The Sun.

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No Uniform Divorce Law.

The meeting at Washington of the Commissioners on Uniform State Legislation is an occasion for the renewal on the part of many thoughtless persons and ignorant journals of the agitation for the enactment of a uniform divorce law by all the States or an amendment to the Federal Constitution which shall empower Congress to enact such a law.

The objection to this project was well expressed some time ago by Chief Judge CULLEN of the Court of Appeals in an address before the Brooklyn law school of St. Lawrence University, in which he expressed the apprehension that a uniform divorce law would of necessity be a bad law from our point of view in New York.

In this State we permit absolute divorce only for one cause, marital infidelity. In most of the other States many other causes are recognized as sufficient to warrant the dissolution of the marriage tie. A uniform divorce law would have to be framed in accordance with the views on this subject which prevail in a majority of the States, and hence it would be condemned as a bad law by public opinion in the State of New York. The people of this State would never agree to the lax divorce laws which prevail in the neighboring Commonwealth of Massachusetts or in Connecticut or Vermont.

So far as the causes for divorce are concerned we think each State should be left free to legislate for itself, and no attempt should be made to secure uniformity. It may very well be that conditions justify a divorce in Alaska which would not justify a divorce in New York, but when we come to the question of legal procedure in matrimonial actions the case is different. The greatest abuses have arisen out of the assumption of the courts in some of the States to exercise jurisdiction to grant divorces based upon what lawyers call constructive service of process, that is to say where neither party is really a resident of the State in which the suit is brought and the defendant has no notice of the proceeding except by a newspaper publication of the summons in a distant State.

This is a matter which might well be dealt with by the conference on uniform State legislation. What the country needs is not a uniform divorce law, but a uniform law of divorce procedure. It is only necessary that each State shall prohibit the exercise of any jurisdiction by its courts to grant divorce except in cases where the marriage took place or the defendant was served with the summons within that State. Such an enactment would leave every State untrammelled as to the causes which it deemed adequate for divorce and would practically put an end to fraudulent divorce suits; fraudulent, we mean, because resulting in a judgment dissolving the marriage without the defendant having had any real notice or any real opportunity to defend.

A uniform law of divorce procedure is within the practical possibilities. We are equally convinced that a uniform law prescribing the causes for absolute divorce is not.

Mr. Root's Congress of the States.

Senator ROOT'S ideas on the subject of State powers and Federal expansion are always interesting. They provoke thought even if they are sometimes misunderstood. If they are sometimes misunderstood we suppose that is because the key or general sketch plan of the theory which Mr. ROOT exhibits from time to time partially and in detail is at present in Mr. ROOT'S mind only, not in the minds of his deeply interested audiences.

Mr. ROOT'S remarks on Tuesday before the Civic Federation at Washington seem to be suffering the fate of many of his finely conceived and subtly reasoned theses on the same general subject. The Senator seems to be understood as advocating the establishment of a sort of permanent conference or congress of the States, to meet every year and actually to legislate upon matters of common interest to the several States within their legitimate field of governmental activity. For that reason we invite attention to the exact phraseology of his remarks as reported by the Washington *Post:*

"It seems to me that every State ought to appoint, in such a way as it sees fit, delegates to an interstate conference to be held every year, authorized to enter into the convention and discussion of great interstate questions.

"It is quite apparent that there is a wide field of governmental activity which belongs to the States and which does not fall within the powers of the national Government, but a field in which a great variety of much important legislation is necessary, affecting not only the individual State which is legislating, but a great number of the sister States.

"The framers of the Constitution put in the hands of the national Government a great number of things which occurred to them as being of general importance concerning the general welfare of the people of this country, but the increase of communication and the bringing together of the separate communities into what is in many respects one great community has developed a great number of other things which clearly were not vested in the national Government, but which rest with the States.

"How shall we then deal with those other things? Is it necessary to revise the Constitution and put them all in the hands of the nation, or, on the other hand, is it necessary to pass legislation regarding those subjects carried on as if they were separate and entirely distinct communities, having no regard each for the other? Are we shut up to those two alternatives? I think not."

To attribute to Mr. ROOT anything more than the suggestion of an annual forum, something like that which the Civic Federation now provides, but with a sort of official warrant to consider and discuss matters of common interest to the States, appears to us to be putting a wrong construction on the Senator's remarks. Yet we admit that many who read his speech will believe that he has in mind the development of a new congress of the States, which is not merely to talk, but actually to legislate concerning matters not clearly vested in the Federal Government.

We are quite sure, we repeat, that Mr. ROOT'S idea contemplates merely a means toward a consensus of the States leading to uniformity of subsequent legislation by the several States individually and independently, and not a new legislative body at Washington to legislate in matters of common interest not vested in the Federal Government.

