $28,132. It is a well known fact that surety companies are pursued more relentlessly by the executive departments than are personal sureties when losses are sustained by reason of the dishonest or negligent acts of those bonded, and as corporate suretyship has extended, particularly in the direction of bonding postal employees, the demands of the Post Office Department on the sureties have become more and more numerous, not to say wholly unreasonable in some instances, this being a potent cause of the increase in the premium charge.

Surety companies have at last come to realize after actual experience that these bonds on behalf of postal employees cannot be written for less than $2 a thousand if a fair return for their suretyship is expected, due to the fact that the bonds do not cover the honesty alone of those bonded but also losses sustained by the Government, or the "dear public," in consequence of negligence on the part of these employes in the performance of their duties.

It also occurs to me to point out that the rate is $1 a thousand for all city letter carriers and rural free delivery carriers. These carriers constitute a very large percentage of the employees in the postal service, and the First Assistant Postmaster-General probably thinks they are also subject to a rate of $2.50 a thousand.

H. B. ZEVELY, Secretary.

American Surety Company.

NEW YORK, January 26.

The Disappearing Shad.

From the Manchester Union.

Shad were very abundant in the Merrimac and Connecticut rivers in the days before the population had multiplied and dams had been built. It used to be said, and was probably true, that the shad and salmon were wont to part company in their journey up the Merrimac from the sea, the shad turning up the Winnepesaukee to the lake of that name, while the salmon continued on their way up the Pemigewasset to the small streams at the base of the White Mountains. Both have long since disappeared from the Merrimac and also from the upper waters of the Connecticut. Even in Massachusetts the shad continued to decrease until it is said that they are no longer found in the Connecticut within the limits of that State. In Connecticut, however, they have fared a little better, although they have been steadily decreasing there until the Connecticut Fish Commissioners are now sounding a note of warning, asserting that the fishermen below the mouth of the Farmington River must be restricted if the State hatchery is to get sufficient spawn for stocking. It appears that the number of shad taken in the Connecticut has been rapidly falling off in recent years. No longer ago than 1903 the number caught was 176,085, but in 1908 it was only 54,874. At this rate of decrease it is easy to see that Connecticut River shad will soon be only a memory or a fraud.

First Pretzels Made in America.

From the Bakers' Weekly.

According to information furnished by an old historian the Rauch family of Lancaster county, Pa., is given the credit of having baked the first pretzels in this country, in the year 1810. It is said that the first pretzel bakery established on the banks of the Schuylkill (in Reading) was owned by Lichtenthealer, who was born in Lititz, March 17, 1817.

It is said that one John William Rauch, by trade a weaver and a maker of chip hats and brooms, was asked by the Moravian congregation to take up baking, as the town of Lititz was in need of such help. He consented to do so in connection with his trade. One day an old German happened to call upon John Rauch and in return for material assistance offered to teach him the secret of making what he called "bretzels." They baked in a small way at first for local trade.

Ambrose Rauch, the son of John, was peddling brooms through the country at the time, and prevailed upon his father to allow him to offer pretzels to the trade. They took immediately, and the fame of this particular make soon spread throughout Lancaster county, where to-day it is the custom to serve the salty titbit with ice cream, with little Dutch lunches, with a tasty cold snack in connection with cheese, frequently with a cup of hot chocolate, often with soup or bouillon, and in that section it may take the place of nuts in chocolate fudge.

Nietzsche and the Invalid.

From the London Daily News.

An invalid lad who often met Nietzsche found him the gentlest, kindest and most sympathetic of men. He "implored her with tears in his eyes not to read his books." Such was his knowledge of women that he was thunderstruck to find shortly afterward that the lady at once proceeded to read them all. He was further stupefied by the discovery that, having read them, she was utterly unmoved by the philosopher's unanswerable demonstrations that feeble persons like herself had no right to live, and that women were distinguished by this, that, and the other objectionable attribute. It must have been a blow to him.

Superstition Saved the Relics.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

In his evidence before the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales, Dr. Henry Owen, F. S. A., who has taken part in an archæological survey in Pembrokeshire, said he did not think many cromlechs had been removed from the country. There was a deep rooted superstition concerning their removal, as they were supposed to be the remains of Druidical altars. The superstition was that the person who disturbed the cromlech would lose his wife or some other near relation within a year, or that his crops would fail.

Breaking It Gently

From the London Globe.

"Dear Sirs," begins a Babu business letter from Calcutta forwarded by a reader, "We conform our last respect of the 10th inst., and have none of favours to acknowledge * * * we beg to announce that a deep misty cloud hovered over us for eight days and did not clear itself away until it washed off our hands our most steady, energetic and pious Tunwi Manager."

COFFEE.

Where Can the Berry Be Bought to Sell at Seven Cents?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Heroy in reply to "Villa Alba" gives what I consider a true statement of the coffee question. "Villa Alba" believes that because we have colonies every family in the United States ought to be taxed. He would have us believe that if properly protected they would be able in five years to produce enough coffee to compete with Brazil. As a matter of fact, the colonies under the very best conditions in the next five years would not produce enough coffee to supply New York State, much less competing with Brazil. This is a coffee drinking country of ours, and we must have the best coffee from every coffee growing country. If our colonies can supply us in five years, let them go ahead and do it; but the American cup must not be taxed simply because "Villa Alba" has a plantation in a colony, and believes the United States Government ought to pay him to grow coffee—or experiment with it—for five years.