Mr. ROOT would be the last man, familiar as he is with the opinion of the Supreme Court in the great case of Kansas vs. Colorado, to make the mistake of supposing that all these new questions which concern the general welfare of the people of this country but are not yet vested in the national Government rest therefore with the States. In that notable opinion the distinction was clearly drawn between things vested in the Federal Government, things reserved to the States, and powers neither vested in the Federal Government nor reserved to the States, but still remaining undelegated with the people. To the last mentioned class belong many of the questions that are giving trouble to philosophers and statesmen. The Supreme Court pointed out in Kansas vs. Colorado that the only way to reach these questions was to vest the necessary powers in the Federal Government by the regular process of constitutional amendment.

It is obvious that if the difficult process of constitutional amendment is to be avoided by any such expedient as the establishment of an extraconstitutional legislature at Washington, the new Congress should logically be composed, not of representatives of the State Governments, but of the people in general, regarded as the ultimate source of governmental power.

Who understands this better than Senator ROOT?

A Half Boss Goes.

It was the Hon. FRANK S. BLACK, as we recall, who once said in commenting upon the future prospects of the Hon. HERBERT PARSONS as president of the New York county committee:

"PARSONS, HERBERT PARSONS, he will last just as long as the local organization is able to look over his shoulder and see behind him a pair of glasses and a set of teeth. When they don't see those they won't see Mr. PARSONS at all."

Substantially this, decorated with slightly more euphemistic phrase, we take to be the meaning of the remarkable letter in which Mr. PARSONS yesterday anticipated the inevitable and bowed himself out of the county committee. He was there, as he indicates, to carry out orders; his importance in the eyes of his associates lay solely in the fact that he was the duly authorized foreman of the real boss, who was in Washington. What he was told to do he did. Now there is no one to tell him, hence his retirement is natural, logical, inevitable.

The Hon. HERBERT PARSONS found the Republican party of New York county a third party. He leaves it a third party. It was when he took charge in the name of another a valuable auxiliary of the Hon. WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST; he leaves it unchanged in this respect. For decent men to vote the local Republican ticket was difficult when Mr. PARSONS took hold. The returns of the last election show that the task has not become easier or pleasanter. This, however, was no concern of Mr. PARSONS'S; it was not for that he was deputized, and it was not to that condition that he turned his attention.

Recent public events at Albany and elsewhere have continued the seemingly endless procession of misfortunes to the Republican party in this State. Can it be that the tide has at last turned? Does this latest incident mean that at last a little good luck is to succeed an unprecedented run of evil fortune? At least for the first time in some months the Republicans of this city and State have a cause for genuine rejoicing too obvious to need further comment.

Paulhan at the Wheel.

The biplane with M. PAULHAN at the wheel is the automobile of the air. He seems to have perfect control of the frail machine and goes where he lists, now flitting from the aviation field at Los Angeles to the port of San Pedro, over whose fortifications he hovers like an albatross, and now speeding to the foothills of the Sierras. "Bah! une petite promenade, c'est tout," he said after he returned from his trip to the seaport of which Los Angeles is so proud. Did he know that the guns at San Pedro saluted him?

"Ah, yes! Well, I heard nothing of it. The motor was making too much noise, do you see. And then I was pretty high—about 900 feet. I was about that high when I flew over the digue—what do you call it, the breakwater? And I turned to come back to the field."

M. PAULHAN is dramatic; that is to say, he knows how to play upon the emotion of surprise; he is here, there and everywhere in his air chariot, ascending unannounced and suddenly reappearing in a quarter where he is least expected. Other flying men are priming their machines anxiously for a start and the dirigibles are lumbering about when a shadow is thrown athwart the field, and skimming over the grand stand comes the nonchalant, smiling PAULHAN: he has been taking a little spin, unpremeditated of course.

We all have to bow to PAULHAN: not even his so-called rivals are jealous of him, he is so eminently at home in the air. In one of his flights a hawk was noticed sailing toward the flying man. Would the bird show alarm and change its course? It kept serenely on its way. PAULHAN was accepted as a tenant of the air. Naturally the man is the hero of the "meet" at Los Angeles. Nothing is beyond his daring or his skill. He flies in winds that sway his planes, he dips them in salute with a turn of his wrist. He steps from his biplane to a fragile monoplane, the most delicate fabric that man ever trusted himself to, and away he swims like a dragonfly, a miracle of motion.

But M. PAULHAN is not a mere exhibitor, an athlete of the air. He demonstrates by taking people in his car, if it may be so called, that the biplane, at least, may be used as a means of transportation. On Wednesday he carried Madame PAULHAN through the air for twenty-one miles, and he is ready to show the country to any person with courage enough to accompany him. One of his numerous passengers was Lieutenant PAUL W. BECK, U. S. A., who improved the opportunity to give an exhibition of throwing dummy bombs from a height of 300 feet.

The aeroplane has arrived, and if the WRIGHT brothers introduced it, PAULHAN has shown its possibilities.

A Lone Insurgent.

A sense of loneliness must have swept over the Hon. FREDERICK H. GILLETT like a comber when he found himself the only member of the House who was opposed to the bill admitting New Mexico as a State, but he stood firm and unquailing, as the Hon. CHARLES E. LITTLEFIELD used to do in like circumstances of detachment. Mr. GILLETT was not disturbed when the mandate of the Republican national platform was read to him. "A political party," he retorted, "cannot expect in its national platform to state the opinion of every member of the party." Mr. GILLETT resisted even the taunt of Representative LLOYD of Missouri, a Democrat: "I do not understand how a genuine regular Republican could rise on his feet in opposition to this very important bill."

One man against a host, the heroic gentleman from the Second Massachusetts district rejected the rosy statistics offered in behalf of New Mexico as buncombe. He had heard them before, also the predictions of rapid growth in population, unfailing fertility, and the tidal wave of literacy that was sweeping over the Territory. It had a population of only three to the square mile, lawyers' arguments had to be translated to jurors who spoke only Spanish, and it was not fair to allow such a community two seats in the United States Senate. Not even a viva voce vote was taken by the House. Everybody but Mr. GILLETT was in favor of the bill, but he went down with his crest waving and defiance on his face.

A Part of the Record.

One aspect of the issue now joined between the *Evening Post* and the Hon. BENN CONGER on the one hand and the Hon. JOTHAM P. ALLDS on the other has been too much neglected in view of the light it throws upon the character of the witness upon whose testimony the case of the *Evening Post* must stand or fall, namely the Hon. BENN CONGER. For the subordination of this aspect we think the *Post* itself, perhaps unintentionally, is responsible. We refer to the legislative measures which, it is charged, led to bribery.

From the news columns of the *Post* of the day on which the charge was made we take the following:

"Whether the bills were originally introduced in good faith or whether they were first and last purely 'strike bills' cannot be said. That must also be left unanswered for the present. But that the passage of the Yale bill in 1905, whether intentional, unintentional or out of spite, was a case of 'killing the goose that laid the golden egg' there can be no doubt."

From this assertion naturally flows a conception which seems to us to have thoroughly confused the case and created the notion that certain corporations were attacked in their legitimate business and made to stand for an annual "hold up." An interview with Senator CONGER neatly supports the same view. We quote from the *Post:*

"I believed that the bill was not in the best interests of the State and that the people behind the bill were not sincere in their desire to pass it. I knew that it would ruin the business in New York State for several companies in which I was interested, and there was no demand on the part of the town boards for its passage."

Now the fact about this legislation, always easily attainable by the *Post* or anybody else, was that the bills were just and proper measures aimed at depriving bridge interests not of legitimate but illegal privileges. They were bills designed to put an end to a system by which bridge companies "retained" village officials and through them obtained contracts without competition and at prices out of proportion to the actual value of work done. The fact that one of these measures at least bore the name of the Hon. S. PERCY HOOKER, whom Governor HUGHES subsequently named State Highway Commissioner, was in itself a guarantee of good faith.

So far, then, from having been cognizant of an attempt upon the part of certain legislators to use an improper bill to "hold up" certain corporations in which he was interested, Senator CONGER'S knowledge related to an improper attempt upon the part of certain corporations to bribe legislators not to pass measures that were in the public interest. When such a bill actually did pass, moreover, the instant diminution in the cost of bridge operations to the villages of the State, also a matter of record, showed its entire warrant. So far as the alleged acceptance of a bribe by Senator ALLDS is concerned, it is obvious that these facts are without value, but in their bearing upon the person bringing the charge we hold them important.

Of further value in estimating the value of Senator CONGER'S testimony is the charge made in the news columns of the Albany *Argus* that last year while in the Senate CONGER attempted to secure the passage of an amendment to the existing law which would bring to another of his companies some share of an equally profitable business with village officials. This measure, the *Argus* affirms, was sidetracked by the direct interference of Senator ALLDS himself. Certainly these facts, all of them, were matters of record open to the inspection of one interested. They do not, as we have said, in the slightest degree affect the gravity of the main charge, but they do throw striking light upon the character of the single witness upon whose testimony up to date must rest the proof of the accuracy of the *Post's* assertion that: "As by a vivid flash of lightning we see our whole political situation in this State for years past laid bare."

Mayor-elect JOHN F. FITZGERALD of Boston is shocked by Mr. JAMES J. STORROW'S sworn statement, as required by the law, that he spent $103,250 in the late municipal campaign. "The spectacle of a single man paying over $100,000 in an effort to obtain an election as Mayor is abhorrent to thinking men," says Mr. FITZGERALD, who has not filed his own return, which will certainly not shock any one. "Some candidates for the City Council," muses Mr. FITZGERALD, "have filed statements that they spent nothing, and it seems evident that somebody must have paid." So FITZ is shocked again. Mr. STORROW will not be allowed to hear the last of the amount spent in his behalf. But somebody must have paid the frei for FITZGERALD. The expenses incu for him were also heavy. The facts, ho ever, are not to be expected from the man who was "vindicated."