The statement was made "that on a basis of 5 cents a pound on coffee the family cost of living would be increased by about $3.30 a year." "Villa Alba" says these figures are incorrect. Here is a sample of how he figures it out: "Allowing that the per capita consumption of coffee in the United States reaches twelve pounds annually, a duty of 6 cents would only increase the living expenses per capita 72 cents a year, and 5 cents would increase it 60 cents." A family in this glorious country of ours means more than one—make it at least five—and five times 60 cents is $3.30; a tax, if the duty went on, that every family would have to pay.

"Villa Alba" tells us that good coffee can be had for 5 or 6 cents a pound. Where? Can he purchase and deliver to me in Rochester a good drinking coffee that I can sell for 7 cents a pound? If he can do this or show me how it can be done I shall do all in my power to help him have the Government put a tax on coffee. If he can't—then back to Porto Rico and his plantation!

When "Villa Alba" says "there is no Mocha coffee in the country" he is very poorly informed. There is plenty of Mocha—genuine Arabian Mocha—he can purchase it from every reliable grocery man in the United States. He says "the Mocha coffee that comes to our country is coffee shipped from Abyssinia, Liberia or Brazil to Mocha, whence it is reshipped and sold as Mocha coffee here." Wise as you are, "Villa Alba," you forgot to learn that the Arabian Government in order to protect the Mocha crop made laws years ago forbidding the shipping of coffee to that country from other points which might be reshipped as Mocha coffee.

I should advise "Villa Alba" to make a more thorough study of the coffee business while he is here, visit some of our reliable coffee firms—they will show him plenty of genuine Java and genuine Mocha. If he then has any doubts, our Chief Chemist of United States, Dr. Wiley, will put him right.

JOSEPH MCCORMACK.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., January 26.

Coffee, Not Statistics, Wanted.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Statistics, unless carefully used and followed, are misleading and do not prove in the coffee argument that there is fraud being practised upon the coffee consumer. Every one knows that the Brazil imports are far ahead of any other coffee, and also the sales of it at retail are proportionately large. If "Villa Alba" took the trouble to make inquiry of dealers instead of books he would learn a lot about the other end of coffee statistics. Brazils are sold as Brazils or good coffee at from 15 to 18 cents a pound retail, not from 18 to 45 cents as he said. One roaster alone in New York city says he roasts and sells as Brazil coffee over 600 bags a day.

I thank "Villa Alba" for his good intentions in referring me to what he considers excellent works of statistics, but beg to inform him that such stuff does not make good coffee and that practical experience in the New York coffee market is much more profitable to me; also, that we can't use newspaper quotations in our business. He quotes 5.85 when he could look on another page of THE SUN and see that No. 7 Rios were being sold at 7½ to 7¾.

If one reputable firm was labelling Santos coffee Java and Mocha and had to destroy a million labels, it only shows that ther were fakers and that the pure food law gives every one a chance to ask for Java and Mocha and get it. If one is willing to take something else these days it is his own fault and he deserves to be robbed.

"Villa Alba's" statement as to Mocha and the royal courts makes me think that he has been reading a highly colored story written by an African traveller. It's old. There is no doubt that tons of coffee are sold as Java that never came from the East Indies; still, that does not alter my statement that if any one will use intelligence in buying coffee he will get what he pays for, and I still maintain that there are plenty of places where any one can get what he asks and pays for in the coffee line.

If "Villa Alba" said anything about being a coffee grower in his first letter I certainly overlooked it, and would say that if he sees the consumer being robbed by coffee dealers, what a cinch it is for him to sell the coffee he grows direct to the consumer and build up a name for himself and his coffee, without asking Uncle Sam to guarantee him a profit on his crop by a tax.

Further, if the thinks the coffee dealers and myself in particular are such easy marks for the brokers as to buy a lilo for Java and Mocha, he is wasting time growing coffee, and stopping in Washington trying to work for a duty on coffee. New York is the place for him to get rich quick. There are a few who don't read statistics or care a rap about the figures. It's coffee we are after, and it's got to be up to the market to get the New Yorker's money. "Villa Alba" can get posted by calling on

HERBERT HEROY.

NEW YORK, January 27.

Study of Medicine in Far East.

From the London Globe.

The objection shown by the Court at Pekin to accept the aid of European surgeons during the illness of China's late rulers does not seem to be shared by the people of Hanoi in Indo China. Here it seems that the French have established with considerable success a school of medicine. There are ninety students enrolled, some studying the science from the human standpoint, some qualifying as veterinary surgeons, while a number of young women have entered as obstetric students. One lady who has qualified has been signally successful in charge of a hospital for the poor at Phuly. Eight out of ten of the students come from Cochin-China.

Augerville Without Bores.

Oncenville Correspondence Indianapolis News.

Augerville is the name of a new town in Gibson county. It is a rural settlement situated on the sand road between Owensville and Princeton. Augerville has ninety-three inhabitants, and all the married men of the place own their own homes. The slogan in Augerville is, "Come to Augerville. You won't bore us and we won't bore you." The principal industry of the town is the production of watermelons and cantaloupes.

Identifying the Oldest Kansan.

From the Kansas City Journal.

"How could you tell along about the '70s who was here the longest?" asked a man one day of J. R. Little, who formerly lived at Eskbridge, but recently moved to Missouri.

"You just had to look around the crowd," he replied, "and see who had on the most rags, and you would have him."

Ohio Oranges.

Bellefontaine Correspondence Indianapolis News.

A Bellefontaine man who has just returned from Kenton, which is also a "dry" town now, says he went into a fruit store while there and as