It was announced by Mr. BENNET of New York that Mr. PARSONS would support the caucus action.—*Washington despatch in yesterday's* SUN.

Then the Government can go on

Does any one read the dictionary through?—*Raleigh Times.*

The Hon. JOHN BARRETT reads the dictionary through every year, and still has to find in Esperanto and Ido some outlet for his unparalleled faculty of speech.

The Hon. HENRY W. QUINBY of New Hampshire, who is in Washington to attend the conference of Governors, wants to see the bill for the preservation of the Presidential Range become a law. Meeting Representative SCOTT of Kansas, who is opposed to the Weeks bill, the Governor gave him a strong hint. We quote from a Washington despatch:

"You Kansas people are interested in irrigation, I believe," suggested Governor QUINBY. "Yes," assented Mr. SCOTT.

"You really want it, don't you?" persisted the Governor. Mr. SCOTT admitted that Kansas really did.

"You also want some inland waterways out your way, don't you?" queried the Governor again. "We certainly do," admitted Mr. SCOTT.

"Well, we are all one country," concluded the Governor. "Think it over, Mr. SCOTT."

It is a thought of infinite significance. If Governors, as well as Senators and Representatives, are to logroll for local projects Uncle SAM will need a long purse, and it will have to be filled chiefly by the ultimate consumers. Why can't each tub stand on its own bottom?

The Hon. WALTER S. HODGSON of Haverhill, Mass., has a somewhat original plan to "restrain drunkenness." He would abolish liquor licenses and let anybody who chooses sell rum. His prohibition of treating is not new, but we don't remember to have seen before his provision that three hours shall be the legal interval of "between drinks." We don't know how much of a hardship this would be in Massachusetts, but something must be done and done quickly. Private trustworthy advices from Boston inform us that the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company complains that it has been on half rations since New Year's Day and sees no way of obtaining its usual supply. Some artificial limitation, if not a total stoppage, of the privileges of civilians is necessary if those thunderbolts of war are not to lose their lightning.

Self-Vindicating Virtue.

From the Milwaukee Journal.

What a splendid thing it is to contemplate the board of directors and the executive officers of the sugar trust free from taint! Swindle the Government? Never! No, never! How glorious it is to have these heroes come into the open where we may admire them along with Little Rollo and Robert Reed!

Burning the Snow.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* For disposal of snow by melting, why wouldn't one of those contrivances used by the repairers of asphalt pavements do the business; the thing, I mean, that looks like a huge inverted bake pan on wheels that projects a sheet of flame downward with a fierce roar of air pressure.

This engine of annihilation could be wheeled along a street like a mowing machine, the first trip close to the curb to create a sluiceway for the water, and so on back and forth until the street was clear. Of course the best results could be obtained with freshly fallen snow before obtructing heaps had been shovelled from the walks, but labor could be employed to spread the accumulation so as to present a flattened surface for the operation.

Why isn't it worth a trial if time and money saving is what we are after? UTILITY.

NEW YORK, January 20.

The Rising in Cohoes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* They can talk about the Cohoes people being "rubes," but I think the New York people are the biggest "rubes" ever known.

They can talk about the New York big buildings and subways, but if they would come to Cohoes and go through two or three big mills and the water tunnels and then go and see the Cohoes Falls they would see as much as the "rubes" of New York would want to see.

And another thing, if they come up here and spend the winter they won't talk so much about their blizzards as they do.

When they get ready to spend their next vacation send them up to Cohoes, where they can see something. CONSTANT READER.

COHOES, January 20.

The Vegetable Wagon.

Smith, Jones and Brown and Robinson,
They joined the movement all,
Agreeing they would boycott meat
Until the price should fall.

Smith reasoned on the second day,
While waiting for the drops,
One man's defection none would note,
And so he ate some chops.

Jones felt that he would not be missed,
Despite his sturdy boast,
And so into his caving midst
He neatly packed some roast.

Brown felt a call for nitrogen.
One mouth small odds would make,
Nor nuts nor eggs would fill the bill;
He ate a juicy steak.

Ten thousand Joneses, Smiths and Browns
All felt the selfsame way,
So for the profits of the trust
They made a banner day.

MCLANDBURGH W[illegible].

RAILROADS IN BRAZIL.

A report recently published in a leading Brussels newspaper gives an interesting view of the present extent and the prospects in the near future of railroads in Brazil. There is considerable Belgian capital embarked in these enterprises and the amount is increasing. The facts, embodied in a letter from Rio de Janeiro, were compiled for the information of investors.

According to the latest official figures it appears there are 19,103 kilometers or about 11,500 miles of completed railroad in operation in the country and about 12,000 kilometers or 7,200 miles in course of construction. There are besides projects for about 6,900 miles for which capital is now being sought.

Even when completed, this total, approximating 25,600 miles of railroad, will not be a very imposing figure for a country of about 3,300,000 square miles of territory. The United States, with 10 per cent. less ground to cover, has actually in operation not far from ten times the railroad mileage; but the United States has not far from four and a half times the population of Brazil.

On the whole the railroads of Brazil meet the needs of the country pretty well, and of late years a system has been introduced into their extension so that presently they will possess a certain unity of plan and cohesion in operation. The earlier constructions were naturally planned to meet local needs. Many projects were undertaken with insufficient capital. The great aim now is to weld various scattered links together so as to form a trunk line from north to south of the republic. Such a line, it is believed, would develop such traffic as to make the whole system profitable.

Of the lines in operation 7,625 kilometers or about 4,600 miles are owned by the Federal Government, which operates about 1,700 miles and farms out the rest. The divers States own about 6,200 kilometers or 3,700 miles. The rest are owned by private concerns, in several cases with a Government guarantee of interest on the money invested; also in a majority of cases under contracts which provide for the ultimate reversion of the roads to the Government.

The Central Railroad of Brazil, belonging to the Federal Government, is the most important as well as the oldest line. It runs northwest from Rio de Janeiro to the valley of the Parahyba, where it divides into two branches. One turns north and traverses the great State of Minas Geraes as far as its capital, Bello Horizonte; the other runs northeast to Sao Paulo, the capital of the State of that name. Both have several minor branches tapping the productive parts of the two States. Besides the eastern part of Minas as well as that of Rio and the State of Espirito Santo are covered by the Leopoldina Railway and the Eastern of Minas. The Murambinho and Sapucaya also gridiron the region of Minas along the Sao Paulo borders. Another road connects Bello Horizonte with the port of Victoria in Espirito Santo. It is being extended to the interior of Minas for the purpose of opening up extensive forests of hard woods as well as territory rich in iron and gold. It is purposed to steer a considerable percentage of the immigrants who are flocking to Brazil from Germany and Italy by tens of thousands annually to the line of this road.

Besides the roads converging to Rio the city of Sao Paulo and its seaport Santos has two systems, those of the Paulista and Mogyana companies, which penetrate the coffee plantation region. The Mogyana Railroad is at present pushing its way rapidly toward the State of Goyaz, the central State on whose lofty plateau the Federal capital is to be built at some time in the future in compliance with an article of the national Constitution. From Sao Paulo also runs the Sorocabana line, which connects inland with the Brazilian Northwestern line. This railroad will eventually have a length of 840 miles or thereabout, crossing the State and that of Matto Grosso to Corumba on the Paraguay River not far from the Bolivian frontier. This road is expected to have a great effect on the future of the shut in republic, doing away with the long, roundabout journey by water up the La Plata and Paraguay rivers.

The State of Parana, south of Sao Paulo, has a railroad owned by a French company, which connects its port Paranagua with its capital Curityba, and has several ramifications. The southernmost State of all, Rio Grande do Sul, is abundantly gridironed with railroads linking interior points with its ports of Rio Grande, Pelotas and Porto Alegre. A portion of this system has been built by a Belgian syndicate, which also operates it. A new company to link up all the southern lines has now been created under the name of the Companhia Sao Paulo-Rio Grande do Sul. It is to traverse the two States it is named for, as well as the inland part of Parana and the little coast State of Santa Caterina.

The vast regions of the north and centre are, relatively speaking, railroadless. Tens of thousands of miles of the interior remain practically virgin wilderness; but near the coast in the States of Bahia and Pernambuco there are several hundred miles of important roads connecting their principal ports, which are also their capitals, by a gigantic inland loop and branching to productive regions.

The Government is pursuing a policy of opening up the country by new lines just as fast as there is any chance of securing settlers and creating business. There is in fact no direction in which a line can be opened that enormous freight traffic is not assured as soon as people to exploit the resources of the country, mineral, agricultural, pastoral or forest, can be settled. In seeking foreign aid in constructing the roads the Government has sought to create a feeling of security by giving long tenure and ample guarantees to investors, while holding on to the ultimate ownership of the property, at least in the case of all recent concessions.

Callings of Candidates for Parliament.

The youngest candidate for Parliament is Lord Wolmer, 22; the oldest Samuel Young, 87. For the first time in almost a century the name of Gladstone does not appear on the list. Several fathers and sons are among the candidates. One aspirant is blind, another is the author of a Savoy musical comedy. Manual labor is more largely represented than ever before, there being no less than twenty-eight former pitmen and twenty-six former engineers, while at least thirty others have at some time earned their living by their muscle; among these are furnace men, gas workers, bootmakers, cotton workers, mill hands, compositors and navvies. Almost 10 per cent. of the candidates, in fact, are or have been workingmen.

The percentage of lawyers among the candidates is as usual the largest. No less than 237 of the whole number are actually engaged in the practice of the law, and this list would be largely increased if there were added those who bear the title of barrister. Behind the lawyers numerically stand the former officers in the regular military establishment. Of these there are 118. Their total too might be swelled by the addition of the former officers in the volunteers and yeomanry, many of whom have seen actual war service in South Africa and elsewhere.

The navy, on the other hand, makes a relatively small showing, as only thirteen of the candidates have served with the fleet. Of journalists, authors, novelists and writers generally, forty-five are candidates.

A Kansas Public Frock Coat.

Lawrence correspondence Kansas City Times.

In classic Lawrence, the home of 200 college professors, enough "Prince Albert" coats could not be found to accommodate half a dozen members of the cast that presented "Ysbrand," the Van Eeden play, to-night. Professor J. E. Boodin, who is managing the play, searched the town and found only one "Prince Albert." That one is owned by Professor J. N. Van der Vries, a young bachelor on the faculty. Professor Van der Vries says that he lent the coat so much to professors and public men in Lawrence that he considers it public property.

English Village's Health Record.

From the London Standard.

Not a single death occurred in the parish of Holwell during the last year. So far as can be ascertained from a search of the registers, dating back to 1653, this is a record without precedent. The nearest approach to it in the last century was in the years 1816 and 1863, in each of which two deaths occurred. The population at the last census was 355.

STATUARY HALL.

A Chamber of Horrors Created by Act of Congress.

From the Springfield Republican.

When Congress years ago in its superlative wisdom passed section 1814 of the Revised Statutes in the endeavor to turn the old hall of the House of Representatives to some useful purpose not inconsistent with patriotism and the fine arts, it authorized the President "to invite each and all States to provide and furnish statues of two of its famous men." "When so furnished," the law continues, "the same shall be placed in the old hall of the House of Representatives."

No national art commission to censor the efforts of the States to comply with this invitation was created. Each State was left the sole judge of subjects, material and size. And when "furnished" "the same shall be placed" in position. Artistically what woe is there! Only the other day a man who had recently inspected the collection referred sarcastically to the old plaster of paris Washington, "the smallest and most insignificant looking statue there," perpetually "peeping out from behind the skirts" of Miss Francis E. Willard of Illinois. Virginia proposes to remedy that ludicrous situation. The big new bronze Washington will peep from behind the skirts of nobody. But what can be done with such an impossible jumble of a collection, some life size and some heroic in size, some on low pedestals and some on high, some made of marble and some of bronze, some made of dull bronze and some of bright new bronze, some polished and some unpolished.

As for the subjects, many are already quite as celebrated as George L. Shoup will be ten centuries hence. As a national hall of fame the sanctuary needs only statues of Jack Abernathy and Governor Haskell of Oklahoma, representatives of the youngest of the Commonwealths, to illustrate its infinite possibilities.

THE BRITISH WOMAN.

A Conservative Candidate for Parliament to the Female Householders.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The following letter is being sent by Colonel Nicholson, the Conservative candidate for the county constituency of East Dorset, to all female householders within its limits. Such as it is, the little appeal may be regarded as a tribute to the rising power of the British woman. It is such a new departure that the Colonel, it will be observed, feels that he must apologize for it. G.

LONDON, January 10.

NORTHLEIGH, WIMBORNE, January 4, 1910.

Dear Madam:

I know it is not usual for a Parliamentary candidate to send his election address to ladies whose names appear in Division 3 of the Register, but the enormous importance of the present struggle to all those who pay rates and taxes leads me to hope that women who bear the cost of citizenship on equal terms with men will exert their beneficent influence in resisting a budget which taxes every form of British industry while the foreigner is allowed to go free.

I find there are nearly 2,000 ladies in Division 3 of the East Dorset Register, and even if my views do not coincide with your own I trust you will accept my address as a mark of respect, due, in my opinion, to so large and important a body of taxpayers. I am, madam, your obedient servant,

JOHN SANCTUARY NICHOLSON.

THE TIMES WE LIVE IN.

An Attempt to Explain Why Prices of Foodstuffs Are High.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The cost of living is agitating our souls at present. The complaint comes from the cities. The middleman is the guilty person! Why? It is plain that the small distributing points, the little stores, do a limited business under heavy expense for store and home rents and other things, including the keep of a horse.

If the farmer gave potatoes away and the railroads carried them free the consumer would not gain much. The storekeeper must make his price for them based on the expense of the business he runs. Rents are high in certain localities owing to pressure of population. The price of beef is high, except for old cow meat. Every one wants to eat butter and drink milk. But they cannot expect anything but veal, because dairymen do not raise steers. Sometimes the veal is canned chicken, perhaps.

People in this country never lived so well, never had so many conveniences and comforts of life, never had such comfortable places to live in, never had such cheap and rapid communication, and never such comfortable clothes in such abundance; never so many changes of fashion, so many superfluities as now. People generally may have empty pockets. There may be a reason for that; their backs, however, appear well covered. There has never since the world began existed such a vigorous, energetic, eager and consuming people on the face of the earth as exists right here in the United States.

We are reducing the home food supply by trying to feed Europe. We are crowding into cities, where no food is produced. The population is becoming unbalanced from many causes; the principal cause is, perhaps, the tariff policy in stimulating the growth of manufacturing cities and towns, thus denuding the rural regions of their farmer boys and girls, who leave for the factories and the towns to get ready money and life and excitement.

Do those thrifty persons who are swelling the savings banks deposits lift up their voices about high prices? EDMUND R. DODGE.

NEW YORK, January 20.

PIE.

A Rhapsody, and a Solid Philosophy of That Joy of Life.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Let us consider pie from the top, that delight to the eye, down to that real crown of the pie, the bottom crust. Pie! As Münchhausen said to the Sultan: "Majestät, es ist ein grosser Unterschied zwischen Tokayer und Tokayer."

Pie! It may be a crust, ordinarily made of flour and lard. But how mixed! There's the rub! The top crust! A rich, brownish, yellowish, undulating surface, to indicate a supposed surplus of filling below to the untutored mind, a much sweeter hollow, covered with the crisp airiness of a well browned top crust to the cultivated intellect. I am speaking of pie as it ought to be, as you meet it once in a while on life's byways.

Bottom crusts are soggy, or in their vain endeavor to be dry they are as hard as slate. But "the" bottom crust! We cannot do it justice. With an appearance of firmness it unites tenderness, brittleness; brittleness without dryness, but rather with a gentle moistness ten thousand miles away from sogginess.

And the filling? Tart, sir; so gently tart that its tartness never would make an impression on a tongue smoked first and preserved in alcohol afterward. If it is "cream" or "Dutch cheese," let the vanilla flavoring come from the bean instead of the bottle. Some like pumpkin and some even eat lemon pie, but "auch solche Käuze muss es geben"; there is no accounting for tastes.

A good piemaker eschews spices. One pie only requires them; spices form his very essence, his very soul and body. But they should be used in doses so discreet that the charm of their fragrant appeal is as the witching of a dreamed beauty on your senses half awake. That pie is mince. But mince pie is a thing to write about separately. This I feel, I who eat pie only once a year or so, because try as I may I never run up against pie as pie ought to be. J. D.

NEW YORK, January 20.

A Conservative.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why do the women rage and their leaders imagine a vain thing? The rulers of men's hearts go on strike. The suffragists consider together how they may destroy the foundations of the home, saying:

Let us have the vote and so secure freedom of sex!

She that watches by the cradle must laugh at such shortsighted wisdom.

Blessed are they who seek peace and pursue it! SEPTIMUS.

UPPER MONTCLAIR, N. J., January 18.

Missourian's New Year Celebration.

Raymondville correspondence Houston Herald.

Bill Hibbs made old Bill Mayfield happy New Year's Day by sending him a lot of popcorn. The kids popped a gallon bucket full and Bill never stopped till he had the last grain under his old hide.

The Quest of Buckwheat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Where can I buy the pure buckwheat? We are at our wits' ends to find some; have hunted all over the city without success. (Mrs.) A. LIPS.

NEW YORK, January 20.

ADMISSION OF ALIENS.

A Defence of the Junior Order of American Mechanics.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Edward Lauterbach of the Educational Alliance, who made an attack upon the Junior Order of American Mechanics last Sunday, needs education along certain lines before endeavoring to enlighten others in this "land of the free."

It occurs to me that it is the duty of this republic to look after the welfare of its citizens and to see that they shall not suffer loss to the advantage of subjects or citizens of other countries. We should see that our tables are supplied with bread before placing cake on the tables of immigrants.

Now let us see what this terrible secret order "whose baleful influence is being felt all over our country" really stands for.

First, we believe that all moral and thrifty persons who seek to make the United States their home and become good citizens should be welcomed with open arms, but we are opposed to the indiscriminate admission of aliens, especially the anarchist, the lame, the halt and blind. The citizens of the United States should be allowed to say who shall and who shall not be admitted.

Our country has been and I hope always will be an asylum for those who have suffered persecution for religious or political reasons, but to say that because it is a free country it should be a dumping ground for the undesirables of other countries is worse than folly.

The Junior Order of American Mechanics need offer no apology to any one for its principles and objects. It believes that an educated child will naturally develop into a better and more intelligent citizen. Therefore everything should be done to protect our public schools from the attacks of those who are opposed to educating the masses. This refers to the public school as an institution and has nothing to do with current fads and ologies. We believe in inculcating the lessons of patriotism, love of country and appreciation of our country's heroes. Further, we believe in giving an American the preference in every way, in business or in anything else. Surely our friends the enemy practise this very thoroughly themselves. If there is an organization in this country that believes the bars of the immigration office should be let down and everybody regardless of their effect on our country and its institutions should be admitted, then just so surely will it find itself opposed by this order.

When Mr. Lauterbach speaks of the old time Know Nothings he becomes positively ridiculous. The difference between Know Nothingism and the Junior Order of American Mechanics is like that between the old school of medical practitioners and those versed in present day methods in surgery and medicine. If Mr. Lauterbach understood us I believe that we should have his unqualified approval. JUNIOR.

JERSEY CITY, January 20.

THE SHIRTWAIST STRIKE.

How a Woman Views the Activity of Sympathetic "Society Leaders."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It would be impossible to imagine a more emphatic demonstration of the incapacity of women as a class to exercise the right of suffrage than that furnished during the last week in Philadelphia by certain so-called "society leaders" in behalf of the shirtwaist strikers. Their display of arrogant injustice, coupled with their hysterical manifestations of sympathy, are overwhelming evidences of what would inevitably result if greater authority were placed in their hands. It is unhappily only such women as these who are clamoring for a privilege which if obtained their wiser and saner sisters would refuse to exercise; for the latter recognize the proper sphere of woman and shrink with intuitive delicacy from the coarse conflicts which such a departure would occasion.

Look for a moment at the attitude these agitators have assumed in the present controversy. Without reflection or consideration of any kind, and under the impulse of wholly unregulated emotions, they have projected themselves into a struggle with no thought of the consequences and not the most distant conception of the absurdity of their position. Instead of rallying to the protection of the girls who are at work and are satisfied with their wages, these enthusiasts are expending all their support and sympathy upon those who would forcibly prevent the willing workers from earning their livelihood. The curious feature is that they appear utterly unconscious of the logical outcome of their demonstrations. They prate glibly of the doubtful wrongs they are seeking to remedy, but do not consider for a moment the absolute rights which they are striving to overthrow. In short, they have become the self-appointed agents of unscrupulous labor leaders, who are doubtless laughing in their sleeves at the wholly unexpected support that has been thus thrust upon them. C. S. T.

PHILADELPHIA, January 20.

MR. PINCHOT SUSTAINED.

An Owner of Timber Land Approves His Conservation Ideas.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have owned and have been interested in large blocks of timber land both in this country and in Canada the last thirty years or more, and I have always found that Mr. Pinchot's ideas were in exact accordance with existing conditions.

I believe that every American citizen is aware that climatic changes have taken place in this country owing to the removal of our forests, and that all men of middle age can remember the long and severe winters and heavy falls of snow in this country fifty years ago. There is always a much heavier fall of snow and rain where forests exist. If any one doubts this he has simply to spend a year in the Adirondack Mountains. Forests do not cause spring freshets, but on the contrary act as a sponge and hold the snow and ice in check and allow slow melting and distribution in the spring time. The question of erosion is difficult to determine, because even our oldest inhabitant has not lived a sufficient number of years to have ascertained what this may be. Floods are certainly more frequent when timber is removed from the vicinity of streams. This is the experience of every lumberman who has cut timber in the forests.

I am giving my personal experience simply because it does not seem fair to Mr. Pinchot to report contrary conclusions at this time, as is being done in reports and speeches in Congress. FRANK J. SAXE.

NEW YORK, January 20.

The Art of Breathing.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* With about the same periodicity and in the same sort of newspapers appear the query as to whether there is not an artificial, man made star called "the Edison star," and its twin insanity, the advice to breathe 'way down into the bottom of your lungs. Most people, the article says, breathe with the top of their lungs only.

Of course this isn't true at all. Quiet breathing is done with the lower part of the lungs and the upper chest hardly moves at all. It is only when we take an extra big breath that we lift the chest and fill up the top part of the lungs. It is not the entire falsity of the statement, though, that annoys so much as the contemplation of the mental habit that will prompt people to go on saying what a moment's experimentation will show to be false. It isn't as if they didn't have the apparatus to experiment with. We've all got lungs, I hope; but seemingly nine out of ten haven't got the mind wherewith to observe the commonest operation of life. They go on accepting a falsehood for gospel truth when their experience would teach them the exact contrary. This applies not only to breathing but to everything else.

It just goes to show that there's no use appealing to "the average intelligence." There isn't such a thing. E. W.

BROOKLYN, January 20.

Church Accommodations for Smokers.

From the London Chronicle.

A "smokers' pavilion" attached to a church is somewhat of a novelty in the British dominions. A recent visitor to Kalgoorlie, the famous western Australian goldfield, made and proclaimed the discovery. It seems that in the early years of the goldfield there were many diggers dwelling in tents who never burdened themselves with Sunday clothes, and consequently never bothered about going to church.

Anxious to attract this class the minister of the Congregational Church fitted up an open air enclosure in which the men could listen to the services in free and easy fashion without being embarrassed with the formalities of indoor worship. A large archway was opened up in the side of the church facing the enclosure, and the pulpit was so placed that the preacher could be heard by both congregations. The idea was successful, and the "smokers' pavilion" (the occupants of the open air enclosure exercised the privilege of smoking during the sermon) became a popular Sunday resort.

A Maine Cat Farmer.

From the Kennebec Journal.

A North Anson man is making money raising cats. His specialty is Angoras, Persians and coons. He does not keep them on his own premises, but lets them out among the farmers' wives. [illegible]